

INDIAN INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY DHARWAD

# NEWSLETTER

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IIT DHARWAD

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## Parsec 6.0 and HarSHtAI

Fueling Innovation. Nurturing Excellence at IIT DHARWAD



## PARSEC 6.0 AT IIT DHARWAD: A CONFLUENCE OF INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE

PARSEC 6.0, the Annual Techno-Cultural Fest of the Indian Institute of Technology dhArwAD, was held during 23–27 January 2026 on campus. The sixth edition of the fest, themed “Wizardsing World”, creatively blended technology, innovation, and cultural experiences, emerging as one of the largest editions to date with 25+ events, a prize pool exceeding ₹2,00,000 and participation from multiple institutions across India.



The technical segment featured a wide range of flagship events including DevHack 7.0 (30-hour hackathon), Singularity (Agentic AI hackathon), Build-a-Bot 3.0 (robotics buildathon), Protocraft (mechanical design challenge), AlgoStrike (competitive programming), Veni Vidi Vici (cybersecurity CTF), Synapse (NeuroTech challenge), BitHunt (coding + treasure hunt), and Trumble (mock stock trading). These events collectively tested skills across AI/ML, robotics, cybersecurity, finance, and software development, encouraging innovation and problem-solving.

A major highlight was Tesseract 1.0 – the Tech Expo, which provided a platform for students to showcase research projects, prototypes, and startup ideas, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and bridging academia with industry applications. Workshops such as the Astronomy Workshop further enriched the experience by offering hands-on exposure to observational science.



## Director's Major Engagements



PROF. Venkappayya R. dEsAi, Director, Indian Institute of Technology dhArwAD, participated as a Chair Speaker at the ACSEL Reimagine AI Conference organized by IIT Alumni Centre, Bengaluru (IITACB), Bengaluru, on 22nd January 2026. He also took part in the MoU signing ceremony with the University of Groningen and all IITs at the DST Office in New Delhi on 6th February 2026. He participated in a Round Table at the International Conference on “Advanced Next Generation Vision for Emerging & Sustainable Healthy Foods (ANVESH 2026)”, organized by the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management at Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana.

He also participated as Chief Guest at the Graduation Ceremony of Navodaya Education Trust on 7th March 2025 and as a Special Invitee at the PAN IIT event hosted by Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad on 8th March 2026.

He further served as Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony of a one-day national conference on “Revisiting the Wisdom of Bharat” at KLE Society’s P. C. Jabin Science College, Hubballi, on 11th March 2026 and delivered a lecture on “Health and Wellness through IKS” during a 6-Day Training Programme on Integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into Curriculum organized by the UGC Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Karnatak University dhArwAD on 12th March 2026. On 13th March 2026, he inaugurated the release of Civilizational Imagination in Literature: Conference Abstracts and Dharwad KaTTe’s Global South International Peer-Reviewed Quarterly Journal at a two-day international conference held at JSS College, dhArwAD, jointly organized by Adikavi Sri Maharshi Valmiki University, Janata Shikshana Samiti, dhArwAD and Peter Lang.

Further, he represented IIT dhArwAD at the Bharat Innovates Deep-Tech Pre-Summit, held during 20–22 March 2026 at the Research Park, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.

# AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

PROF. Ramjee Repaka, Dean [Faculty Welfare], along with co-inventors Dr. S. Venkatachalapathy, Mr. Santhosh Reddy Vuppula and Mr. Yogeshwar Dasari, have been granted an Indian patent titled "A Hybrid System for Battery Thermal Management" by the The Patent Office Government of India on 27th March 2026. He also delivered a talk on "Role of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) in Startups & Industry" at Government Polytechnic College, HubbaLLi on 11th March 2026.



PROf. Somashekara M. A, Associate Dean, Research & Development (R&D) – General, delivered an invited talk on "Hybrid Additive Manufacturing Processes" at ICAMC'26 (International Conference on Additive Manufacturing and Characterization) held at Indian Institute of Technology Madras. He also participated in the Stakeholder Meeting on the Advanced Manufacturing Systems Mission (AMSM) at the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, serving as a panel member on "From Publications to Products: Pathways for Translating Academic AM Research into Industrial Deployment."

The mission, led by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India in collaboration with the Ministry of Heavy Industries, focused on translational research, TRL (Technology Readiness Level) enhancement, and industrial deployment. Further, PROf. Somashekara has been conferred the Alumni Excellence Award for his Achievements in Academics & Research by Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad.



PROf C Ravikumar, Associate Dean, General Outreach, delivered an invited talk on "Shape-Controlled Nanoparticles for Enhanced Drug Delivery in Cancer Therapy" at SRM University Chennai on 23 January 2026 and served as a Ph.D. viva-voce examiner at the same institution.

Dr. Supriya Rej, Ramanujan Faculty, Department of Chemistry, delivered an invited talk at ICCSAM-2026 held at Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology Surat, titled "Vinylsilanes as Ethylene Surrogates: Enabling Surrogate Chemistry in Organic Synthesis."



PROf. Rahul Pandya, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical, Electronics and Communication Engineering, has been awarded the Young Faculty Research Fellowship (YFRF) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, as part of the Visvesvaraya Scheme.



PROf. Dhiraj V. Patil, Dean [Outreach, Alumni & Corporate Relations], co-organized SPARC-sponsored 5-day workshop on "Two-Phase Flow Modelling and Sediment Transport using OpenFOAM", held from 23rd–27th February 2026 at Indian Institute of Technology Mandi.

# AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Prof. Debalina Chakravarty, Assistant Professor, Department of HEART (Humanities, Economics, Arts and Rural Technologies), has been awarded an Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) funded project titled "Indigenous Disaster Resilience and Traditional Ecological Knowledge among the Toto and Birhor Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of West Bengal" (2025–26), where she serves as Co-Principal Investigator. She also presented her research at the XIII Biennial Conference of the Indian Society for Ecological Economics, held at Indian Institute of Technology Mandi (12–14 January 2026) and participated in a pre-conference workshop on ecological restoration, contributing insights on social capital, sustainable energy transitions, and community-driven ecological practices.



