4th Annual Symposium on Advances in Algal Research (AAR-2026)

November 3-4, 2026 | Venue: CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur

PROGRAM

DAY 1: 3rd November 2026		
08:00-09:00	**Registration & Breakfast** **Registration Venue: Foyer, Main Building** **Breakfast Venue: Guest House, CSIR-NEERI**	
09:00 – 09:45	**Inaugural Session & AAR 2026 Awards Presentations** **Venue: Auditorium**	
09:45 – 11:30	**IL Session I** **Venue: Auditorium** Chairs: Anushree Malik & N.S. Sampath Kumar	
09:45 – 10:05	Mid-Career Award Winner Talk	
10.05 – 10.23	IL001	**R. Vinu,** IIT Madras *Macroalgae Seaweed to Platform Chemicals via Thermochemical and Catalytic Pathways*
10:23– 10:41	IL002	**Balendra Singh**, DBT *Advancing Low-carbon Transitions through Integrated Biorefinery Innovations*
10:41 – 10:59	IL003	**Gunjan Prakash**, Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai *Algal based cultivation for economic value and environment friendly practices*
10:59 – 11:17	IL004	**Nilotpala Pradhan**, CSIR-IMMT, Bhubaneswar *Algae-Nanomaterial biohybrid system for enhanced yield of biomass and valuable metabolites*
11:17 – 11:30	Q&A Session	
11:30– 12:00	**Tea Break & Networking** **Venue: Guest House, CSIR-NEERI**	
12:00 – 13:30	**IL Session II (Parallel Session)** **Venue: Auditorium** Chairs: Anjani Devi Chintagunta & Nirmal Renuka	
12:00 – 12:18	IL005	**Sabeela Beevi Ummalyma**, RCSS, Kochi *Bioremediation Potential of Micractinium sp. for Bisphenol A Removal in Brackish Water: A Sustainable Strategy for Emerging Contaminant Management*
12:18 – 12:36	IL006	**Venkata Subhash**, Reliance Industries Limited, R&T, Navi Mumbai *Algae Biorefinery: A Sustainable Platform for Value Addition*
12:36 – 12:54	IL007	**Rajasri Yadavalli**, Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology, Hyderabad *From Seaweed to Sustainable Bioplastics: Opportunities, Challenges, and Translational Pathways for Commercial Manufacturing*
12:54 – 13:12	IL008	**Dineshkumar Ramalingam**, CSIR-CSMCRI Bhavnagar *Marine Microalgae for Flue Gas CO_2 Sequestration: From Laboratory Optimization to Pilot-Scale Demonstration Optimization to Pilot-Scale Demonstration*
13:12 – 13:30	Q&A Session	
12:00 – 13:30	**IL Session III (Parallel Session)** **Venue: Committee Room-II** Chairs: Mona Sharma & Monika Prakash Rai	
12:00 – 12:18	IL009	**N. S. Sampath Kumar**, Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology & Research *Microalgal Polysaccharide-Based Synbiotic Encapsulation of Shrimp-Associated Probiotics: A Novel Strategy for Disease Management in Whiteleg Shrimp (Litopenaeus vannamei)*
12:18 – 12:36	IL010	**Manupati Hemalatha**, KL University, Andhra Pradesh *Integrated Photosynthetic Biorefinery Platforms for Sustainable Biomass and Multi-Product Valorisation*
12:36 – 12:54	IL011	**Rajagopal Subramanyam**, University of Hyderabad *Deciphering Acclimation Strategies and Photosystem I Remodelling in Dunaliella salina under Hypersaline Conditions*
12:54 – 13:12	IL012	**Nirmal Renuka**, Central University of Punjab *Microalgal bioinoculants for sustainable agriculture: Effect on soil Microalgal bioinoculants for sustainable agriculture: Effect on soil fertility, microbiome diversity and crop yield*
13:12 – 13:30	Q&A Session	
13:30 – 14:30	**Lunch & Networking** **Venue: Guest House, CSIR-NEERI**	

