



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CUM WORKSHOP

on

ORCHID DIVERSITY, CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN CHANGING GLOBAL CLIMATE: PERSPECTIVES ON MEDICINAL, FLORICULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL & ORCHID SHOW



DATES March 13-15, 2026

VENUE Department of Biotechnology, RVS College of Arts and Science, Sulur, Coimbatore- 641 402 (Tamil Nadu), India

ORGANIZED BY

The Orchid Society of India (TOSI), Department of Botany,
Panjab University, Chandigarh- 160 014 (UT)

JOINTLY WITH

RVS College of Arts and Science, Sulur, Coimbatore- 641 402 (Tamil Nadu)

INTRODUCTION

The family Orchidaceae with over 700 genera and 29,481 species is one of the largest angiospermic plant families on earth encompassing around 10% of flowering plant species. These plants exhibit large variations in their floral features, life-forms, habitat distributions, and trophic patterns. Orchids have several unique characteristics and much of their diverse presence may be attributed to their relationship with mycorrhizal fungi. The production of minute seeds with minimal nutrient reserves renders these to be dependent upon mycorrhizal fungi for the provision of resources necessary for germination and growth during early stages of plant development. These plants are valued for cut flower production due to their long lasting vase life and higher demand in the international market. These plants rank amongst the most significant ornamental plants and are known for the beauty, colour combinations and shapes of their flowers; these plants have always been interesting to evolutionary biologists because of their remarkable floral forms and diversity in pollination systems. Culturally, orchids have held significant symbolic value in various societies throughout history. The orchids stand distinct from other flowering plants in having spectacular array of adaptations that are linked to several innovative features including zygomorphic flowers with well-developed gynostegium, elaborated perianth and resupinated ovary, presence of pollinia, specialized pollination mechanisms, production of microscopic and non-endospermic seeds with undifferentiated embryos, symbiotic association with mycorrhizal fungi, colonization of epiphytic habitats, velamenous roots, and crassulacean acid metabolism. These plants have also been used in traditional medicine, perfumery, and culinary practices. These have extensive utility as medicine and as neutraceutical agents; recent studies have showed that orchid extracts are used for putative diuretic, anti-rheumatic, anti-inflammatory, anti-carcinogenic, hypoglycemic, anti-microbial, anti-convulsive, relaxation, neuroprotective, and anti-viral activities. These plants are widely and illegally collected from the wild for local, regional, and international trade. As a result of various interaction with other groups, specificity of habitat and speciation, these plants occur at low densities with limited range and are vulnerable to over harvest. Orchid trade which is largely unreported is threatening its populations in wild. This is compounded by various other anthropogenic activities such as deforestation, forest fire, random construction of roads, overgrazing and thus making many orchid species are threatened, vulnerable or endangered. As a result of all these factors, the entire family has been placed in the Appendix-II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), while a number of selected species have been placed in its Appendix-I to prevent the wild harvesting for illegal trade and export. The conservation priorities for orchid species seem to be in disarray. Thus, it is imperative that appropriate strategies be developed for cultivation, propagation and conservation of these rare, exquisite, and therapeutic species be kept from going extinct.

The Orchid Society of India (TOSI) established in 1984 and registered under the Societies Registration Act with its Headquarters at Botany Department, Panjab University, Chandigarh aims to i) promoting orchid awareness, advancement and knowledge dissemination; ii) projecting the importance of improvement and propagation of Indian Orchidology; iii) igniting the scientific and commercial importance of orchids in both rural and urban regions. In order to fulfil these aims, the Society provides a common forum for exchange of ideas amongst the orchid scientists, growers, and enthusiasts by organizing meetings, conferences, symposia, lectures, poster exhibition, orchid shows, painting competition regarding orchids, at regular intervals. The Orchid Society of India (TOSI) is organizing an International Conference cum Workshop on "*Orchid Diversity, Conservation and Resource Development in Changing Global Climate: Perspectives on Medicinal, Floricultural and Economic Potential*" & *Orchid Show* jointly with and at Department of Biotechnology, RVS College of Arts and Science, Sulur, Coimbatore- 641 402 (Tamil Nadu) during 13-15 March, 2026.

