

Esplora 4.0: Undergraduate Upskilling Symposium Marks a New Chapter at GDC Mumbai

Esplora 4.0 – The Undergraduate Upskilling Symposium was organised on Thursday, 13th August 2026, in the newly renovated auditorium of Government Dental College and Hospital, Mumbai. Conceived from the vision of our former Dean, Dr. Wasundhara Bhad Patil, the conference has been brought to life through the work of Dr. Dimple Padawe, our present. Through their efforts it has slowly evolved to address the dynamic needs of modern dentistry.

The event was graced by IRS officer Dr. Megha Bhargav, whose stirring inaugural address set the tone for the day. Dr. Anant Bidve presided as the MSDC observer and showed keen interest in the proceedings.

The academic sessions began with Dean Dr. Dimple Padawe, who delivered an eye-opening lecture for the social media generation of doctors. Dr. Vijayalaxmi Nimma demystified research for undergraduates, sharing inspiring testimonials from students who leveraged it to achieve their goals. Dr. Manoj Ramugade, in his signature candid style, made the audience vigilant and aware of medico-legal and ethical considerations.

The Dent-Ignite session – a series of student-led workshops – was a showcase of confidence and niche expertise. Palash Shah, a third year student, covered the fundamentals of dental photography, Maheshwari Gupta from Final year, spoke on building a personal brand, Intern Shihab Maknojiya demonstrated how to integrate AI into learning, and Manasi Raut with Pranav Devane, interns at GDCH, conducted a masterclass in content creation with live demonstrations.

The event also featured an Art Space, exhibiting sketches, paintings, and scientific diagrams by talented students and staff.

Attended by over 300 students, including a 45-member delegation from SMBT, Nashik, Esplora received an overwhelming response and served as a memorable pilot event for the newly renovated auditorium.

The symposium was organised by the Research and Development Cell, chaired by Dr. Manoj Ramugade, in association with the Institutional Innovation Committee headed by Dr. Abrar Syed. Committee members Dr. Vijayalaxmi Nimma and Dr. Shirish Pawar

oversaw operations, while a dedicated student body of 50 undergraduate volunteers efficiently managed logistics and exemplified teamwork.



Lamp lighting by Dignitaries



Dean's Address by dr Dimple Padawe



Chief guest's address



Felicitation of Chief Guest - Dr Megha Bhargav



Felicitation of MSDC Observer- Dr Anant Bidve



Speakers- Dr Manoj Ramugade and Dr Vijayalaxmi Nimma



Audience of 300+ registered students and staff intently listening to the speakers



Dean's lecture on Pause before you Post



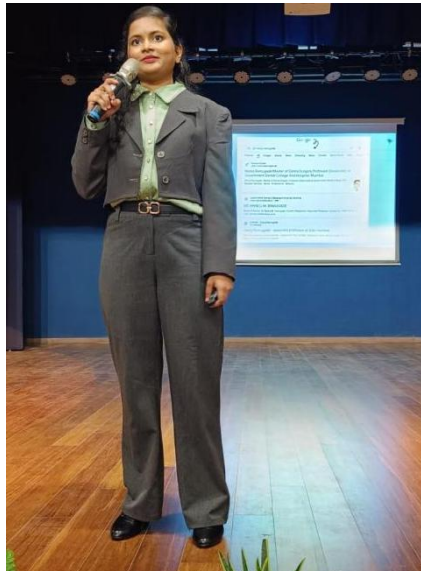
Dean's Felicitation



**Dr Manoj Ramugade's lecture on
Consent to courtroom**



**Dr Vijayalaxmi Nimma's lecture
on Undergraduate Research at a
Glance**



Student workshop 'Own your Narrative' held by Maheshwari Gupta



Student workshop 'The Alchitect' held by Shihab Maknojiya



Student reel making workshop held by Manasi Raut and Pranav Devane



Student workshop 'Beyond The Lens' held by Palash Shah

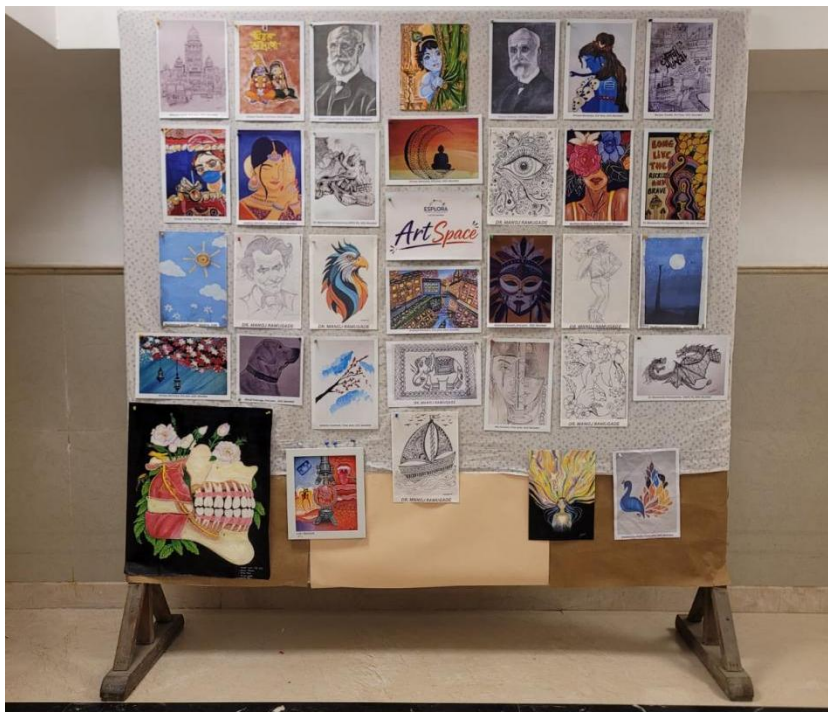


Felicitation of speakers by moderators





Felicitation of students Mayur Rathod and Sakshi Deogadkar by Dr Abrar Sayed and staff of Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics



Art space exhibit curated and compiled with the artworks submitted by students and staff of GDCH, Mumbai and SMBT, Nashik.



Delegation of students and staff from SMBT, IDSR, Nashik



Organising committee of Esplora 4.0 comprising staff and undergraduate students