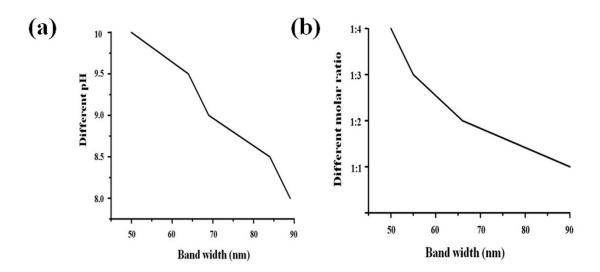
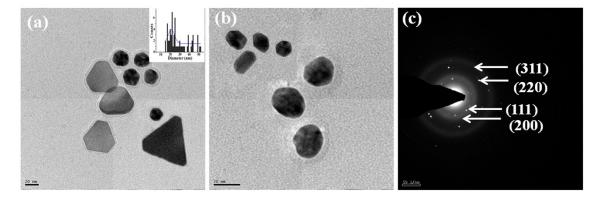
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**Fig. S1** Comparison of bandwidth values of ap-AuNPs (a) at different pH (molar ratio 1:4) (b) at different molar ratio (pH 10).



**Fig. S2** Morphology of ap-AuNPs prepared at pH 9 as analysed through HR-TEM (a & b) Different shapes of ap-AuNPs and inset shows the size distribution histogram (c) The SAED pattern of Au in the ap-AuNPs.

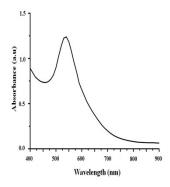


Fig. S3 UV- visible spectra of ap-AuNPs showing stability at pH 10 after 3 months

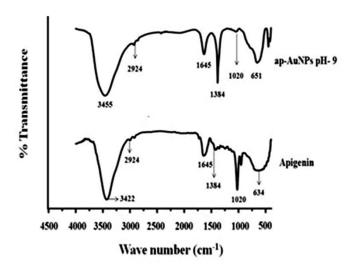
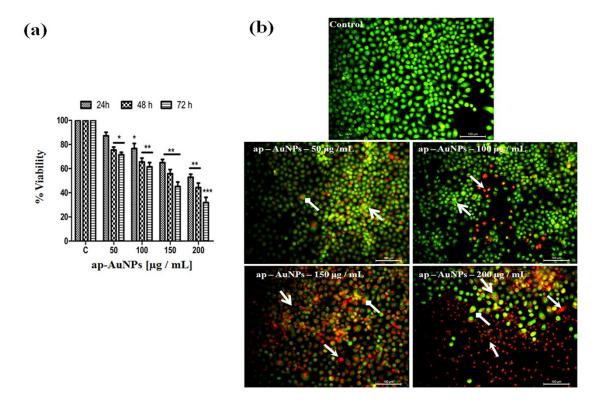


Fig. S4 FTIR spectra of apigenin and ap-AuNPs prepared using apigenin at pH 9



**Fig. S5** Effect of ap-AuNPs on SiHa cells (a) Viability assay using MTT (b) Fluorescence micrographs using EtBr/AO staining of SiHa cells for 48 h. The morphological changes are indicated as early apoptotic (→ ), late apoptotic (→) and necrotic cells (→ )