Prof. Ridhima Tewari, Dean [Student Welfare (SW) - Wellness], delivered an invited talk on "Revitalizing Classrooms: Enhancing Pedagogy Through Effective Interaction" on 10th March 2026 at SRM University AP. She also co-presented a paper titled "Redrawing the City: Mapping Women's Hidden Urban Modernities in Kochi" at an international conference organized by Sacred Heart College Thevara on 22 January 2026. Further, she co-authored a book chapter "I Am a Mother Without a Uterus" published in The Palgrave Handbook of Parenthood in Popular Culture (Springer Nature, 2026), contributing to research on gender, culture, and parenthood.

Prof. Nagaveni S, Department of EECE, participated in VLSID 2026, held in puNe from 5–7 January 2026. She attended the conference and delivered a startup pitch at the Startup Forum of the International VLSI Design & Embedded Systems Conference, contributing to discussions on innovation and entrepreneurship in the VLSI and embedded systems ecosystem.



Prof. Gopal Sharan Parashari, [HEART], co-organized a two-day workshop on "Economics of Energy and Climate Change" [13–14 March 2026], focusing on economic and policy dimensions of energy and climate change. He presented his research on farmers' cooperation in climate adaptation at the Vietnam Symposium in Climate Transition (VSCT-2025), Da Nang. He also co-authored a publication in Transport Policy (2026) on electric vehicle adoption and policy incentives.

Prof. Santosh Kumar, Faculty In-Charge Sophisticated Central Instrumentation Facility (SCIF), delivered an invited talk on "Paramagnetic Meissner effect, two-step peak effect anomaly and vortex phase diagram study in the noncentrosymmetric superconductor Ru7B3" in the National Conference on Advances in Condensed Matter Physics 2026 (ACMP-2026) held in Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur (20-21 Feb 2026).



Prof. Mohana Rao Balaga, Assistant Professor, Department of HEART, delivered an invited lecture on "Cyber Security and Financial Stability" on 24th March 2026 at Karnataka University dhArwAD. He has also secured an Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Advanced Research Grant (ARG) MATRICS for the project "From Traditional Banks to Digital Currencies: How CBDCs Exacerbate the Threat of Bank Run."

# EVENTS



## CSE Conclave 2026 at IIT dhArwAD

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering at IIT dhArwAD successfully organized CSE Conclave 2026, a two-day event held during 7–8 March 2026, bringing together academicians, industry experts, researchers, and students to discuss emerging developments in computer science and technology.



On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Gymkhana and NSS dhArwAD conducted a Self Defense Training Program for the institute students.



IIT dhArwAD organized the Institute Faculty Meeting (IFM-12) on Friday, 27th February 2026 at the Central Learning Theatre (CLT). The meeting brought together faculty members to deliberate on key academic, administrative, and institutional matters, fostering constructive discussions and coordinated planning for the Institute's ongoing and future initiatives.

The Department of Chemistry, successfully organized RASAAYAN SANGOSHTHI–2026, a National Conference, during 13–14 March 2026. The conference explored on advancements across organic, inorganic, physical, computational, analytical, and biological chemistry, along with AI/ML applications in chemistry.

The event featured speakers from institutions like IIT, IISc, JNCASR Bengaluru, IISER Thiruvananthapuram, NISER Bhubaneswar, Universities at Hyderabad & Delhi and IIT GN and also Best Paper Awards.



Vivriti 2026, the annual research symposium of Department of Electrical, Electronics, and Communication Engineering (EECE), was successfully organized on 13 Feb 2026 by the Research Scholars Forum (RSF) of the EECE department. The event featured keynote talks by industry experts Shri Arun Divakaran and Shri Parag Landge, followed by Research Presentations by M.Tech and PhD scholars. The symposium strengthened industry–academia interaction and was supported by sponsors VRL LOGISTICS LTD, Infineon Technologies, and Lattice Semiconductor.

# EVENTS



A meeting organized by Infrastructure, Planning & Support (IPS) section with the participation of all vendors on 26 February 2026. The main agenda was to increase the vendor participation in all tenders floated by the IPS section for civil, electrical, networking and HVAC related works of the IIT dhArwAD. Also, the meeting focused on hearing from the vendors, on grievances connected to the IPS section and to improve overall working of the Infrastructure, planning and support section, IIT dhArwAD.

The meeting was involved by PProf. Amarnath Hegde, Dean [IPS], PProf. Pratyasa Bhui, Dean [IPS] - Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing Network (MEP), Prof. Abhijit Kshirsagar, Associate Dean, [IPS] - Electrical Engineering, Shri P. Sundeeep, Executive Engineer-IPS, Shri Y.S Dixit, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) and others. The Deans, Associate Dean, EE-IPS and OSD interacted with the vendors to hear their concerns, so as to improve the quality of work.



The Wellness Centre, IIT dhArwAD, organized a lecture titled "Understanding Inner Operating System Through Ayurveda." on 30th January 2026. The session was conducted by Dr. Anuradha B, BAMS, MD [Ayurveda] and explored how the ancient science of Ayurveda explains the functioning of the human body and mind. Just as a computer operates through an internal system, Ayurveda describes our body's inner operating system through concepts such as doSHAs (VAta, Pitta, Kapha), Agni (digestive fire), Dhatus (body tissues), and Manas (mind).

The session highlighted how balance among these elements supports physical health, mental clarity, and emotional stability. It also provided practical insights into lifestyle, diet, and daily routines that help maintain harmony within the body – mind intellect - self system.



