38th Kerala Science Congress

30 Jan - 02 Feb, 2026

St. Albert's College (Autonomous), Ernakulam

M. S. Valiathan Memorial Lecture

(A prelude to 38th Kerala Science Congress)

In association with Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology

18.11.2025 | 10.30 AM - 12.30 PM

Venue: Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies Auditorium, SCTIMST

Welcome

Prof. A. Sabu

Member Secretary, KSCSTE &
General Convenor, 38th Kerala Science Congress

Presidential Address

Prof. K. P. Sudheer

Executive Vice President , KSCSTE

Introduction to Dr. M. S. Valiathan

Dr. Sanjay Behari

Director, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST)

Introducing the Speaker

Dr. Sarika A. R.

Principal Scientist , KSCSTE

M. S. Valiathan Memorial Lecture

Prof. Rajesh S. Gokhale

Secretary, Department of Biotechnology
Government of India

Word of Thanks

Arjun Prasad

Scientist, KSCSTE

Dr. M. S. Valiathan (1934–2024) was a pioneering Indian cardiac surgeon, the founding director of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute (Thiruvananthapuram), and a key force behind India's indigenous TTK-Chitra mechanical heart valve. Trained at Trivandrum Medical College, Liverpool, and later at Johns Hopkins and Georgetown, he combined surgery with biomedical innovation and institution-building. He served as the first Vice-Chancellor of the Manipal Academy of Higher Education, became a National Research Professor, and wrote acclaimed works on Ayurveda (The Legacy of Caraka, Suśruta, and Vāgbhaṭa). Honours include the Padma Vibhushan (2005) and leadership of the Indian National Science Academy.

Prof. Rajesh S. Gokhale is Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, on deputation from IISER Pune. He formerly directed the CSIR–Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), where he established its South Campus and led translational genomics research on complex diseases. Trained as a chemical biologist at IISc Bangalore and Stanford University, his work has uncovered novel metabolites implicated in disease pathophysiology, including Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection and vitiligo. Dr. Gokhale is a recipient of the Infosys Prize and the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, and is a Fellow of all three national science academies of India.