



# Kerala Academy of Sciences

## Prof. A. Abraham Endowment Oration & Award

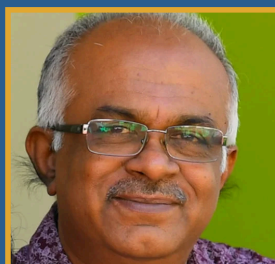
 Kerala Agricultural University, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram

 12 November 2025 (Wednesday), 10.30 AM

### Programme Highlights



**Presided over by,**  
**Prof. G. M. Nair**  
President, KAS



**Inauguration**  
**Dr. Byju G.**  
Director, ICAR–Central Tuber  
Crops Research Institute (CTCRI),  
Trivandrum



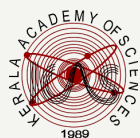
**Endowment Oration**  
**Dr. Ravi Maruthachalam**  
Associate Professor, IISER  
Thiruvananthapuram



**Invited Talk:**  
**Molecular Biodiversity: from Conservation  
to Drug Discovery**  
**Prof. Saurabh Raghuvanshi**  
Professor, Department of Plant Molecular  
Biology, University of Delhi South Campus



**Invited Talk:**  
**Next-Gen Agriculture: Creating Value through  
Science, Innovation, and Partnerships**  
**Dr. Narendran Nair**  
MD, Breakthrough BioScientists Pvt. Ltd.  
Former Senior Scientist, Mahyco



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### About the Programme

The Prof. (Dr.) A. Abraham Endowment Oration & Award Function, instituted by the Kerala Academy of Sciences, commemorates the pioneering contributions of Prof. A. Abraham in Cytogenetics and Plant Breeding. The event features the prestigious Endowment Oration, invited talks by leading experts, and the presentation of the Prof. A. Abraham Endowment Award, inspiring young researchers and celebrating excellence in plant sciences.

### About Prof. (Dr.) A. Abraham (1914–1994)

Prof. (Dr.) A. Abraham (1914–1994) was a visionary and pioneer in Cytogenetics and Plant Breeding whose efforts led to the establishment of ICAR–Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Kerala Agricultural University, Cochin University, Calicut University, and the Department of Botany, University of Kerala. As Founder Director of TBGRI (1979–1983), he realized his dream of creating the Palode Botanical Garden. Admired for his leadership and passion for orchids, he authored a treatise documenting 150 species. Several plants, including *Ischaemum abrahamii* and *Osbeckia abrahamii*, commemorate him. The Kerala Academy of Sciences honors his legacy through the Prof. A. Abraham Endowment Award.

### Oration – Speaker Profile

#### Dr. Ravi Maruthachalam

Associate Professor at IISER Thiruvananthapuram. He earned his B.Sc. in Agriculture and M.Sc. in Plant Breeding & Genetics from TNAU, Coimbatore, and completed his Ph.D. at JNU/CCMB. He pursued postdoctoral research at UC Davis. His research focuses on plant genome integrity, centromere biology, haploid genetics, and reproductive epigenetics. He has authored over 20 peer-reviewed publications, including in Nature, and holds patents on haploid plant generation. His honors include the DuPont Young Professor Award and ASPB Early Career Award. He is an active member of ASPB and AAAS.

### Invited Lectures – Speakers Profile

#### Prof. Saurabh Raghuvanshi

Prof. Raghuvanshi is currently the Professor of Department of Plant Molecular Biology at University of Delhi, South Campus. His research focuses on plant regulatory networks, microRNA-mediated stress responses, and genomic interactions. His lab uses deep sequencing, bioinformatics, and AI/ML tools to study plant development and stress resilience, aiming to advance precision breeding. He led the establishment of India's first life science data repository (IBDC) and has received the NASI Young Scientist Platinum Jubilee Award. He actively mentors Ph.D. scholars in plant genomics and stress biology.

#### Dr. Narendran Nair

Founder & Managing Director, Breakthrough Bio-Scientists Pvt. Ltd. Dr. Nair is an accomplished R&D leader with 24 years of experience in biotechnology and crop improvement. He has developed and commercialized advanced genetic and tissue culture products, coordinated US-supported projects, and holds multiple US patents. A recognized scientific speaker and awardee, he excels in team leadership, strategic project management, and intellectual property development. He is an elected member of PTCA-I, SIVB (USA), and a life member of SPBB, New Delhi.

### Organizing Secretaries:

#### Dr. Sreejith P.

General Secretary, KAS Mob. 9496793794

#### Dr. Sarika A. R.

General Secretary, KAS Mob. 9446589320

#### Dr. Swapna Alex

Professor, Department of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, Kerala Agricultural University  
Mob. 9847067220



[kastvpm@gmail.com](mailto:kastvpm@gmail.com)