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MARATHA MANDAL'S NATHAJIRAO G. HALGEKAR INSTITUTE OF DENTAL SCIENCES AND RESEARCH CENTRE

(Recognised by Dental Council of India & Govt. of India, New Delhi)
(Affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru, Karnataka)

MMDC STRIDE *An Official News Letter* 2026 : Vol. 13(1)

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LASERS IN DENTISTRY : INTERNS MASTER CUTTING-EDGE SKILLS

We proudly concluded a groundbreaking 9-month Certificate Course on Lasers in Dentistry for the interns. Designed to arm future dentists with advanced laser skills, the program blended theory, demos, and hands-on practice across key specialties. Leading the charge were expert mentors: Dr. Sachin Shivanaiakar, Professor in Periodontology and International Research Fellow from Germany's College of Light Medicine and Laser Therapy and Dr. Prachi Katti, Reader in Oral Medicine and Radiology, an Associate Fellow of Singapore's Asian Academy of Laser Therapy. Their wealth of experience ensured top-tier guidance. The curriculum delved into laser physics, tissue interactions, safety protocols, and applications in periodontics, oral surgery, endodontics, prosthodontics, and conservative dentistry-with a focus on diode lasers for soft tissue work. 18 interns completed over 100 supervised clinical cases, mastering procedures like gingivectomy, frenectomy, depigmentation, operculectomy, fibroma excision, soft tissue biopsy, photobiomodulation, and photodynamic therapy. This remarkable feat showcased lasers' precision and safety in real-world practice. The course ended with evaluations, certifications, and glowing feedback-interns reported boosted confidence and eagerness to integrate lasers into their careers. This initiative underscores our institution's drive to pioneer innovative dental education for tomorrow's practitioners.



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POOJA WALMIKI CLINCHES BEST E-POSTER AT NATIONAL ORAL CANCER CONFERENCE

Third-year BDS star Pooja Walmiki shone brightly, winning the Best e-Poster award for her innovative topic, "Saliva as Sentinel: microRNAs, IL-6, and MMP-9 in OSCC Screening." The accolade came at the National Oral Cancer Conference 2025, hosted online on December 17, 2025, by the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Oral Microbiology, and Oral Cancer Research Centre at FDS, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bangalore. Under the expert guidance of Dr. Sujata Byahatti, Professor in Oral Medicine and Radiology, Pooja's work showcased cutting-edge research on saliva biomarkers for early oral squamous cell carcinoma detection. This triumph reflects her dedication and our institution's commitment to fostering research excellence.



Congratulations, Pooja
- A proud moment for
MMNGHIDS!

LIFELINES OF LEGACY : 95TH MARATHA MANDAL'S FOUNDATION DAY BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

On this auspicious occasion the Departments of Oral Pathology & Microbiology and Oral Surgery, along with our Youth Red Cross (YRC) wing organized a voluntary blood donation camp in collaboration with Mahaveer Blood Bank, Belagavi, on January 3, 2026. The event was graced by Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak, Medical Officer Dr. Yelaburgi and his team, HOD of Oral Pathology Dr. Vijayalakshmi Kotrashetti, YRC Incharge Dr. Viplavi Chavan Patil, and Reader from Oral Surgery Dr. Santosh Dindwar, alongside dedicated YRC student volunteers. It commenced with a poignant floral homage to the late Shri Nathajirao G. Halgekar, founder chairman of the institute, followed by a formal inauguration ceremony. Dr. Yelaburgi inspired attendees with an enlightening talk on the vital importance of blood donation. Ms. Lafiza delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants. Organized under the visionary guidance of Dr. (Smt.) Rajshree Nagaraju, President of Maratha Mandal, the camp saw an impressive 40 volunteers generously donate blood, marking a resounding success in fostering community service and health awareness.



REPUBLIC DAY 2026 : PATRIOTISM, PRIDE, AND THE THIRD-YEAR BATCH CEREMONY

Our Institute erupted in patriotic fervor on January 26, 2026, as it celebrated Republic Day with unmatched enthusiasm. The event kicked off with a warm welcome for Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak and distinguished dignitaries, setting a noble tone. A reverence-filled tribute to Mahatma Gandhi began with garlanding his photograph, followed by the majestic unfurling of the national flag and a rousing rendition of the National Anthem that filled the air with unity. The program featured inspiring speeches in three languages by student orators: Shivani (1st BDS), Isha (2nd BDS), and Deepa (3rd BDS), who eloquently captured the day's significance and the spirit of our Constitution.

Batch Ceremony Spotlight

A standout moment was the special "Batch Ceremony" for third-year students, celebrating their pivotal milestone in the dental journey. The occasion was further energized by motivating addresses from the Institute's General Secretaries, urging all students to embrace co-curricular activities wholeheartedly. The celebration wrapped up with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks to contributors and participants, followed by a communal breakfast that strengthened bonds. A truly memorable Republic Day that honored our nation and our future dental leaders!



DIGNITY CUP 2026 : THIRD-YEARS CLAIM GLORY IN THRILLING INTER-BATCH SHOWDOWN

The Student Sports Committee delivered another pulse-pounding Inter-Batch Tournament, "The Dignity Cup," now in its fourth electrifying year. Boys battled it out in volleyball and football, while girls dominated throw ball—each sport featuring fierce competition among five teams. The action was intense, with standout performances across the board:

- **Volleyball (Boys)** : Third-year batch triumphed
- **Football (Boys)** : PGs clinched victory; third-years as runners-up
- **Throw Ball (Girls)** : Fourth-year batch reigned supreme

Crowning the champions: the third-year batch, with their stellar overall showing, lifted the Dignity Cup amid cheers and camaraderie. A fitting tribute to sportsmanship and team spirit at MMNGHIDS!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT : NAVIGATING UNITED STATES DENTAL DREAMS WITH Dr. SINDHU NAIR

On January 10, 2026, the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and Oral Microbiology, in partnership with the Student Placement Cell, hosted an enlightening guest lecture for undergraduate students, interns, and postgraduates. The session focused on higher education pathways after BDS and MDS in the United States, empowering attendees with global career insights. Distinguished MMNGHIDS alumna Dr. Sindhu Nair, now Assistant Professor at Miami University, USA, took center stage as the guest speaker. The event opened with a warm welcome and introduction by Dr. Zarir R., setting an inspiring tone. Dr. Nair delivered a comprehensive, interactive talk covering academic prerequisites, savvy application strategies, licensing exams, top institution choices, and promising long-term career trajectories in the US. Her real-world experiences sparked lively discussions, clarifying complex decisions for aspiring professionals. The session wrapped up with concluding remarks and a heartfelt vote of thanks from Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak. This highly engaging event illuminated international opportunities, motivating students to pursue ambitious paths with confidence.



