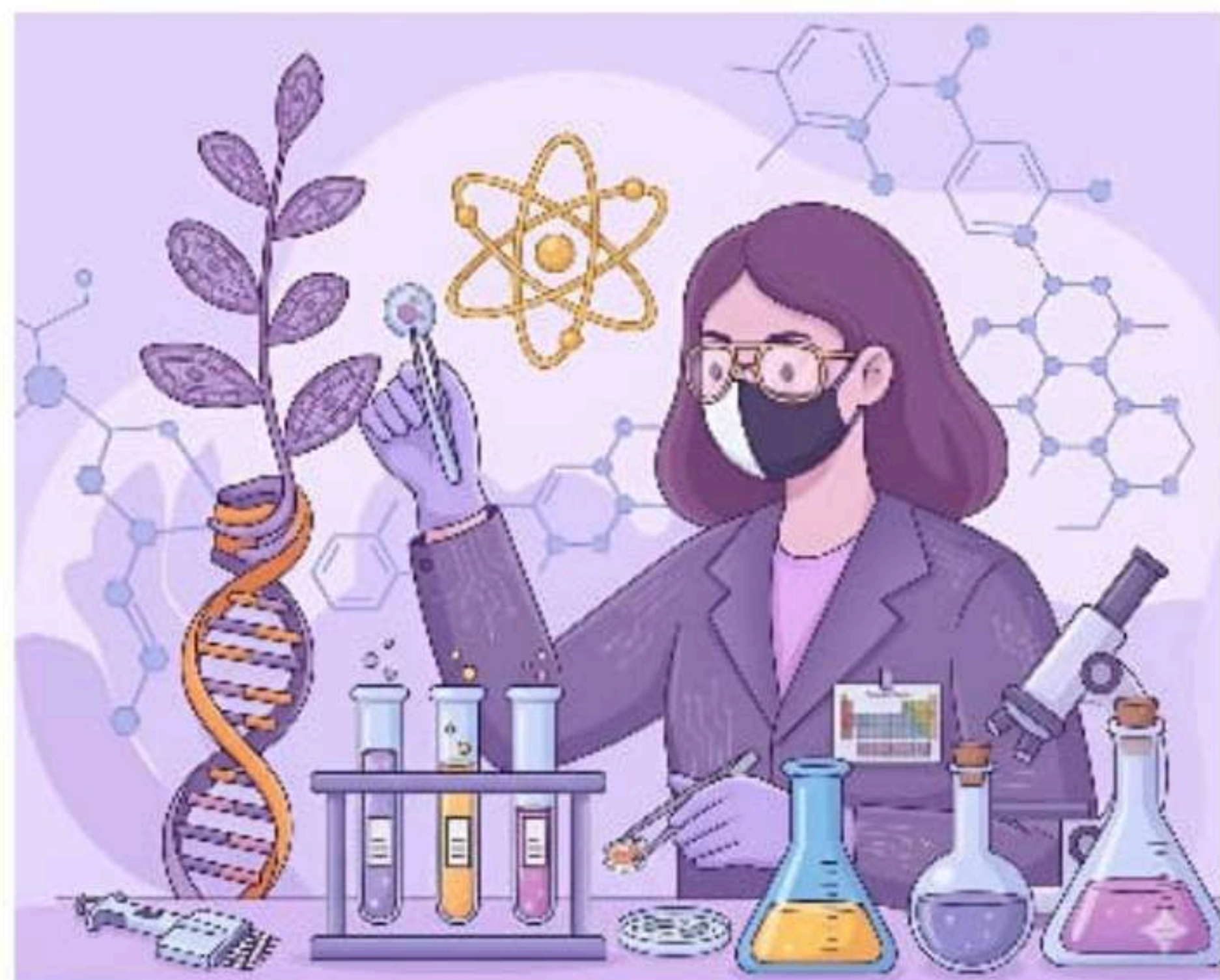
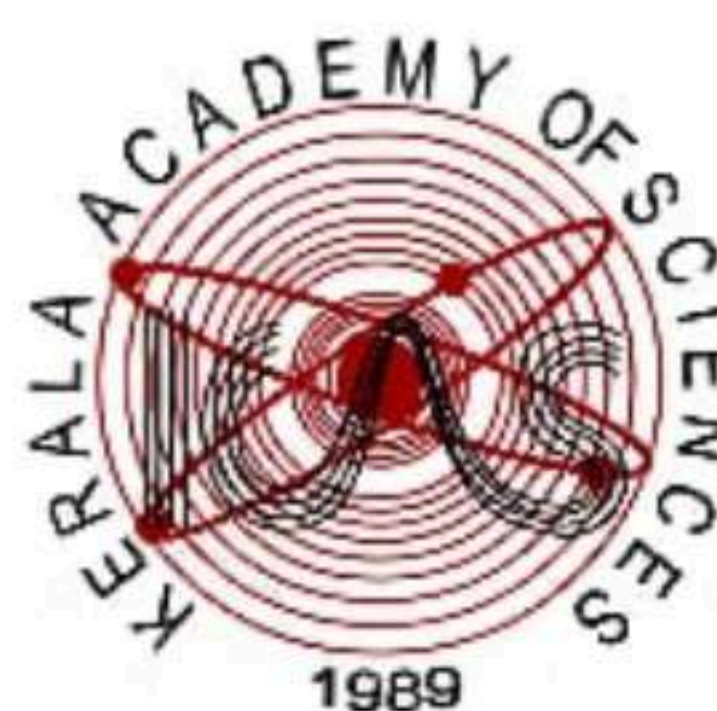


