



NII FOUNDATION DAY SYMPOSIUM

Celebrating Biology Beyond Boundaries

5 OCTOBER 2026

**GP TALWAR AUDITORIUM
BRIC - NII, NEW DELHI**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Rajesh S. Gokhale
Director General, BRIC
Secretary, DBT

SPEAKERS

Bhavana Tiwari
IISER Berhampur

Deepa Subramanyam
BRIC-NCCS

Kartik Sunagar
IISc

Vatsala Thirumalai
NCBS

Jyothilakshmi Vadassery
BRIC-NIPGR

Mahendran K. R.
BRIC-RGCB

Gaurav Ahuja
IIT-Delhi

Siddhesh Kamat
IISER Pune

Sudha Kumari
IISc



Registration is free but mandatory and is subject to seat availability. Kindly register to confirm your participation. BRIC-NII will not be able to provide or reimburse travel or accommodation expenses for participants.



Keynote Address

Dr Rajesh S. Gokhale

*Director General, BRIC
Secretary, Department of Biotechnology
Government of India*



When the mobile genome becomes a stress signal: LINE-1, R-Loops and epigenetic dysregulation at the maternal-fetal interface

Bhavana Tiwari

Assistant Professor, IISER Berhampur



Novel mutations in clathrin heavy chain affect brain development

Deepa Subramanyam

Scientist F, BRIC-NCCS, Pune



Decoding the universal chemical equation of aging

Gaurav Ahuja

Associate Professor, IIIT-Delhi



Role of calcium channels in plant immune signaling on insect herbivory

Jyothilakshmi Vadassery

Staff Scientist V, BRIC-NIPGR, New Delhi



Snake venom composition Ecology, evolution, and implications for snakebite

Kartik Sunagar
Associate Professor, IISc, Bengaluru



Nanopore bridges: Connecting membranes for ultrasensitive biomarker detection

Mahendran K. R.
Scientist E-II, BRIC-RGCB, Thiruvananthapuram



Beyond cholesterol storage: New functions for cholesteryl esters in immunity and cell biology

Siddhesh Kamat
Professor, IISER Pune



Unusual contacts in unusual contexts: Manipulating cell biological rules for improved cellular immunotherapy

Sudha Kumari
Assistant Professor, IISc, Bengaluru



Neural circuits generating behaviorally relevant predictions and their developmental emergence

Vatsala Thirumalai
Professor and Dean (Research), NCBS, Bengaluru

NII Foundation Day Symposium

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5 October 2026 | GP Talwar Auditorium, BRIC-NII, New Delhi

Time	Program
9:00 – 9:20 AM	Registration and Welcome
9:20 – 9:30 AM	Opening Remarks Dr Pushkar Sharma <i>Director (Additional Charge), BRIC-NII, New Delhi</i>
9:30 – 10:05 AM	Nanopore bridges: Connecting membranes for ultrasensitive biomarker detection Dr Mahendran K. R. <i>Scientist E-II, BRIC-RGCB, Thiruvananthapuram</i>
10:05 – 10:40 AM	Role of calcium channels in plant immune signaling on insect herbivory Dr Jyothilakshmi Vadassery <i>Staff Scientist V, BRIC-NIPGR, New Delhi</i>
10:40 – 11:00 AM	High Tea
11:00 – 11:45 AM	Keynote Address Dr Rajesh S. Gokhale <i>Director General, BRIC</i> <i>Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India</i> From Discovery to Impact: Building bridges across disciplines <i>An interactive discussion with Dr Rajesh S. Gokhale and invited speakers</i>
11:45 AM – 12:20 PM	Snake venom composition. Ecology, evolution, and implications for snakebite Dr Kartik Sunagar <i>Associate Professor, IISc, Bengaluru</i>
12:20 – 12:55 PM	Novel mutations in clathrin heavy chain affect brain development Dr Deepa Subramanyam <i>Scientist F, BRIC-NCCS, Pune</i>
12:55 – 2:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 – 2:35 PM	When the mobile genome becomes a stress signal: LINE-1, R-Loops and epigenetic dysregulation at the maternal-fetal interface Dr Bhavana Tiwari <i>Assistant Professor, IISER Berhampur</i>
2:35 – 3:10 PM	Decoding the universal chemical equation of aging Dr Gaurav Ahuja <i>Associate Professor, IIIT-Delhi</i>
3:10 – 3:45 PM	Unusual contacts in unusual contexts: Manipulating cell biological rules for improved cellular immunotherapy Dr Sudha Kumari <i>Assistant Professor, IISc, Bengaluru</i>
3:45 – 4:05 PM	High Tea
4:05 – 4:40 PM	Beyond cholesterol storage: New functions for cholesteryl esters in immunity and cell biology Dr Siddhesh Kamat <i>Professor, IISER Pune</i>
4:40 – 5:15 PM	Neural circuits generating behaviorally relevant predictions and their developmental emergence Dr Vatsala Thirumalai <i>Professor and Dean (Research), NCBS, Bengaluru</i>