



VIROCON-2026



National Conference on

Viruses in a Changing World: Ecology, Evolution and Future Preparedness

11-13 November 2026

Pre-conference workshop on each branch on 10 November 2026 at ICAR-CTCRI

Venue: Hotel Lemon Tree Premier, Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam



Organized by

**Indian Virological Society, New Delhi &
ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram**

In association with

**ICAR-National Research Centre for Banana, Tiruchirappalli &
Institute of Advanced Virology, Govt. of Keralam, Thiruvananthapuram**





Invitation

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, it is our immense pleasure and privilege to extend a warm invitation to join us at VIROCON 2026, India's premier multidisciplinary virology conference bringing together scientists working on plant, animal, human and asetric viruses under one health framework. This year, the national conference centres on the vital theme: **Viruses in changing world: Ecology, Evolution and Future Preparedness.**

The shifting realities of global climate change, cross-species transmission pathways and transboundary outbreaks demand a unified One Health approach. The symposium will accelerate knowledge exchange, highlight advances in diagnostics, vaccines and functional genomics, and foster strong cross-sectoral collaborations.

The three-day event will feature plenary lectures, invited talks, competitive oral and poster presentations, and specialized technical tracks. We look forward to welcoming you to the capital city of Keralam for an intellectually stimulating and memorable event.

Chairman, VIROCON 2026

Director, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CTCRI)

Why Attend VIROCON 2026?

- 300+ delegates
- 8+ Invited speakers
- 8+ Scientific Themes
- Young Scientist Awards
- Networking opportunities



About the Hosts

About ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CTCRI)

Established in 1963, the ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CTCRI) is a premier Institute of national importance under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) dedicated to research on tropical tuber crops. Headquartered in Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam, the Institute has earned global acclaim for its contributions to germplasm conservation, crop improvement, crop production, crop protection, value addition and technology transfer strategies. The Institute has developed and popularized 79 improved varieties besides evolving zone-specific agro-techniques and cropping systems for climate resilient farming as well as an array of value added food, feed and industrial products to improve the livelihoods of about 200 million people who directly or indirectly depend on these crops for food and nutritional security.

ICAR-CTCRI has pioneered research in plant tissue culture, virus elimination protocols and management of high-consequence agricultural pests and diseases, such as cassava mosaic disease and sweet potato viral complexes. With advanced diagnostic facilities and research frameworks, the Institute contributes to food security, biosecurity preparedness and agricultural resilience.

About Indian Virological Society (IVS)

The Indian Virological Society (IVS), a proud member of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS), was established in December 1984 with the core objective of promoting research and development across all domains of virology.

IVS provides a unique scientific platform for professionals studying viruses affecting plants, animals, humans, fish and other living organisms. It collaborates with the World Society for Virology, publishes the internationally reputed journal *VirusDisease* with Springer Nature, and recognizes excellence through Fellowships, Lifetime Achievement and Young Scientist awards.

About ICAR-National Research Centre for Banana (ICAR-NRCB), Tiruchirappalli

ICAR-NRCB, Tiruchirappalli, was established in 1993 by the ICAR, New Delhi. The office-cum-laboratory building is located in Thogamalai road at Thayanur besides a research farm of 90 acres at Podavur village located 1.5

km away from the office. The centre works on four major thrust areas of research viz., Crop Improvement, Crop Production, Crop Protection and Post-Harvest Management to conduct advanced research on all aspects of banana. The mission of the centre is to become a global leader in banana production and productivity and export of banana. The vision of the centre is to increase the production and productivity of quality bananas through technological interventions.

About Institute of Advanced Virology, Thiruvananthapuram

The Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) is an autonomous research institution under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Kerala. Established in 2019 within the Bio 360 Life Sciences Park, Thonnakkal, Thiruvananthapuram, IAV is dedicated to cutting-edge research and diagnostics in virology and infectious diseases. Envisioned as a center of global excellence, IAV is equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories and facilities focused on the research, diagnosis, and management of emerging and re-emerging viral infections. The institute currently houses eight specialized departments, each contributing to the advancement of virology through innovation and knowledge generation. Through its integrated approach to research, diagnostics, and training, IAV plays a pivotal role in addressing local, national, and global challenges in virology, making impactful contributions to science on a global scale.



