THE ORCHID SOCIETY OF INDIA (TOSI)

Chandigarh – 160 014, India

***Tel: (91)-(172)-2534018 (Off); 09876701963* (*Mobile*)**

E-mails: tosi1984@rediffmail.com**;** tosi1984@gmail.com

Professor Promila Pathak

Ph.D, F.L.S.(London),M..N.A.Sc.

Secretary& Chief Editor

Convener cum Organizing Secretary

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Announcement

Dear Fellow Orchidologist,

The Orchidaceae family is among the largest and most widely distributed families of flowering plants, representing nearly 8% of all angiosperm species worldwide. India is home to approximately 1,256 orchid species belonging to 155 genera, of which around 388 species are endemic. Orchids are renowned for their remarkable diversity in flower size, shape, and color, making them highly prized for their ornamental and fragrant characteristics. In addition to their horticultural value, many orchid species play important roles in traditional medicine, serve as food sources, and hold significant cultural and ethnobotanical importance among indigenous and tribal communities. Although considerable progress has been made in understanding orchid distribution, rarity, conservation status, threats, and extinction risks, many species remain under severe pressure. Habitat loss, fragmentation, and unsustainable harvesting continue to be the primary factors contributing to the decline of orchid populations, highlighting the urgent need for effective conservation and sustainable management strategies. Orchid conservation has reached a critical stage, requiring innovative and sustainable approaches to safeguard these valuable plant resources. Among the most promising strategies is plant tissue culture, which provides an efficient means of mass propagation for both medicinal and ornamental orchids, thereby reducing pressure on natural populations and supporting sustainable utilization. At the global level, several conservation organizations, including the Orchid Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, have adopted orchids as flagship species to raise awareness about broader biodiversity conservation challenges. These organizations play a vital role in mitigating biodiversity loss by advancing conservation initiatives, fostering international collaboration and technology exchange, influencing conservation policies, and promoting education and public awareness within the global orchid community. It is our pleasure to announce that **The Orchid Society of India (TOSI)**, will be organizing a **National Conference cum Workshop on Medicinal and Floricultural Orchids: Bridging Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Cultivation, and Commercial Enterprise jointly with and at Department of Botany, Periyar University, Salem, Tamil Nadu, India during March 5-7, 2027.** The event will feature a series of engaging technical sessions that will include oral and poster presentations. This prestigious gathering will bring together a diverse community of scientists, researchers, nursery owners, entrepreneurs, industry professionals, and orchid enthusiasts, providing a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, scientific collaboration, networking, and the exploration of new business opportunities. Accepted abstracts of the papers will be shared with attendees, and full papers will be published as part of the conference proceedings or in a special edition 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 the UGC Care List, and with a NAAS rating of 5.28).**

On behalf of TOSI, I extend a warm invitation to you to participate in this conference. Your presence and active involvement will greatly enrich the event and contribute to its success. To register, kindly complete the registration form and send the duly filled registeration form alongwith registration fees **by December 31**, **2026 positively** to the undersigned **(Bank Account No.: 10444984653; Beneficiary Name: Secretary, The Orchid Society of India; Bank & Branch Name: State Bank of India (SBI), Sector-14, Panjab University, Chandigarh; IFSC Code: SBIN0000742)**. Please ensure that abstracts of your research papers must reach **The Secretary**, **The Orchid Society of India (TOSI), Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh-160014, via email** ptosichd@yahoo.com by **November 30**, **2026**. We eagerly look forward to your participation and to exploring the fascinating world of orchids together. Your contribution will help make this conference an unforgettable and rewarding experience.

We encourage you to save the date and confirm your attendance for this exciting event!

Long live Indian Orchidology!

Yours sincerely,

(Promila Pathak)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE CUM WORKSHOP

on

Medicinal and Floricultural Orchids: Bridging Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Cultivation, and Commercial Enterprise jointly with and at Department of Botany, Periyar University, Salem - 636 011, Tamil Nadu, India (March 5-7, 2027)

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 _____

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)

Would you like to participate in the optional tour on March 7, 2027, to explore attractions in and around Periyar, including Yercaud Hill Station, Mookaneri Lake, Sankagiri Fort, Mettur Dam, and Temples (Historic Sugavaneswarar, 1008 Lingam Temple, and Kottai Mariamman Temples: Yes/No

Registration fee of Rs. _____sent through_____

DD/Online Payment reference no*._____dated_____.

Place:

Date: Signature

Registration Fee	**Till December 31, 2026**	**w.e.f. Jan 1, 2027**
TOSI member:	**Rs. 4000/-**	**Rs. 4500/-**
Non-members:	**Rs. 4500/-**	**Rs. 5000/-**
Spouses/Accompanying delegates:	**Rs. 3500/-**	**Rs. 4000/-**
Students (UG/PG)	**Rs. 2500/-**	**Rs. 3000/-**
Exhibition Fee	**Rs. 12000/-**	**Rs. 15000/-**

The duly filled registration form along with registration fee must reach on or before Dec, 31, 2026 to Prof. (Dr.) Promila Pathak, Secretary & Chief Editor, TOSI and Convener cum Organizing Secretary, National Conference cum Workshop on Orchids and Orchid Show, Department of Botany, Panjab University, Chandigarh-160 014 (U.T.). **Email: ptosichd@yahoo.com**

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

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