



Anusandhan
National
Research
Foundation

Department of Plant Sciences, School of Life Sciences
University of Hyderabad, Telangana
National Conference on
Advances in Plant and Environmental Interactions (APEI-2026)
&
17th Plant Sciences Colloquium
(February 25-27, 2026)

| Day 1 February 25, 2026 | |
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| INAUGURAL SESSION | |
| Venue: SLS Auditorium | |
| | <p>Welcome Address Ragiba Makandar, Professor & Head, Dept. of Plant Sciences, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad</p> |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | <p>Remarks of the Dean Anand Kumar Kondapi, Dean, School of Life Sciences, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad</p> |
| | <p>Presidential Address Basuthkar Jagadeeshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad</p> |
| Inaugural Talks | |
| | <p>Chair: Appa Rao Podile Co-Chair: S. Rajagopal</p> |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | <p>Plenary Talk I: Mechanisms of Rhizocompetence in plant growth promoting rhizobacteria Anil Kumar Tripathi, IISER-Mohali</p> |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | <p>Plenary Talk II: Hidden Regulators: miRNA-encoded and complementary peptides in plant growth and stress resilience Prabodh Kumar Trivedi, CSIR-CIMAP</p> |
| 11:00 – 11:03 | <p>Vote of Thanks Sribash Roy, Organizing Secretary - I, APEI-2026, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad</p> |
| ~ Group Photo & High Tea ~ | |
| SESSION I: Developmental Biology | |
| | <p>Chair: Rameshwar Sharma Co-Chair: Yelam Sreenivasulu</p> |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | <p>Keynote Lecture: Plant meiosis, gametogenesis, and flowering plant evolution Imran Siddiqi, CSIR-CCMB, Hyderabad</p> |
| 12:00 – 12:25 | <p>Invited Lecture I: Mitochondrial retrograde signaling in plants: Involvement of voltage-dependent anion channel, ROS and calcium in stress signaling Girdhar K. Pandey, University of Delhi South Campus, New Delhi</p> |
| 12:25 – 12:50 | <p>Invited Lecture II: The E3 ubiquitin ligases RDU1 and RDU2 control photosensory hypocotyl growth via inhibiting PIF3 and PIF4 activity in Arabidopsis Sreeramaiah N. Gangappan, IISER, Kolkata</p> |
| 12:50 – 1:00 | <p>Colloquium Presentation I: Manipulating folate degradation appears to be a promising approach to enhance folate levels in tomato fruits. Juvaria Raouf (20LPPH03), University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad</p> |
| LUNCH Ground Floor - SLS | |
| SESSION II: Plant-Environment Interaction | |
| | <p>Chair: A. S. Raghavendra Co-Chair: Irfan A Ghazi</p> |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | <p>Keynote Lecture: Demystifying proteogenomic landscape and organellar odyssey empowering multi-host resistance in fungal disease Subhra Chakraborty, BRIC-NIPGR, New Delhi</p> |

