



संवाद

'The Voice of Maharashtra Surgeons'

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'ASICON 2026'

17th - 19th December 2026, Ahemdabad

Website: [ASICON 2026](http://ASICON2026)

Dear Surgeons,

Season's Greetings to all.

For MASI, 2026 began with a Bang! Literally! MASICON 2026 'Happened' in Gondia.

It was like any other MASICON, yet, it was organised at a different level! Gondia, for a small city, with all its apparent limitation, drew over 1100 registrations! Proving that a good all-round program, will attract surgeons from all the corners of the state. The scale at which these Annual meets are now being organised, is amazing. I myself, attended my first MASICON in 1993-Mumbai! And since then, seeing an exponential improvement in the overall quality of the Scientific content, changing to keep up with the need of the day, yet, not deviating from the basic. Every year, it comes as a new challenge for the Organisers, to offer something better and different, and they succeed! Keep it up, MASI!

As usual, the first issue of the new year, covers the latest MASICON, exclusively. Therefore, yet another issue of 'Samvaad' has been published today!

MASICON 2026:

The 48th Annual Conference of Association of Surgeons of India, Maharashtra Chapter: MASICON, was organised from 29th Jan. to 1st Feb. 2026, which we bring you, chronologically.

29th Jan. 2026: Day 1: CME & Pre-Conference Skill courses:



Inauguration of CME: Chief guest: Dr. Varsha Sagdeo, in presence of Dr. Mahesh Malu and his Team-MASI, along with Dr. Rajendra Jain with Team-MASICON Gondia! They were accompanied with other dignitaries on the dias.

As always, several interesting lectures and Skill courses were continuously carried out in different Halls.

Pre-Conference Skill Courses: 6 parallel halls offered varied Skill



courses, which were full to capacity! From GI Endoscopy to LASER Proctology, AWR, Chivate's Procedure, Anal Sphincter Repair, & Basic Surgical Skills were offered to all.

Dr. Advay Aher: GI endoscopy.

Dr. Pramod Shinde: AWR Along with other distinguished panel.



Executive Committee Meeting:



Members of MASI Ex-Co and the GC-MASI, met in the evening to deliberate the finer aspects of running a large Organisation like MASI!

A wide array of cases selected for the delegates, being performed by the most skilled and experience surgeons in MASI! This was all in the pre-lunch session.

Edited Videos also ranged from Frey's Lateral Pancreaticojejunostomy in a fractured pancreatic duct to Robotic Splenectomy to Local Blocks, everything of interest to surgeons, were shown.

Post lunch session started with **PG Clinics** by the Teaches

such as Dr. P. T Jamdade and Dr. Shiddharth Dubhashi, GC-MASI, Dr. Satish Dharap and others.

Again, a good response, quite full!



4 cases were presented along with discussion at every step.



Masterclass on Breast Oncoplasty and Varicose Vein. Breast Oncoplasty: Prachi Mahajan, Vaishali Zamre, Jayshree Pandya,

Followed by Gala night with Dr. Girish Oak at Palash, The jungle resort, Dandegaon.

30th Jan. 2026. Day 2: Live Operative Workshop: is usually the norm one the first day of the Conference. Surgeries demonstrated were from Lap Bariatric Surgery by



Dr. Sandeep Sabnis from Nashik, Robotic Thyroidectomy by Dr. Raj Gajbhiye from Nagpur, among many others, were demonstrated in Hall A. Whereas, Hall B had Live Open Surgical demonstration, with Edited Videos on in Hall C.



Jaishree Ingole, Arundati Lote & Amit Bagdiya.

Dr. Dilip Rajpal, Dr. Anjali Dhawle, Dr. Jatin Choksi & Dr. Amol Deshpande.



Motivational Talk: 'Sex has No Expiry

Date' By Dr. Deepak Jumani. Interesting insight and a different view point, on a very neglected topic! I am sure it has



motivated many Surgeons who attended!



