



DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA
KONI, BILASPUR, CHHATTISGARH 495 009, INDIA

is organising the

**XXXVI ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF IAAT
AND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON EMERGING
TRENDS IN PLANT SYSTEMATICS, TRADITIONAL
KNOWLEDGE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**



NOVEMBER 20–22, 2026

**INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR
ANGIOSPERM TAXONOMY (IAAT)**



**INDIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR ANGIOSPERM
TAXONOMY**



भारतीय वनस्पति सर्वेक्षण
BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

**BOTANICAL SURVEY
OF INDIA**

ABOUT IAAT

The Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) was established in 1990 with the objective of promoting research and academic exchange in the field of plant taxonomy and allied disciplines. The Association serves as a national platform for researchers, teachers, students, and plant enthusiasts working in angiosperm taxonomy, floristics, systematics, biodiversity conservation, ethnobotany, reproductive ecology, and molecular phylogenetics. Headquartered at the Department of Botany, University of Calicut, Kerala, IAAT organizes annual conferences, workshops, and scientific meetings across India to encourage interaction among scientists and young researchers. Through its academic initiatives, IAAT has significantly contributed to strengthening plant taxonomy and biodiversity research in the country. The XXXVI Annual Conference of IAAT continues this scientific tradition by bringing together experts and scholars from diverse areas of plant sciences for discussion, collaboration, and dissemination of recent advances in botanical research.



ABOUT GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA, BILASPUR



Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (GGV), Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, is a Central University established under the Central Universities Act, 2009. Named in honor of the great social reformer Sant Guru Ghasidas Ji, the University is committed to academic excellence, scientific innovation and inclusive education. The University has been accredited with NAAC A++ Grade and recognized as a Category-I University by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Spread across a lush green campus of more than 650 acres, GGV provides an excellent academic and research environment enriched with biodiversity and modern infrastructure.



Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (GGV) offers over 115+ academic programs, with the Department of Botany providing a strong foundation in general botany and plant taxonomy, supporting academic and research activities in plant sciences.



Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya is committed not only to academic excellence but also to social responsibility and inclusive development. Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya currently hosts 20+ Social connect welfare schemes for students and staff, including the Swavalambi Chhattisgarh Scheme for entrepreneurship development, GGV Swabhimani Thali for affordable nutrition, Saarthi Yojana for inclusive campus mobility, Shravan Line for community service and Shiksha Mitra Sanskar Yojana for educational support to underprivileged children. In addition, the University provides merit scholarships, fellowship for economically weaker students, support for differently abled students and emergency assistance schemes.

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Photo: Anurag Dwivedi

CONFERENCE THEMES



1

ADVANCES IN ANGIOSPERM SYSTEMATICS

- Modern trends in angiosperm classification
- Integrative approaches in plant taxonomy
- Classical and contemporary taxonomic methodologies
- Species delimitation and revisionary studies

2

MOLECULAR PHYLOGENETICS AND DNA BARCODING

- Genomic and phylogenetic insights
- DNA barcoding and molecular identification
- Evolutionary relationships among plant groups
- Bioinformatic tools in systematics

3

FLORISTIC DIVERSITY

- Floristic surveys and vegetation analysis
- Endemism and species distribution patterns
- Phytogeography of Indian floristic regions
- Biodiversity documentation and inventory studies

4

ETHNOBOTANY AND PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

- Indigenous knowledge systems and plant use
- Medicinal and economically important plants
- Traditional healthcare practices
- IPR, Biopiracy and Protection of Traditional Knowledge

5

REPRODUCTIVE ECOLOGY AND PLANT ANIMAL INTERACTIONS

- Pollination biology
- Plant Animal Interactions

6

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Conservation strategies and restoration ecology
- Threats to plant diversity
- Climate change and plant adaptation
- Community-based biodiversity conservation
- Weed Biology

7

MEDICINAL BOTANY AND HERBAL DRUGS

- Medicinal Plant Diversity and Conservation
- Herbal Drug Discovery and Development
- Phytochemistry and Bioactive Natural Products
- Pharmacognosy and Quality Control of Herbal Medicines

8

DIGITAL TAXONOMY AND AI APPLICATIONS IN BOTANY

- Artificial intelligence in species identification
- Digital herbaria and virtual collections
- Image analysis and automated taxonomy
- Databases and biodiversity informatics

9

EMERGING INTERDISCIPLINARY FRONTIERS IN PLANT SCIENCE

- Multi-omics in plant biology
- Citizen science initiatives
- Conservation technologies
- Policy and future perspectives

Awards will be presented for the Best Oral Presentation in each of the nine conference themes and one Overall Best Poster Presentation across all themes.



