



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

A REPORT ON ALUMNI TALK ON “A JOURNEY OF DEDICATION: FROM NHCE TO THE INDIAN ARMY”

On **March 17, 2026**, the Alumni Association, in collaboration with the Department of Applied Sciences, organized an inspiring alumni talk at the **NHCE Auditorium**. The session, titled “**A Journey of Dedication: From NHCE to the Indian Army**,” was delivered by **Major Swathi Shantha Kumar**, an accomplished alumna from the **2012–2016 Batch (Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering)**, who is currently serving as an officer in the **Indian Army**.

The event began with an introduction highlighting Major Swathi’s remarkable accomplishments and service. She is currently deployed with the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)** and was recently honored with the **UN Secretary-General’s Award 2025** in January 2026. This prestigious recognition acknowledged her outstanding work in promoting gender equality and gender-responsive peacekeeping through her initiative, “**Equal Partners, Lasting Peace**,” a project designed to strengthen women’s roles in peace-building and enhance community-level engagement.

Key Highlights of the Session

1. Importance of Discipline, Perseverance, and Dedication

Major Swathi emphasized that discipline, perseverance, and dedication form the foundation of success in any field. She shared compelling real-life experiences from her military service that demonstrated courage, teamwork, and resilience. These stories illustrated how these values helped her overcome challenges and achieve her professional milestones.

2. Personal Journey and Life-Changing Decision

One of the most inspiring parts of her talk was her decision to leave a stable, well-paying career at **IBM** to join the **Indian Army**. Driven by a desire to contribute meaningfully to society, she chose a path aligned with her passion for service and national duty, showcasing extraordinary purpose and determination.

3. Overcoming Challenges and Fears

Major Swathi candidly spoke about the initial challenges she faced upon joining the Army, especially her concerns about physical fitness and endurance. Through consistent training, strong willpower, and a positive mindset, she overcame her self-doubt. Her journey served as a reminder that perseverance can break even the toughest barriers.

4. Stories of Courage, Teamwork, and Resilience

Throughout the session, she narrated powerful experiences from her deployments that highlighted the essence of teamwork and resilience in demanding situations. These real-life stories deeply resonated with the students and offered valuable lessons in leadership and inner strength.

5. Encouragement for Students

She encouraged students to cultivate a positive attitude, remain persistent during hardships, and strive to be responsible citizens. She stressed that every individual, regardless of their chosen career path, has a duty to contribute positively to society.

6. Interactive Q&A Session

The event concluded with an engaging Q&A session, where students posed thoughtful questions. Major Swathi provided insightful and motivating responses, emphasizing integrity, perseverance, and having a purposeful vision in life.

Conclusion

The alumni talk by **Major Swathi Shantha Kumar** was a truly inspiring session that showcased her exceptional journey from NHCE to becoming a distinguished officer in the Indian Army. Her achievements, including her UN recognition, and her reflections on discipline, leadership, and service left a lasting impact on all attendees. The event successfully motivated students to pursue their goals with dedication, work hard, and strive to create meaningful contributions to society.

Glimpse of the Session:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FvmCacfVbZEzUi8ecbACxuoXeMOi4MRa?usp=sharing>