



Accredited 'A' Grade by NAAC

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)

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Phone : 0831-2477682 | E-mail : mmnghids@gmail.com | www : mmdc.edu.in



R. S. No. 47A/2, Bauxite Road, Near KSRP Ground, Belagavi - 590 010. Karnataka INDIA

RAJYOTSAVA AWARD : HONORING Dr. RAJSHREE NAGARAJU'S VISIONARY LEADERSHIP



Dr. Rajshree Nagaraju, President of Maratha Mandal, Belagavi, stands as a beacon of excellence in education. Her visionary leadership has propelled Maratha Mandal institutions to new heights in academic achievement, infrastructure, and community service.

Trailblazing Contributions

Under her guidance, the focus on quality education has empowered rural and underprivileged students through accessible, value-driven programs. She has spearheaded innovations in professional courses, research, labs, libraries, and faculty training, earning statewide and national acclaim.

Recent State Recognition

In a proud moment for Belagavi's educational landscape, Dr. Rajshree Nagaraju received the prestigious Rajyotsava Award 2025 from the Karnataka State Government. This honor celebrates her transformative impact on education and tireless societal service.



Lasting Legacy

Her initiatives in inclusive education-scholarships, skill programs, and holistic development have uplifted thousands. Dr. Rajshree's integrity and dedication continue to inspire students, educators, and the community, shaping Karnataka's future.



WELCOMING BDS 2025-26: ORIENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Orientation program for 1st BDS (Batch 2025 -26) was held on 27th of October 2025 at 9:30 am in our college auditorium. Introductory remarks were delivered by the Principal Dr. Ramakant Nayak.

Dr. Veerendra Uppin Academic In-charge oriented them to BDS course

Dr. Preeti Kusugal, Vice Principal spoke on the rules and regulations of Institution

Dr. Sachin Shivanakar, Examination In-charge briefed about examination pattern

Dr. Tushar Bandiwadekar spoke on anti-ragging measures taken by the Institution

Dr. Preeti Byakod Committee Member, Asst. NAAC, coordinator - highlighted the NAAC activities of the Institute

Dr. Tanmayee Parkar our UG alumni and PG student shared her thoughts

Later freshers introduced themselves and shared their hobbies and interest in pursuing dentistry.

Afterwards the mentors took the freshers for a campus tour (department tour)



Dr. PREETHI KUSUGAL Shines at PROSTHONEXUS-2025



Dr Preethi Kusugal, Vice Principal and Professor and Head, Department of Prosthodontics and Crown & Bridge presented guest lecture titled "Concepts in Full Mouth Rehabilitation" in the state level virtual masterclass "PROSTHONEXUS -2025 on 11th October 2025 for postgraduates organized by Department of Prosthodontics & Crown & Bridge, HKES Nijalingappa Institute of Dental Sciences and Research, Kalaburagi in association with Indian Prosthodontics Society, Karnataka State Branch.

BRIDGE COURSE KICKSTARTS BDS 2025-26 JOURNEY

Bridge course was held for 1st BDS Batch 2025-26 on 28th and 29th of October 2025 in our college auditorium. Medical and Dental faculty spoke on various topics. Following faculty were resource persons

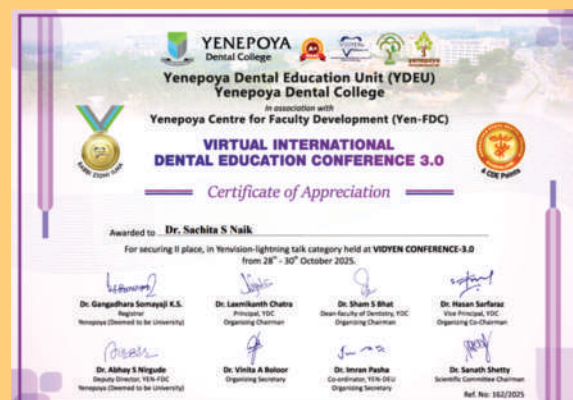
Name of Speaker	Topic of Presentation
Dr. Prakash Diwan	Your gateway to flourishing career
Dr. Sheetal Sanikop	Communication skills
Dr. Prachi Katti	Holistic wellness for budding dentists
Dr. Sai Chandani	BDS and beyond
Dr. Ramya Pai	Gender sensitization
Dr. Sadanand Kulkarni	Financial awareness among students
Dr. Sujata Byahatti	Carving your path: An introduction to dentistry
Dr. Sachin Shivanaiakar	Introduction to IDA
Dr. Vijayalakshmi Kotrashetti	The code we live by! Professionalism in health care



