

INDIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

HEAD OFFICE

2ND FLOOR, BOMBAY MUTUAL TERRACE, 534, SANDHURST BRIDGE, OPERA HOUSE, MUMBAI 400 007. INDIA.
PHONE : 91-22-3696655 / 3671515. FAX : 91-22-3685613.
Website: www.ida.org.in Email : ho@ida.org.in

President

Dr. C. Krishnarjun Rao
Gurukrupa, The Medical Hall Road,
Guntur - 522 003.
Tel: 232289 / 355979.
Email : pres@ida.org.in

Hon. Secretary General

Dr. Ashok Dhoble
2ND FLOOR, BOMBAY MUTUAL TERRACE,
534, SANDHURST BRIDGE,
OPERA HOUSE, MUMBAI 400 007. INDIA.
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22-8-02

Hon'ble Health Minister,
Government of India,
NEW DELHI

Respected Sir,

From last few years, no doubt Dental Science has progressed very fast. People have realised the importance of Oral Health and they also have realised oral cavity is the gateway for general health.

In the field of education, few years ago, few dental colleges were in existence. Today, private as well as government sector large number of dental colleges have come into existence and the in-take of dental students annually is 9,500. Nodoubt, India does need large number of dentists to serve the population. But, at this juncture, I would like to bring few of our important facts for your favourable consideration.

Sir, as on today, we have nearly 45,000 qualified and registered dental surgeons in the country. The dental practice can be classified as:

1. Hospital in dental educational institution
2. Dental department attached to medical college
3. Dental department in a corporate hospital
4. Dental clinic in a government hospital (upto Taluk, Headquarters level – which varies from state to state).
5. Dental surgeons practicing in proprietary dental clinics

Sir, all the Private clinics are 100% proprietary in nature usually managed by one dental surgeon, or maximum having 2 or 3 dental surgeons of the family practising. Today, there is no scope for dental surgeons in the town. They have to go to interior places. Specially, large number of dental surgeons coming out from the colleges have no choice other than going to interior places.

Sir, today it is really unfortunate these dental surgeons cannot afford to buy proper equipment which is very important. Dental science is a specialised branch. No dental surgeon can practice without equipment. Unlike other fields, dental science is totally equipment and materials oriented.

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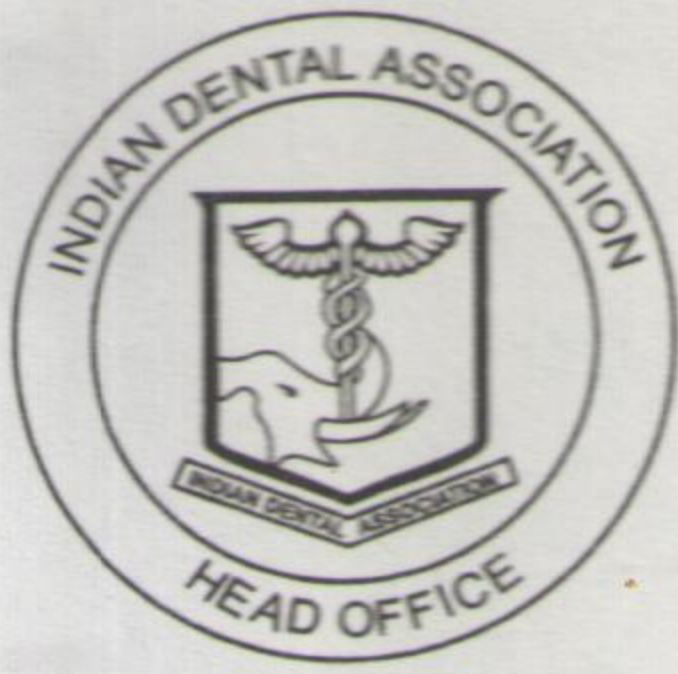
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Email : cdh@ida.org.in

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Sir, even after having so many dental colleges imparting Undergraduate and Post-Graduate education, till today, there is not even a single corporate dental hospital has come up so far in the country. The corporate hospital we mean to say is an hospital which imparts total speciality treatment. Even in cities like Delhi & Mumbai, proprietary clinics impart major treatment.