FULL MOUTH REHABILITATION MASTERY : TWO-DAY IPS POWERHOUSE AT MMNGHIDS

The Department of Prosthodontics & Crown and Bridge, in partnership with the Indian Prosthodontic Society (IPS) Karnataka State Branch, hosted a stellar two-day Value Added Programme on Full Mouth Rehabilitation (FMR) on January 8-9, 2026. The formal inauguration drew luminaries including IPS Karnataka President Dr. Anand Patil, Past President Dr. Sunil Dhaded, and EC Member Dr. Ramesh Nayakar-welcomed warmly by Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak and Prof. Dr. Hallikerimath R.B. Over 70 delegates from Karnataka and Maharashtra-private practitioners and postgraduates-divided into transformative learning.

Day 1: Foundations and Live Demos : Core principles, occlusal concepts, vertical dimension assessment diagnosis, treatment planning, and therapy sequencing. Hands-on clinical demonstrations brought theory to life

Day 2: Digital Innovation and Implants, Cutting-edge digital tech in FMR, In-depth case discussions and Q & A : Organizing Chairperson Dr. Preethi Kusugal and Secretary Dr. Zarir Ruttonji steered the seamless execution, with dedicated support from Dr. Abhijit Patil (Reader), Dr. Chithra Melavanki (Lecturer), and Dr. Somesh Pattanshetti (Lecturer). Their mentorship ensured postgraduate students and private practitioners excellence and flawless coordination.

A resounding success in advancing prosthodontic frontiers!



PG SYNOPSIS SHOWCASE : RESEARCH & ETHICAL COMMITTEE DRIVES EXCELLENCE

The Research & Ethical Committee hosted a meticulous two-day Post Graduate Synopsis Presentation on January 12-13, 2026, in the college auditorium, ensuring robust oversight for upcoming research.

Dr. Sheetal Sanikop, Professor and Committee In-charge, opened with a warm welcome to external ethical members, Principal, Vice-Principal, HODs, and committee members. Key externals included Chairperson Dr. Anjana Bagewadi (Professor & Vice-Principal, KLE VKIDSRC, Belagavi), layperson Mrs. Sarita Sabnis, Advocate Mr. Umesh Yaradal, social worker Mr. Vijay More, Biostatistician Dr. Anand Hiremath (HOD Community Dentistry), and CRL staff Dr. Manohar K.

Day-Wise Presentations January 12 : I MDS students from Pedodontics and Periodontics
January 13 : Orthodontics, Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics, and Prosthodontics

Valuable feedback from the panel was diligently recorded, guiding refinements. This event reinforced our commitment to ethical, high-impact dental research.



XII SCIENTIFIC CONVENTION : ORTHODONTICS SHINES BRIGHT

The Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopaedics triumphantly hosted its XII Scientific Convention on January 28-29, 2026. This vibrant two-day event united students, clinicians, and faculty in a dynamic celebration of academic excellence and innovation. The convention kicked off with a dignified inaugural ceremony. Dr. Vijay Naik, Head of the Department, set an inspiring tone with his warm Welcome Address. The highlight was the felicitation of renowned guest speaker Dr. Ameet V. Revenkar by Vice Principal Dr. Preethi Kusugal, marking a gracious start to the proceedings. A standout feature was Dr. Revenkar's hands-on workshop on Artificial Intelligence in research and clinical assistance. Participants gained practical insights into cutting-edge technologies transforming dental practice, proving invaluable for

postgraduate students and clinicians eager to embrace the future. The event buzzed with intellectual energy, showcasing 14 clinical paper presentations and 14 poster presentations from postgraduate students, alongside enthusiastic contributions from undergraduates—a first that underscored the department's inclusive spirit. These displays highlighted impressive research and clinical expertise. The convention wrapped up on a high note at the valedictory function, where winners received well-deserved accolades amid cheers and applause. This milestone gathering reaffirmed the Institutions dedication to fostering innovation, research, and excellence among tomorrow's dental leaders.



PROSTHODONTIST DAY OUTREACH : EMPOWERING RURAL WORKERS IN AGASAGE TALUKA

To celebrate Prosthodontist Day, the Department of Prosthodontics, Crown and Bridge extended vital care through a dental camp for MGNREGA workers-now VB-GRAM-G (Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin)-in Agasage Taluka on January 20, 2026. Led by Prof. & HOD Dr. Preethi Kusugal, alongside Dr. Zarir Ruttonji, Dr. Abhijit Patil, and postgraduate students, the initiative targeted oral health awareness, prosthodontic need assessment, and education on replacing missing teeth. Key activities included: Comprehensive screenings for missing teeth, worn dentition, and prosthodontic issues. Hygiene counseling and treatment option guidance at our institute. Motivational sessions sparking interest in follow-up care. Workers participated enthusiastically, fostering strong community ties and motivating many to pursue treatment. This heartfelt outreach underscored the department's social responsibility and prosthodontists' role in enhancing oral function and quality of life for rural heroes.



PROSTHODONTIST DAY 2026 : EMPOWERING ASHA WORKERS AT HIREBAGEWADI

To honor Prosthodontist Day, the Department of Prosthodontics, Crown and Bridge hosted a targeted dental outreach camp for ASHA workers at Primary Health Centre, Hirebagewadi, on January 21, 2026. This heartfelt initiative celebrated front-line health heroes while advancing community oral welfare. Under the leadership of Prof. & HOD Dr. Preethi Kusugal and Dr. Zarir Ruttonji (Reader), along with enthusiastic postgraduate students, the camp assessed oral health status, identified common dental/prosthodontic issues, and educated participants on hygiene, best practices and timely treatment.