KERALA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY 2026



Theme

**Women in Science:
Catalysing Viksit Bharat**

Organised jointly by
School of Biosciences

&

National Institute of
Plant Science Technology
(NIPST)

Mahatma Gandhi University,
PD Hills, Kottayam Kerala



Inauguration

Prof. (Dr.) C. T. Aravindakumar
Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University



Presidential address

Prof. Dr. Linu Mathew
Director, School of Biosciences
Mahatma Gandhi University



Invited speaker

Dr. Ditty Dixon
Associate Professor, School of Chemical Sciences
Mahatma Gandhi University.



Invited speaker

Dr. Rekha Karumamkandathil
Senior Scientist
Rubber Research Institute, Kottayam, Kerala



About:

Kerala Academy of Sciences (KAS), established in 1989, is a vibrant professional forum that brings together scientists, academicians, technocrats, medical professionals, and science managers. With a strong mission of science popularization and nurturing a scientific temper, the Academy serves as an interdisciplinary platform where ideas, discoveries, and societal challenges are discussed and translated into meaningful action. KAS today has a distinguished fellowship comprising 19 Honorary Fellows, 89 Fellows, and a growing community of 760+ Life Members. Through an active calendar of programmes, the Academy reaches diverse audiences across Kerala conducting outreach initiatives for school students, public engagement programmes, international seminars, commemorative and endowment lectures, and the statewide observance of major Science & Technology days thereby strengthening the scientific culture of the State and inspiring the next generation of innovators.

School of Biosciences (SBS) had its beginning as School of Basic Medical Sciences in 1983 by utilizing the faculty and infrastructure of Medical College Hospital, Kottayam. In 1990, the School was renamed as School of Biosciences and is acclaimed for its research activities which provide an exclusive platform for the new generation scientists. While anchoring on fundamental knowledge and its application, School provides the students with opportunities to gain expertise in a wide spectrum of areas such as Biochemistry, Microbiology, Biotechnology and Biophysics.

National Institute of Plant Science Technology (NIPST), an Inter-School centre of Mahatma Gandhi University, was established on 20th August 2014. The institute provides excellent infrastructure facilities to promote research in Interdisciplinary areas of 'Plants and their Environment Relations' towards developing 'Plant-based Eco-technologies'. The Institute will inspire students to apply their creative talents to exploit research potentials of the rich botanical wealth of Kerala for the development of globally significant technologies that are useful in sustainable agricultural, phyto-medicinal, bio-fuel, biobased industrial and eco-remediation purposes.

Venue:

**Franklin Hall
School of Biosciences,
Mahatma Gandhi University,
Kottayam, Keralam**

on

05.03.2026

10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Convenors:

**Prof. (Dr.) Jayachandhran K.
Prof. (Dr.) Jisha M.S.
Dr. Raji V.**

KERALA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY-2026

School of Biosciences & National Institute of
Plant Science Technology (NIPST)

Mahatma Gandhi University

05.03.2026; 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Programme

Inauguration : 10 a.m.

Welcome	: Dr. Raji V., SBS, MGU
Presidential Address	: Prof. Linu Mathew, Director, SBS
Inaugural Address	: Prof. (Dr.) C.T. Aravindakumar Hon. Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University
Felicitation	: Prof. Jayachandran K. (Executive Member, KAS)
Vote of Thanks	: Dr. Karthika S. Assistant Professor, NIPST

10.30 a.m. - 11.15 a.m.

Invited talk 1	: Dr. Ditty Dixon Associate professor, SCS, MGU
Title : Career Opportunities and Work-Life Balance	

11.15 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. : Tea Break

11.30 a.m. - 12.15 p.m.

Invited Talk 2	: Dr. Rekha Karumamkandathil Senior Scientist, (RRI, Kottayam)
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Title : The Odyssey of Natural Rubber Research: Classical Breeding
to Gene Editing

12.15 p.m. : Concluding Remarks