Photo: Anurag Dwivedi

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations at the upcoming conference. Abstracts should be aligned with the conference themes and must be submitted in English in MS Word format, limited to 250 words (excluding the title, author(s) names, affiliations, presenting author's email address and keywords). The document should be typed in Times New Roman, font size 12, with 1.5 line spacing. Please ensure that the name of the presenting author is marked with an asterisk (*). Abstracts must be submitted through the conference website (www.ggviaat2026.com) during the registration process. The abstract prepared in MS word format should be uploaded along with the online Registration form. All abstracts will be reviewed by the committee, and acceptance for oral or poster presentation will be communicated to the authors.

Last Date for Abstract Submission: 31 August 2026

We look forward to receiving your contributions and to your participation in this academic event!

REGISTRATION FEES

IAAT Members

₹ 4,000/-

Non-IAAT Members

₹ 5,000/-

Research Scholars

₹ 3,500/-

Students (M.Sc/B.Sc)

₹ 2,000/-

Industry Personnel

₹ 10,000

Accompanying Person

₹ 3,000/-

Foreign Delegates (SAARC Countries)

\$ 250/-

Foreign Delegates (Non-SAARC)

\$ 500/-

Conference Trip*

₹ 2,500/-

Registration Fee Covers: Conference kit, access to all scientific sessions, breakfast, lunch, dinner, tea/refreshments and participation certificate during the conferences days.

* The trip will be conducted only if a minimum of 40 participants confirm their participation. Confirmation regarding the trip and details of the payment process will be communicated after 31 August 2026.



DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY (DST-FIST Sponsored)

GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA, BILASPUR, CHHATTISGARH

The Department of Botany at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (GGV), Bilaspur, is a vibrant center for teaching, research, and innovation in plant sciences. Since its establishment, the department has been committed to advancing botanical knowledge through quality education, interdisciplinary research and scientific outreach. The department offers a strong academic environment supported by experienced faculty members, well-equipped laboratories and modern research facilities.

The Department of Botany at GGV is actively engaged in teaching and research in the fields of:

- Plant Taxonomy and Systematics
- Reproductive Ecology
- Ethnobotany
- Ecology and Conservation Biology
- Molecular Biology
- Plant Physiology
- Microbiology



The department houses well-equipped laboratories and advanced research instrumentation supporting innovative research and scientific training.

The serene campus environment, rich plant diversity, and excellent academic infrastructure make Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya an ideal venue for hosting the XXXVI Annual Conference of IAAT and the International Symposium.



BILASPUR – THE HOST CITY

Bilaspur, popularly known as the “Education Hub of Chhattisgarh,” is one of the fastest-growing urban centers in Central India. Located in the north-central part of Chhattisgarh, the city lies in the fertile plains of the Arpa River basin and is geographically surrounded by the Maikal hill ranges. The district is also characterized by a rich cultural heritage and is home to several tribal communities, including the Gond, Baiga, Kanwar, and Binjwar tribes, whose traditional knowledge and close association with local biodiversity contribute significantly to the region’s socio-cultural and ecological landscape.

The region surrounding Bilaspur is ecologically rich and culturally vibrant, characterized by forests, rivers, waterfalls, wildlife habitats, and heritage monuments. The city acts as a gateway to several important biodiversity hotspots and eco-tourism destinations including:

- Achanakmar - Amarkantak Tiger Reserve
- Kanan Pendari Zoological Park
- Ratanpur Heritage Site
- Malhar Archaeological Site
- Scenic forest landscapes and river valleys of Central India
- Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary



Bilaspur experiences a blend of traditional heritage and modern urban development. The city is known for its hospitality, cultural diversity, cuisine, educational institutions, and peaceful environment, making it highly suitable for scientific meetings and academic interaction.

The pleasant atmosphere of the city together with the biodiversity-rich environment of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya offers an inspiring setting for discussions on taxonomy, reproductive ecology, biodiversity conservation, traditional knowledge systems, and strategies for a sustainable future in plant sciences.



REGISTRATION DETAILS

The Registration can be done online at www.ggviaat2026.com Please note that there will not be any Spot Registration.