Key Highlights : Comprehensive oral hygiene assessments and problem identification. Practical demonstrations of brushing techniques and preventive care. Insightful session by Prof. Dr. Anand Hiremath (Public Health Dentistry) on institutional treatment schemes and discount policies. Motivational call for ASHA workers to become oral health advocates, referring community members to our Institute.

The camp earned overwhelming participation, strengthening ties with the rural community and inspiring many to seek follow-up care. It beautifully showcased the department's social responsibility and the transformative role of prosthodontists in elevating community oral health.



MAGICAL MMDC : ALUMNI REUNION IGNITES BONDS AND INSPIRATION

The Alumni Association of our Institute orchestrated a heartfelt "Magical MMDC" Alumni Meet on January 24, 2026, at our College Auditorium and Hotel Eefa. This vibrant gathering reconnected former students with their alma mater, fortified professional networks, and celebrated alumni triumphs in dentistry and healthcare. The festivities kicked off with a traditional lamp-lighting and warm welcome by Organizing Chairman Dr. Chetan R. Patil. Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak inspired the crowd, spotlighting the institute's evolution and alumni's pivotal role in its legacy. Faculty and students enveloped returnees in nostalgia, fostering joyous reunions. Highlights included a special felicitation of distinguished ex-staff for their enduring contributions to the institution and profession. Alumni regaled with career tales and successes, motivating current students. An interactive session offered career advice and clinical pearls, while alumnus Dr. Shoaib Parkar delivered a captivating guest lecture on Implant Essentials. A nostalgic campus tour revisited classrooms, clinics, and the Central Research Laboratory.

Key Outcomes : 1.Strengthened alumni-institute ties, 2.Unlocked mentorship, internships, and collaborations, 3. Sparked dynamic knowledge exchange

Dr. Vijayalakshmi Kotrashetti closed with a grateful vote of thanks. The day wrapped with lunch at college and a lavish banquet dinner at Hotel Eefa Lawns-a perfect finale to a triumphant reunion that reignited MMNGHIDS pride.



MASTERING MODERN IMPLANTOLOGY : SUCCESSFUL "BASIC IMPLANT PROFICIENCY" 2026

In a significant stride toward advancing postgraduate education and clinical excellence in implant dentistry, the Department of Periodontology, Prosthodontics, and Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery jointly conducted the "Basic Implant Proficiency" Course 2026 - Surgical Module from February 3rd to 7th, 2026, at our Institute. The prestigious program was organized in strategic association with Osstem India Pvt. Limited, a global leader in implant systems.

Inaugural Ceremony: Setting the Stage for Excellence

The five-day intensive course commenced with a vibrant inaugural ceremony that set a tone of academic rigor and professional collaboration. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Pushpa Pudkalkatti, who warmly greeted the faculty, participants, and industry partners.



The traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, symbolizing the dawn of knowledge, was performed by a distinguished panel of leaders:

- Dr. Ramakant Nayak, Principal of the institute
- Dr. Preethi Kusugal, Vice Principal and Head of the Department of Prosthodontics
- Dr. Rutuj Surana, Course Mentor
- Dr. Pushpa P, Administrative Incharge and Head of the Department of Periodontics
- Dr. Ajay Nayak, Implant Incharge
- Dr. Sandeep Katti

Faculty members from the participating departments graced the occasion, underscoring the institution's commitment to interdisciplinary learning.

Didactic Foundation: Building Knowledge Before Action

The first two days were dedicated to comprehensive didactic lectures delivered by renowned implantologist Dr. Rutuj Surana (MDS, Periodontology & Implantology) from Pune. Dr. Surana's sessions covered essential topics including:

- Patient selection and treatment planning
- Implant biomechanics and prosthetic considerations
- Surgical protocols and complication management
- Digital workflows in implant dentistry

Participants gained a robust theoretical foundation that prepared them for the hands-on clinical experiences to follow.

Live Surgical Demonstration & Hands-On Mastery

The highlight of the program was the surgical module, conducted in the state-of-the-art Department of Periodontology. Dr. Rutuj Surana delivered a live surgical demonstration of implant placement, meticulously walking participants through each step-from flap design and osteotomy to implant insertion and closure.

Following the demonstration, 20 selected participants had the opportunity to perform implant placements under expert supervision. The surgical session was highly successful, with participants collectively placing 32 implants, demonstrating not only technical competence but also confidence in executing real-world procedures.





This experiential learning approach ensured that attendees transitioned seamlessly from theory to practice, a critical component of implant proficiency.

Valedictory: Reflection, Dialogue, and Gratitude

The program culminated in a meaningful valedictory function that fostered open dialogue. Participants engaged in an interactive question-and-answer session, addressing clinical challenges, case-specific doubts, and future learning goals. Their feedback highlighted the course's impact on their clinical confidence and decision-making abilities.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Sachita, who acknowledged the dedication of the organizing team, the expertise of the mentor, the support of Osstem India, and the active participation of all attendees.

Dr. SACHIN SHIVANAİKAR'S STELLAR SHOWDOWN ON DENTAL NEGLIGENCE AND MEDICOLEGAL ETHICS

Dr. Sachin Shivanaikar, Professor in the Department of Periodontology, showcased his expertise in medicolegal dentistry at two major national events. He delivered a compelling keynote lecture, "Avoiding Negligence in Dental Practice: What Every Dentist Must Know," at the 76th Indian Dental Conference in Mangalore (February 6-8, 2026). Shortly after, he served as a panellist in the Medicolegal Ethics Panel Discussion at the prestigious MeDe Vision Karnataka State Conference, hosted by BGS Medical College, Bengaluru, on February 28, 2026.