Dr. SACHITA S. NAIK BAGS SECOND PLACE AT YENVISION LIGHTNING TALK

Dr. Sachita S. Naik has been awarded Second Place at the esteemed Yenvision Lightning Talk for her presentation titled "Engaging Minds by a Collaborative and Inquiry-Based Approach through Pick and Speak Topic Exploration" held at Mangalore.

The Yenvision Lightning Talk serves as a distinguished platform that promotes the presentation of innovative ideas and effective communication within a concise time framework. Dr. Sachita's presentation was notable for its academic rigor, originality, and relevance to contemporary pedagogical practices. Her discourse underlined the significance of collaborative learning and inquiry-based instructional strategies in fostering active learner engagement and higher-order thinking skills. This notable achievement brings honor to the institution and stands as an inspiration for educators to embrace progressive, learner-focused methodologies that enrich the educational experience and promote meaningful learning outcomes.



UNSUNG HEROES OF OUR CAMPUS



Fifteen to Twenty Years of Unwavering Dedication! We gathered with deep gratitude to bid farewell to below mentioned five non-teaching staff, whose steadfast commitment has kept our college spotless and welcoming for nearly two decades. Your quiet excellence has touched every corner-thank you for your legacy of care! A felicitation program was organized on 31st May 2025 to honor-Mrs. Bibi Mulla, Mrs. Suman Dhamanekar, Mrs. Geeta Mutagekar, Mr. Appaji Divate, and Mrs. Kalpana Birje-on their retirement, in recognition of their dedicated service and notable achievements during their tenure at the Institution. Having served the Institute for nearly 15 to 20 years, their commitment, discipline, and valuable contributions to the smooth functioning of academic and administrative activities were appreciatively highlighted. Each retiree was felicitated with a memento and flowers as a token of gratitude. The program concluded with heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for a healthy, peaceful, and fulfilling post-retirement life.



Dr. SUJATA BYAHATTI EXCELS AT VIDYEN 3.0 CONFERENCE

Dr Sujata Byahatti Professor from department of Oral Medicine and Radiology conducted preconference course on Bridging minds, Building care: The Power of Interprofessional Education and Practice. She also presented a paper titled "Enhancing Collaborative Competence through IPE in Oral Health and Tobacco Control" on 28th and 29th Oct 2025 at Virtual International Dental Conference -Vidyen 3.0 held online by Yenepoya dental college, Mangalore.



NAVIGATING NEET MDS 2026: STRATEGIC INSIGHTS BY Dr. ZARIR RUTTONJI

Dr. Zarir Ruttonji provided a detailed overview of the NEET MDS examination pattern and recent updates in the syllabus at the School of Dental Sciences, Karad, on 8th November 2025. The session addressed the interns preparing for NEET MDS 2026. He guided the students on effective preparation techniques and the importance of conceptual clarity in clinical subjects. The lecture also highlighted strategic approaches to time management and prioritization of topics. Dr. Zarir Ruttonji encouraged participants to adopt a disciplined and consistent study routine. The interactive session allowed students to clarify their doubts and gain practical insights from his experience.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE MEETS DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP - Dr. SACHIN