The Department of Mathematics, organized the 12th CALDAM (CALDAM 2026) from 12–14 February 2026 involving researchers from India, Poland, USA, and Hungary to discuss advances in graph theory, algorithms, and combinatorics.

The program included:

- Indo-Polish Pre-Conference School (9–10 February 2026) featuring expert lectures on graph theory, algorithms, and hypergraphs
- CALDAM 2026 Conference (12–14 February 2026) with invited talks by internationally renowned researchers

The conference was supported by Google, Springer, LNCS, and State Bank of India, highlighting strong global collaboration and research excellence.

dhArwAD hosted Padma Shri Awardee Dr. B. V. R. Mohan Reddy, Chairman, BoG, IIT Hyderabad and Founder Chairman of Cyient Ltd., on 5 February 2026. His session on "Architecting Innovation Ecosystems" provided valuable insights into institution building, entrepreneurship, and strengthening industry–academia collaboration. The interaction witnessed active participation and thoughtful discussions, leaving a meaningful impact on the academic community.



The Internal Complaints Committee, Indian Institute of Technology dhArwAD, organized a 'Gender Sensitisation' Workshop on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026, conducted by Prof. Madhulika Gupta, IIT (ISM) dhanbAd. The workshop focused on creating awareness about the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013.

# EVENTS



Bhasha Sanyojan & RAjhbASHA VibhAg, IIT dhArwAD successfully organised the International Mother Language Day on 20th February 2026. The event brought together Faculty, Staff, Students and campus residents in a vibrant showcase of India's rich linguistic heritage. Participants presented poetry recitations, storytelling sessions, songs, speeches, and traditional proverbs in their respective mother tongues, reflecting the cultural depth and diversity within the Institute. Languages including Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi, Gujarati, Assamese, Punjabi, Bengali, Odia and several others were represented.



The Aquatic Sports Facility i.e., (Swimming Pool) was inaugurated on 28th January 2026 by the Director, PROF. Venkappayya R. dEsAi, marking a significant addition to the institute's sports infrastructure.

The event had Dr. Kalyan Bhattacharjee, Registrar; Prof. Rajeswara Rao M, Associate Dean, Students Welfare [SW] - Gymkhana, Sports, Clubs & Technology; Dr. Keerthi Kumar M, Sports Officer; Mr. Ramesh G, Deputy Sports Officer; Mr. Ravi Ghalimath, Junior Sports Officer; along with faculty and staff members. This facility will support aquatic training, fitness and overall student well-being at IIT dhArwAD.



The Biosciences and Bioengineering (BSBE) Dept. jointly with Chemistry Department, IIT dhArwAD, hosted a two-day National Conference SPECTROMICS 2026 – Spectrometry-Integrated Omics in Health & Disease during January 16-17, 2026. The central theme of this conference was on exploring the integration of advanced spectroscopic techniques with omics methods to gain molecular-level insights into health and disease. SPECTROMICS conference aimed to provide a platform where these converging disciplines can interact, challenge each other, and move collectively toward translational outcomes. The program was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Dr. Manjunath Ghate National Forensic Science University, dhArwAD.

A total of 20 invited lectures were delivered. The conference had 260 participants from various institutions across the country. A special highlight was the pre-conference workshop on chemometrics, emphasizing on data analytics in extracting meaningful biological information from complex spectroscopic datasets.

The conference team had Prof. Surya Pratap Singh [BSBE], Prof. Nilkamal Mahanta, HoD, Chemistry and Dr. Badri Nath Dubey, Ramalingaswami Re-entry Faculty Fellow, [BSBE].



A one-day workshop on "Systematic Literature Review" was conducted on 11th March 2026 at dhArwAD. The workshop was organized by Prof. Debalina Chakravarty, Department of HEART, under SGNF project titled "Micro-Credit Societies for Climate Resilience Adaptation Fund." The session was delivered by Dr. Nandini Das, Climate and Energy Economist at Climate Analytics, Australia and witnessed participation from students of various institutions in dhArwAD.

# EVENTS



IIT dhArwAD, in association with SPICMACAY, hosted an evening with an enthralling Kathak performance by Padma Shri Dr. Shovana Narayan, one of India's most distinguished exponents of the art form. The event inaugurated by PROF. Prof Jayakumar KV, Visiting Professor-cum-Outreach Advisor, held on 19 January 2026 a rare opportunity to experience the depth, grace, and narrative richness of Kathak, drawing from Indian aesthetics, literature, and philosophy.



The NSS Unit of dhArwAD successfully organized the 5th Blood Donation Camp on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026, in association with SDM (Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara) University, on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day. The camp was graced by Prof. Rajshekar K., Associate Dean Student Welfare [Wellness]; Dr. Keerthi Kumar M., NSS Programme Officer, IIT dhArwAD; and Dr. Harish Kumar, IIT dhArwAD, along with Dr. Jatesh Kumar Goyal, SDM Blood Bank Officer, and Mr. Prashanth Kumar Suresh, Assistant Manager – Operations, with his team with active participation from all.



dhaRti Foundation – IIT dhArwAD, has signed a MoU with Enerzi Microwave Systems Private Limited, a Belagavi-based deep-tech manufacturing and clean-energy company, on 7th January 2026. Under the MoU, Enerzi will be housed at dhaRti Foundation, enabling close collaboration with IIT dhArwAD faculty, researchers, and students, and access to advanced research infrastructure, including the Sophisticated Central Instrumentation Facility (SCIF), for joint R&D, modelling, validation, and scale-up.