In these dynamic sessions, attended by dentists and academicians from across India, Dr. Shivanaikar stressed the vital balance of clinical skill and legal awareness. He outlined three key pillars of safe practice: meticulous documentation, genuine informed consent, and clear patient communication—revealing that most negligence claims arise from miscommunication, not procedural flaws.

Crowning his achievements, Dr. Shivanaikar received the Best CDH Convenor Award for Karnataka State at the Mangalore conference. The honor was presented by IDA President Dr. Manoj Srivastava, Hon. Secretary General Dr. Ashok Dhoble, and Immediate Past President Dr. Subra Nandy.



76TH IDA DENTAL CONFERENCE 2026 : OUR INSTITUTION SHINES WITH RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Our institute made a distinguished presence at the 76th Indian Dental Association (IDA) National Conference, held at the Father Muller Convention Center, Mangalore, from February 6-8, 2026. The three-day event featured guest lectures by renowned speakers, scientific sessions, and competitive paper and poster presentations.

Faculty Leadership & Research

Dr. Prachi Katti, Reader, Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, served as Chairperson for a Scientific Session, guiding debates on cutting-edge dental topics. She also presented a research paper titled : "Evaluation and Comparison of Salivary Composition in Controlled and Uncontrolled Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Patients - A Case-Control Study."

Student Participation & Awards

A total of 22 students from our institution participated, showcasing exceptional research acumen. Two participants were honored with the Best Paper Presentation Award:

Ms. Pooja Walmiki (3rd Year BDS)

Topic: "Orchid and Beyond: Transforming Oral Submucous Fibrosis Diagnosis With High-Resolution AI Analytics"

Dr. Jennifer Bardeskar (Intern)

Topic: "Man vs Machine: A 1,00,000 Case Review of Robotic-Assisted Osteotomies in Dentistry"

The strong showing at the 76th IDA Conference reflects our institution's commitment to research innovation, clinical excellence, and student development, positioning us as a leader in next-generation dental education.



LIFE-SAVING GIFT : INAUGURATION OF FULLY EQUIPPED AMBULANCE

In a landmark moment for community healthcare, President Dr. Rajshree Nagaraju proudly inaugurated a fully equipped ambulance provided by BOI at our Institute, as part of its CSR commitment on 9th Feb. The ceremony celebrated BOI's unwavering dedication to improving rural healthcare infrastructure.

This state-of-the-art ambulance will revolutionize emergency medical services at the institute, ensuring swift patient transport and bolstering the region's dental healthcare ecosystem. BOI's sponsorship highlights its strategic partnership with educational institutions to advance social welfare.

Distinguished Guests Who Made It Possible:

Shri Nagaraju Yadav, MLC, Government of Karnataka

Dr. Rajshree Nagaraju, President,
Maratha Mandal, Belagavi

Dr. Ramakant Nayak, Principal, MMNGHIDS, Belagavi

Shri Tarini Charan Sahu, Zonal Manager
(Hubballi-Dharwad), BOI

Shri Abhinav Pandey, Deputy Zonal Manager
(Hubballi-Dharwad), BOI

Smt. Sherly D. Papu, Senior Branch Manager,
Maratha Mandal Branch, BOI

The bank expressed heartfelt gratitude to the institute's leadership and attendees for their seamless collaboration. This ambulance will serve patients and students alike, embodying BOI's pledge to healthcare accessibility and social responsibility. A true game-changer for emergency care in Belagavi!



ANTI-RAGGING ORIENTATION 2026 : BUILDING A SAFE, RESPECTFUL CAMPUS CULTURE

The Anti-Ragging Committee of our institute hosted a powerful Anti-Ragging Orientation Program on February 11, 2026, in our college auditorium. The event drew every student from 1st BDS through 4th BDS, all interns, and MDS scholars (1st to 3rd year), underscoring our collective commitment to a ragging-free environment.

The highlight was the inspiring address by Dr. Shiva Sharan Shetty, esteemed member of the Dental Council of India (Mangalore). He passionately counselled students against the scourge of ragging, urged fostered healthy interpersonal relationships across campus, and detailed DCI's robust safeguards-including reporting mechanisms, strict penalties, and proactive protection measures for students. In recognition of his invaluable guidance, Dr. Shetty was warmly felicitated by our college.

Key Attendees :

All Anti-Ragging Committee members, Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak and Vice-Principal

Administrative In-charge, HODs from every department

This timely session reinforced our zero-tolerance stance on ragging, empowering students to unite in creating a safe, inclusive, and nurturing academic home. A resounding step toward dignity and mutual respect at MMNGHIDS!



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE : INTERNATIONAL ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS DAY

The Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, marked International Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon's Day on February 13, 2026, with great enthusiasm. This year's theme, "Know Your Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon," highlighted the vital role these specialists play in patient care. The event kicked off with a formal inauguration, followed by a warm welcome from Dr. Tushar Bandiwadekar to Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak and Vice Principal Dr. Preethi Kusugal. Dr. Ashwini Hosamani captivated the audience with an insightful lecture on the theme, shedding light on the expertise and contributions of oral surgeons. Adding a fun twist, a reel-making competition engaged undergraduate students, with winners receiving certificates amid cheers. Intern Akeefa Makandar shared her experiences, detailing the hands-on work interns undertake in the department. Dr. Sangeeta Bhandari wrapped up the proceedings with heartfelt vote of thanks, leaving everyone inspired. Dr. Rajshree Nagaraju, the President of Maratha Mandal group of institutions conveyed her best wishes for the celebrations.



SHARING IS CARING : NSS BRINGS JOY TO KIAAN CHILDREN

Our institute continues its tradition of social outreach through the annual "Sharing is Caring" event at KIAAN, the home for children living with HIV/AIDS. On February 21, 2026, the NSS unit rallied undergraduate and postgraduate students, faculty, and staff to donate a year's supply of essential household items-homecare products, laundry essentials, and toiletries-ensuring comfort and dignity for the residents. Dr. Rajshree Nagaraju, President of Maratha Mandal Group of Institutions, has long championed these initiatives, fostering empathy and sparking positive change. As she notes, such efforts inspire students to drive small, meaningful societal shifts. Key contributors included Miss Shifa Noorahmed Gadi, Mr. Ritesh Dhere (General Secretary), and Miss Aquina Gama (Co-General Secretary), who spearheaded purchases. The event was seamlessly coordinated by Dr. Zarir Ruttonji, Dr. Ramya Pai, Dr. Pallavi G., and Dr. Shewta Gaikwad. This gesture not only brightened lives at KIAAN but also reinforced our commitment to compassion and community service.