IMPORTANT DATES



Registration opens: 1 August 2026



Last date for Registration: 31 August 2026



Last date for submission of abstracts: 31 August 2026

ACCOMMODATION

A variety of accommodation options catering to diverse preferences and budget will be available for conference participants. Accommodation will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to availability.

For detailed information on accommodation categories, charges, and booking related updates, please visit the conference website. www.ggviaat2026.com



Photo: Anurag Dwivedi

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AWARDS FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS

The Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) has instituted the following awards to encourage young researchers in the field of Angiosperm Taxonomy. Each award comprises a Certificate of Merit and a Medal.

GENERAL GUIDELINES & ELIGIBILITY

- Separate sessions will be conducted for award competitions.
- Papers must be submitted through the conference website along with proof of age.
- Minimum three contestants are required for each award.
- Previous winners are not eligible for the same award again.



1. PROF. A.K. PANDEY AWARD FOR REVISIONARY STUDIES

This prestigious award was established in the year 2023, thanks to a generous endowment from Professor Arun K. Pandey, a distinguished taxonomist and academician. It is intended to honour and encourage scientists and researchers who have made exceptional revisionary studies within the field of angiosperm taxonomy. The award aims to promote meticulous taxonomic research, particularly those involving comprehensive revisions of plant groups, and to inspire emerging scholars to pursue excellence in systematics and biodiversity studies.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Age Limit
65 Years



Life Member
of IAAT



Ph.D. in Topic
Related to
Angiosperm
Taxonomy



Best Five Papers
with Biodata &
Soft Copies

- The maximum age limit of the applicant is 65 years as on 1st January of the respective year.
- Should be a life member of the association.
- Should be a Ph.D. holder in a topic related to angiosperm taxonomy.
- The application along with biodata and soft copies of best five papers should reach the Secretary (through email, iaatsecy@gmail.com), Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT), Department of Botany, University of Calicut, Calicut University P.O., Malappuram, Kerala, on or before 30th September every year.
- The screening will be conducted by an expert committee constituted by the Secretary (HQ), IAAT.
- The awardee, as decided by the Screening Committee, will be required to make a presentation at the forthcoming conference, and this will be communicated on or before 30th October 2026.
- Contestants for this award must also upload the abstract of their paper through the conference website along with their registration. However, the selection will be made entirely by an expert committee constituted by the Secretary (Headquarters) of IAAT.



2. PROF. SANTHOSH NAMPHY

IAAT YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD

This award was instituted in 2023 through a generous donation by Prof. Santhosh Nampy (a distinguished taxonomist and academician) with the purpose of recognizing young scientists and researchers for their outstanding contributions to the field of angiosperm systematics. The award aims to encourage excellence in taxonomic research and promote continued advancements in the understanding and classification of flowering plants.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Age Limit
35 Years



Life Member
of IAAT



Ph.D. in Topic
Related to
Angiosperm
Taxonomy



Best Three
Papers with
Biodata & soft
Copies

- The maximum age of the applicant is 35 years as on 1st January of the respective year. Should be a life member of the association.
- Should be a Ph.D. holder in a topic related to angiosperm taxonomy.
- The application and full research paper on a topic in angiosperm taxonomy along with biodata should reach the Secretary (through email, iaatsecy@gmail.com), Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT), Department of Botany, University of Calicut, Calicut University P.O., Malappuram, Kerala, on or before 30th September every year.
- Contestants for this award must upload the abstract of their paper through the conference website along with their registration. However, the preliminary screening will be conducted by an expert committee constituted by the Secretary (HQ), IAAT.
- Best three papers (maximum) will be selected by the screening committee for final presentation. The same will be intimated to the selected candidates by 30th October via mail for presentation in the forthcoming annual conference of IAAT for the final selection of the awardee.
- Final decision on the award will be based on oral presentation in the forthcoming annual conference of the IAAT.



3. DR. A.K. PRADEEP

YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD

This award was instituted in 2023 through a generous contribution from the students of Dr. A.K. Pradeep (a distinguished taxonomist) to recognize the best research paper presented by a young researcher. The award is intended to encourage and support emerging talent in botanical research.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Age limit
28 years



Life/Annual
member of
IAAT



Original research
in Angiosperm
Taxonomy



Ph.D. holders
are not
eligible

- The maximum age limit of the applicant is 28 years as on 1st January of the respective year.
- The candidate should be a life/annual member of the association.
- Abstracts of original research pertaining to angiosperm taxonomy only are considered for this award.
- Ph.D. holders are not eligible for this award.
- Final decision on the award will be based on oral presentation in the forthcoming annual conference of the IAAT.



