



# Miranda House

## UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

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### Internal Academic Audit

**Department: Chemistry**

**Academic Year: 2021-22** (from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022)

### Strengths

The Department of Chemistry has a committed faculty, hardworking non-teaching staff and well-equipped laboratories in addition to a substantial book collection in its departmental library. Over the recent years, the department's examination results for graduating students have improved substantially.

For the past few years, the department hosts the annual IUPAC Global Women's Breakfast Event – which also celebrates the International Day of Women and Girl in Science. This year the event was held on 16 February 2022. *Rasayanika*, The Chemical Society, organised a national webinar on Recent Advances in Chemistry. Dr. Ritu Gupta, from IIT Jodhpur and an alumnus of the college, was the keynote speaker for the event. Along with an informative lecture, the session included the launch of 20th Edition of *Rasayani* – the Annual Magazine of the Department of Chemistry. For the first time since the end of the pandemic, a one-day educational field visit was organised to 29 September 2022 to Yakult Danone India Pvt. Ltd., Sonipat.

### Weaknesses:

Due to the high-class strengths and lack of funding (to buy chemicals, glassware, and equipment needed), students often work in groups. However, by emphasising peer learning, which has many benefits, we attempt to turn this weakness into a strength. Furthermore, the environmental benefits from group labour include using less chemicals and generating less waste. By recovering and reusing chemicals whenever possible and lowering water usage in the lab, every effort is taken to minimize waste.

### Opportunities

The Department is taking advantage of the increased global interest in undergraduate research and is taking part in several intra- and inter-disciplinary research projects. Participation in DSKC summer internships, DBT Star College projects, and projects supported by DBT, DST, and UGC are a few examples. In addition, few Ph.D. research scholars are also working in the chemistry department's research labs.

### Challenges

Motivating students to pursue higher education and careers in the sciences is a challenge. Another challenge lies in the designing and carrying out 'green' or "eco-friendly" experiments, in keeping with the millennium goal of sustainable development while working within the prescribed format.

## **Future Plans**

The Department of Chemistry will introduce an Add on Certificate Course on “Public Health and Community Medicine” from the Academic Session 2023-24.

The Department of Chemistry will continue to pursue excellence in supporting and mentoring student research and make significant contributions to the college's corporate life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nisha", written over a diagonal line.

**Dr. Nisha Vashishta**

Coordinator, IQAC