



NATIONAL CONFERENCE CUM WORKSHOP

on

EXCELLENCE IN ORNAMENTAL AND MEDICINAL ORCHIDS: BRIDGING GAPS IN INNOVATION, CULTIVATION, CONSERVATION, AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OF ORCHID-BASED PHARMACOLOGICAL ADVANCES & ORCHID SHOW



DATES March 24-26, 2025

VENUE University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar- 190 006, Jammu & Kashmir, India

ORGANIZED BY

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

JOINTLY WITH

Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata- 700 064 (West Bengal)

&

Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar- 190 006 (J&K)

INTRODUCTION

Orchids are known worldwide for having colourful flowers used as cut flowers and pot plants. 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. This family is reported to be with 36,566 species, belonging to 703 genera worldwide, about 1256 species with 155 genera of orchid species are found in India. 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. They have also been used in traditional medicine, perfumery, and culinary practices. They have extensive utility as medicine and as nutraceutical agents; recent studies have showed that orchid extracts are used for putative diuretic, anti-rheumatic, anti-inflammatory, anti-carcinogenic, hypoglycemic, anti-microbial, anti-convulsive, 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 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 fulfill 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 *National Conference cum Workshop on Excellence in Ornamental and Medicinal Orchids: Bridging Gaps in Innovation, Cultivation, Conservation, and Resource Development of Orchid-Based Pharmacological Advances & Orchid Show* jointly with the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata and Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar at University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India during March 24-26, 2025.

CONFERENCE

The Conference shall address itself to different areas of *Orchid Biology and Floricultural & Medicinal Orchids; Orchid Diversity and Conservation; Export Opportunities in Natural Medicinal, Herbal Plants and Orchids and their Value Added Products as Health Foods from India; Priorities for Research and Entrepreneurship Development in Orchids; and Commercialization, Economic*

Utilization of orchids and Societal Benefits. 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 6 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 24, 2025)

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 24-25, 2025)

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. **You are also requested to send the abstract(s) of your paper(s), latest by January 31, 2025 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 February 15, 2025.

Prof Promila Pathak
Convener & Organizing Secretary

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY, UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR, HAZRATBAL, SRINAGAR, J&K

The Department of Botany at the University of Kashmir, established in 1961, has grown into a prominent institution known for its contributions to botanical research and education. Nestled amidst the breathtaking landscapes of Srinagar, with the world-famous Dal Lake and the Zabarwan mountains as its backdrop, the department has developed a rich legacy of academic excellence. It boasts vital facilities, including an internationally recognized herbarium (KASH), a Centre for Biodiversity and Taxonomy (CBT), and the Kashmir University Botanical Garden (KUBG), which features high-altitude plants.

Information for Visitors

The University of Kashmir is located in Hazratbal, a serene area that offers a unique blend of cultural heritage and natural beauty. The campus covers 247 acres, providing an ideal environment for academic pursuits. Known for its mild spring climate, Srinagar experiences temperatures ranging from 10°C to 15°C in March.

By Road

The nearest bus station is the Srinagar Bus Stand, approximately 12 km from the University. Taxis and local transport are readily available for easy access to the campus.

By Rail

The closest railway station is Jammu Tawi, around 270 km away. From Jammu, visitors can reach Srinagar by bus or taxi, which takes about 6-7 hours. Starting January 2025, the new Vande Bharat sleeper train will connect New Delhi to Srinagar, with stops at Ambala, Ludhiana, Jammu Tawi, and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra. This new addition will enhance connectivity to the Kashmir region, providing a more comfortable and efficient travel option for visitors.

By Flight

The nearest airport is Sheikh ul-Alam International Airport (Srinagar Airport), located roughly 12 km from the University of Kashmir. Taxis are available at the airport for convenient transport to the campus.

Post Conference Tour

An optional post-conference tour is being planned for visitors interested in exploring Srinagar's (Dal Lake, Floating Market, Pari Mahal, Chashma Shahi, Charchinar, Shalimar Garden, Dachigam National Park, Botanical Garden etc.) renowned natural and cultural sites on March 26, 2025.