A key focus is Enerzi's methane-to-hydrogen platform using microwave plasma reactors, enabling clean hydrogen production alongside solid carbon nanopowder as a valuable co-product—improving process economics and opening pathways for advanced materials applications. The MoU signing ceremony was held at IIT dhArwAD and was attended by senior leadership and representatives from both organisations, including Prof. Venkappayya R. dEsAi, Director, IIT dhArwAD; PProf. Koteswararao Kondepu, Dean (Research and Development), IIT dhArwAD; Shri Rakshit Kalyani, Chief Operating Officer, dhaRti Foundation, PProf. Sudhanshu Shukla, Associate Dean, Coordination, PProf. Amar Gaonkar, Associate Dean, Entrepreneurship, Incubation and DhaRti (EID); Dr. Prakash Mugali, Founder & Chief Scientific Officer; Shri Kiran Hittalmani, Co-founder & Chief Executive Officer; and Dr. Brijesh K., Scientist at Enerzi Microwave Systems Private Limited. The ceremony was also attended by the PProf. Rajeswara Rao, Associate Professor, Chemistry, Prof. Nilkamal Mahanta, HoD, Chemistry, Prof. Mahesh Gudem, Assistant Professor, Chemistry, Prof. Anmol Kumar, Ramanujan Fellow, Chemistry, Prof. Santosh, Assistant Professor, Physics, Prof. Ravikumar C Kumar, Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering, and other members of the dhaRti Foundation - IIT dhArwAD and dhaRti BioNEST Incubation Centre teams.



dhArwAD has secured ₹18 crore to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Defence Technology & Industry 5.0, strengthening Karnataka's and India's leadership in deep-tech innovation.

In this regard, PROF. Venkappayya R. dEsAi, Director, IIT dhArwAD; Shri Rakshit Kalyani, COO, dhaRti Foundation - IIT dhArwAD; and PProf. Somashekara M A, Associate Dean, Research & Development (R&D) - General, met Shri Priyank M Kharge, Hon'ble Minister for IT, BT & Electronics, Government of Karnataka, to discuss the roadmap for operationalising the CoE.

# EVENTS



As part of the course CE306 – Design of Steel Structures, by Prof. Ramesh Nayaka, Associate Dean, Infrastructure, Planning & Support (IPS) - Civil, the third-year B. Tech Civil and Infrastructure Engineering students undertook an industrial site visit to the NIDEC project located at KIDB, Belur Industrial Area, dhArwAD.

The visit was organized with the objective of providing students with hands-on exposure to real-world steel construction practices and enhancing their understanding of structural behavior beyond classroom learning. During the visit, students gained insights into critical steel connections such as beam–column joints, bolted and welded connections, and bracing systems.

Interactions with safety engineers offered valuable perspectives on design implementation, quality control measures, and construction challenges encountered in large-scale industrial projects.

# OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



A Two-Day Workshop on “Economics of Energy and Climate Change” was organized during 13–14 March 2026 at dhArwAD by Department of HEART faculty viz Professors Debalina Chakravarty, Gopal Parashari, and Mohana Rao Balaga.

The sessions were delivered by Prof. Shreekant Gupta, Prof. Vivek Kumar, Prof. Gopal Kadekodi, Prof. B. H. Nagoor and Dr. Janmejaya Panda, and were attended by students from prestigious colleges and universities in dhArwAD.



PROF. Jayakumar K. V., Visiting Professor (Civ&IE) and Outreach Advisor, was invited as Guest of Honour at the National Science Day celebrations at Basaveshwar Engineering College, bAgalkOTe on 28 February 2026 and also served as a Resource Person for the faculty induction programme. He further participated as Guest of Honour at the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)-sponsored National Symposium on “Sustainable Land and Water Management for Climate Resilient Future” at Centre for Water Resources Development and Management, Kozhikode (6–7 March 2026), where he delivered a keynote address also.

Indian Institute of Technology dhArwAD marked World Water Day with a thought-provoking talk by PROF. Venkappayya R. dEsAi, Director, on the theme “Water & Equality [Spacio-Temporal & Socio Economic]” on 27 March 2026.



# OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) was inaugurated at IIT dhArwAD campus on 23rd March 2026 marking a significant milestone in strengthening school education facilities by PROF. Venkappayya R. dEsAi, Director, IIT dhArwAD in presence of Shri Rakesh Kumar Goyal, Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya, dhArwAD along with faculty members, staff, students of IIT dhArwAD and teachers from Kendriya Vidyalaya HubbaLLi and dhArwAD. It will commence its operations from the academic year 2026-27 with Classes I to V.



Prof. Shreedevi K. Masuti, Head, Department of Mathematics, delivered a contributed talk at the Indo-European Conference on Mathematics, held in Pune (12–16 January 2026). She was invited as a Guest at the National Science Day celebrations at Basaveshwar Engineering College, bAgalkOTe on 28 February 2026.



IIT dhArwAD signed a MoU with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), HyderAbAd a key centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), to strengthen collaboration in remote sensing, geospatial technologies and related research areas. As part of the visit, the Director of NRSC, HyderAbAd also delivered a talk at the Senate Hall of IIT dhArwAD, engaging with students and faculty members on emerging developments in remote sensing, satellite data applications, and opportunities for academic–research partnerships.



On 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 a delegation from Aditya Birla Science & Technology Pvt. Ltd. (ABSTC) Team consisting of Dr. Vilas Tathavadkar, Chief Technology Officer – Aluminium Smelter and Copper & Metals and Mines Functional Head, ABSTC & Hindalco; Mr. Hirak Mitra, Vice President, Hindalco Innovation Centre (Alumina), beLagAvi; and Mr. Pratik Kundu, AGM, Hindalco Innovation Centre (Alumina), BeLagAvi. The visit aims strengthen collaborative research, innovation, and student engagement between IIT dhArwAD and the Aditya Birla Group.

On 02 February 2026, Smt. Geeta C. D., Additional Deputy Commissioner, visited dhArwAD along with the Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya School in connection with preparations for the forthcoming NEET (UG) Examination.



# OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



PROF. Dileep A. D., Dean (Administration), participated as Guest of Honour in the Junior Scientist Programme organized by STEAM-H Training and Research Foundation, BeLagavi, with support from Transdisciplinary Learning Solutions Private Limited, held on 18 January 2026 at R N Shetty Polytechnic College BeLagavi.



Prof. Animesh Kumar Sahoo, Assistant Professor, Department of EECE, delivered an invited talk on "Global Standards and Regulations for Grid-Forming (GFM) Technology" during a recent 'Capacity Building Program for CEA, CTUIL and GRID-INDIA Executives' hosted by Grid Controller of India Limited on 19 February 2026.



IIT dhArwAD, in collaboration with the Mathematics Training and Talent Search Trust, hosted a week-long "Initiation into Mathematics (InitMath)" programme from 26–31 January 2026, aimed at strengthening mathematical thinking and pedagogy in Northern Karnataka.

Designed to move beyond rote learning, the programme encouraged deep critical thinking and logical reasoning. IIT dhArwAD hosted the sessions and supported the initiative by waiving accommodation expenses for all selected participants and resource persons. 62 undergraduate students from 40 institutions across Karnataka, along with participants from neighbouring regions of Goa and Maharashtra, took part—many representing Government colleges, ensuring broad and inclusive participation.



The Power and Energy Group, IIT dhArwAD was delighted to host Prof. Susanna Mocci and Prof. Gianni Celli from UNICA – University of Cagliari, Italy, under the ongoing Indo-Italy joint research project led by Prof. Animesh K. Sahoo (PI) and Prof. Pratyasa Bhui (Co-PI).



IIT dhArwAD signed a MoU with Shilpa Biologicals, dhArwAD, on 21 January 2026, to strengthen industry–academia collaboration. The MoU was signed in the presence of senior leadership from both institutions, with the IIT dhArwAD delegation led by PROF. Venkappayya R. dEsAi, Director, IIT dhArwAD, and Dr. Sridevi Khambampaty, Chief Executive Officer, Shilpa Biologicals.

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Ms. Simita Das (CY20DP001), a Ph.D. scholar from the Department of Chemistry, received the BEST ORAL PRESENTATION AWARD at Rasaayan Sangoshthi-2026, a national conference organized by the Department of Chemistry, IIT dhArwAD, held during 13-14 March, 2026. She had the opportunity to present her research work through an oral presentation and was recognized with the Best Talk award and a cash prize.



Ms. Dhwani Shah (CY22DP001), Ph.D. Scholar from the Department of Chemistry, has been awarded the Best Poster Prize at the 36th Chemical Research Society of India (CRSI) National Symposium in Chemistry held at Dibrugarh University, AssAm.

Competing among approximately 170 poster presentations, her work received notable recognition from the scientific community. She received the award along with a cash prize from Prof. Uday Maitra, President of CRSI.



Mr. Deepak Mudakavi (ME20DP004) and Mr. Vinayaka E Bodur (ME24DP009), Research Scholars from the AM4DP Lab and MPC Lab, Department of Mechanical, Materials and Aerospace Engineering (MMAE), have successfully completed their 3-month research exchange visit to Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA. During their visit, they collaborated with Prof. Ravi Hadimani and Prof. Radhika Barua under GOI MoE's the SPARC (Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration) project.

Developed by Mr. Priyanshu Jayswal (EE22BT047), B.Tech student, Electrical, Electronics and Communication Engineering, PrepLinc continues to evolve as a student-built career preparation platform for engineering students.

The platform has introduced a stage-based smart preparation system that allows students from diverse engineering backgrounds to practice and review topics across CS Core, DSA, AI/ML, and Electrical Engineering in one place, with plans to expand support for additional core engineering branches in the future.



Mr. Anirudh Krishna Wadeyar (BB25DPF01), a Ph.D. scholar, Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering (BSBE), has been awarded the 1st Poster Prize at the SPECTROMICS Conference held at IIT dhArwAD (2026).



Ms. Achala Anjali, Department of Chemistry, received the Best Poster Award at the national conference "Rasaayan Sangoshthi-2026", organized by the Department of Chemistry, IIT dhArwAD, held on 13th–14th March 2026.

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Mr. Debashis Biswas (HS24DP011), PhD scholar from the Department of HEART, presented his paper titled 'Revising Turing's Functionalist Arguments on Free Will' at the International Conference on Thought, Perception, and Reality, organised by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences and Management, Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, and the Centre for the Foundations of Science and Consciousness, Bhaktivedanta Institute, Bhubaneswar. He also presented his paper titled 'Rethinking Free Will through Turing's Vision of Machine Intelligence' at the Centenary Session 2025 of the Indian Philosophical Congress, organised by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.



A manuscript by a Team led by Ms. Shikha Kumari (EE22DP006) titled "Performance-Limiting Trapping Effects in n-type Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> Schottky Barrier Diodes," has been published in IEEE Transactions on Device and Materials Reliability (TDMR) (<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/11370961>). The baseline Tech-CAD model of the Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> Schottky Barrier Diode was developed by B.Tech students Mr. Shresh Singh (EE21BT045) and Mr. Kumar Piyush (EE21BT022) during their R&D project. Subsequently, Ms. Shikha Kumari extended the model to investigate charge trapping effects and carried out systematic studies. As a result, a reliable TCAD model has been developed to evaluate trapping effects on Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> SBD performance, which could benefit the Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> scientific community.

Mr. Gopal Prasad Sahu, Research scholar, Department of physics, has been awarded with the 2nd Best Poster Presentation Award for his presentation on "Hong Ou Mandel Interferometry for Fiber Optic Quantum Gyroscope", at the SCOPOSIS 2025, a joint event that brings together the decadal edition of the Student Conference on Optics and Photonics (SCOP) and the 48th Optical Society of India Symposium (OSIS). The work, carried out at Photonic Science Lab, Physical Research Laboratory, ahemdAbAd in collaboration with his advisors Dr. G. K. Samanta (PRL, ahemdAbAd) and Prof. Kavita Devi (IIT dhArwAD), investigates advanced quantum interferometric techniques to improve the performance of next-generation gyroscopes.



