

Name of the event: World Leprosy Day

Date of the event: 10 February 2026

Name of the department: Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy

Sl. No.	Event Report
1	Level of the event RLJH & RC (Hospital based Event about Leprosy Awareness)
2	Background / Introduction World Leprosy Day 2026 was commemorated with great enthusiasm and sensitivity by the Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy, RLJH on February 10th, 2026. The event aimed to raise awareness, educate the community, and offer a platform for those affected by leprosy to share their experiences and challenges. The theme for this year, " <i>Leprosy is curable, The real challenge is stigma</i> ", was highlighted throughout the Event. Event Highlights: <i>1. Inaugural Session and Faculty Speeches:</i> The Event began with a warm welcome and introduction to World Leprosy Day 2026 by Dr. Suresh Kumar K (Professor & HOD of the Department of Dermatology) , emphasizing unity in raising awareness and support of patients affected by Leprosy. This was followed by insightful speeches by senior faculty members, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Rajashekar T S , (Professor of Dermatology) highlighted the clinical aspects and importance of early detection of leprosy.• Dr. Hanumanthayya K , (Professor Emeritus of Dermatology), who shared his vast experience and insights on leprosy management and elimination efforts.• Dr. Dayananda M , (Professor of Community Medicine) emphasized the public health perspective, national programmes and the role of community participation.• Dr. Krishnappa J, Medical superintendent, emphasized the institutional responsibility and integrated care for patients affected by Leprosy along with discrimination associated with leprosy.• Dr. Muninarayana, registrar , SDUAHER and Professor of community medicine , addressed the gathering highlighting about leprosy and the need to eliminate stigma. Their speeches reflected a strong commitment to patient care, research, and breaking the stigma surrounding skin conditions. <i>2. Leprosy Awareness Pledge:</i> As a mark of solidarity and commitment toward eliminating stigma and discrimination, a Leprosy Awareness Pledge was administered to all attendees. The pledge was led by Dr. Dayananda M (Professor of Community Medicine) , who inspired the gathering to reaffirm their social and professional responsibility in the fight against leprosy. Students, healthcare professionals, faculty members, and staff collectively pledged to spread awareness that <i>leprosy is completely curable</i> , to promote early detection and timely treatment, and to treat persons affected by leprosy with dignity, respect, and compassion.

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Participants further pledged to actively combat myths, misconceptions, and discrimination associated with the disease, thereby contributing toward building an inclusive and stigma-free society. The pledge strongly reinforced the theme of the event, "Leprosy is curable, The real challenge is stigma," and served as a powerful reminder of the shared responsibility in achieving a leprosy free and discrimination-free community.

3. Skit – "Highlighting awareness about Leprosy, and the need to eliminate stigma":

A powerful and emotionally resonant skit titled "*THE NEED TO ELIMINATE STIGMA*" was performed by medical students. The skit portrayed real-life scenarios of individuals facing discrimination and isolation due to Leprosy. It concluded on a hopeful note, reinforcing the message that Leprosy does not define a person and that society must be educated to see beyond appearances.

4. Vote of Thanks and Educational leaflets Distribution:

The Event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Dr. Madhukiran C, Associate Professor of Dermatology, who acknowledged the efforts of all participants, students, faculty, patients, and supporting staff.

Educational leaflets on Leprosy—covering causes, myths, treatment options, and support resources—were distributed among attendees to further raise awareness and encourage community dialogue.

Outcome:

The World Leprosy Day Event 2026 was a resounding success, combining education, empathy, and empowerment. It provided a meaningful platform for patients to voice their stories and for the medical fraternity to reaffirm their commitment to holistic and stigma-free care.

3	Venue 3 RD FLOOR HALLWAY, NEW OPD BLOCK, RLJH & RC
4	Sponsors SDUAHER
7	Participants & Delegates in Number Around 63 undergraduate students, 16 PG Students, general public including leprosy patients and their attenders (approximately 130), 15 Faculty members (Total = 224)
8	Awards / Prizes The skit team was presented with its consisting of pens and chocolates. E-Certificate was issued to skit team for performing Leprosy awareness skit titled: "THE NEED TO ELIMINATE STIGMA".
9	Valedictory The Event ended with distribution of snacks and high-tea to all the participants and delegate.
10	Any other information -

Suresh Kumar
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Prin Head
Dent. of Dermatology
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Photos of the event