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 (Till Dec 31, 2024)	Registration (w.e.f. Jan 1, 2025)
TOSI member	Rs. 3500/- (2000)*	Rs. 4000/- (2500)*
Non-members	Rs. 4000/- (2500)*	Rs. 4500/- (3000)*
Spouses/Accompanying delegates	Rs. 3000/- (2000)*	Rs. 3500/- (2500)*
Students (UG/PG)	Rs. 2000/- (1000)*	Rs. 2500/- (1500)*
Exhibition Fee	Rs. 10000/-	Rs. 12000/-

*(Amount of Registration mentioned in paranthesis is for delegates fasting during Ramzan)

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(March 24-26, 2025)

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/Guest House)

Whether interested in Optional Tour for different places in and around Srinagar (Dal lake, Floating Market, Pari Mahal, Chashma Shahi, Charchinar, Shalimar Garden, Dachigam National Park, Botanical Garden *etc.*) on March 26, 2025:

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 31, 2025 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.

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



Professor (Dr) Promila Pathak
Convener cum Organizing Secretary, National Conference cum
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of Orchid-Based Pharmacological Advances
& Orchid Show

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

PROGRAMME

CONFERENCE

March 24, 2025: Registration & Inauguration

Technical Session I. *Orchid Biology and Floricultural & Medicinal Orchids*

Technical Session II. *Orchid Diversity and Conservation*

Technical Session III. *Export Opportunities in Natural Medicinal, Herbal Plants and Orchids and their Value Added Products as Health Foods from India*

General Body Meeting

March 25, 2025

Technical Session IV. *Priorities for Research and Entrepreneurship Development in Orchids- Experiences from Wider Section*

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 24, 2025), Orchid Show (March 24-25, 2025), and Painting Competition (March 24, 2025)

PROPOSED LIST OF SPEAKERS

Technical Session I. *Orchid Biology and Floricultural & Medicinal Orchids*

Dr Vinita Sudhanshu, New Delhi

Dr A K Bhatnagar, New Delhi

Dr Rajesh Tandon, New Delhi

Dr Bhaskar Buragohain, Assam

Dr S K Chaturvedi, Nagaland

Dr P Kaushik, Haridwar

Dr Jeewan Singh Jalal, Pune

Prof S B Babbar, Delhi

Dr Jagdeep Verma, Mandi

Dr Sanjay Sharma, Jalandhar

Technical Session II. *Orchid Diversity and Conservation*

Dr S P Das, Pakyong

Dr A Nageswara Rao, Andhra Pradesh

Dr D K Agrawala, Kolkata

Dr Sarat Misra, Bhubaneswar

Prof Zahoor A Kaloo, Srinagar

Dr AA Mao, Kolkata

Dr S S Samant, Uttarakhand

Dr Rampal, Pakyong

Dr Shaveta Chauhan, Jalandhar

Prof Seema Singh, Srinagar

Technical Session III. *Export Opportunities in Natural Medicinal, Herbal Plants and Orchids and their Value Added Products as Health Foods from India*

Prof Promila Pathak, Chandigarh

Dr C R Deb, Nagaland

Prof P L Uniyal, New Delhi

Dr Suman Kumaria, Shillong

Mr Mohan Pradhan, Kalimpong

Dr L C De, Pakyong

Dr Sarat Misra, Bhubaneswar

Dr Navdeep Shekhar, Faridkot

Technical Session IV. *Priorities for Research and Entrepreneurship Development in Orchids- Experiences from Wider Section*

Dr Sudhir Sopory, New Delhi

Dr Arun K Pandey, Bhopal

Dr Pramod Tandon, Lucknow

Dr Sanjay Kumar, Palampur

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

Mr Dilip K De, Mumbai

Dr P K Rajeevan, Thrissur

Mr S Ramakrishnan, Thiruvananthapuram

Dr S N Hegde, Bangalore

Dr Kamendra Singh, Karnataka

Sh Kishor Rajhans, Pune

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

ACCOMODATION

Limited accommodation in the Hotels/Guest houses is being arranged and it shall be offered on first come first serve basis. Address your requirement to: **Prof (Dr) Promila Pathak, Convener cum Organizing Secretary** (ptosichd@yahoo.com) and with a copy to **Prof (Dr) Zahoor A Kaloo** (zakallu@yahoo.com) & **Prof (Dr) Aijaz Ahmad Wani** (hodbotany@uok.edu.in).

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Co-Convener

Dr Zahoor A Kaloo
Professor

&

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Local Organizing Secretaries



For further information, please contact:

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