Inaugural Function:

Conference was inaugurated by Dr. Maruthu Pandian, President-ASI, Dr. Pravin Suryavanshi, IPP-ASI, Dr. Madhumita Mukhopadhyay, Treasurer-ASI, along with Dr. Mahesh Malu, President-MASI, Dr. Sachin Naik, Hon. Sec.-MASI, Dr. Sanjay Ghatge, Treasure-MASI, GOH was



Mr. Rajendra Jain and Team Gondia, led by Dr. Rajendra Jain, and Dr. Vikas Jain, the dynamic Org. Secretary of MASICON 2026.

Souvenir released:



Best City Chapter Awards:

Academics: Association of Surgeons of Nagpur.
Social Activities: Nashik Surgical Society.



For Blood Donation campaign:



Latur, Nashik and Mumbai, were awarded prizes for maximum donations.



Dr. Maruthu Pandian, President-ASI being felicitated.

Gala Night:

Usually, the non-academic activity is just a mention in the passing. But, this year, it was something different. Inter-City Chapter Dance Fiesta. All the City Chapters were invited to participate and awards were given out, have a look and identify yourself!



A different Avatar, previously unseen and delightful too!

Surgeons are not as 'Khadus' as they seem afterall!!!

31st Jan. 2026. Day 3:

The day as usual, started sharp at 9 am in all the Halls simultaneously. Guest Lectures and Panel discussions, Symposiums, covering most of the topics in the current scenario of General Surgery, basic to advance, even Futuristic!

Best Video presentations upto Hall D & E.

Presidential Lecture:



Dr. Mahesh Malu, President-MASI, delivering the insightful lecture, which is inspirational to all of us. Overcoming obstacles and reaching the pinnacle of your carrier requires a certain amount of grit and determination.

Very well-spoken Sir!

Dr. Rajendra Jain, Senior Surgeon from Gondia, was the Orator of the prestigious Gharpure Oration this year.

He spoke on: A journey beyond the Operation theatre.

This was followed by the Best Paper Session and then the

Valedictory Function:

Awards and distribution of Certificates followed by the Change of Guard!

Dr. G. M. Phadke Memorial Oration:

Dr. Vijay Kanetkar, a very senior Surgeon delivered this years Oration. He spoke on: General Surgery: a legacy of excellence.



General Body Meeting:

Apart from the usual proceedings of the Organisation, the most dynamic and democratic aspect, to my mind, is the bidding process for hosting the future MASICON's. Just one City get it, but, it has to outbid several application, and the process requires preparation which will give any competitive sports a run for their money! Same Colour Caps, T-Shirts, Jackets! So the Association of Surgeons of Nagpur (ASN) won the bid for 2028 MASICON, the Golden Jubilee year for MASI. I am sure they will do better than the best that is expected of them! Congratulations!

1st Feb. 2026: Day 3:

Dr. K. C. Gharpure Oration:



The Officers of MASI!

Dr. Anand Kamat takes over as President-MASI, along with Dr. Mahesh Malu as IPP, Dr. Sachin Naik, Hon. Secretary and Dr. Sanjay Ghate, Treasurer, MASI.

A Conference with many take home messages and learning.

Even your Editor received an Appreciation award!

But, before we end this Issue of Samvaad, we must also look into our health. The amount of stress and how do we handle it, if at all, is something to be taken really seriously. Doctors, specially Surgeons, live a very stressful profession. They so enjoy their profession and are trained differently, in dealing

with day-to-day stressful scenarios during our training and then in our chosen branch of practice. We take a lot in our stride, what it does to us internally, difficult to say. There has been a constant search of 'stress busters' that we could use to safeguard ourselves. We have heard so often from our patients 'aap doctor ho ke bimar kaise hogaye' as we are some super human machine! But, this is a portrait of our creation.



During the Conference, we lost a very young and dynamic surgeon, Dr. Bhawar Lal Yadav, who was visiting from

Jaipur. Suddenly, he was no more.

Beware of your own health. Find a hobby, learn to destress, we are only trained to work and that's all we can ever do, becoming useless when we are not working. Motivational talks are for a life beyond work, implement it.

Until we meet next time, I will ask everyone about their recreation and new hobbies.

