Mathematical Association of Department of Mathematics organized a motivating Alumni Interaction meet under the guidance of Principal Mrs. Meenu Sharma. The highlight of the event was alumna Ms. Tammana, whose inspiring journey left a strong impression on the students. Starting from her B.Sc. (Computer Science) in 2016 and M.Sc. Mathematics at the college, she pursued higher studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), California through hard work and determination. Overcoming challenges and adapting to a new environment, she proved that dedication and self-belief can turn dreams into reality. Her achievement of working as a Junior Assistant at NASA motivated students to aim high. She encouraged them to stay focused, strengthen their concepts, and never fear challenges. The session was interactive and inspiring. Ms. Tammana was honored with a token of love by the Principal and the Department. The event concluded with students feeling motivated to pursue their goals with confidence and perseverance.

From 1% chance to Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

My Journey! My name is Tamanna, and I come from Karnal. I studied in a small school in my hometown and later completed my education at KVA DAV College of Women, Karnal. Those five years of college were full of ups and downs. I experienced failure, success, doubt, and growth. There was a time when I failed in three mathematics subjects. I still remember the day my professor scolded me. I cried the entire day. But that moment changed my life. I made a promise to myself that I would achieve something meaningful, something that would make my parents and my country proud. That was the beginning of my real struggle. My dream was to study at MIT in the USA, one of the top universities in the world. But reaching there was not easy. I faced many challenges, including academic gaps, financial difficulties, and cultural differences. My academic record was not strong enough according to MIT standards. I had scored 95% in 10th grade and 80% in 12th grade, even I had Olympiad in science and mathematics till state level, but only around 70% in my graduation and post-graduation, which was the major drawback to get enroll in MIT, USA. I knew my chances were only 1%, but I decided to take that risk. I started preparing for IELTS and PTE exams. With hard work and dedication, I achieved an overall band score of 8.5 in IELTS and 85 out of 90 in PTE. After that, I applied for a Master's in Mathematics at MIT. After one year, I finally received an interview call. The interview took place in Kolkata, India. There were eight people on the panel—four scientists from NASA and four professors from MIT. They told me clearly that I had only a 1% chance of getting admission. They said that if I answered three questions correctly, I would be considered; otherwise, I should not apply again. The first question was, "What is time?" I answered, " When we are happy, time flies, Time is slow when you wait, time is fast when you late, time is deadly when you are sad, time is short when you are happy, time is long when you feel bored, time is endless when you are in pain every time, time is determined by your feelings not by clocks so, always choose to have a nice time".The second question was, "Can you repeat your seven years of education to improve your academic record?" I replied, "Yes, I can. But first, can you change your admission policy to what it was seven years ago?" The third question was about my financial condition. I answered, "I can turn 24 hours into 100 hours. I am ready to sacrifice my comfort and sleep to achieve my goal." After listening to my answers, they said, "Welcome to the Royal Institute." That moment changed everything in my life. In 2022, I moved to the USA. When I landed, I received a grand welcome from MIT. It felt unreal. For a moment, I felt like a queen. I welcomed by 5 royals' cars 50 bikes in the front and back of the cars even 5 horse behind the bikes that movement like a dream to me. I was over the moon as my dream had finally come true. During my two years at MIT, I studied M.Sc. Mathematics and also got the opportunity to travel to five countries—Japan, China, South Korea, the USA, and Antarctica—for research work. My research in Antarctica on the A-23 glacier was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. There, I placed the Indian flag and sign board of my country there that my country 1500 km air distance from there, and felt proud to represent my country. Even during my research program in Antarctica, I just drank only water because there is no vegetarian food I spend at least 1 month there. At MIT, classes are small, with only 10 to 15 students. The focus is

on deep understanding. One lesson from my professor stayed with me. He showed us a mug filled with stones, soil, and water, and said, "If you want to become something, become like soil. Soil holds everything within and transforms at the right time." Even my professor Ismaan sir told me that when you think life is end, than from their life is actually start so don't wait for the right time just make every time right. During study in MIT, USA I just sleep only 2 hours. Along with academics, I also learned many life skills such as horse riding, swimming, fencing, snowboarding, ice skating, communication, and personality development. Later, I received an offer from NASA with a condition—to complete a PhD first. Today, I am pursuing my PhD and preparing myself for that opportunity. My journey taught me one important lesson: When you feel that everything is over, that is often the moment when your real life begins. Even if you have only a 1% chance, believe in it. Because sometimes, that 1% is all you need to change your life.