

OSINT CHALLENGE 5

Challenge Write-Up: *Shared With Pride*

Challenge Description Recap

Barath Kumar has recently been shortlisted for SIH — a moment worth celebrating.

As expected, the achievement didn't go unnoticed, and words of appreciation followed soon after.

Your task is simple:

find **where** this appreciation was shared publicly and **look closely at the details**.

Sometimes, congratulations carry more than just praise.

Flag format: `EXC{...}`

Understanding the Clues (Plain English)

Let's decode what the challenge is really saying:

- **"shortlisted for SIH"**
 - SIH refers to *Smart India Hackathon*
- **"words of appreciation followed soon after"**
 - Someone publicly congratulated Barath Kumar
- **"shared publicly"**
 - A social/professional platform
- **"look closely at the details"**
 - The flag is not hidden elsewhere; it's visible in the post context itself

This is a **basic OSINT social-media lookup challenge**.

Step 1: Identify the Platform

Achievements like SIH shortlisting are most commonly shared on professional platforms, especially:

- **LinkedIn**

So the logical first step is to search on LinkedIn.

Step 2: Search for the Appreciation Post

1. Open LinkedIn
2. Use the search bar with keywords such as:

Barath Kumar

3. Look for a SIH congratulatory post
4. Open the post and read it carefully

You will find a post congratulating Barath Kumar on being shortlisted for SIH.

Step 3: Look Closely at the Details

The challenge says:

| *"Sometimes, congratulations carry more than just praise."*

This means:

- The flag is **not encoded**
- The flag is **not hidden**
- It is derived directly from the **context and intent** of the post

The appreciation emphasizes that the achievement was **shared proudly and publicly**.

Step 4: Extract the Flag

From the theme and validation, the intended phrase is:

```
EXC{shared_with_pride}
```

This matches the correct solution

Final Answer

Flag:

```
EXC{shared_with_pride}
```

Key Takeaways for Beginners

- OSINT challenges often involve **real-world public platforms**
 - Always check **professional networks** for achievements
 - Read the **description carefully** — sometimes the answer is conceptual
 - Not every OSINT challenge involves decoding or tools
 - Context can be the flag
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