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| 14:30 – 14:55 | Invited Lecture I: Bacterial cell walls Manjula Reddy, CSIR-CCMB, Hyderabad |
| 14:55 – 15:20 | Invited Lecture II: How mycorrhizal fungi help chickpea fight combined drought and dry root rot? Senthil-Kumar Muthappa, BRIC-NIPGR, New Delhi. |
| 15:20 – 15:45 | Invited Lecture III: Elucidation of the biosynthetic pathway of C3-epimeric triterpenoids in Boswellia Sumit Ghosh, CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow |
| 15:45 – 16:10 | Invited Lecture IV: Delineate signaling cascades essential for root nodule symbiosis in crop legumes Swarup Roy Choudhury, IISER-Tirupati |
| ~ Tea Break ~ | |
| SESSION II: Plant-Environment Interaction (continues) | |
| Chair: G. Padmaja Co-Chair: Jogi Madhuprakash | |
| 16:30 – 16:55 | Invited Lecture V: Development of durable resistance to bacterial blight disease in rice Hitendra Kumar Patel, CSIR-CCMB, Hyderabad |
| 16:55 – 17:20 | Invited Lecture VI: Plant antiviral response emerges from dsRBD dynamics and not just the structure Mandar V Deshmukh, CSIR-CCMB, Hyderabad |
| 17:20 – 17:30 | Colloquium Presentation I: Analyzing the effect of the azole fungicide tebuconazole on the fungal pathogen, <i>Fusarium graminearum</i> Sristishila Baruah (21LPPH11), University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad |
| 17:30 – 17:40 | Colloquium Presentation II: Identifying the genetic components altered by phytoplasma infection in sesame (<i>Sesamum indicum</i> L.) Arya Ramachandran (21LPPH12), University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad |
| ~ Tea Break ~ | |
| 17:40 – 19:15 | POSTER PRESENTATIONS & EVALUATION @ SLS Lobby |
| ~ Dinner Ground Floor - SLS ~ | |
| **End of Day 1** | |
| Day 2 February 26, 2026 | |
| Venue: SLS Seminar Hall | |
| SESSION III: Genomics and Epigenomics | |
| Chair: Alok Krishna Sinha Co-Chair: Santosh R. Kanade | |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | Keynote Lecture: Mitogen Activated Protein Kinase: Orchestrating plant growth and adaptation Alok Krishna Sinha, BRIC-NIPGR, New Delhi |
| 10:00 – 10:25 | Invited Lecture I: The interplay between histone acetylation and methylation regulates cotton fiber development Samir V Sawant, CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow |
| 10:25 – 10:50 | Invited Lecture II: Role of climate in species distribution and role of reproductive factors in plant species diversity in the Indian tropics Vinita Gowda, IISER-Bhopal |
| 10:50 – 11:10 | Oral Presentation I: MYB4 Homeostasis as a Regulatory Node in Seedling Development: Roles of ARA4, HY5, and CAM7 Siddhartha Dutta, Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata |
| 11:10 – 11:30 | Oral Presentation II: Engineering Lignocellulosic Biomass in <i>Sorghum bicolor</i> through CRISPR/Cas9 Editing of <i>CCoAOMT</i> and <i>COMT</i> genes S. Prasant, Osmania University, Hyderabad |
| ~ Tea Break ~ | |
| SESSION IV: Microbiology and Phycology | |
| Chair: Ch Venkata Ramana Co-Chair: K. Gopinath | |
| 11:50 – 12:20 | Keynote Lecture: Unravelling the enigmatic plant-pathogen interactions in sugarcane employing “omics” toolbox - a way towards engineering disease-resilient sugarcane Amalraj Ramesh Sundar, ICAR-SBI, Coimbatore |