Ms. Sanjana Suukyi M P (HS24DP001), Research Scholar and PProf. Ridhima Tewari, Department of HEART, have published a book chapter titled "I Am a Mother Without a Uterus:" Unpacking "Motherhood" Through Popular Representations of Activist Gauri Sawant in Contemporary Visual Narratives from India. The chapter appears in The Palgrave Handbook of Parenthood in Popular Culture, published by Springer Nature (2026)

# ALUMNI CORNER



The 3rd Alumni Meet of IIT dhArwAD was held on 14 March 2026 at the IIT Alumni Centre, Bengaluru, bringing together alumni, faculty members, students, and industry leaders for a day of meaningful engagement and collaboration. The event was also graced by Prof. S. S. Murthy [Member, Board of Governors, IIT dhArwAD].

Professors Rajshekar K, Abhijit Kshirsagar, Hiranya Deka, and R. Prabhu from the Departments CSE, EECE, MMAE and Physics, presented departmental updates.

The event featured special addresses by the Chief Guests, Dr. Prashant Kumar Srivastava, CTO and Co-founder of Oorja Energy and Dr. Shikha Singh, CTO and Co-founder of i3 Digital Health.

A highlight of the programme was the Student-Alumni Interaction in Hybrid mode where alumni answered queries from present students based on their professional journeys and experiences. This provided a valuable opportunity for students to engage with alumni and seek guidance in their areas of interest. It was coordinated by Prof. Ravikumar C at the institute premises.

On special invitation by the IITACB, more than 15 industry leaders, including CEOs and CTOs, participated in the event. They interacted with IIT dhArwAD faculty members, alumni, and students, and discussed potential avenues for collaboration. These interactions were steered by Mr. Ramesh Rao Nidambur, IITACB Committee Member.

## ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

- Dr. Aswani Raj K (Batch 2025, Chemistry) – Currently working as a Research Associate at IIT Madras, Chennai, she has been awarded the prestigious JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship on December 19, 2025. This highly competitive international fellowship recognizes her outstanding research potential and academic excellence, marking a significant milestone in her journey as a researcher and contributing to her growing impact in the field of scientific research.
- Ms. Pragnya Parimita Chayani (Batch 2023, HSS) – Currently serving as an Assistant Professor (English) at VIT-AP University, Amaravati, she co-authored a research article titled "From Gender Trouble to Turned Tables: Examining Trans-visibility in Indian Cinema". The paper was published in Sociological Bulletin (Sage Journals) on March 30, 2026, in collaboration with Prof. Ajaya K. Sahoo. This achievement highlights her scholarly contributions and active engagement in critical academic discourse within the humanities and social sciences.

# FUNDING

## SPONSORED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Sl.No	Prinicipal Investigator With Dept	Co Prinicipal investigator With Dept	Title of the Project	Sponsoring Agency	Sanction date	Value of Project (in lakh ₹)	Duration of the project (years)
1	Prof. Vigneshwara Raja P (EECE)	-	RES-PRL-2023-013: Development of large-area, radiation tolerant Silicon Carbide X-ray detectors for Planetary Exploration	ISRO-RESPOND	30.12.2025*	9.00	3
2	Prof. Sai Ram Boggavarapu (EECE)	-	Development of Superconducting Magnet for Space-borne sub-Kelvin Cooler (ADR)	ISRO-RESPOND	13.01.2026	44.62	3
3	PRof. Amlan Barua (MATHS)	PRof. Amar K. Gaonkar (MMAE)	Effect of flexible substrate, non-Newtonian fluid and evaporation on stability of thin film-mathematical and numerical modelling	ANRF-CRG	08.01.2026	23.30	3
4	PROF. Dileep A.D. (CSE)	-	Speech Technologies in Indian Languages: Spoken Language Recognition under the Project titled NLTM Bhasini	Meity-NLTM	04.02.2026*	23.01	3
5	Prof. Vigneshwara Raja P (EECE)	-	TCAD Simulation Studies to Suppress Short-Channel Effects in sub-110nm HEMT using Field-Plate Structure	XLIM, France -2	24.02.2026	4.19	2
6	Prof. Suvamay Jana (CE)	Prof. Nilkamal Mahanta(CHEM)	Deciphering The Molecular Origin Of Lanmodulin's Metal Sensing Ability And Subsequent Protein Engineering For Improved Rare Earth Element Separation	ANRF -ARG	16.03.2026	96.54	3
7	Prof. Ashok Kumar Ummireddi (CE)	-	Screening of ionomers for a CO2 permeable layer onto the cathode to utilize industrial flue gas directly as a CO2 feedstock for electrochemical conversion	ANRF -ARG	16.03.2026	53.98	3
8	Prof. Aniket Vasantrya Kataware (CIE)	-	Establishing Mix Design Protocol and Performance Specifications for Cold In-Plant (CIP) Recycled Bituminous Mixtures with Emulsified Bitumen	ANRF -ARG	19.03.2026	98.59	3
9	Prof. Swananda V. Marathe (BSBE)	-	Investigation of Fluoxetine-induced neuroprotective reactive astrocytes in alzheimers disease models: Implications for therapy	Lady Tata Memorial Trust, Mumbai	13.10.2025	54.00	5
10	PRof. Sudhanshu Shukla (BSBE)	Prof. Kundan Kumar Singh Sagar (CHEM)	The UBA6-p53 Axis: A Novel Therapeutic Target in wild-type p53-deficient Cancers	ANRF ARG-1	21.03.2026	72.84	3
11	PRof. Sudhanshu Shukla (BSBE)	-	Total Synthesis of Leptochelins and related Analogs towards Identification of Anti-proliferative Therapeutic Agents	ANRF ARG-2	16.03.2026	27.00	3
12	Prof. Satya Priya Gupta (MMAE)	PRof. Somashekara M A (MMAE)	Investigating and mitigating the high temperature creep and thermomechanical fatigue challenges of additively manufactured Ni-based superalloys using an experimentally informed two-scale non-local crystal plasticity model	ANRF -ARG	26.03.2026	94.45	4
13	Prof. Aniket Vasantrya Kataware (CIE)	Prof. Ramesh Nayaka (CIE)	Transforming Waste into Protection: Developing Gamma-Ray Shielding Concrete with Recycled Aggregates and ISF-Slag	BRNS	13.03.2026	43.96	3
14	Prof. Animesh Kumar Sahoo (EECE)	PRof. Pratyasa Bhui (EECE)	Modelling and Control of Green Hydrogen Electrolyzer-based Grid Forming Flexible Load to Avail IEEE 2800-2022 Grid Code Compliant Ancillary Services	CPRI	24.03.2026	24.00	2