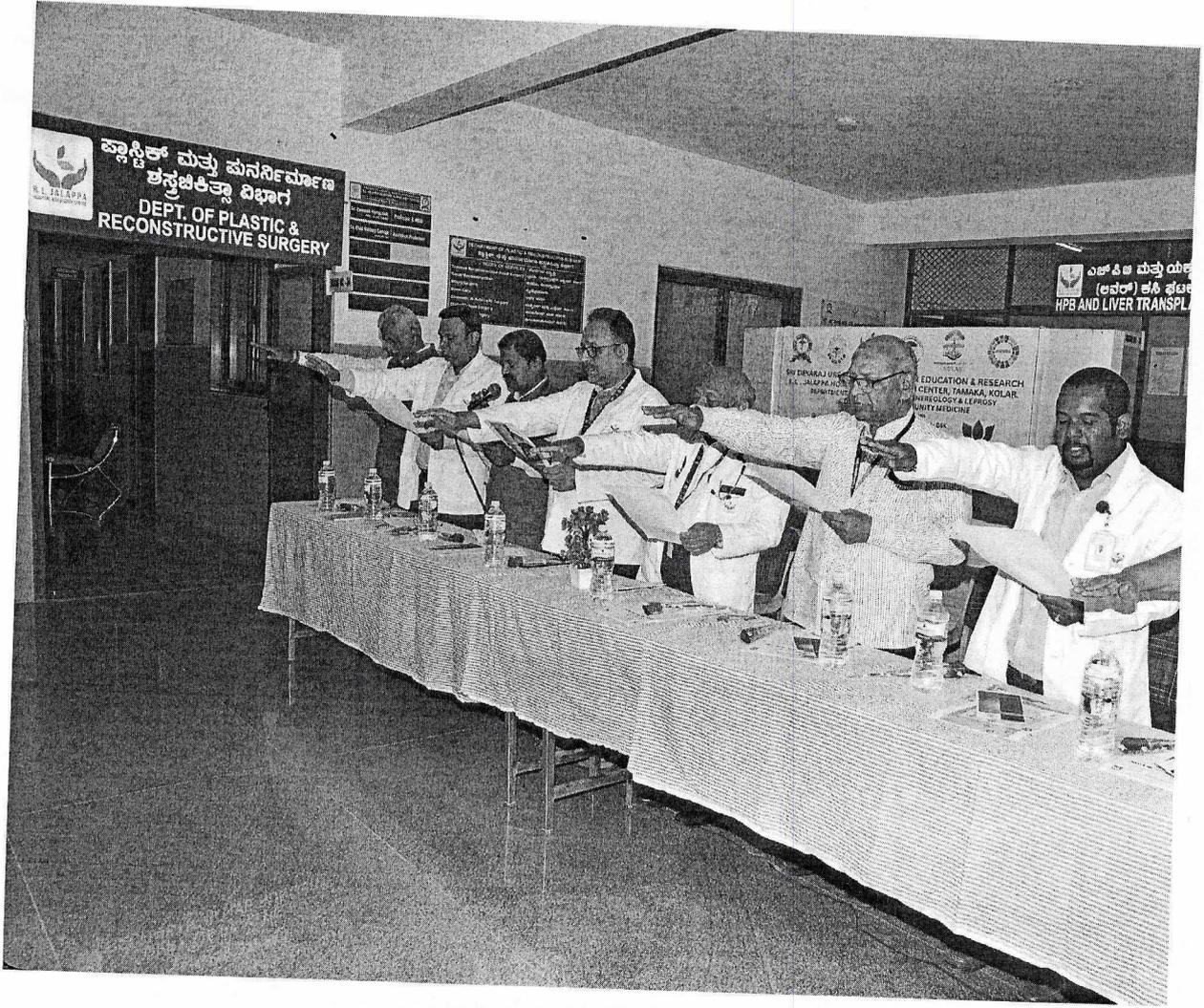
(From right to left) Dr. Suresh Kumar (Professor and HOD of Department of Dermatology)
Dr. Hanumanthayya K, (Retired Professor of Dermatology), Dr. Krishnappa J (Medical
Superintendent), Dr. Dinesh K (Deputy Medical Superintendent), Dr. Dayananda M
(Professor of community medicine), Dr. Rajashekar T S (Professor of the Department of
Dermatology).

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Undergraduate students of SDUMC performed a short skit highlighting awareness about leprosy and the need to eliminate stigma

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(From right to left) Dr. Suresh Kumar (Professor and HOD of Department of Dermatology)
 Dr. Hanumanthayya K, (Retired Professor of Dermatology), Dr. Krishnappa J (Medical
 Superintendent), Dr. Dinesh K (Deputy Medical Superintendent), Dr. Dayananda M
 (Professor of community medicine), Dr. Rajashekar T S (Professor of the Department of
 Dermatology) Dr. Muninarayana (Registrar of SDUAHER) taking the oath .

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Faculty of the Department of Dermatology, patients with their attenders, Undergraduates and Post-Graduates participated as delegates in World leprosy Day 2026 Event.

S. K. Kulkarni

24/11/26

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