ASTITVA- 2026 : WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2026 WITH FLAIR AND FESTIVITY

Our Institute celebrated ASTITVA - 2026, its annual Freshers' Day, on February 14, 2026, warmly welcoming the 1st BDS and 1st MDS batches into the dental family.

The event opened with a captivating classical dance performance by the 1st BDS students, setting a vibrant tone for the inaugural function. The occasion was graced by Chief Guest Dr. Nandini Kadbi, alongside Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak, Vice Principal Dr. Preethi Kusugal, Cultural In-charge Dr. Sanjeevini Hattarki, Ms. Radhika, Cultural Committee members, and faculty. Organized by the Student Cultural Committee (Mr. Karan Patil, Ms. Pooja Walmiki, Ms. Krupa Kotabagi, Ms. Neeyati B) in coordination with the Literary and Arts Committee (Mr. Digvijay, Ms. Naaz M., Ms. Sufiya, Ms. Apeksha), the day revolved around the intriguing theme "Saints and Sinners."

Festivities included a ramp walk, dance performances, a questionnaire round, and a talent competition, with participants evaluated on creativity, confidence, and stage presence. The crowning moments saw Dr. Ahfaz and Dr. Tejaswini (1st MDS) honored as Mr. and Ms. Fresher MDS - 2026, while Mr. Parth D and Ms. Lalithya (1st BDS) were declared Mr. and Ms. Fresher BDS - 2026. The celebration concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, marking a successful and memorable kick-off to the academic journey for the new batch. ASTITVA - 2026 not only welcomed new faces but also set the stage for a year of creativity, camaraderie, and excellence.



NURTURING MINDS, HEALING HEARTS : PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLNESS SESSION EMPOWERS BDS STUDENTS

In a significant step toward fostering holistic student well-being, our college convened its first contact session with institutional psychologist Mrs. Apurva Gudi for the academic year 2026 on February 16, 2026, in our college auditorium. The session brought together BDS students from all four academic years—first, second, third, and final year—united by a shared commitment to mental health and resilience in the demanding world of dental education.

The gathering was warmly welcomed by Dr. Sujata Byahatti, Criteria 7 Incharge, who emphasized the institution's dedication to creating a supportive, emotionally intelligent learning environment that nurtures not just clinical competence, but also psychological strength.

Mrs. Gudi delivered a compelling, evidence-based lecture that struck a deep chord with the audience. She skilfully unpacked the unique academic and clinical stressors inherent in dental training—from the pressure of hands-on procedures and time-bound examinations to the emotional toll of patient interactions and the transition from classroom to clinic. Rather than presenting stress as an unavoidable burden, she reframed it as a manageable challenge with practical, science-backed tools for coping.

Key Takeaways for Students

The session centered on four foundational pillars of stress resilience:

1. **Time Management:** Practical strategies to balance rigorous academics, clinical duties, and personal life, reducing the feeling of being overwhelmed.
2. **Cognitive Restructuring:** Techniques to identify and reframe negative thought patterns that amplify anxiety and self-doubt.
3. **Relaxation Techniques:** Hands-on demonstrations of breathing exercises, progressive muscle relaxation, and mindfulness practices that can be used instantly before exams or clinical rotations.
4. **Timely Psychological Support:** A clear message that seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness, with reassurance that confidential counselling is readily available.

"A resilient student becomes a resilient professional, and a resilient professional heals better." - Mrs. Apurva Gudi



VAYU 2026: A WHIRLWIND OF WINS AND WARRIOR SPIRIT!

Our Institute ignited athletic fervor with "VAYU 2026" from February 22-28. Guided by Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak, Vice Principal Dr. Preethi Kusugal, faculty, and the Sports Committee, the week pulsed with competition, camaraderie, and triumphs.

Daily Highlights

- Day 0 (Feb 22) : Badminton blasts at BDBA courts. Dr. Mukul claimed Best Male Player; Ms. Shravani (I BDS) dominated as Best Female Player.
- Day 1 (Feb 23) : Grand inauguration with March Past (judged by Dr. Tushar, Dr. Hemant, Dr. Shruthi), Torch Lighting, and Sports Oath. Staff relished Lemon-Spoon and Walking Races.
- Day 2 (Feb 24) : Indoor showdowns-Carrom, Chess, Table Tennis - in the college basement, testing strategy and skill.
- Day 3 (Feb 25) : House wars in Throwball, Volleyball, Football leagues (Blue, Lavender, Black, White Houses). Ms. Arpita shone as Best Throwball Player; Mr. Vishal ruled Volleyball.
- Day 4-5 (Feb 26-27) : Cricket clashes for students/staff plus track stars in 100m/400m sprints, Shot Put, Discus at Police Ground.
- Day 6 (Feb 28) : Epic Football Finals and Tug of War, capped by Prize Distribution.

Award Winners

- Best Football Player: Dr. Nirmal
- Best Cricket Player (Boys): Dr. Yateesh | (Girls): Ms. Vaishnavi (Intern)
- Best Athlete (Girls): Ms. Naziya | (Boys): Mr. Deeman
- Best Emerging Player (Girls): Ms. Ankita | (Boys): Mr. Sujal
- Best Outgoing Player (Girls): Ms. Vrushti | (Boys): Mr. Amey Naik
- Best Sportsmanship: Mr. Prasanna (Intern)

Team GARUDA (White House) clinched the General Championship; Team YODHA (Blue House) took Runner-up. From first-timers to farewell athletes, VAYU 2026 forged memories, teamwork, and the pure thrill of sport.