Secretarial Report: by Dr. Sachin Naik

Annual state conference MASICON 2026, Gondia

As part of the flagship academic events of the Maharashtra State Chapter, **MASICON 2026 held at Gondia** from 29th January to 1st February 2026, Dr Maruth Pandiyan, President ASI, Dr Pravin Suryawanshi, IPP, ASI, Dr Madhumita Mukhopadhyay Treasurer ASI, GC Members of ASI and all Executive members of ASI from Maharashtra attended the conference. Dr Maruth Pandiyan, President ASI inaugurated the conference on 30th January along with MASI President Dr Mahesh Malu.

Scientific Presentations and Awards – MASICON 2026, Gondia

MASICON 2026 witnessed enthusiastic academic participation from surgeons across the state. With **more than 1110 registrations**, the conference showcased a robust scientific program comprising:

- **180 free papers**
- **67 free videos**
- **256 free posters**

In keeping with evolving national standards, the **free papers and posters were judged online on 20th January 2026**, ensuring transparency and uniformity in evaluation.

A total of **10 Best Papers, 10 Best E-Posters, and 10 Best Videos** were shortlisted and presented during the conference.

The **Best E-Poster category**, introduced **for the first time this year**, was well received and added a new dimension to academic presentation. All shortlisted presentations were evaluated by **eminent faculty members**.

Award Winners

Best Poster: Dr. Ruchita Talreja, Dr. Ahmad Huvaitibi, Dr. Jayant Buwaliya

Best Paper: Dr. Varun Sanap, Dr. Bhimagauda Patil, Dr. Shivani Chikhale

Best Video: Dr. Vishakha Patil, Dr. Anuprit Satpute, Dr. Avani Lad

Best Innovative Award:

Dr. Prashant Bhowate, Dr. Makrand Patki, Dr. Kunal Rajput

Best City Awards were conferred as follows:

Best City in Academics: Nagpur Surgical Society

Best City in Social Activities: Nashik Surgical Society

Orations

The **Dr. G. M. Phadke Oration** was delivered by **Dr. Vijay Kanetkar** on "*General Surgery: A Legacy of Excellence.*"

The **Dr. K. C. Gharpure Oration** was delivered by **Dr. Rajendra Jain** on "*A Journey Beyond the Operation Theater.*"

Traveling Fellowships

MASI continued its flagship academic initiative by awarding two annual traveling fellowships, each carrying ₹50,000:

Dr. K. C. Gharpure Traveling Fellowship

Dr. V. R. Chitale Traveling Fellowship

Fellowships Completed

Dr. Gayatri Deshpande (GMC Nagpur) – Robotic surgery training at GMC Nagpur (1st–16th July 2025) under **Dr. Raj Gajbhiye**.

Dr. Akshay Chaudhari – Advanced laparoscopy and abdominal wall reconstruction at KEM Hospital, Mumbai (15th–30th September 2025) under **Dr. Sameer Rege**.

Fellows Selected for 2025–26

Dr. Rohan Patil, GMC Jalgaon – Dr. K. C. Gharpure Fellowship

Dr. Vaishnavi Rothe, KEM Hospital, Mumbai – Dr. V. R. Chitale Fellowship

Annual GBM was conducted on 31st January at 6 pm. Maharashtra State Chapter ASI was guided by the ASI President Dr Maruth Pandian and MASI President, Dr Mahesh Malu. The GBM was well attended.

On 29th of January CME was held on different and interesting surgical topics. The CME was followed by Masterclass on Abdominal wall closure, Upper GI Endoscopy and Laser in Proctology. Various Skill courses and PG Masterclass concluded the day.

On 30th January association of surgeons of Gondia arranged a surgical workshop where surgeries were transmitted from B J Hospital, GMC Gondia, Robotic surgery from GMC Nagpur.

The academic forum started on 31st January at 8.30 am with 5 halls. There were series of talks by the experts surgeons on different topics, followed by symposium. On Sunday, 1st Feb there were series of lectures and Dr KC Gharpure oration

Best papers and best videos were presented on the same day among the delegates and the experts in the hall.

Valedictory function concluded the conference on 1st February at 1 pm where the charge of President MASI was handed over by Dr Mahesh Malu to Dr Anand Kamat.

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- Your Editors.