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# 38<sup>TH</sup> KERALA SCIENCE CONGRESS

30 Jan- 2 Feb 2026

St. Albert's College (Autonomous)  
Ernakulam

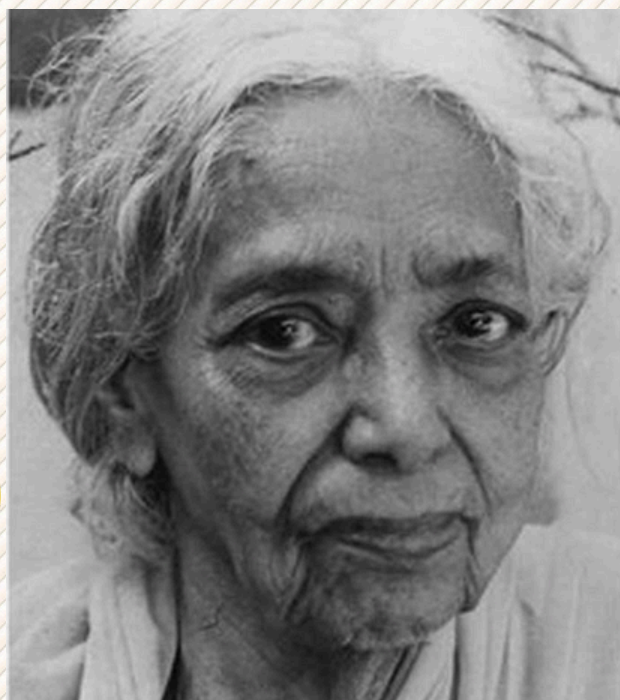


Celebrating Science, Transforming Lives

## E.K. JANAKI AMMAL

### MEMORIAL LECTURE

(A prelude to 38<sup>th</sup> Kerala Science Congress)



13 January 2026

10:30 am-12:30 pm

St. Teresa's College (Autonomous), Ernakulam



Speaker

Prof. Usha Vijayraghavan

Professor

Department of Microbiology  
& Cell Biology  
Indian Institute of Science  
Bengaluru

Registration Link



<https://forms.gle/fFz69twdEwp8dm2b9>  
For details: focalthemekscste@gmail.com

ORGANIZED BY

Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

St Teresa's College (Autonomous), Ernakulam





Celebrating Science, Transforming Lives

## Dr. E.K. Janaki Ammal (1897 - 1984)

Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal (1897–1984) was a trailblazing Indian botanist and cytogeneticist whose work laid a strong foundation for modern plant genetics in India. She made pioneering contributions to the study of plant chromosomes, polyploidy, and hybridization, with special emphasis on sugarcane, brinjal, and other economically important crops. As one of the first Indian women to receive a doctoral degree in science, she broke social and academic barriers and emerged as a role model for women in scientific research. Her studies led to the development of improved sugarcane varieties adapted to Indian climatic conditions, significantly benefiting agriculture. Dr. Janaki Ammal worked at prestigious research institutions in India, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and later served at the Botanical Survey of India, where she also championed biodiversity conservation. Awarded the Padma Shri, she is remembered as one of India's most inspiring women scientists and a pioneer of plant cytogenetics.



## Prof. Usha Vijayraghavan

Prof. Usha Vijayraghavan is a distinguished molecular biologist and Professor in the Department of Microbiology & Cell Biology at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. Her research centers on gene regulation and developmental biology, using yeast and plant models, with a strong focus on rice. Trained at Caltech, Prof. Vijayraghavan has made seminal contributions to understanding how transcription factors regulate plant growth, development, and flowering. Her work has significantly advanced knowledge of plant developmental mechanisms and gene control networks. Beyond her research, she has played important leadership roles at IISc, including serving as Dean of the Biological Sciences Division. In recognition of her scientific excellence, she has received several prestigious honors, including the National Bioscience Award, the Har Swarup Medal, and the C. V. Raman Award, and is widely respected as a leading figure in Indian biological sciences.



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