VAYU 2026 : PRIZE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY



GUM GUARDIANS UNITE : NATIONAL PERIODONTIST DAY CELEBRATION

The Department of Periodontology marked National Periodontist Day on February 23, 2026, with infectious enthusiasm, spotlighting periodontal health's role in oral and systemic wellness.

The star attraction, a hilarious and insightful skit, "Masoodon ki Mahima," performed by postgraduate students for support staff. It dramatized the pitfalls of poor oral hygiene, stressing early diagnosis, treatment, and regular check-ups through witty dialogue and relatable scenarios-earning rapt applause for its fun, educational punch.

A postgraduate's talk unpacked treatment options for gum bleeding, bad breath, tooth mobility, and advanced therapies available to the public, empowering attendees with practical knowledge.

Dr. Sachita S. N. opened with a warm welcome and closed with thanks, linking healthy gums to warding off diabetes and heart disease. Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak graced the event, joined by HOD Dr. Pushpa S.P., Professors Dr. Sheetal S., Dr. Sandeep K., Dr. Sachin S., and Dr. Sanjeevini H., plus lecturers Dr. Saloni D. and Dr. Shiphalka. Postgraduates, interns, and support staff dove in with zeal.

This vibrant initiative boosted awareness, celebrated periodontists, and reaffirmed the department's dedication to community education and preventive care.



HONORING A LEGEND : NATIONAL ORAL PATHOLOGIST DAY

The Department of Oral Pathology and Microbiology celebrated National Oral Pathologist Day on February 25, 2026, commemorating the birth anniversary of Dr. H.M. Dholakia-the first recognized postgraduate teacher of Oral Pathology in India. Revered as the 'Bhishmapitamaha' of Oral Pathology and Microbiology, this legendary academician mentored generations of Indian oral pathologists. Kicking off the festivities, the department partnered with the Public Health Department for a cancer screening camp on February 24 at Londa. Dr. Kuntala Mondal, Lecturer in Oral Pathology, led the dental screenings, raising vital awareness in the community. The next day brought an inspiring guest lecture for undergraduate students and faculty, featuring Dr. Mandana Donoghue, eminent oral pathologist and Founder Director of Oral Pathology 360 and Oromed 360 Academy. The program began with a traditional lamp-lighting by Principal

Dr. Ramakant Nayak and dignitaries. Dr. Vijayalakshi Kotrashetti welcomed the gathering and introduced the speaker, who delivered a motivational talk titled "The Alchemy of Success: Clarity, Grit and Magic." The event shone brighter with felicitations for subject toppers: Ms. Disha and Ms. Jhanavi in Dental Anatomy and Oral Histology, and Ms. Daniya Batul and Ms. Sifa in Oral Pathology and Microbiology. Dr. Deepa Katgalkar concluded with a gracious vote of thanks.



INAUGURATION OF ADVANCED CBCT CS 9600 IMAGING SYSTEM

A significant milestone in dental healthcare advancement was marked with the inauguration of the state-of-the-art CBCT CS 9600 imaging system at our Institute on 6th March 2026. The facility was formally inaugurated by Dr. Rajshree Nagaraju, President of Maratha Mandal Group of Institutions in the esteemed presence of our Principal, Dr. Ramakant Nayak Vice - Principal, Dr. Preethi Kusugal and Heads of various departments and senior faculty members. The newly installed CS 9600 Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) machine represents a major technological upgrade for the institution, enhancing diagnostic precision and patient care. Developed by Carestream Dental, the CS 9600 is a cutting-edge imaging system that integrates 2D panoramic and cephalometric imaging along with 3D CBCT imaging capabilities. It is designed to deliver highly accurate and detailed images for comprehensive dental diagnosis and treatment planning. The CS 9600 is widely recognized for its innovation and has received multiple industry accolades, including repeated "Best of Class Technology" awards, reflecting its impact on modern dental practices. The inauguration ceremony concluded with a demonstration of the machine's capabilities and an interactive session for faculty. This was followed by intensive training

of X-ray technicians and Oral Medicine staff regarding machine and imaging software usage. The installation of this advanced CBCT system marks a new chapter for the Institution, reinforcing its position as a leader in dental education and patient care.



DAWN OF DUTY : WHITE COAT CEREMONY FOR IV BDS STARS

On March 6, 2026, our Institute welcomed IV BDS students into dentistry's noble fold with a poignant White Coat Ceremony. This rite instills professionalism, purity, and compassion-the white coat's timeless symbols-while igniting a lifelong commitment to ethical patient care. Dignitaries graced the event: Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak, Vice Principal Dr. Preethi Kusugal, Administrative In-Charge Dr. Pushpa P., and Academic In-Charge Dr. Veerendra Uppin. Students donned their coats, received badges, and recited the Hippocratic Oath led by Dr. Kusugal, pledging integrity and empathy. A transformative milestone, it marked their journey from learners to guardians of oral health.



EMPOWER HOUR : CELEBRATING WOMEN'S DAY WITH KAS OFFICER RAJASHREE JAINAPUR

The Women's Grievance Cell commemorated International Women's Day with a riveting guest talk by Mrs. Rajashree Jainapur, KAS (Senior Scale Officer), on March 7, 2026. Focused on women's empowerment, leadership, and equal representation, the event inspired students and staff to champion gender equality in governance, education, and nation-building. Dr. Ramya Pai, In-Charge, kicked off with a warm welcome and introduction. Mrs. Jainapur shared gems from her administrative journey, spotlighting women's vital role in government for inclusive policies and balanced decisions.

Key takeaways :

- Education as Power: The ultimate tool for independence, confidence, and societal impact-urging girls to pursue learning relentlessly.
- Broader Representation: Women's voices in administration, politics, science, business, and leadership build stronger, equitable institutions.

The interactive session sparked lively Q&A, leaving attendees motivated. Vice Principal Dr. Preethi Kusugal, IQAC In-Charge Dr. Vijayalakshmi Kotrashetti, Cell members Dr. Madhu Pujar and Dr. Sheetal Sanikop, faculty, and undergraduates graced the occasion. Dr. Preeti Astagi wrapped up with thanks, celebrating Mrs. Jainapur's guidance. A true call to action for bold, inclusive futures!