# FUNDING

## CONSULTANCY PROJECTS

Sl.No	Prinicpal Investigator With Dept.	Co Prinicpal investigator With Dept.	Title of the Project	Industry/Company/ Institute	Sanction date/ Agreement date	Duration of the project (months)	Cost of the Project (Lakh ₹)
1	PRof. Sudheer Siddhapureddy (MMAE)	-	Proof checking of Fire & HVAC drawings of the project comprising a G+2 Hospital Building, Staff Quarters and ancillary blocks.	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(E)-II,CPWD, BANGALORE	31.03.2026	3 weeks	1.77
2	Prof. Giridhar Rajesh Bande (CIE)	-	Proof checking of PHE drawings of the project comprising a G+2 Hospital Building, Staff Quarters and ancillary blocks.	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(E)-II,CPWD, BANGALORE	30.03.2026	3 weeks	1.18
3	PRof. Satish Naik B. (EECE)	-	Proof checking of Electrical Services-ESIC Hospital, Harohalli.	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(E)-II,CPWD, BANGALORE	31.03.2026	1 month	1.18
4	Prof. Hemanth Kumar Chinthapalli (CIE)	-	Design Vetting of RCC Structure (G+3)-1153 sqm SIB at Udupi.	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CPWD Mysuru	30.03.2026	1.5 month	0.82
5	Prof. Hemanth Kumar Chinthapalli (CIE)	-	Structural Vetting of RCC Structure (G+3) - SIB at Hassan	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CPWD Mysuru	31.03.2026	1.5 month	0.82
6	PRof. Somashekar. M A (MMAE)	-	Design, Additive Manufacturing and Mechanical & Materials Characterization of Aluminium Components through Multi- Component Printing	3D Product Development Pvt Ltd., Bengaluru	23.02.2026	12 Months	10.00
7	PROF. Venkappayya R dEsAi (CIE)	Dr. Sanatkumar P Rajamane (CIE)	Peer review of structural designs and drawings of prestressed pre-cast slab design at JSW Industry, Toranagallu.	Janaadhar India Pvt Ltd	05.01.2026	2 Weeks	1.91
8	Prof.Satyapriya Gupta (MMAE)	Prof. Rakesh Lingam (MMAE)	Improving the reliability of ring frame brake.	LAKSHMI MACHINE WORKS LIMITED, Perianaickenpalayam	31.12.2025	8 Months	8.32
9	Prof. Ramesh Nayaka (CIE)	PRof. Amarnath Hegde (CIE)	Expert advise on structural drawings for proposed Two-Wheeler over Bridge 1X 25M Truss at Utoria Village between Majorda-Vasco Doubling works.	M/s Surya Constructions Private Limited	23.01.2026	2 Weeks	2.95
10	Prof. Ramesh Nayaka (CIE)	PRof. Amarnath Hegde (CIE)	Expert advise on structure Design and Drawings of proposed Praja Soudha Belagavi Zilla Adalita Kendra at Belagavi District.	Jalavahani Management Services Pvt Ltd.	03.01.2026	1 month	3.54
11	Prof. Ramesh Nayaka (CIE)	PRof. Amarnath Hegde (CIE)	Expert advise on Structural Design and Drawings of proposed construction of a bridge Telangana border Putapak-Bhosaga SH-126 @KM 69.45 across Kagina River in Chittapur Taluk, Kalaburgi.	Jalavahani Management Services Pvt Ltd.	09.02.2026	1 month	3.01
12	PRof. Naveen M B (EECE)	-	Development and testing of 4G LTE base-station using python.	Tejas Networks Ltd	20.01.2026	9 Months	31.67
13	PRof. Pratyasa Bhui (EECE)	-	To develop high-fidelity PSCAD simulation models for 1.1 MVA PV Inverter.	Delta Electronics	12.01.2026	2 month	5.75