Sir, we would like to explain some of the factors:

4 years ago, the duty structure was "ZERO", but today it is almost 39%(Custom Duty CVD all together). With ad-ons like sales tax, local octroi, etc. altogether the equipment cost goes up by something like 55-60%. It is just impossible for a rural dentist to buy and impart treatment to the society at this tax structure.

List of most important Equipment, Materials etc.

- Dental Engine/Airmotor/Micromotor for laboratory Clinical work.
- Airtor/Turbine with or without Compressor and Air Turbine Handpiece/Cartridges of all types of Air Turbine.
- Ultrasonic Cleaning System/Ultrasonic Scalers of all types.
- Dental Burs – Diamond/Carbide & Steel – all shapes & sizes.
- Dental Operating Light & Fibroptic Light.
- Dental Handpieces of all types for laboratory/filling/condensing Airtor/Micromotor/Dental Engine.
- Dental handpieces for Airmotor/Micromotor/Air Turbine/Drilling Engine (Clinic & laboratory) for filling/packing and condensation purpose.
 - Body Contoured Electrically operated Chair fitted with Dental Unit consisting of various fittings.
- Reamers/Files/Broaches/Spreaders/Pluggers/Wideners
- Anaesthetic cartridge for dental use
- Equipments for Chrome Cobalt work
- Porcelain Furnace with or without Vacuum Pump.
- Jaw surgery equipments, oscillating saw, various types of cutting saws

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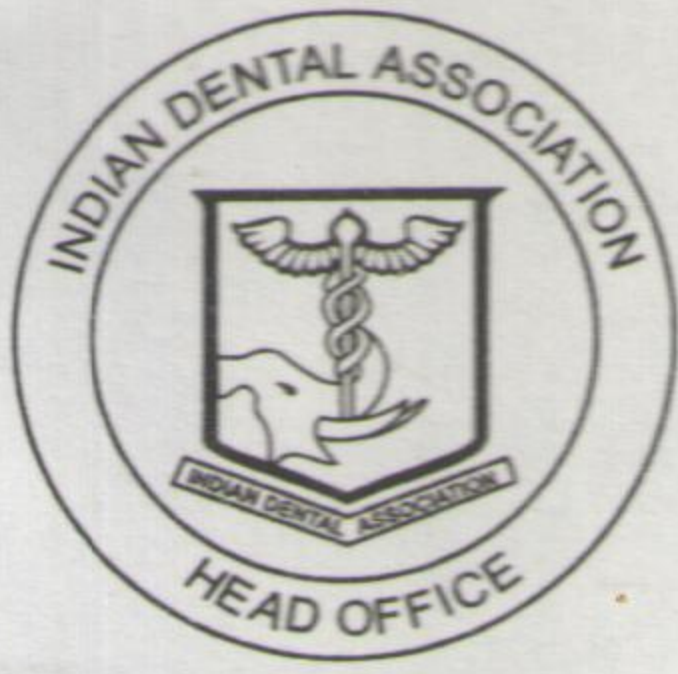
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Dr. Nailesh K. Gandhi
Email : cde@ida.org.in

ALSO
DENTIST NEED TO BE CONSIDERED AS HEALTHCARE
PROFESSIONALS OFTEN SAVING LIVES!
(EG: EARLY DETECTION OF CANCER!)



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Other dental goods, namely:

1. Dental implant
2. Dental cements
3. Impression materials of all types/alginate/rubber base/silicon base
4. Dental fillings and non precious metal for crown/bridge/and cast partial denture (a) chrome cobalt/nickel/chrome/porcelain bond metal/low fusing technique alloy, (b) dental crowns and artificial teeth
5. Gutta-percha points-dental silver amalgam
6. Dental investment of all types/phosphate bond/gypsum bond/plaster and stone.
7. Dental X-ray film-intra oral/extra-oral/panoramic/occlusal.
8. Dental porcelain of all types
9. Acrylics for dental use-denture base material heat cure and cold cure
10. Waxes of all types for dental use.

