

On December 4, 2024 as part of the nationwide initiative to honour the bravery and sacrifice of our armed forces, **Army Public School Jammu Cantt** hosted a motivational talk by an esteemed Army officer **Col RK Sharma** under project "**Veer Gatha 4.0**." The session aimed to inspire students to imbibe values of discipline, patriotism, courage, and service to the nation.

The program commenced with a warm welcome by the school counsellor **Ms Priyanka Andotra** who strongly emphasised the importance of the armed forces in safeguarding the country's sovereignty and the relevance of the "Veer Gatha" project in fostering a sense of gratitude among the youth.

The guest speaker, Col RK Sharma who has been honoured with Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra and Sena Medal shared inspiring stories of valour and sacrifice from his own experiences and journey from a sepoy to a Colonel in addition with those of his comrades in the armed forces. His speech emphasized the qualities of discipline, resilience, and selflessness that every soldier embodies. The officer narrated gripping tales from the battlefield, shedding light on the challenges faced by soldiers and their unwavering commitment to the nation.

He further highlighted the various excuses often made by students for their failures and encouraged self-reflection and accountability as key measure to overcome setbacks.

Col RK Sharma showed his gratitude to **Col. Harpal Kaushik** whom he considers as his role model and great source of inspiration for winning several Gallantry Awards and medals in his sports carrier. Students listened intently, captivated by the vivid recounting of heroic acts during critical missions. The officer also discussed the life of soldiers beyond the battlefield, emphasizing the importance of teamwork, determination, and never giving up in the face of adversity.

The talk left a profound impact on students, instilling in them a deep sense of respect for the armed forces and a renewed zeal to contribute to the nation in their own ways. The "Veer Gatha" initiative truly served its purpose, making the students reflect on the sacrifices made by our soldiers and encouraging them to emulate their spirit in everyday life.

The session ended with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Principal Ms Puneet Kaur and a token of gratitude presented to the esteemed guest speaker Col RK Sharma as a gesture of appreciation for his valuable insights and inspiring words.

Conclusion:

The motivational talk by Col RK Sharma was an inspiring and memorable event that left a profound impact on the students. It not only instilled a sense of pride and respect for the sacrifices made by our armed forces but also encouraged the students to embody values like courage, discipline, and dedication in their own lives. Events like these remind us of our rich heritage and the importance of honouring the heroes who have contributed to the safety and progress of our nation. The session concluded with a resounding applause, a testament to the enthusiasm and admiration of all present.