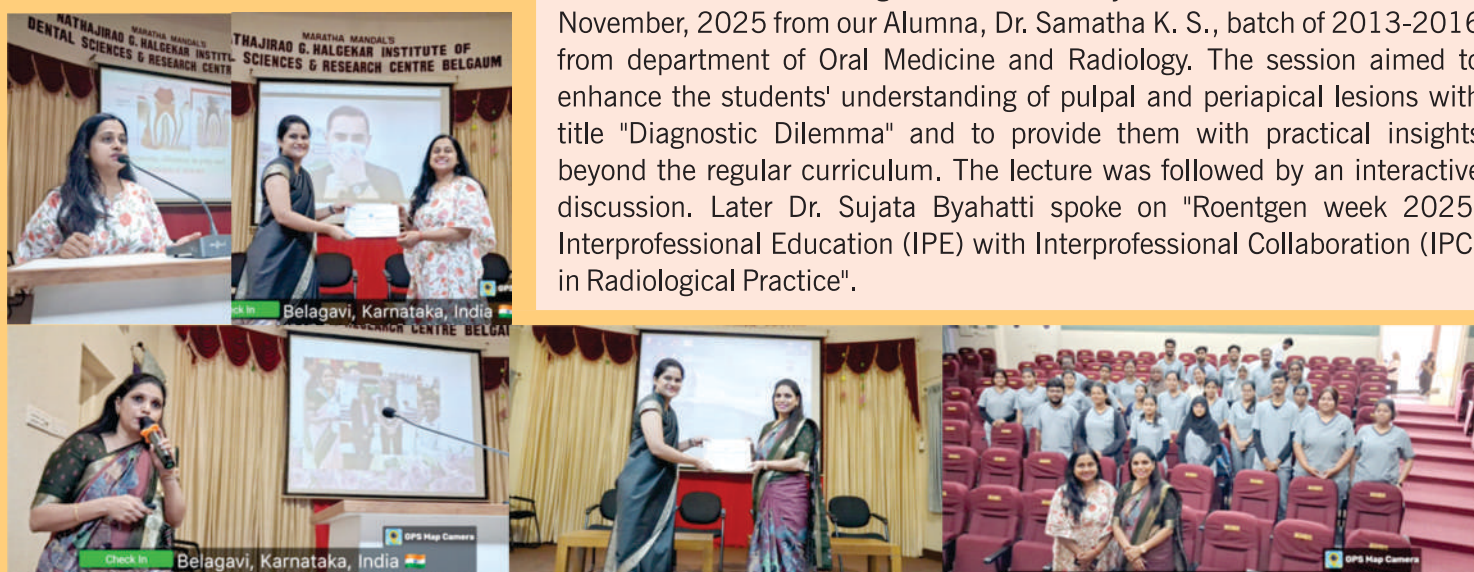
Leading by Example! Huge Congratulations to our very own Dr. Sachin for an extraordinary double win-delivering three insightful guest lectures across the region and emerging victorious in the recent elections. Your dedication to both academia and leadership is an inspiration to us all!

1. Dr Sachin Shivanaiakar, Professor, Department of Periodontology has been elected as Vice President of Indian Dental Association, Karnataka State Branch for the year 2025-26.
2. Delivered a Guest lecture on "Shielding your Practice: Legal Insights for the Modern Dentist" at 51st Karnataka State Dental Conference held at Karwar from 31st October to 2nd November 2025.
3. Gave a talk on "Illuminating Precision: Lasers in Dental Practice" at 64th IDA Maharashtra State Dental Conference on 21st Nov held at Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Maharashtra.
4. Enlightened people on the topic "Crown Lengthening Reloaded: Predictability in Practice" at IDA Hubli on 14 December, 2025



ROENTGEN WEEK CELEBRATION

Guest lecture was arranged for the final year BDS students on 14th November, 2025 from our Alumna, Dr. Samatha K. S., batch of 2013-2016 from department of Oral Medicine and Radiology. The session aimed to enhance the students' understanding of pulpal and periapical lesions with title "Diagnostic Dilemma" and to provide them with practical insights beyond the regular curriculum. The lecture was followed by an interactive discussion. Later Dr. Sujata Byahatti spoke on "Roentgen week 2025: Interprofessional Education (IPE) with Interprofessional Collaboration (IPC) in Radiological Practice".