CONS-ENDO DAY 2026 : CELEBRATING ART, SCIENCE, AND DEBATE

The Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics celebrated "Cons-Endo Day 2026" on Monday, 9th March 2026, in our college auditorium from 9:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The event drew enthusiastic participation from office bearers, interns, and students, creating a vibrant academic atmosphere.

Pre-event Highlights

A Digital Collage Competition was held on Saturday, 7th March 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, open to 2nd and 3rd BDS students on the theme "Every tooth deserves a second chance." Each batch submitted five entries. The collages were displayed in the auditorium on 9th March and adjudicated by Vice Principal Dr. Preethi Kusugal, Professor and Head of the Department of Prosthodontics. Two entries were awarded, with both First and Second prizes won by II BDS students. A Reel-making Competition on the topic "Pulp Fiction: Debunking the Myth of RCT" was also held on 7th March 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., for 4th BDS students and interns in the same department. Each batch contributed five reels, which were later screened in the auditorium on 9th March and evaluated by Dr. Vijay Naik, Professor and Head of the Department of Orthodontics. The First prize was won by interns and the Second prize by IV BDS students.

Inauguration and Debates

The Cons-Endo Day program commenced with a formal inauguration attended by faculty, office bearers, interns, and participants. Following the inauguration, two debate competitions were held for Conservative and Endodontic postgraduate students from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The topics were:

"Single Visit Endodontics vs. Multiple Visit Endodontics"

"Is Society Ready to Accept Gender Equality?"

The debates were judged by Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak and Dr. Sadanand Kulkarni, Professor and Head of the Department of Pedodontics. Team B emerged victorious in both debates, with Dr. Nirmal Shetty (III MDS) being awarded the Best Debater prize for his outstanding performance. The day concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony and refreshments hosted by the Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, providing a warm and celebratory end to the event. Cons-Endo Day 2026 successfully combined creativity, clinical awareness, and critical thinking, reinforcing the department's commitment to innovative and engaging academic activities.





MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT : DR. MADHURA M.G.'S PH.D. OPEN VIVA

On March 9, 2026, Dr. Madhura M.G., Ph.D. Research Scholar from the Department of Oral Pathology and Microbiology, dazzled with her Open Viva presentation for Ph.D. examination.

Dr. Kaveri Hallikeri, Professor of Oral Pathology and Microbiology at SDM Dental College and Hospital, Dharwad, served as the examiner. Dr. Ashok L., Professor of Oral Medicine and Radiology from Bapuji Dental College, Davangere, acted as observer, appointed by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences.



Her thesis, "Assessment of miR-222 Expression with MMP-1 and miR-203 with P63 in Normal Oral Mucosa, Oral Leukoplakia, and Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma: A Cross-Sectional Study," showcased cutting-edge research on molecular markers in oral health. Vice Principal Dr. Preethi Kusugal, Guide Dr. Vijayalakshmi Kotrashetti, Dr. Kishore Bhat, Dr. Prakash Diwan, Director of Central Research Laboratory, faculty, and PG students attended, marking a proud moment for the institute.



EPIC FAREWELL : HONOURING LEGEND OF LEADERSHIP AND LOYALTY

In a month of milestones, our institute bid adieu to a pillar of dedication.

Celebrating Dr. Ramakant Nayak's Enduring Legacy

Since 2003, Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak - A visionary academician and administrator-has steered the institute to towering achievements in infrastructure, academics, and student success. A grand farewell on March 31, 2026, at 9:30 AM in our Institute auditorium overflowed with gratitude from Maratha Mandal Governing Council, Faculty, Staff, and Students. The ceremony was graced by Dr. Rajshree Nagaraju (President), Shri Dinakar Rao Oulkar (Vice President & Trust Board Member), Shri Ramachandra Modagekar, Shri Zangruche, Shri Sainuche, and Shri Vinayak Ghasari (Trust Board Members).

Dr. Nayak received heartfelt felicitations from the President and Council for his exemplary service. Shri Ramachandra Modagekar lauded his leadership in upholding academic excellence, while Shri Dinakar Rao Oulkar highlighted his pivotal role in the institute's growth. In a reflective address, Dr. Nayak recounted his journey, thanking Late President Shri Nathajirao G. Halgekar for unwavering support. Dr. Rajshree Nagaraju hailed him as her mentor and guiding force, celebrating his transformative contributions. The event closed patriotically with the National Anthem.



TARANG 2026 : A WHIRLWIND OF CREATIVITY AND TRIUMPH

Tarang 2026 exploded onto the scene on March 10, kicking off with a grand inauguration at 8:30 AM. Dr. Ramakant Nayak, Dr. Preethi Kusugal, Cultural Incharge Dr. Sanjeevani Hattarki, and staff, joined Secretaries Ritesh, Aquina, Pooja, Karan, Krupa, and Neeyati for the ceremonial lamp lighting. Dr. Hattarki's inspiring address set an electric tone, capped by a surprise staff dance performance.

The festivities unfolded across two vibrant days, blending heritage, humor, and high energy. Day 1 dazzled with Royal Rajwada (Final Years-1st, Interns-2nd & III BDS 3rd), where students channeled royal Indian grandeur. Ultimate Bluff (Ritesh & Darshitha 1st) had teams spinning hilarious wrong answers, judged by Drs. Ramya and Sameer. Blind Stroke saw blindfolded finger-painting guided by voice (Interns-1st/3rd & PGs-2nd), while Profit Plan pitched business brilliance (Interns 1st, Final Years-2nd & IInd BDS-3rd). Thrills peaked in Trapped and Tested escape room (Interns 1st, III BDS-2nd & II BDS-3rd) and Sanskriti Utsav classical showcase (Amey-1st, Shrusti-2nd & Pandurang-3rd). The night crowned Kingdom of Sheeba and PJ party with Interns victorious under "King" Dr. Sachin Shivnaikar.