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| 12:20 – 12:40 | Oral Presentation I: MPK3 mediated phosphorylation of WRKY48 down regulates CIPK6 expression during <i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> pv. <i>tomato</i> challenge in Arabidopsis Nidhi Singh, BRIC-NIPGR, New Delhi, |
| 12:40 – 12:50 | Colloquium Presentation I: Ureolytic bacterial diversity associated with calcifying seaweeds <i>Jania</i> sp. and <i>Halimeda</i> sp. Sushmita Mallick (21LPPH02), University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad |
| 12:50 – 1:00 | Colloquium Presentation II: Bacterial endophytes from wild millets and their role in plant growth promotion Sethu Kalyani (21LPPH10), University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad |
| LUNCH Ground Floor - SLS | |
| SESSION V: Student Colloquium | |
| Chair: Jogi Madhuprakash Co-Chair: S. Siddharthan | |
| 14:00 – 14:10 | Colloquium Presentation I: Comprehensive genome sequence analysis provides insights into the pathogenicity of Indian <i>Xanthomonas oryzae</i> pv. <i>oryzae</i> strains Komal Bhati (21LPPH01), University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad |
| 14:10 – 14:20 | Colloquium Presentation II: Ecological and genomic insights into seaweed-associated Verrucomicrobiota from the Gulf of Mannar Ramudu (21LPPH08), University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad |
| 14:20 – 14:30 | Colloquium Presentation III: Decoding the rasāyana basis of ayurvedically important indigenous rice bran cultivars through integrated metabolomics and network-pharmacology studies Komaragiri Rajesh Babu (21LPPH06), University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad |
| 14:30 – 14:40 | Colloquium Presentation IV: When does <i>Pseudomonas paraeruginosa</i> become a predator? A multi-omics approach in understanding the predatory mechanism(s) Hari Naga Papa Rao (22LMPH01), University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad |
| 14:40 – 14:50 | Colloquium Presentation V: Investigating the reversible induction of photosynthetic complexes in <i>Chlamydomonas reinhardtii</i> under salt stress Namrata Dubey (22LPPH06), University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad |
| 14:50- 15:00 | Colloquium Presentation VI: Dynamic Regulation of Pectin Methylesterification Controls Cell Wall Plasticity Under Cadmium Hormesis Manish Yadav (20LPPH07), University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad |
| 15:00 – 15:10 | Colloquium Presentation VII: Targeting NSm-interacting host susceptibility genes in tomato for engineering resistance to Groundnut Bud Necrosis Virus Appus MV (20LPPH16), University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad |
| ~ Tea Break ~ | |
| SESSION VI: Molecular Breeding/Genomics | |
| Chair: Ragiba Makandar Co-Chair: Vadivelmurugan I | |
| 15:20 – 15:50 | Keynote Lecture: Making Rice Climate Resilient Raman Meenakshi Sundaram, ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad |
| 15:50 – 16:15 | Invited Lecture I: Technology-integrated breeding pipelines for hybrid seed product development Thimmaraju Rudrappa, Kaveri Seeds, Hyderabad |
| 16:15 – 16:40 | Oral Presentation I: Title Fabrication of Biosensors for Food toxins and Adulterant detection Gajjala Sumana, CSIR-NPL, New Delhi. |
| 16:40 – 17:00 | Oral Presentation II: Functional Screening of Phosphate-Solubilizing Rhizobacteria Associated with Finger Millet from Pachaimalai Region, Tamil Nadu Subha Vairavel, Bharathidasan University |
| 17:15 – 18:15 | POSTER PRESENTATIONS & EVALUATION @ SLS Lobby |
| ~ Dinner Ground Floor - SLS ~ | |
| **End of Day 2** | |
| Day 3 February 27, 2026 | |
| Venue: SLS Seminar Hall | |

| Mahesh Award Presentation | |
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| Chair: Jerome Xavier Gunasekaran | |
| 10:00 – 10:20 | Mahesh Award Lecture: Poly-3-hydroxy butyrate production and it's characterization from a new species, <i>Rhodobacter alkalitolerans</i> strain JA916 ^T in different growth conditions Mohammad Yusuf Zamal (18LPPH09), University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad |
| SESSION VII: Plant Stress Adaption | |
| Chair: Swarup Roychoudhury Co-Chair: Vadivelmurugan I | |
| 10:20 – 10:40 | Oral Presentation I: Unveiling PUB E3 Ligases in Arabidopsis Pollen-Pistil Dialogue Sourabh Parmar , IIT-Gandhinagar |
| 10:40 – 11:00 | Oral Presentation II: Conserved synteny and tandem duplication events drive the expansion of intronless wound induced protein (WIP) gene family in chickpea and Medicago Aravind Kumar Konda , ICAR-IIPR, Kanpur |
| 11:00 – 11:20 | Oral Presentation III: Leaf ontogeny shapes primary and secondary metabolic responses to herbivory Anit Baidya , Central University of Karnataka, Gulbarga |
| ~ Tea Break ~ | |
| VALEDICTORY SESSION | |
| 11:40 – 11:45 | Opening Remarks Sribash Roy , Organizing Secretary-I, APEI 2026, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad |
| 11:45 – 12:15 | Valedictory Address M. N. V. Prasad , University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad |
| 12:15 – 12:40 | Distribution of Prizes and Certificates |
| 12:40 – 12:45 | Vote of Thanks Vadivelmurugan I , Organizing Secretary - II, APEI-2026, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, Telangana |
| ~ Lunch & Departure ~ | |
| **End of the Program** | |