4. S.M. & M.R. ALMEIDA AWARD IN PLANT NOMENCLATURE

Prof. S. M. Almeida and Prof. M. R. Almeida were eminent botanists, plant taxonomists, and academicians, widely recognized for their pioneering contributions to botanical nomenclature, floristics, and the advancement of plant taxonomy in India. This prestigious award was instituted in 2023 through a generous endowment from Dr. Suchandra Dutta in their honour. The award recognizes the best research paper in the field of plant nomenclature, with special emphasis on angiosperms. It aims to promote the rigorous application of nomenclatural principles and encourage excellence in taxonomic research among young researchers and plant taxonomists.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Age Limit
32 Years



Life/Annual Member
of IAAT



Original Articles
Pertaining To the
Nomenclature of
angiosperms



Ph.D. Holders
Not Eligible
(Theses Submitted
Candidates Eligible)



Final Selection
Based on
Oral Presentation

- The maximum age limit of the applicant is 32 years as on 1st January of the respective year.
- Should be a life/annual member of the association.
- Original research articles pertaining to the nomenclature of angiosperms will be considered for the award.
- Ph.D. holders are not eligible for the award, but scholars who have submitted their theses at the time of notification (not awarded) are eligible to submit their abstract.
- Final decision on the award will be based on oral presentation in the forthcoming annual conference of the IAAT.



5. PROF. R. S. RAO AWARD IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

This award was instituted in 1996 through a generous donation by Prof. R. S. Rao (a distinguished plant taxonomist and conservation biologist) to recognize the best research paper in the field of biodiversity conservation, with a focus on angiosperms. The award aims to encourage impactful research that contributes to the preservation and sustainable management of plant diversity.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Age Limit
32 Years



Life/Annual Member
of the Association



Original Research Articles
in Biodiversity
Conservation
(Angiosperms)



Ph.D. Holders
Not Eligible
(Theses Submitted
Candidates Eligible)



Final Selection
Based on Oral
Presentation

- The maximum age limit of the applicant is 32 years as on 1st January of the respective year.
- Should be a life/annual member of the association.
- Original research articles pertaining to Biodiversity Conservation (Angiosperms) will be considered for the award.
- Ph.D. holders are not eligible for the award, but scholars who have submitted their theses at the time of notification (not awarded) are eligible to submit their abstracts.
- Final decision on the award will be based on oral presentation in the forthcoming annual conference of the IAAT.



6. PROF. K. S. MANILAL AWARD IN FLORISTICS

This award was instituted in 1997 through a generous donation by Padma Shri Prof. K. S. Manilal (a distinguished plant taxonomist and founding President of IAAT) to recognize the best research paper in floristics, including the description of new species and new distributional records. The award aims to encourage and acknowledge significant contributions to the understanding of plant diversity and distribution.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Age Limit
Up to 32 Years



Life/Annual Member
of IAAT



Floristics, New
Species & Distribution
Records



Ph.D. Holders
Not Eligible
(Theses Submitted
Candidates Eligible)



Based on Oral
Presentation

- The maximum age limit of the applicant is 32 years as on 1st January of the respective year.
- Should be a life/annual member of the association.
- Original research articles in Floristics (including a description of new species and new distributional reports) will be considered for the award.
- Ph.D. holders are not eligible for the award, but scholars who have submitted their theses at the time of notification (not awarded) are eligible to submit their abstracts.
- Final decision on the award will be based on oral presentation in the forthcoming annual conference of the IAAT.



7. PROF. T. R. SAHU AWARD IN MEDICINAL PLANTS SYSTEMATICS

This award was instituted in 1997 through a generous donation by Prof. T. R. Sahu (a distinguished botanist, plant taxonomist and ethnobotanist) to recognize the best research paper in medicinal plant systematics. The award aims to promote and reward significant contributions to the classification, identification, and study of medicinal plants.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Age Limit
Up to 32 Years



Life/Annual Member
of the Association



Original Research Articles
in Medicinal Plants
Systematics



Ph.D. Holders
Not Eligible
(Theses Submitted
Candidates Eligible)



Final Selection
Based on Oral
Presentation

- The maximum age limit of the applicant is 32 years as on 1st January of the respective year.
- Should be a life/annual member of the association.
- Original research articles in Medicinal Plant Systematics will be considered for the award.
- Ph.D. holders are not eligible for the award, but scholars who have submitted their theses at the time of notification (not awarded) are eligible to submit their abstracts.
- Final decision on the award will be based on oral presentation in the forthcoming annual conference of the IAAT.