Day 2 ramped up the retro vibes with staff's Departmental Ramp Walk (Periodontology-1st, Prosthodontics-2nd). Gen Z Unfiltered runway (Interns-1st, Final Years-2nd & III BDS-3rd) clashed streetwear and self-expression. Culinary chaos ruled Global Kitchen Clash (III BDS-1st, II BDS-2nd & Interns-3rd) and Meme-O-Dontics (Final Years-1st, I BDS-2nd & Interns-3rd). Artistic feats shone in Gentlemen's Rangoli (Vedant & Amey 1st), Anything But Clothes (Final Years 1st), and Hidden Quest treasure hunt (III BDS winners). Bollywood fever hit with synchronized dances (Final Years 1st), opposite-gender charades (Interns/III BDS 1st), Hook Step Hustle (Mahima 1st), Bollywood Mania (II BDS 1st), and Great Contention debate (Krishnaraj & Daniya 1st). Evening vibes included Rose Dedication, Online Gaming (PGs 1st), Relay DIY (PGs 1st), Swar Sangam group singing (Interns 1st), and Duet Face Off (Shraddha & Apeksha 1st).

Standouts like Aqua Tropica (II BDS 1st), boys' makeup artistry (Aquina & Krishnaraj 1st), Photography ("Street Vendors" theme, Vedant 1st), Film A Flash (Final Years 1st), Tote Painting (Interns 1st), Fish Pond chit revelations, and Folk Fiesta (Interns 1st) kept the energy soaring. The Art Mela buzzed with open mic, food stalls (II/III BDS top), game stalls, exhibitions, live jamming, and blind school performances-Interns swept arts.

At 1:30 PM prize distribution, Vice Principal Dr. Kusugal, Dr. Hattarki, and Committee Members awarded trophies. Mr. Vedant Verekar claimed "Artist of the Year." Interns "Divergents" clinched General Championship, with Final Years "Carnations" as runners-up. Co-secretary Neeyati's vote of thanks sealed the success, followed by a glamorous Prom Evening & DJ Night dance frenzy.

Tarang 2026 wasn't just events-it was a canvas of talent, teamwork, and unforgettable joy!







BEYOND X-RAYS : Dr. PRACHI KATTI ILLUMINATES CBCT AT IDA GANGAVATI

Dr. Prachi Katti, Reader, Oral Medicine and Radiology delivered a captivating lecture, "Beyond the X-Ray: Unlocking Diagnosis with CBCT," at the Indian Dental Association (IDA) Gangavati branch on March 27, 2026.

The session unpacked Cone Beam Computed Tomography's (CBCT) transformative role in modern dentistry-boasting low radiation, superior accuracy, and versatility across endodontics, implantology, periodontics, orthodontics, oral surgery, and pedodontics. Attendees raved about the practical insights and real-world applications.



EPIC FAREWELL : WARM TRIBUTE TO SMT. KASTURI DODDAMANI

Earlier, on February 28, the board room hosted a touching send-off for Smt. Kasturi Doddamani, Staff Nurse in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery since 2004. Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak felicitated her dedication and discipline, with Vice Principal Dr. Preethi Kusugal, HODs, and staff sharing appreciation for her 22 years of compassionate care. These farewells not only honored remarkable journeys but inspired us all to carry forward their spirit of excellence and service.



ORAL HEALTH OUTREACH CAMPS BY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

A. Celebrating World Cancer Day with Impact : Cancer & Dental Screening Camp at PHC Londa, Belagavi

On February 24, 2026, Public Health Department proudly marked World Cancer Day by organizing a comprehensive **cancer screening and dental health camp** at the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Londa, Belagavi. In collaboration with local health teams, this initiative reached 276 patients with thorough **oral cancer screenings** a critical step in early detection, especially in high-risk communities.

Key highlights :

- **276 oral screenings** conducted, identifying potential issues early for timely intervention.
- **36 patients** received immediate on-site dental treatments, including scaling, fillings, and counselling.
- Free consultations emphasized tobacco cessation, oral hygiene, and cancer awareness.

This camp underscores our commitment to community health, blending cancer prevention with accessible dental care. Early detection saves lives-together, we're building healthier smiles and futures in Belagavi!



PHC, Londa, Belagavi



Treating Patients in Mobile Dental Van

Screening for Oral Cancer

B. National Dentist's Day Report

In commemoration of National Dentist's Day, a Dental Screening camp was conducted at Maratha Mandal English Medium School, Khadarawadi on 06/03/2026, Belagavi. Oral screening was done for 107 school children as well as their parents.



Maratha Mandal English Medium School,
Khadarawadi



Conducting Dental Screening
for parents



Conducting Dental Screening for
School Children

C. World Oral Health Day 2026: "A Happy Mouth is... A Happy Life!"

Public Health Department celebrated World Oral Health Day on March 7, 2026, across multiple venues in Belagavi, spreading the message that oral health leads to a happier, healthier life. Their team conducted a series of dental screening and treatment camps in rural communities, empowering hundreds with free care and awareness.

Camp Highlights :

- March 16 : Balobal, Belagavi - 54 patients screened and treated (28 received treatments).
- March 17 : Akkatangerahal, Belagavi - 85 patients screened.
- March 24 : PHC Vantamuri, Belagavi - 48 patients screened.
- April 16 : Kadoli (with NSS wing) - 47 patients screened.
- April 17 : Alatage, Belagavi - 64 patients screened.

Total Impact : 298 patients screened, 28 treated on-site-promoting early detection, hygiene education, and smiles for all!



Conducting oral screening at PHC Balobal, Belagavi
Treating Patients in Mobile Dental Van



Conducting oral screening at PHC Akkatangerahal, Belagavi
and treating patients in Mobile Dental Van



Conducting Oral Screening
at PHC, Vantamuri Colony, Belagavi

Camp Details for the Academic Year 2026 (from Jan to March)

Month	Total No. of Camps	Number of Patients Screened	Number of Patients Treated
January	08	324	48
February	04	494	115
March	05	368	64
Total	17	1,186	227

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