WORLD RADIOGRAPHY DAY CELEBRATION

World Radiography Day is observed annually on November 8 to mark the 1895 discovery of X-rays by Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen. It highlights the vital role of radiographers, radiological technologists, and diagnostic imaging (CT, MRI, X-ray) in patient safety, healthcare, and disease detection. The Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology celebrated World Radiography Day on November 10th, 2025. The theme for World Radiography Day 2025 was "Radiographers: Seeing the Unseen". A poster competition was conducted for the final year batch on the topic "Empowering Healthcare through Imaging Excellence." The event started with Dr. Praveena Tantradi, Professor and Head, Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, welcoming the gathering. Principal, Dr. Ramakant Nayak, Vice Principal, Dr. Preethi Kusugal and Administrative Incharge, Dr. Pushpa, graced the event. Dr. Chetan Patil, Professor, Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, and Dr. Zarir Ruttonji, Reader, Department of Prosthodontics and Crown and Bridge, were the judges for the poster competition. Nine final year students participated in the competition. First prize was won by Ms. Daniyabatul Jakati, second prize by Ms. Shifa Gadi and third prize by Mr. Krishnaraj Biradar. Radiographers, Mr. Imran and Mr. Harish who are the backbone of the Radiology department were felicitated for their contributions. A total of 26 final year students attended the event. The event was hosted by final year students Ms. Tulasi and Ms. Umme Aiman. Dr. Sujata Byahatti, Professor, and Dr. Prachi Katti, Reader, were part of the organizing team. The programme ended with a vote of thanks, which was followed by refreshments for the assembled staff and students.



UPSKILLING FOR EXCELLENCE : BLS REFRESHER COURSE FOR DENTAL EDUCATORS

The Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery conducted a Basic Life Support (BLS) refresher course for dental teaching staff on 19-11-2025. The candidates were trained for over 2 days. On the first day of the programme a pre workshop test was conducted to assess the basic knowledge of the participants. Then the lectures and hands-on demonstrations were organized. Fifty four dental teaching staff were trained individually and once they were well versed with the technique of BLS in various scenarios, post workshop test was conducted to assess them.

The programme was started in 2016 on World Heart Day and has been successful till now. The candidates are trained on interactive manikins and AED. All the aspects of BLS are covered. On successful completion of the course the candidates were awarded with a certificate and a placard of BLS training.



WORKSHOP ON ADVANCED STERILIZATION AND DISINFECTION IN CLINICAL DENTISTRY

The Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery conducted two-day hands-on extensive workshop on sterilization and disinfection in dentistry on 12-11-2025 and 13-11-2025. Forty one BDS students and 21 postgraduate students participated in the workshop. The workshop was conducted just before their entry into clinical postings to emphasize the need and critical importance of sterilization and disinfection. Sound dental sterilization practices in dentistry protect patients, dentists and the whole team. They prevent the growth of bacteria on instruments and surfaces throughout the dental practice. The standard sterilization and disinfection practices block cross contamination.



COMPREHENSIVE CLINICAL INDUCTION PROGRAM FOR III BDS : "MULYAVARDHAN"

A two-day value-added course titled "MULYAVARDHAN" was organized by the Department of Prosthodontics and Crown & Bridge for the 3rd BDS students on 14th and 15th November 2025. The program aimed to strengthen students' clinical foundation in all departments through expert training, demonstrations, and guided practical sessions. The highlight of the inauguration was the White Coat Ceremony, which marked the student's formal induction into clinical training and emphasized their professional responsibilities and ethical practice. The academic sessions on the first day included lectures and the second day had demonstrations on dental chair functioning and disinfection, hand hygiene/wash and needle stick injury protocol and management of biomedical waste. The training was mentored by in-house faculty members namely Dr. R. B. Hallikerimath, Dr. Ajaykumar Nayak, and Dr. Preeti Astagi. The entire event was organized and executed under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Preethi Kusugal, Professor and Head of the Department, who was the driving force behind its successful planning and implementation. Her vision and coordination ensured that the program achieved its academic and professional objectives with excellence.