CONFERENCE

The Conference shall address itself to different areas of *Orchid Diversity and Systematics in a Changing Global Climate: Foundations for Conservation of Resources; Orchids as Medicinal, Ornamental, and Economic Resources: Emerging Trends and Opportunities; Biotechnological*

Innovations in Orchid Propagation and Resource Utilization; Global Trade and Market Dynamics of Medicinal and Nutraceutical Orchids: Challenges and Opportunities; Commercialization, Economic Utilization and Societal Benefits; Catalyzing the Ideas of Young Scientists: from Thought to Transformation. Several leading orchid scientists, growers, entrepreneurs, enthusiasts, and policy planners are expected to participate and enlighten the audience on the conference theme. Besides the inaugural and plenary sessions, the conference will comprise of 5 technical sessions. Each technical session will have 1-2 lead lectures (20-25 min duration including 5 min for discussion) by invited speakers followed by some contributed papers (10-15 min duration). Facility of LCD projector shall be available. The contributed papers shall be selected on merit and some of these will be allocated to poster session, which shall be a major attraction of the conference. For each poster presentation, 1m² area shall be made available. The outstanding posters shall be awarded. The abstracts of the lectures and accepted papers will be made available during the conference and the full papers shall be published in the conference proceedings/special volume of our internationally recognized, peer reviewed, refereed and indexed journal, *The Journal of The Orchid Society of India (J. Orchid Soc. India; ISSN: 0971-5371; included in UGC Care List; NAAS Rating 5.28).*

ON THE SPOT PAINTING COMPETITION, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND FLOWER ARRANGEMENT COMPETITION (March 13, 2026)

To create awareness about orchids at the grass root level, an On the Spot Painting Competition is being organized under different categories (school children, college students, and open for all). In case of school children, the entries shall be invited under 3 sub-categories depending upon the class groups which are (1-4, 5-7, 8-12). The paintings will be adjudged by an expert committee and in each category, two prizes will be given. For the photography competition, one can submit original printed photographs of orchids showcasing either inflorescence or pollination behavior of the flower with their respective pollinators clicked in the natural surroundings or environment on the day of the event. The flower arrangement competition is open to all individuals. This is a group activity with no more than 2 individuals. Arrangements are to be made from fresh orchid flowers and final arrangements have to be displayed on the table top. Participants must bring their own containers, flowers, and other material required for decoration. Use of artificial paint and plastic is prohibited. Judging will be based on creativity, concept, and originality.

ORCHID SHOW (March 13-14, 2026)

An orchid show depicting live plants, photographs, and paintings has also been planned with a view to create awareness and educate people about the importance of genetic (morphological) diversity in orchids. Many orchid species and hybrids shall be exhibited besides those that are botanically, medicinally, and economically significant. Some of the highly esteemed institutes/organizations/commercial growers have confirmed their participation. We hope that this wonderful show of orchid plants will delight everyone.

On behalf of TOSI, I have the immense pleasure to invite you cordially to participate in the conference and enrich its proceedings by contributing research papers in any of the listed themes of the conference. I am sure that despite your very busy schedule, it shall be possible for you to accept this invitation and confirm your participation by mailing the enclosed registration form alongwith the Registration fee by January 10, 2026 to the undersigned. You are also requested to send the abstract(s) of your paper(s), latest by January 20, 2026 to Secretary TOSI, Convener cum Organizing Secretary of the Conference, Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh-160 014. An electronic version of the abstract may also be sent through an e-mail (ptosichd@yahoo.com).

Full papers conforming to the style and format of *J. Orchid Soc. India* may please be submitted to our office, i.e. Secretary & Editor, The Orchid Society of India, Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh-160 014, latest by January 31, 2026.

Prof Promila Pathak
Convener & Organizing Secretary

ABOUT RVS COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE, COIMBATORE (TAMIL NADU)

RVS College of Arts and Science (affiliated to Bharathiar University, Coimbatore) is a leading self-financing institution established on 31st October 1986. The college received autonomous status from UGC in 2004 and is re-accredited with an 'A+' Grade in 2023. Offering a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and research programs in Arts, Science, and Management streams, the college ensures industry-relevant, skill-oriented curriculum designed by expert faculty with strong academic and industry backgrounds. Career-focused programs in emerging fields such as Animation & Visual Effects, Oracle, and Networking provide students with multiple pathways to professional success. Guided by its vision of providing "Quality Education for the Digital Era," the college is committed to delivering need-based, technology-driven teaching, learning, and research for holistic student development.

Information for Visitors

RVS College of Arts and Science is situated on a spacious, eco-friendly campus along the Coimbatore–Trichy Highway near Sulur, offering a serene and academically supportive environment. The campus integrates modern infrastructure—including well-equipped laboratories, a comprehensive library, residential facilities, sports and fitness amenities, cafeteria services, and seamless Wi-Fi connectivity—with lush green surroundings that promote a healthy and stress-free learning atmosphere. Coimbatore's tropical wet-and-dry climate, moderated by the Western Ghats and the Palghat Gap, provides generally pleasant weather throughout the year. Summer temperatures range between 25 °C and 38 °C, while the winter months (November to February) remain comfortably mild with daytime temperatures around 20 °C to 30 °C, making outdoor academic and recreational activities highly favorable. Together, the conducive climate, green campus ambience, and robust academic facilities make RVS College an ideal destination for students and visitors seeking a balanced, enriching educational experience.