Venue & Location Guide

Conference Venue: Hotel Lemon Tree Premier, Thiruvananthapuram - 695014, Kerala, India.



About Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum)

Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala, is built across seven hills along the coastal southwest border of India. Known for pristine beaches, historic architecture and lush green canopies, the city is also a major scientific hub with institutions such as ICAR-CTCRI, BRIC-RGCB, IIST, IISER, CSIR-NIIST, SCTIMST, NCESS, C-DAC and VSSC.

Climate in November: Mid-November is generally pleasant, with comfortable temperatures ranging from 23 °C to 31 °C, making it a suitable post-monsoon window to explore the region.

Local attractions include Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Kovalam and Varkala beaches, Napier Museum, Kuthiramalika Palace and Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary.



Conference Highlights

- Plenary lectures and invited talks by distinguished virologists
- Competitive oral and poster presentations
- Specialized tracks in plant, medical, veterinary and aquatic virology
- One Health and technological interface deliberations
- Industry and academia interactions



How to Reach the Venue

By Air: Thiruvananthapuram International Airport (TRV) is well connected by domestic flights and international flights from the Middle East and Southeast Asia. The airport is about 10-12 km from the venue and city centre.

By Train: Thiruvananthapuram Central (TVC) & Thiruvananthapuram North (TVCN) are two major railway terminals with superfast, express and Vande Bharat train connectivity, located approximately 10-11 km from the venue.

By Road: The city has excellent highway connectivity via NH 66 and frequent KSRTC services to major destinations including Kochi (≈220 km), Bengaluru (≈700 km), Madurai (≈250 km) and Chennai (≈700 km).



Local Attractions

- Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple
- Kovalam and Varkala beaches
- Napier Museum and Kuthiramalika Palace
- Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary



Conference Dates
11-13 November 2026



Official Email
virocon2026@gmail.com



Website
<https://isrc.in/virocon2026>



Technical Sessions

1. Emerging, Re-emerging, and Transboundary Viral Pathogens
2. Ecological Dynamics
3. Next-Generation Diagnostics: Point-of-Care, CRISPR, and Field Deployment
4. Computational Virology, AI, and Machine Learning in Pathogen Surveillance
5. High-Throughput Vironomics, Metagenomics, and Evolutionary Dynamics
6. Host-Virus-Vector Interplay and Molecular Pathogenesis
7. Novel Therapeutics, Phages, Structural Virology, and Next-Gen Vaccines
8. Climate Change, Anthropogenic Pressures, and Eco-Viral Dynamics



Call for Abstracts & Registration



Call for Abstracts

Abstracts of scientific papers are invited for oral and poster presentations during VIROCON 2026. Abstracts should be submitted through the official conference portal- <https://isrc.in/virocon2026>. All the accepted abstracts will be published in Virus Disease Journal.



Abstract Preparation Guidelines

Guideline Item	Specifications
Software	MS Word or equivalent software compatible with MS Word
File format	.doc or .docx
Page size	A4 (210 x 297 mm); 1 inch / 2.54 cm margin on all sides.
Theme	Mention the thematic area on the upper left corner of the page.
Title	Concise, specific and informative; avoid abbreviations and formulae wherever possible.
Authors	Write full names. Mark presenting author or corresponding author with an asterisk (*); use superscript numerals for multiple affiliations
Main content	State purpose, significant findings and major conclusions. Avoid tables, figures and references. Maximum 300 words.
Keywords	Provide 5-7 relevant keywords, arranged alphabetically and separated by commas



Registration Fee Structure

Category of delegates	Early bird (Till 15 Sept 2026)	Regular (Till 15 Oct 2026)	Late / spot
IVS Members	9,000	10,500	11,500
Non-IVS Members	10,000	11,500	12,500
Students / Research Fellows	4,000	4,500	5,000
Industry / Corporate Delegates	15,000	17,000	20,000
Accompanying Person (No kit)	5,500	6,500	7,500

Note: All fees are in Indian Rupees (INR) and are inclusive of GST. The registration fee includes participation in the conference, lunch, refreshments, conference bag, abstract book, conference proceedings, welcome and closing ceremony. All other expenses to be borne by the participants.