AI IN RESEARCH : PIONEERING CDE PROGRAM

The Research and Ethical Committee in association with the Central Research Laboratory (CRL) and DDE (Department of Dental Education) of our Institute, organized a CDE program on 15th November 2025 titled "AI in Research", at our college auditorium. The event aimed to highlight the growing influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in modern research, in healthcare and particularly dentistry. The ceremony was graced by President, Dr. Rajshree Nagaraju, Principal, Dr. Ramakant Nayak, Guest Speaker, Dr. I.N. R. Goudar, Principal Siddhivinayak College of Pharmacy, Mr. Prajakta Kakeri, CRL Director, Dr. Prakash Diwan, Assistant Director, Dr. Manohar, and IRB Committee In-charge, Dr. Sheetal Sanikop. The first session was delivered by Dr. I. N. R. Goudar, who spoke on "E-Information Sources for Research in Health and Allied Science", the second lecture was by Dr. Prakash V. Diwan, on the topic "Research Methodology", The final lecture brought Dr. I. N. R. Goudar back to the stage to discuss "AI Tools for Research in Health and Allied Science". The presentation offered practical insights into AI-driven tools, methodologies, and their applications in modern research environments. The event concluded by graciously presenting a token of appreciation to Dr. I. N. R. Goudar. Dr. Yashaswini Angolkar, IRB Committee member, anchored the program. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Suprit Pawar, IRB Committee member.



Drs. RAMYA PAI & SHEETAL SANIKOP WIN BEST PRESENTATION AWARD AT NSS CONFERENCE

Dr. Ramya Pai and Dr. Sheetal Sanikop received Best Presentation Award under Staff Category in 1st State level NSS Conference held on 15th November 2025 hosted by Maratha Mandal's Engineering College, Belagavi. The NSS state level conference 2025 was aimed to bring together volunteers, programme officers, and coordinators from across the state to exchange ideas, share success stories and promote youth participation in nation-building activities.



PRIDE OF THE INSTITUTION : DR. SUJATA BYAHATTI CONFERRED INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Congratulations to Dr. Sujata Byahatti, Professor and Incharge of Tobacco Cessation Cell for getting a Community Service award under Individual Category from Indian Academy of Oral Medicine and Radiology at National Conference held from 21st-23rd Nov 2025 at D. Y. Patil Deemed to be University, School of Dentistry, Nerul, Navi Mumbai.



ENSURING SAFETY : NON-TEACHING STAFF MASTER BASIC LIFE SUPPORT TECHNIQUES

Thirty nine Non-Teaching Staff of our Institute were trained in BLS by the OMFS department on 20th November, 2025. The one-day BLS training began with a pre-assessment to evaluate basic knowledge of the participants. Participants then engaged in hands-on demonstrations. During the programme various real-life examples are given to make them

understand the concept of BLS and to perform BLS. The participants were trained individually. The training concluded with an oral post assessment test to confirm and validate their skills. Interactive manikins and AED were used and all the aspects of BLS covered. On successful completion of the course, they are awarded with a certificate of BLS training.