How to Reach the Venue : RVS College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore

Coimbatore is a city located in the state of Tamil Nadu, famous as the "Manchester of South India" for its textile industry and is a major manufacturing and industrial hub, particularly for foundry, automobile, and engineering goods. It is also known for the Adiyogi Shiva bust, a prominent spiritual site, and natural attractions like waterfalls and temples. During the month of March, Coimbatore experiences pleasant and cool weather, with average temperatures ranging between 30 C and 32 C.

By Road

The nearest bus station is Gandhipuram Central Bus Stand which is roughly 21.8 km (40 min) away from the Sulur. You can get a taxi or local autos from bus stand to reach the RVS College of Arts and Science Campus, Coimbatore.

By Rail

The closest railway station to the venue is Coimbatore Railway Station, which is approximately 19-20 km away from the RVS College. From the railway station, you can take a taxi, app-cab (e.g. Uber / Ola), or a local bus/auto-rickshaw to reach the RVS College of Arts and Science Campus, Coimbatore.

By Flight

The nearest airport is Coimbatore International Airport, located roughly 16-17 km from the RVS College of Arts and Science. Taxis are available at the airport for convenient transport to the RVS College of Arts and Science Campus, Coimbatore.

Post Conference Tour

An optional post-conference tour is being planned for visitors interested in exploring Coimbatore.

REGISTRATION

The conference is open to all those who are interested in orchids but, is obligatory for the participants to register themselves. The registered delegates shall be entitled to conference kit, participation in all sessions, and visit to Orchid Show. The registration fee shall be charged as per the following schedule

Category	Early Birds	Registration
TOSI member	Till Jan 10, 2026	w.e.f. Jan 11, 2026
Non-members	Rs. 4000/-	Rs. 4500/-
Spouses/Accompanying delegates	Rs. 4500/-	Rs. 5000/-
Students (UG/PG)	Rs. 3500/-	Rs. 4000/-
Exhibition Fee	Rs. 2000/-	Rs. 2500/-
	Rs. 12000/-	Rs. 15000/-

Important Dates

January 10, 2026: Early Conference registration deadline

January 31, 2026: Late Conference registration deadline

January 20, 2026: Abstract submission deadline

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Orchid Diversity, Conservation and Resource Development in Changing Global Climate: Perspectives on Medicinal, Floricultural, and Economic Potential & Orchid Show

(March 13-15, 2026)

REGISTRATION FORM

I am interested in

Please tick

- a) Attending the Conference as an observer delegate
- b) Presenting a Paper (oral/poster)
- c) Sponsoring the Conference

Name: Prof./Dr./Mr./Ms. _____ Gender (M/F): _____

Occupation _____ Designation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

Tentative Title of the Paper _____

Presenting Author: _____

I will be accompanied with _____ / none

Date of Arrival _____, Departure _____

Flight/ Train No. _____

Accommodation required (on payment basis) Yes/No _____ (Hotel)

Whether interested in Optional Tour in and around Coimbatore (Perur Pateeswarar Temple, Isha Foundation etc.) on March 15, 2026: Yes/No _____

Registration fee of Rs. _____ sent through _____

DD No./Online Payment Reference No.* _____
dated _____.

Place:

Date: _____ Signature _____

* The duly filled registration form along with registration fee must reach on or before January 10, 2026 to Prof (Dr) Promila Pathak, Secretary & Chief Editor, TOSI and Convener cum Organizing Secretary, Botany Department, Panjab University, Chandigarh-160 014 (UT).

* DD/Online Payment towards registration fee should be made in favour of Secretary, The Orchid Society of India (TOSI), Chandigarh (Account No. 10444984653, Name: Secretary, The Orchid Society of India (TOSI), IFSC: SBIN0000742, Bank & Branch Name: SBI, Sector-14, Panjab University, Chandigarh- 160 014)

Note: Further information shall be sent only to those conveying their willingness to participate.



Professor (Dr) Promila Pathak
Convener cum Organizing Secretary, International Conference
on
Orchid Diversity, Conservation and Resource Development in
Changing Global Climate: Perspectives on Medicinal, Floricultural,
and Economic Potential & Orchid Show

Secretary & Editor TOSI
Department of Botany
Panjab University, Chandigarh- 160 014 (UT)

PROGRAMME

CONFERENCE

March 13, 2026: Registration & Inauguration

Technical Session I. *Orchid Diversity and Systematics in a Changing Global Climate: Foundations for Conservation of Resources*

Technical Session II. *Orchids as Medicinal, Ornamental, and Economic Resources: Emerging Trends and Opportunities*

Technical session III. *Biotechnological Innovations in Orchid Propagation and Resource Utilization*

General Body Meeting

March 14, 2026

Technical Session IV. *Global Trade and Market Dynamics of Medicinal and Nutraceutical Orchids: Challenges and Opportunities*

Technical Session V. *Commercialization, Economic Utilization of Orchids and Societal Benefits*

Technical Session VI. *Catalyzing the Ideas of Young Scientists: From Thought to Transformation*

Concluding Session/ Wrap up, Prize Distribution and Recommendations.