Mode of Payments

Delegates can pay the registration fee online or account transfer in favour of "**VIROCON 2026 Organizing Committee**" payable at Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam, India to the account details given below:

Name of Bank : State Bank of India
Branch Name : Sreekariyam
Account Name : Virocon 2026 Organizing Committee
Account No. : 45402489818
IFSC Code : SBIN0070288
MICR Code : 695002942
Upon payment please share the payment details by email - virocon2026@gmail.com



Important Dates

Opening of abstract submission	10 August 2026
Last date for abstract submission (Oral / Poster)	15 September 2026
Notification of abstract acceptance	01 October 2026
Last date for registration	15 October 2026
Conference dates	11-13 November 2026



Sponsorships, Awards & Exhibitions



Sponsorship Opportunities

Industries, biotechnology companies and laboratory equipment manufacturers are invited to showcase their products and portfolios. Sponsorship tiers offer prominent venue visibility, dedicated stalls and presentation opportunities.



Sponsorship Details

Sponsorship category	Amount (INR)	Indicative benefits
Diamond Sponsor	20 Lakh	Presentation by company representative; two full-page company profiles in abstract book; logo display during conference; sponsor name on website; promotional materials; three complimentary registrations; exhibition stall.
Platinum Sponsor	15 Lakh	Full-page company profile in abstract book; logo on delegate bag; logo display; sponsor name on website; promotional materials; two complimentary registrations; exhibition stall.
Gold Sponsor	10 Lakh	Banner display; promotional materials; one-page company profile in abstract book; sponsor name on website; one complimentary registration.
Silver Sponsor	5 Lakh	Banner display; promotional materials; one-page company profile in abstract book; sponsor name on website



Professional & Presentation Awards

- **IVS Society Awards:** Excellence awards, fellowships and lifetime achievements will be conferred during the inaugural session according to IVS criteria. **IVS Young Scientist Award** recognize the outstanding research contribution in the field of virology. **IVS Travel Grant** to encourage participation of students/post-docs who are not receiving any Fellowship/Scholarship from any resource. **SpringerNature-IVS Best Paper Award** to recognize and promote quality contributions to academic research and writing among scholars and students who publish papers in VirusDisease journal.
- **Best Presentation Awards:** Distinguished juries will select the best oral and poster presentations across the sessions.



Exhibition and Industry Interface

The conference will provide opportunities for companies, start-ups and technology providers in diagnostics, sequencing, vaccines, laboratory equipment, bioinformatics, field surveillance, sample processing and related sectors to interact with delegates and institutions.

Suggested Exhibitor Categories: Diagnostics and reagents Sequencing and molecular biology platforms

- Field surveillance and biosecurity tools Vaccines and therapeutics Laboratory equipment and consumables



Organizing Leadership

Chief Patrons:

- Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi
- Dr. Rajiv Bahl, DG, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi
- Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi

Patrons:

- Dr. S.K. Singh, DDG (HS), ICAR, New Delhi
- Dr. Raghavendra Bhatta, DDG (Animal Science), ICAR, New Delhi
- Dr. Joykrushna Jena, DDG (Fisheries Science), ICAR, New Delhi
- Dr. Yashpal S. Malik, DDG (Edn), ICAR, New Delhi

Organizing Committee:

Chairman: Dr. G. Byju, Director, ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, (ICAR-CTCRI)
Thiruvananthapuram

Co-Chairmen:

- Dr. R. Selvarajan, Director, ICAR-NRCB, Tiruchirappalli
- Dr. E. Sreekumar, Director, Institute of Advanced Virology, Thiruvananthapuram

Organizing Secretary: Dr. T. Makesh Kumar, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram

Co-Organizing Secretaries:

- Dr. M.L. Jeeva, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram
- Dr. H. Kesava Kumar, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram

Treasurer: Dr. T. Krishnakumar, ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram

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Plant Virology	: Dr. Celia Chalam Vasimalla, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi
Medical Virology	: Dr. A.K. Bagga, Ex-Scientist-E, ICMR, New Delhi & Dr. Shailendra Saxena, Vice Dean, KGMU, Lucknow
Animal Virology	: Dr. Baldev R. Gulati, Director, ICAR-NIVEDI, Bengaluru
Aquatic Virology	: Dr. M. Makesh, ICAR-CIBA, Chennai & Dr. Megha Kadam Bedekar, CIFE, Mumbai

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Dr. Priya Abraham, Former Director, ICMR-NIV, Pune
Prof. D. Behera, Former Dean, PGIMER, Chandigarh
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