BALMELAVA: CELEBRATING CHILDHOOD ON PEDODONTISTS' DAY

On Pedodontists' Day, the Department of Pediatric and Preventive Dentistry organized 'BALMELAVA-Celebrating the Childhood' for children from Govt Primary school, Kangrali Belagavi, Karnataka on 3rd December. Sixty two children from the school participated in the event. Department organized free dental checkup for all the children followed by a health education talk by a postgraduate student wherein importance of keeping good oral hygiene was emphasized. Post the talk children were taken to the college sports ground where various games like frog jump, one leg jumping were organized. All the children enthusiastically participated in the games and winners were awarded with prizes. At the end of the event children were served delicious meal. A token of appreciation was given to all the children and the accompanying teachers.



NATIONAL POLLUTION CONTROL DAY : SESREC AWARENESS DRIVE

On National Pollution Control Day held on 2nd December, 2025, the Sanitation and Hygiene Committee of Social Entrepreneurship, Swachatta and Rural Engagement Cell (SESREC) of the institute organized a special event to raise awareness about pollution control. The event was attended by Administrative In-charge, Dr. Pushpa Pudakalkatti, SESREC In-charge, Dr. Praveena Tantradi, Programme In-charge Dr. Saloni Desai and SESREC committee members. As part of the celebration, 5 students of final year BDS T. Tulasi, Gayatri Zulpe, Krishnaraj Biradar, Shifa Gadi and Daniyabatul Jakati shared informative presentations by speaking about different forms of pollution and well-researched solutions to address each of these environmental challenges. All 5 participants were awarded with certificate. The program was attended by 24 students of our Institute. The Master of ceremonies for the event were Leander Zerald and Laafiza Contractor, contributing to the success of the event.



ECO-INNOVATION AT SESREC: CELEBRATING CREATIVITY IN WASTE MANAGEMENT

A Waste Management Program was conducted by the SESREC cell on 24th December 2025 in the Department of Prosthodontics and Crown & Bridge, from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM. First-year BDS students actively participated in the 'Best out of waste' competition which was conducted as a part of the program. As part of the event, students presented creative models prepared using waste materials. The competition was evaluated by Dr. Preethi Kusugal and Dr. Praveena Tantradi. The program was coordinated by Dr. Chitra Melavanki and Dr. Prachi Katti, In-charges of the Waste Management Cell, SESREC. Keerti Patil and Ankita secured the first prize, followed by Bhavana Desai and Gracy Kitta who won the second

prize. The third prize was awarded to Tasmiya Auti and Ummeruman Sanadi. A consolation prize was awarded to K. P. Lalithya and Kendavare Kolakar. The program was attended by all first-year BDS students and was a successful initiative in promoting awareness about waste management and environmental sustainability.



REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR GONE BY AND THE ROAD AHEAD



As we triumphantly close Stride's pages on 2025, let's celebrate a year of bold strides and unbreakable spirit! Our four issues didn't merely record events—they ignited the story of an institution surging forward with purpose, grit, and game-changing relevance. This was a year of academic fire, clinical mastery, fearless outreach, and relentless student empowerment. We didn't just endure; we excelled!

Academics blazed bright : departments fueled students with electrifying guest lectures, workshops, continuing education, and boundary-breaking collaborations. We sharpened clinical edges while sparking research passion, with faculty as trailblazing mentors delivering cutting-edge, ethical training that propels undergraduates and postgraduates to greatness.

Clinically, 2025 was our conquest of care. Overflowing outpatient departments echoed the community's roaring trust, powered by specialty clinics, precision diagnostics, and student-led triumphs under expert guidance. Our outreach missions — vividly captured in Stride—charged beyond walls, arming students with real-world superpowers in public health.

We fortified our unbreakable culture : students conquered academics, sports, culture, and co-curricular arenas. Razor-sharp administration, cross-departmental firepower, and enduring alumni bonds forged an invincible institutional legacy. 2025 roared: True progress ignites when it's inclusive, unstoppable, and fiercely values-driven!