## CONSULTANCY PROJECTS

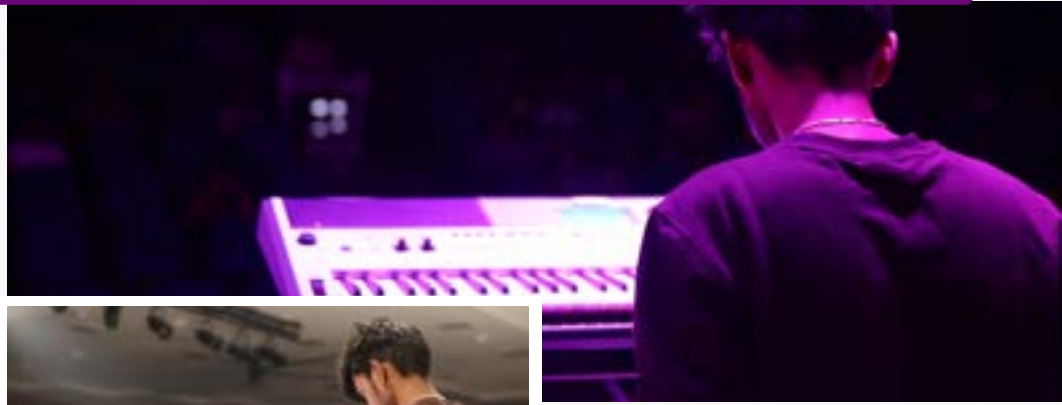
Sl.No	Prinicpal Investigator With Dept.	Co Prinicpal investigator With Dept.	Title of the Project	Industry/Company/ Institute	Sanction date/ Agreement date	Duration of the project (months)	Cost of the Project (Lakh ₹)
14	Prof. Giridhar Rajesh Bande (CIE)	-	A code compliance review of the substructures of major bridges, minor bridges, RUBs, and ROBs for the South Western Railway project in the State of Karnataka:	MKC Infrasturcture Limited	13.11.2025	12 Months	21.15
15	Prof. Ramesh Nayaka (CIE)	-	Modulus of Elasticity and thermal conductivity of concrete specimens by Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd, Kaiga, Uttara Kannada	Megha Engineering & infrastructures Ltd, Kiaga	21.01.2026	2 Weeks	0.34
17	Prof. Ramesh Nayaka (CIE)	PRof. Amarnath Hegde (CIE)	Expert advise on structural design and drawings of bridge No.290C proposed as 1x36.0m composite girder at KM: 106/248 (for one way traffic) between Dabolim and Vasco Stations.	M/s Surya Constructions Private Limited	09.02.2026	1 month	5.19
18	Prof. Ramesh Nayaka (CIE)	PRof. Amarnath Hegde (CIE)	Expert advise on proposed construction of a bridge across the Gangavali river on the MDR connecting Gullapur village to Hegggar village in Yallapur.	Aminbhavi and Hegde Consulting Engineers Pvt Ltd	18.02.2026	2 Weeks	3.47
19	Prof. Ramesh Nayaka (CIE)	PRof. Amarnath Hegde (CIE)	Third party design audit on proposed construction of a Court (4 Court Hall) building at Bhatkal, Bhatkal Taluq, Uttara Kannada District.	M/s S Shivaraj & Co.	07.03.2026	3 Weeks	2.30
20	Prof. Sai Ram Boggavarapu (EECE)	-	Workshop on Simulation of Electrical Systems in Multiphysics Environment.	Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute (VJTI) Mumbai	18.03.2026	1 Week	7.00

# harSHtAI'26

harSHtAI'26 emerged as a vibrant and multifaceted fest, bringing together creativity, intellect, and performance across a wide spectrum of domains. The fest featured 13 thoughtfully curated events, each designed to engage participants in artistic expression, critical thinking, and collaborative competition. The events witnessed enthusiastic participation and showcased exceptional talent across diverse disciplines.



# harSHtAI'26



The fest comprised a rich blend of cultural, literary and competitive events:

- Ek Shakhs Sau Chehre – Monoact : A theatrical event where participants displayed their acting prowess by portraying multiple characters single-handedly. It emphasized expression, voice modulation, and storytelling.
- Wizengamot – Corporate MUN : A corporate-themed Model United Nations that simulated boardroom discussions and policy-making. Participants debated real-world corporate challenges, testing their negotiation and analytical skills.
- Pensieve Chronicles – Creative Writing : A literary event encouraging participants to craft imaginative stories and prose. It focused on originality, narrative depth, and creative expression.
- Jugalbandi – Music Duet : A musical collaboration event where duos performed harmoniously, blending vocals or instruments. It highlighted coordination, rhythm, and musical chemistry.
- Battle of the Bands – Band Competition : A high-energy competition featuring bands performing across genres. It celebrated musical talent, stage presence, and audience engagement.
- Beatblitz – Dance Duet : A duet dance competition that tested synchronization, creativity, and performance dynamics between partners.
- Synerzz – Group Dance : A group dance event emphasizing coordination, choreography, and teamwork, with performances spanning various dance styles.
- Illustre – Fashion Photography : A creative photography contest focusing on fashion aesthetics, composition, and storytelling through visuals.
- Colorscape – Canvas Painting : An art competition where participants expressed their creativity on canvas, judged on originality, technique, and thematic interpretation.

- Hogwarts Knowledge Quiz – Harry Potter Quiz : A themed quiz event based on the Harry Potter series, testing participants' knowledge of the magical universe.
- Gyanotsav – Indian Quiz : A quiz competition centered on Indian culture, history, and current affairs, promoting awareness and knowledge.
- Drip n Click – Fashion Photography Competition : A dynamic photography event focusing on style, trends, and visual storytelling in fashion contexts.
- Beyond the Roll – B-Roll Competition : A filmmaking-focused event where participants created compelling B-roll footage, emphasizing cinematography, editing, and narrative support.

The fest witnessed active participation from the student community of IIT dhArwAD, along with participants from neighbouring institutions such as KLE, SDM Medical, SDMCET, IIT Palakkad, IIIT dhArwAD, and NFSU, among others. This diverse participation strengthened inter-institutional engagement and fostered cultural exchange, contributing to a vibrant campus atmosphere.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from the entire student fraternity of IIT dhArwAD and many neighbouring colleges, including KLE, SDM medical, SDMCET, IIT Palakkad, IIIT dhArwAD and NFSU, among others. This joining participation re-enforced the cultural connect of the festival and helped the entire campus to create better and lasting bonds.

harSHtAI'26 successfully provided a dynamic platform for participants to explore and showcase their talents across artistic, cultural, and intellectual domains. The diversity of events ensured inclusive participation, making the fest a memorable and enriching experience for all involved.



Credits :

**Public Relations Team, IIT DHARWAD**

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