Radiological Equipment:

- Dental X-Ray Machine
 - a) Intra Oral
 - b) Orthophantomograph / Panoramic with or without Cephalometric (OPG)
 - c) Digital Imaging System
 - i) Intra Oral ii) Face and Jaw Imaging

We are hereby giving the Duty Structure for the selected Dental Equipments:

1998-1999	0%
1999-2000	8%
2000-2001	21%
2000-2002	20%
2000-2003	39% (This High Duty do not exist in the world)

You are well aware of the steep increase of Foreign currency against Indian Rupee and with the effect what could be the cost of the

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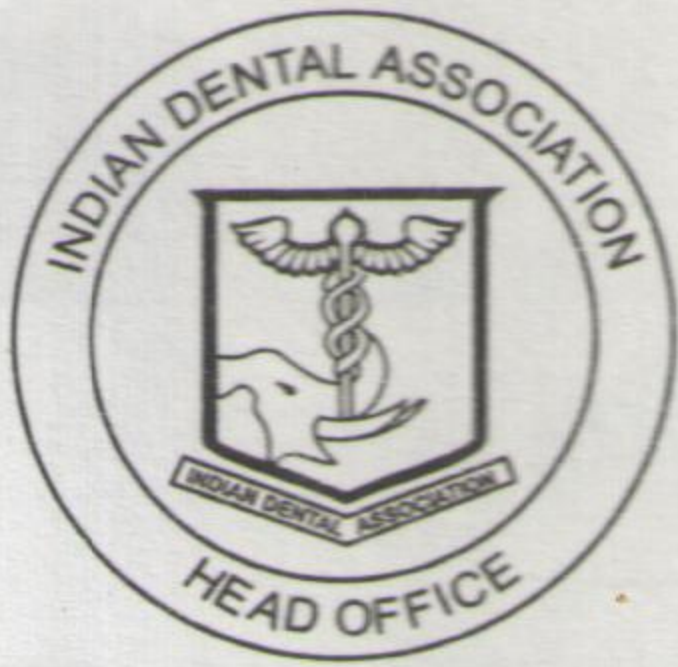
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equipment, it is for you to analyse. We Dental Surgeons feel it impossible to buy the required Equipments and Materials.

Sir, It is a fact every Dental Clinic needs Dental X-Ray, without that any diagnosis of disease of hard structure or bone structure is impossible. It is also fact Oral Cancer rate in India is highest in the world. Sir still our Radiologic Equipments are under high duty structure. Sir for example in the entire country face imaging system is only one available in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi not even a single Machine is installed anywhere in the country, even such a machine attracts 39% of the duty to ensure no Machine comes to India. Sir, when imaging machine like Mammography attracts only 5% custom duty why disparity in case of Dental imaging, we fail to understand. Keeping all these in mind we request you sincerely to bring all our Dental Equipment under the same duty structure, as list 37, 38, 39 and 40, where ophthalmology, ENT, Medical have been given a Privilege of 5% Custom Duty, CVD Nil.

Sir, at this juncture we would like to impress upon one factor that is majority of the Dental Items mentioned above, a Airtor Cartridge, which is so miniature in nature costing Rs.2,500/- or a Dental Cement of 10gms costs Rs.1,500/-, all are quantity wise so small, duty increase has not brought any extra income to Ex-chequer, it is only disturbing Dental Surgeons and gives great scope for illegal flow of Materials. We sincerely request you to verify your Document for the last three Months, increase of custom duty has not brought any additional income. Otherwise to say all these Instruments have started coming from illegal route.

Central Excise Duty:

At the same time we also request you to make the Central Excise Duty Nil for these Dental Equipments, so that local manufacturers can come up to expectations.

Sir, Your early action will be greatly appreciated and we assure you there will not be any loss in revenue, instead doctor will be benefited by standard recognized products.