Triumphs That Fueled Our 2025 Momentum

- Explosive academic programs: guest lectures, workshops, and interdisciplinary sparks.
- Laser-focused clinical mastery and research ignition for UG / PG stars.
- Unwavering patient trust with booming OPDs and student-led victories.
- Daring outreach missions building real-world heroes.
- Student dominance in academics, sports, culture, and beyond.
- Ironclad culture via teamwork, admin excellence, and alumni alliance.

Now, 2026 beckons as our era of epic advancement! Let's seize it with strategic firepower, broader reach, and unyielding strength — transforming challenges into legends.

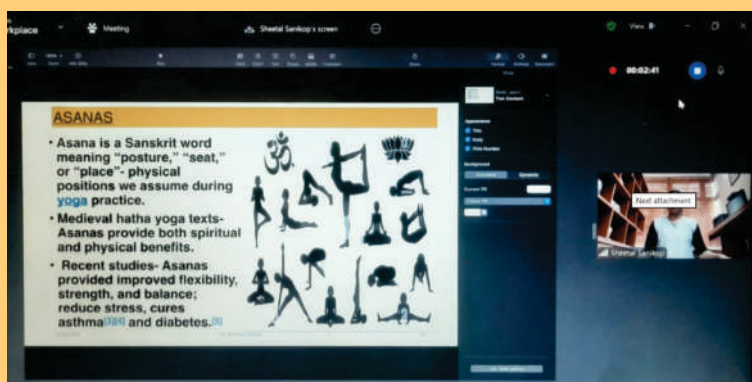
2026 Power Moves : Ignite the Future

- Unleash a state-of-the-art 17×16 Field of View CBCT unit — redefining diagnostics, planning, and postgraduate dominance!
- Ignite the new Department of Laser Dentistry with a 660–810 nm dual-wavelength powerhouse (plus five existing units across 660–980 nm) — launching intern certification to master tomorrow's tech!
- Supercharge labs with a hematology analyzer and semi-automated biochemistry unit for pinpoint accuracy and student breakthroughs.
- Forge a powerhouse partnership with Karnataka's Health Department (via District Health Officer) for dental camps across North Karnataka PHCs — revolutionizing public health and student impact!
- Receive a CSR-charged, fully equipped ambulance from Bank of India (Hubballi – Dharwad Zone) — turbocharging emergencies, referrals, and lifesaving speed!

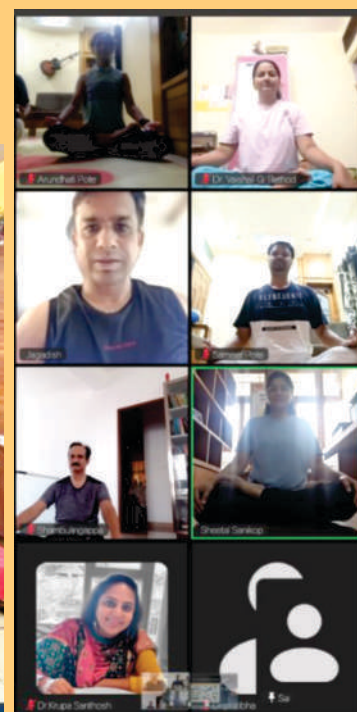
These aren't just upgrades — they're our battle cry: blending tech wizardry with soul-deep service, excellence with empathy. As Stride fuels our saga, charge into 2026 with fierce confidence and purpose.

Together, we'll forge elite professionals who don't just serve society — they transform it!

Dr. SHEETAL SANIKOP : LEADING WELLNESS AT THE STATE LEVEL



Dr. Sheetal Sanikop, Trained Yoga Teacher and Professor, conducted an Online Yoga Course for the Indian Dental Association (IDA), members at State level. The yoga sessions were conducted religiously for three months on Sundays. There were participants from every part of the state who appreciated these sessions.



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Correspondence

Dr. Sadanand Kulkarni, Editor : MMDC Stride, Maratha Mandal's N. G. Halgekar Institute of Dental Sciences & Research Centre, Belagavi.
E-mail : mmnghids@gmail.com