

## **JANKI DEVI MEMORIAL COLLEGE**

### **DISTINCTIVENESS OF THE COLLEGE**

Janki Devi Memorial College (JDMC) aims to provide quality education to young women and empower them to become self-reliant and contribute meaningfully to the world at large. Founded in 1959 by the eminent Gandhian Shri Brij Krishan Chandiwala in memory of his mother Smt. Janki Devi, today JDMC is one of the most distinctive institutions of Delhi University. With its lush green lawns and imposing building, the college is like an oasis in the midst of a busy commercial area.

The college offers education in liberal arts, social sciences, Mathematics and Commerce. The college moves beyond the curriculum and offers short-term add-on courses. This academic session, the college offered twenty add on courses ranging from topics like *Human Values: Problems and Prospects*; *SSB Preparations*; *Banking in Atma Nirbhar Bharat*; *NGO Management*; *Yoga*; *Understanding Gender* etc. and thus the canvas has been vast and diverse

JDMC boasts of a well-equipped and well stocked library with more than 90 thousand books and subscriptions to 69 (National and International) journals/magazines catering to the needs of students pursuing different courses and 11 newspapers (English and Hindi). The library has an air-conditioned reading hall and stack room. It is now fully computerized using Web based Libsys Software (an integrated Library management system) and all the housekeeping jobs are performed through this software. The library endeavours to provide access to its database through multiple terminals, twenty-five laptops and steady internet access to E-resources. To enable equal access to the visually challenged, the library has installed a screen reading software, NVDA. It also arranges for Braille and talking books. We are one of the few colleges to hold a Library Festival marked by various book-related competitive events and talks by luminaries.

Apart from providing students, faculty and non-teaching staff, with learning and enabling environment, the college offers great facilities, good infrastructure and dedicated administration of college premises and affairs. The college has a well-designed office block, a union room, a beautiful common room, a clean and spacious medical room with such facilities as a sanitary napkin vending machine, a comfortable staff room, individual departmental rooms, seminar hall, committee room, computer labs, sports infrastructure, photo-copying facilities, a large and modern cafeteria and an open air auditorium, and two research rooms for teachers.

The College endeavors to improve existing infrastructural facilities and has recently installed multimedia units in a few classrooms. These are being constantly upgraded and shortly smart classrooms, a fully-fledged e resource room with recording facilities, a computer lab with language lab facilities will be made available in the college. The existing facilities in the medical room have been enhanced and the Students Common room will be renovated.

We are proud to have a beautiful hostel for 105 outstation students. It was inaugurated by the Former Honorable President of India, Late Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

Our college also has the distinction of being one of the few to have a disabled friendly environment, with ramps, toilets and elevator-access that cater to specific needs of the visually challenged students' and faculty. We have Braille signage as well as tactile surfaces present all along the college – the former was sponsored by the Alumnae Association.

Our founder, Bhaiji, built this college with the single-minded aim of empowering women. The Women's Development Centre, National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme and the Gandhi Study Circle provide an opportunity to our students to engage with social issues like legal literacy, women's health and empowerment and adult education. The College recognizes the need for students to make informed choices and to be aware of all that happens in the larger world. The international and national seminars, talks on contemporary issues held by practically all departments through the academic session, provide the right kind of intellectual impetus for students to analyze and evaluate critically.

JDMC has also actively encouraged projects such as the Women Entrepreneurship and Support Training (WEST) project undertaken by the college in collaboration with The Netherlands Embassy and the ECORYS, knowledge partner of the Netherlands government, in 2014. In addition, The Career and Counseling Cell is committed to providing placements and internships to JDMC students, relentlessly pursuing the job market for prospective jobs.

Academic rigor is maintained in college through tutorials, preceptorials and presentations under the CBCS which are taken very seriously along with the tutor-ward/contact/counselling programmes which help keep a finger on the pulse of the students. The College is genuinely concerned about students who face academic challenges. We have been holding regular remedial classes every semester so that students with academic problems can benefit from them. Economically challenged students too benefit greatly through measures taken by the Equal Opportunities Cell such as the free meal for the students. We have also embarked upon a mentor - mentee system this academic session

and indeed this will be yet another platform for students to receive personalized guidance from their teacher mentors.

An extremely important development has been the establishment of six Centres within the college. These are the JDMC-IQAC Research Centre; the JDMC E-Resource Centre which includes the Website committee and the E Journal committee; the JDMC-IQAC Centre for Career Counselling, Career opportunities and Skill enhancement, the JDMC-IQAC Centre for Universal Ethics and Values, the JDMC-IQAC Centre for Extension and Outreach and the JDMC-IQAC Centre for Gender Equity Studies. The Research Centre has carried forward the work of the research projects that were initiated last academic session and there is now a student wing of the Research Centre that functions independently with some mentoring by the faculty.

The college is concerned about not just the intellectual and academic growth of its students but also the mental health of all who are a part of the JDMC family. The members of the Counselling Committee and Counselling Psychologist Ms. Saniya Bedi played an active role during this period taking care of the emotional and psychological needs of students, which threw up its own challenges during the pandemic. Group sessions and peer group training were organised for students and counselling was done on one-to-one basis for the students in need.

Besides bagging university positions in different disciplines every year, the college also strikes a fine balance between the academic and co-curricular. More than two dozen clubs and societies that hone student talent in performing arts, entrepreneurship and creative writing, are available for all students in the college. JDMC believes that the curriculum and the text book is not the only way to gain knowledge or to progress. Apart from the research projects taken up by students and teachers of all departments as also the add-on courses,

The Physical Education Department obviously had few opportunities for sports this academic session. Yet, the students not only took advantage of those that came their way but also won laurels for the college in such events as Sqay Martial Arts, Throw ball, Handball, Athletics, Football and Hockey.

Our college gardens never fail to fetch admiring glances from visitors. This year JDMC won fifteen prizes at the Annual Flower Show and Garden competition held by the University including the Jagrani Devi Memorial Cup. It is worth mentioning at this point, that ours was the first college to install a rain water harvesting system which has been rated as one of the best in Delhi by the Centre for Science and Environment and has won the Chief Ministers prize for Institutional Rain Water

Harvesting. In keeping with our mission of recognizing our responsibility towards the environment, the college has an active environment programme which covers rain water harvesting, recycling, composting, solar lighting, CFL conversion, and campaigning for a tobacco free zone. We have installed a solar power grid of 88 KW in collaboration with Azure Solar Power Ltd. The Hostel has been provided with solar water heaters.

Time and again, the college has proved to be resilient in the face of many challenges. At a time when the entire world is dealing with the pandemic COVID 19, the college once again proved that it was quite capable of handling the most difficult of circumstances. Teaching learning, examinations and assessment have been meticulously carried out through online platforms by the dedicated faculty. The college has been kept clean and green with a skeletal staff of gardeners and cleaners who are committed to taking care that the college stays a safe space. Every effort has been made to create a sanitized environment by adopting sanitization techniques and following rules and regulations of social distancing. Activities and events of the college have been taking place virtually and the webinars held by the college have received much acclaim. Fee assistance has been provided to a number of students whose families have been particularly affected by the pandemic by a specially constituted fee assistance committee that follows well defined rules for the same.

The college is exemplary in every way, be it academics or extra and co curricular activities. There can be no doubt that it lives up to the theme for the year, *Candle in the wind*. It spreads the light of knowledge for all and is resilient even in the most trying of circumstances.