8. PROF. S. R. YADAV AWARD IN BEST PAPER POSTER PRESENTATION

This award was instituted in 1998 through a generous donation by Prof. S. R. Yadav (a distinguished plant taxonomist and conservation biologist) to recognize the best poster presentation. The award aims to encourage high quality research and effective communication of scientific findings in the form of poster presentations.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



- The maximum age limit of the applicant is 32 years as on 1st January of the respective year.
- Should be a life/annual member of the association.
- This is awarded to original research papers presented in poster presentation session in the IAAT conference.
- Ph.D. holders are not eligible for the award, but scholars who have submitted their theses at the time of notification (not awarded) are eligible to submit their abstracts.
- Final decision on the award will be based on poster presentation in the forthcoming annual conference of the IAAT.



9. FR. ANTONY MUKKATH - PROF. K. S. MANILAL AWARD IN MODERN TECHNIQUES IN PLANT TAXONOMY

Fr. Antony Mukkath and Prof. K. S. Manilal were distinguished botanists, educators, and pioneers in modern plant taxonomy, renowned for their lasting contributions to plant systematics, and the promotion of contemporary taxonomic research in India. This prestigious award was instituted in 2004 through a generous endowment from Prof. K. S. Manilal. The award recognizes the best research paper on modern techniques in plant taxonomy. It aims to encourage the development and application of innovative methodologies in plant classification, systematics, and biodiversity research.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



- The maximum age limit of the applicant is 32 years as on 1st January of the respective year.
- Should be a life/annual member of the association.
- Original research articles in Modern Techniques in Plant Taxonomy will be considered for the award.
- Ph.D. holders are not eligible for the award, but scholars who have submitted their theses at the time of notification (not awarded) are eligible to submit their abstracts.
- Final decision on the award will be based on oral presentation in the forthcoming annual conference of the IAAT.



10. PROF. M. SABU AWARD IN ANGIOSPERM TAXONOMY

This award was instituted in 2006 through a generous donation by Prof. M. Sabu (a distinguished plant taxonomist and internationally recognized authority on Zingiberales) to recognize the best research paper in angiosperm taxonomy presented at the IAAT conference, exclusively by teachers and scientists. The award aims to honour outstanding contributions to the field of angiosperm taxonomy by academic and research professionals.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Age Limit
Up to 45 Years



Life/Annual Member
of the Association



Original Research Articles
in Angiosperm Taxonomy



Final Selection
Based on Oral
Presentation



Exclusively for
Teachers and
Scientists

- The maximum age limit of the applicant is 45 years as on 1st January of the respective year.
- Should be a life/annual member of the association.
- Original research articles in Angiosperm Taxonomy will be considered for the award.
- Final decision on the award will be based on oral presentation in the forthcoming annual conference of the IAAT.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

The Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy (IAAT) has instituted the following schemes to encourage students and researchers in the field of Angiosperm Taxonomy.

Small Collection Grants

Supporting fieldwork, specimen collection, herbarium study and related documentation work.

Eligibility:

- The candidate should be a life/annual member of the association.
- Postgraduate or doctoral students engaged in taxonomy or allied fields.
- Priority to academically meritorious candidates with demonstrable financial need.

Support provided:

- One-time grant of up to ₹10,000, covering travel, specimen collection, field equipment and consumables.

Shri Gajendra Singh Gahlot Memorial Thesis Completion Grant

Helping doctoral students meet important expenses during thesis completion.

Eligibility:

- The candidate should be a life/annual member of the association.
- Ph.D. students in taxonomy or allied disciplines.
- Priority to financially disadvantaged candidates demonstrating satisfactory progress.

Support provided:

- One-time assistance up to ₹10,000.

Shri Gajendra Singh Gahlot Memorial Travel Grant

Enabling students and early-career researchers to present their work at scientific events.

Eligibility:

- The candidate should be a life/annual member of the association.
- Postgraduate, doctoral, or early-career researchers with an accepted oral or poster presentation.
- Preference to applicants without institutional or other external travel support.