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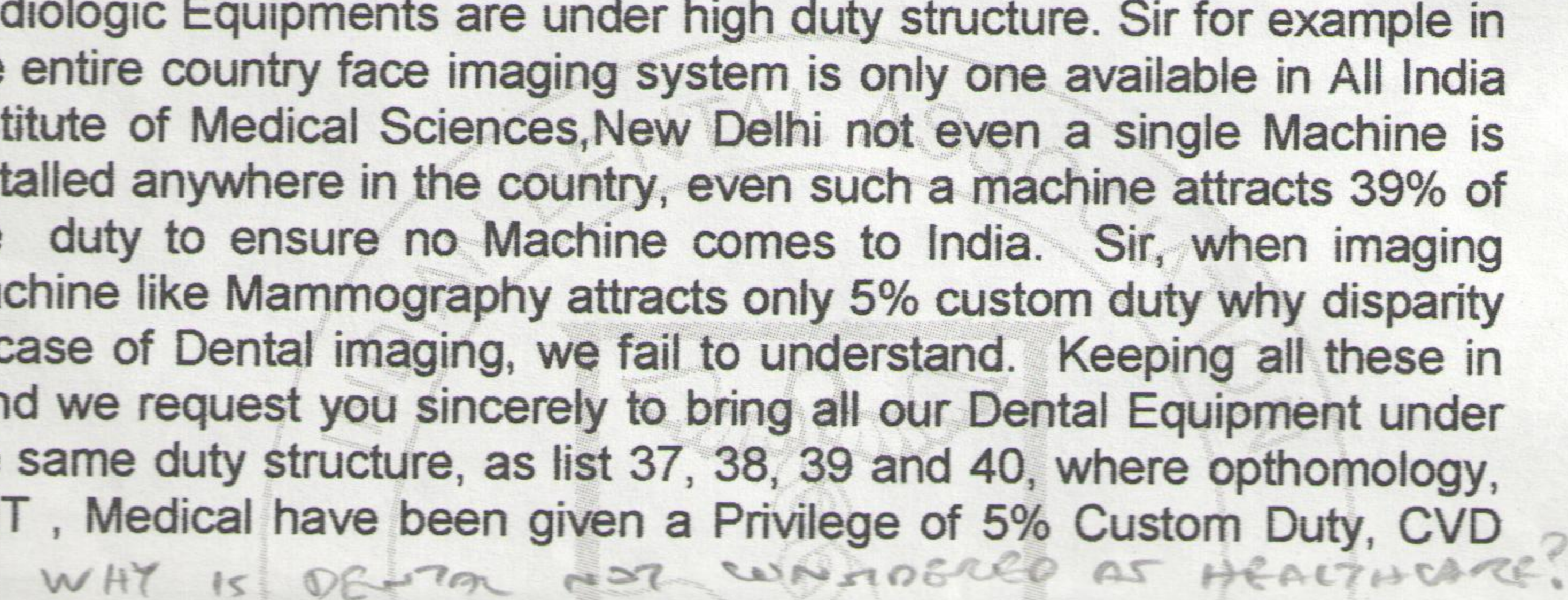
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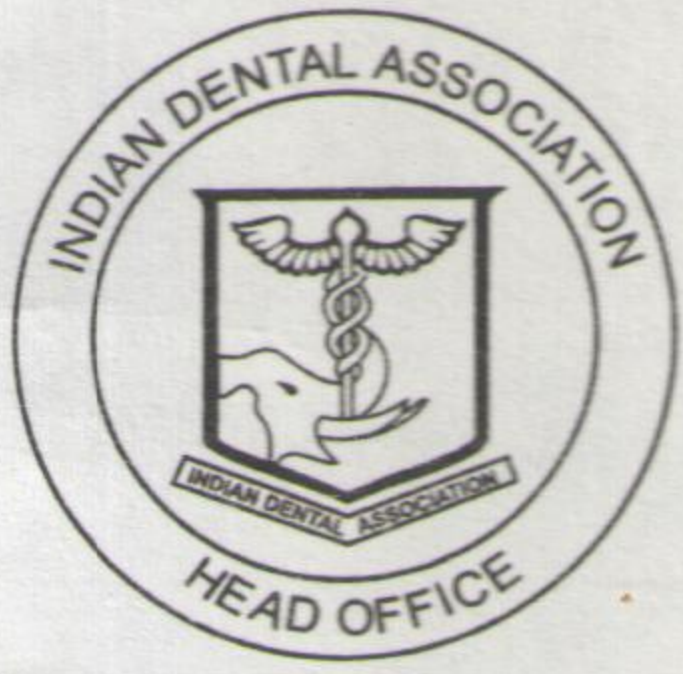
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AIDS!
STERILISERS
ATTRACTS 50.05%
DUTY! THE GOVERNMENT
DOES NOT WANT
DOCTORS TO STERILISE
?