Poster Session (March 13-14, 2026), Orchid Show (March 13-14, 2026), and Painting Competition (March 14, 2026)

PROPOSED LIST OF SPEAKERS

Technical Session I. *Orchid Diversity and Systematics in a Changing Global Climate: Foundations for Conservation of Resources*

Dr A Nageswara Rao, Andhra Pradesh	Dr S S Samant, Kullu	Dr P Kaushik, Haridwar
Dr S P Das, Pakyong	Dr Zahoor A Kaloo, SriNagar	Dr Rajesh Tandon, New Delhi
Dr Brent David Chandler, USA	Dr Jeewan Singh Jalal, Pune	Dr Bhaskar Buragohain, Assam
Prof S B Babbar, Delhi	Dr Jagdeep Verma, Mandi	Prof S R Rao, Bangalore
Dr P Pushpangadan, Noida	Dr Navdeep Shekhar, Faridkot	

Technical Session II. *Orchids as Medicinal, Ornamental, and Economic Resources: Emerging Trends and Opportunities*

Dr A K Bhatnagar, New Delhi	Dr A A Mao, Kolkata	Dr S K Chaturvedi, Nagaland
Dr D K Agrawala, Kolkata	Dr Rampal, Pakyong	Dr Bijaya Pant, Nepal
Dr Rajesh Jalota, Australia	Dr Shaveta Chauhan, Jalandhar	Dr Sanjay Sharma, Jalandhar
Prof Seema Singh, Srinagar		

Technical Session III. *Biotechnological Innovations in Orchid Propagation and Resource Utilization*

Prof Promila Pathak, Chandigarh	Mr Mohan Pradhan, Kalimpong	Dr C R Deb, Nagaland
Dr L C De, Pakyong	Dr P L Uniyal, New Delhi	Dr Sarat Misra, Bhubaneswar
Dr Suman Kumar, Shillong	Mr. Suresh Bhakta Shreshtha, Nepal	Ms Shobana Kumar, New Delhi

Technical Session IV. *Global Trade and Market Dynamics of Medicinal and Nutraceutical Orchids: Challenges and Opportunities*

Dr A K Pandey, Bhopal	Dr Pramod Tandon, Lucknow	Dr Shaheed Hamid, Coimbatore
Dr Lawrence Zettler, USA	Mr Pepe Portilla, Ecuador	Prof Hong-Hwa Chen, Taiwan

Technical Session V. *Commercialization, Economic Utilization and Societal Benefits*

Dr S N Hegde, Bangalore	Mr Dilip K De, Mumbai	Dr Kamendra Singh, Karnataka
Dr William Decruse, Thiruvananthapuram	Dr Rusea Go, Malaysia	Dr Arpita Bhattacharya, Kuwait
Dr Kanchit Thammasiri, Thailand		

Technical Session VI. *Catalyzing the Ideas of Young Scientists: From Thought to Transformation*

ACCOMODATION

Limited accommodation in the Hotels is being arranged. Address your requirement to: **Prof (Dr) Promila Pathak, Convener cum Organizing Secretary** (ptosichd@yahoo.com).

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Prof Abhay Karandikar	Dr M L Jat	Dr K Senthil Ganesh
Dr Mahesh Kumar Dadhich	Dr Shivkumar Kalyanaraman	Dr Rajiv Bahl
Dr N Kalaiselvi	Sh Virendra R Tiwari	Sh Priya Ranjan
Dr Sanjay K Singh	Dr Anil Kumar	Dr Dhirendra Bansal
Dr Pankaj Kumar Rawat	Dr Sudhakar Pandey	Dr Vijay Kumar Doharey
Smt Vinita Sudhanshu	Smt Shobana Kumar	Sh R Anand
Dr Sukumar Dey	Ms Tmt M Vijayalakshmi	

NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Prof A K Bhatnagar	Dr Paramjit Singh	Mr Dilip K De
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Dr A N Rao	Dr Madhu Sharma	Dr N Shekhar
Dr K C Mahant	Prof Suman Kumaria	Mr S S Datta
Dr Sharada M Potukuchi	Dr Sarat Misra	

Prof (Dr) Promila Pathak
Convener cum Organizing Secretary

Dr T Siva Kumar
Principal, RVS College of Art and Science, Sulur, Coimbatore
Co-Convenor

Dr M P Ayyappa Das
Local Organizing Secretary



For further information, please contact:

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