Support Provided:

- Partial assistance up to ₹20,000 towards travel, registration or accommodation.

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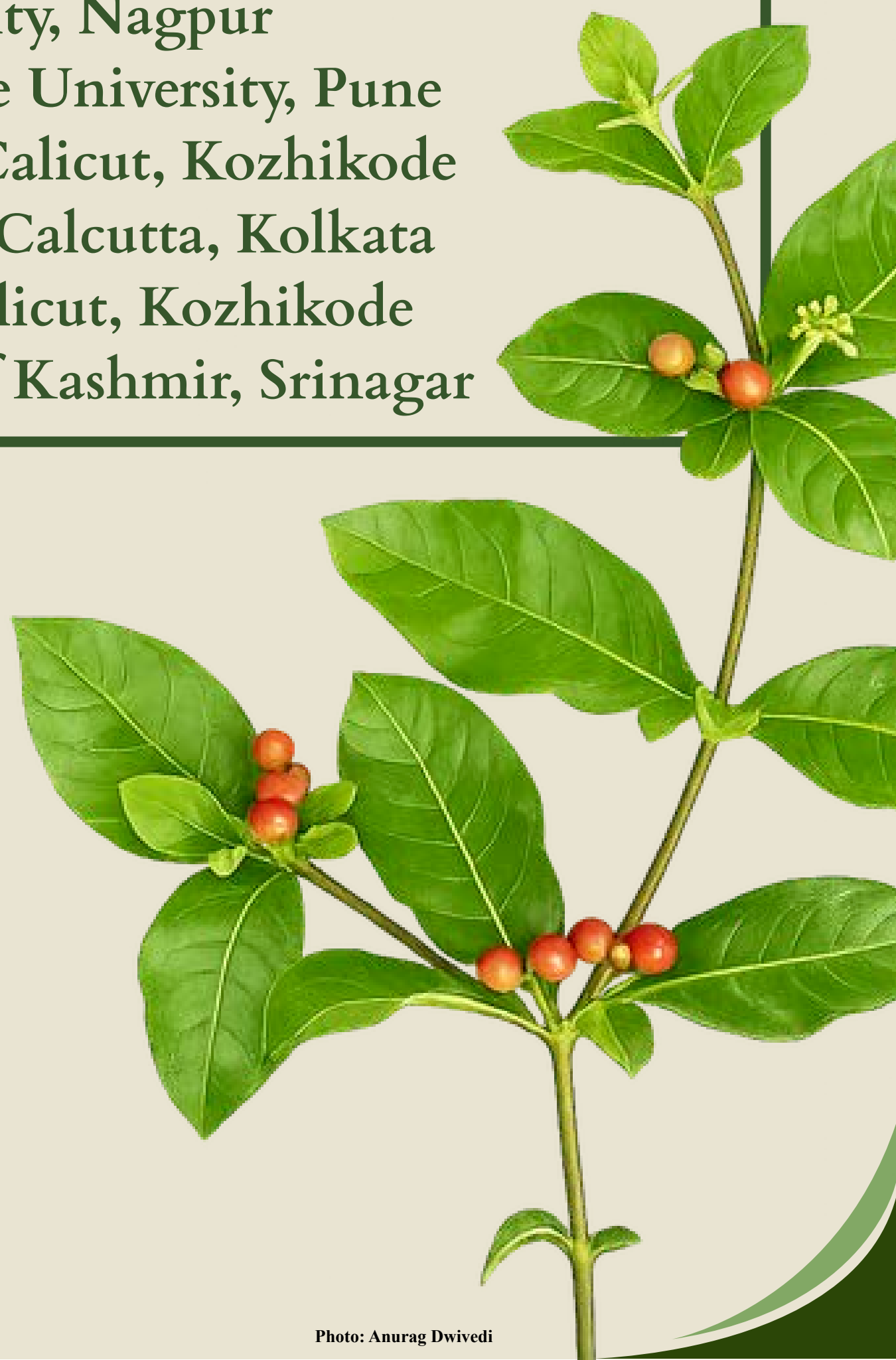
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CONTACT INFORMATION

For queries related to the conference (+919958360044), abstract submission (+919861938443) or sponsorship opportunities(+919981975062), please contact:

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We look forward to welcoming you at
Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Koni, Bilaspur.
Join us for an enriching experience exploring the frontiers of
Angiosperm Taxonomy!