2007
X-ray

₹ THEIR PATIENTS!





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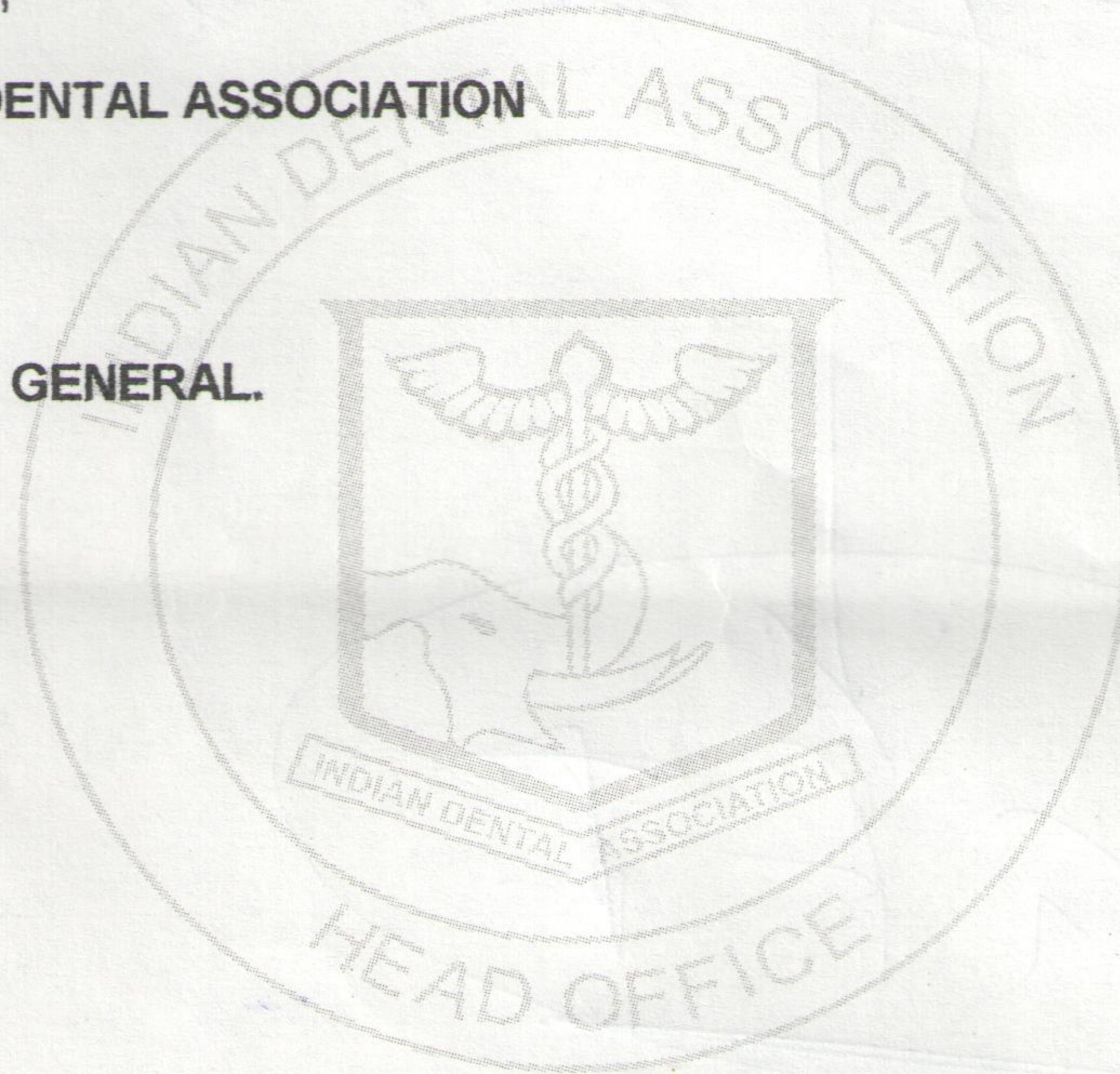
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We sincerely request you to consider our appeal.

Thanking You,

For INDIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

SECRETARY GENERAL.



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