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14:30– 15:20	**AAR 2026 Award Lectures** **Venue: Auditorium** Chair: R. Vinu	
14:30– 14:50	Early Career Award Winner Talk	
14:50 – 15:10	Emerging Career Award Winner Talk	
15:10 – 15:20	Q&A Session	
15:20 – 16:45	**IL Session IV (Parallel Session)** **Venue: Auditorium** Chairs: Gunjan Prakash & Sabeela Beevi Ummalyma	
15:20 –15:38	IL013	**Kalyan Gayen**, National Institute of Technology Agartala *Microalgae based pharmaceutical products: A case study on extracellular polysaccharide (EPS)*
15:38 –15:56	IL014	**Sangram K. Lenka**, Gujarat Biotechnology University *Engineering the Light-Driven Algal Cell: From Metabolic Reprogramming and Nanobiotechnology to Next-Generation Phycofactories*
15:56 – 16:14	IL015	**Mona Sharma**, Central University of Haryana *Exploration of North Indian Hot Springs for Revealing the Potential of Thermophilic Cyanobacteria for Industrial Applications*
16:14 – 16:32	IL016	**Rishiram Ramanan**, Central University of Kerala *Unveiling unconventional products, processes, and feedstock for advancing algal biorefineries*
16:32 – 16:45	Q&A Session	
15:20 – 16:45	**IL Session V (Parallel Session)** **Venue: Committee Room-II** Chairs: Dineshkumar Ramalingam & V. Veeragurunathan	
15:20 –15:38	IL017	**Monika Prakash Rai**, MNNIT Allahabad *Integration of Nanomaterials in Microalgae System for Carbon capture, Waste utilization and Sustainable Bioproducts*
15:38 –15:56	IL018	**Anjani Devi Chintagunta**, Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology & Research *From Native Cyanobacterial Diversity to Functional Potential: Neowollea manoromensis VU24*
15:56 – 16:14	IL019	**Prangya Ranjan Rout,** Dr B R Ambedkar National Institute of Technology Jalandhar *Algal Biotechnology for Tackling PFAS Contamination: Current Advances and Future Opportunities in Remediation and Biomass Valorization*
16:14 – 16:32	IL020	**Shailendra Pratap Singh**, BHU, Varanasi *Uncovering the broad physiological impact of cyanobacterial glutaredoxins*
16:32 – 16:45	Q&A Session	
16:45 – 18:15	**POSTER SESSION with Tea & Networking** **Venue: Besides Auditorium**	
18:15 – 19:15	**Short Oral Presentations I (Parallel Session): *Wastewater Bioremediation and Resource Recovery*** **Venue: Committee Room-II** Chairs: Rajasri Yadavalli & Manupati Hemalatha	
18:15 – 18:25	SOP 001	**Rupal Singh Tomar,** IPS Academy, Indore *Microalgal Bioremediation of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons: Linking Pollutant Removal with Photosynthetic Responses*
18:25 – 18:35	SOP 002	**Amit Dobhal,** IIT Roorkee *Sequential Aeration and Chitosan Pretreatment of Liquid Anaerobic Digestate for Enhanced Spirulina Cultivation*
18:35 – 18:45	SOP 003	**Dhanasekaran Subashri,** RCSS, Kochi *Algal-Based Biostimulants for Climate-Resilient Agriculture: Preliminary Evaluation of Wastewater-Grown Algal formulation for Seed Priming*
18:45 – 18:55	SOP 004	**Pratiksha Laxmikant Baingane,** IIT Delhi *Edible Agaricus bisporus Mycelia: A Novel Tool for Harvesting Chlorella pyrenoidosa and Generating Nutrient-Rich Composite Biomass*
18:55 – 19:05	SOP 005	**Gautam Venkatrayalu,** IIT Roorkee *Molecular adaptations of microalgae to PVC-nanoplastics stress from a metabolomic and lipidomic perspective*

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19:05 – 19:15	SOP 006	**Anuj Sharma**, MNIT, Allahabad *Deciphering Microalgal Responses to As (III), Cd (II) and Pb (II) Stress: Insights from Growth, Oxidative Stress and Surface Characterization*
18:15 – 19:05	**Short Oral Presentations II (Parallel Session): *Carbon Capture, Climate Mitigation and CO_2 Utilization*** Chairs: Rishiram Ramanan & Shailendra Pratap Singh **Venue: Auditorium**	
18:15 – 18:25	SOP 007	**Ananya Mukherjee,** Azim Premji University, Bhopal *Thylakoid localized bestrophin-like proteins are essential for the CO_2 concentrating mechanism of Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*
18:25 – 18:35	SOP 008	**Vedavarshini N,** IIT Tirupati *Multi-Criteria Decision Framework for Algal Strain Selection for Carbon Capture and Biofuel Production*
18:35 – 18:45	SOP 009	**Rohinish Grover,** IITRoorkee *An Integrated Microalgal Photobioreactor for Air-Quality Improvement, CO_2 Utilization and Biomass Generation*
18:45 – 18:55	SOP 010	**Bharmjeet Singh,** ICGEB, New Delhi *Flipping the Metabolic Switch: CO_2-Enriched Nitrogen Restriction Drives Dual-Phase Astaxanthin Accumulation in Chromochloris zofingiensis*
18:55 – 19:05	SOP 011	**Kanagathara K C,** SASTRA, Thanjavur *Carbon-Negative Biorefineries from Microalgae and Cyanobacteria: A CCUS Perspective*
19:30 – 20:00	**Cultural Program** **Venue: Auditorium**	
20:00 Onwards	**Dinner & Networking** **Venue: Guest House, CSIR-NEERI**	