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Date: 02.04.2026

Respected Sir,

In reply to OM no. 24011/08/2019–GC dated. 25.03.2019 regarding monthly DO letter from Secretary (MoEF&CC) to the Cabinet Secretary, I am furnishing herewith the following major achievements of Botanical Survey of India for the Month of **March, 2026**.

Department: Botanical Survey of India

Important policy decisions taken, Major achievements during the month:

Scientists of BSI described **five (5) taxa as New to Science** from India viz. *Henckelia clarkei* Chowlu, R.Maity, A.Shenoy & S.S.Dash (Gesneriaceae); *Henckelia zingmii* Chowlu, R.Maity, A.Shenoy & S.S. Dash (Gesneriaceae); *Dictyoarthrinium bambusae* Rashmi Dubey (Didymosphaeriaceae); *Vaginatispora bharatensis* Jash & R. Dubey (Lophiostomataceae) and *Actinidia indica* R.Maity, U.L.Tiwari & S.S.Dash, (Actinidiaceae) from India. Besides, Scientists of BSI also reported **eight (08) taxa as new additions, including three (03) taxa as new to India** viz. *Hibiscus clayi* (Malvaceae); *Dictyoarthrinium thailandicum* G.C. Ren & K.D. Hyde (Didymosphaeriaceae) and *Impatiens microcentra* Hand.-Mazz. (Balsaminaceae), and **five (05) taxa as new additions to different states** viz. *Spermacoce remota* Lam. (Rubiaceae) from the Western Himalayas; *Delairea odorata* Lem., a new invasive alien species from North-West Himalaya; *Muntingia calabura* (Muntingiaceae), a new generic addition to the Flora of Madhya Pradesh; *Cornus wardiana* Rushforth & Wahlsteen (Cornaceae), from East Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh and *Matricaria discoidea* (Asteraceae) from Uttar Pradesh.

Scientists of BSI conducted **11 field / local tours** and **one herbarium consultation tours** and collected **228 field nos.** of specimens. BSI prepared metadata of **1398 herbarium specimens**. During this month, **9,81,501 visitors** referred the official websites of BSI (**4,48,478 visitors** referred official webpage, **2,68,213 visitors** referred archives, and **2,64,810 visitors** visited Indian Virtual Herbarium). Besides, **1014 students / visitors** visited the gardens and herbaria of BSI, and generated the revenue of about Rs. **1,18,872/-** during this month.

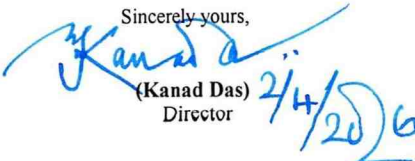
Important events / programs organized / attended:

1. The **15th Research Advisory & Monitoring Committee (RAMC)** meeting of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) was concluded on March 19 and 20, 2026 at BSI-ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, under the distinguished Chairmanship of Prof. C. R. Babu, and gracious presence of Shri Ved Prakash Mishra, Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC. Dr. Kanad Das, Director, BSI welcomed all the members and formally appraised the committee regarding the significant progress made over the last year, showcasing the organization's strategic growth. Dr. S. S. Dash, Scientist F & Member Secretary, RAMC presented the progress of the department, while Dr. Lal Ji Singh, Scientist F & HoO, ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram presented an overview of regional centre. The meeting, was attended by 11 members and 3 invited observers.
2. Botanical Survey of India, and all its regional centres/ units observed the **Seva Sankalp Resolution, A New Beginning in India's Development Journey**, on 3rd March, 2026.
3. BSI, APRC, Itanagar, The Department of Horticulture, and The Rural Business Incubation Centre of Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar jointly organized 'The National Conference on Agriculture, Environment and Sustainable Development 3.0' (NCAESD-2026) on 9th March 2026 at Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar.
4. Dr. Kanad Das, Director, BSI attended the review meeting on **IUCN-based threat assessment of Flora and Fauna** on 09.03.2026 on VC mode with ZSI and IUCN-India.
5. Dr. Kanad Das, Director, BSI delivered one invited talk (Keynote Lecture) on "BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA AS ONE OF THE LEAD INSTITUTIONS FOR CONSERVING AND DOCUMENTING PLANT AND FUNGAL WEALTH" on 14.03.2026 in the **XIX Annual Conference of the East Himalayan Society for Spermatophyte Taxonomy (EHSST) & International Seminar on Taxonomy, Biodiversity Conservation, Traditional Knowledge, and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Resources**.
6. BSI, NRC, Dehradun received the Second Prize at the Orchid Exhibition held during the **International Conference-cum-Workshop on "Orchid Diversity, Conservation and Resource Development in Changing Global Climate: Perspectives on Medicinal, Floricultural and Economic Potential"** at Punjab University, Chandigarh from 13 to 15 March 2026.
7. The BSI-EIACP PC-RP Centre participated in the **National Evaluation Workshop** held at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, on 15 March 2026, wherein one of the knowledge products titled '**Wild Dendrobium Orchids of North East India**' was released by Ms. Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi.
8. Botanical Survey of India, DRC, Hyderabad organized a five-day "**Course on Botanical Nomenclature**" from 16th to 20th March 2026, and witnessed participation from 74 offline and 14 online attendees across India, including research scholars, scientists, lecturers, and associate professors. The course was led by Dr. Kanchi Natarajan Gandhi, Senior Nomenclature Registrar at Harvard University Herbaria.
9. Botanical Survey of India, and all its regional centres/ units observed **International Women's Day 2026** on 9th March 2026, recognizing the devoted service provided by the women in this organization, and also **The International Day of Forests 2026** on 23.03.2026 with the theme "Forests and Economies".

During this month, **26 publications, including 23 research papers and 3 books** were published by BSI scientists in International and National journals of repute apart from participating in scientific lectures and publishing seminar abstracts and Book chapters (*Annexure 1*).

1. Important policy matter held up on account of prolonged inter-ministerial consultations: NIL
 2. No. of cases of 'Sanction for prosecution' pending for more than 3 months: NIL
 3. Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the government: NIL
 4. Status of Rationalization of Autonomous Bodies:-NA-
 5. Information on the specific steps taken for utilization of the space technology based tools and applications in governance and development: Inputs on Leveraging Space Technology & Application for Viksit Bharat 2047 were provided by BSI to the Ministry
 6. Vacancy position of senior level appointments in the Ministry/ Department, including Autonomous Bodies/ PSUs: Communicated to the Ministry separately.
 7. List of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with: NIL
- With regards,

Sincerely yours,


(Kanad Das)
Director

To,
Shri.Ved Prakash Mishra, JS, (CS-II), MoEF&CC, New Delhi – 3

PUBLICATION OF MARCH 2026

RESEARCH PAPERS:

1. CHIPPALAKATTI, T., D. THANGADURAI, M.S. NIMBALKAR, N. CRUZ-MARTINS AND M. PALANISAMY 2026. Optimization of *Sargassum cinereum* Bioactives Extraction Parameters using Ultrasound-assisted Extraction with insights into Chemical and Nutritional Composition. *Sustainable Food Technol* (Royal Society of Chemistry). DOI: 10.1039/D5FB00918A
2. CHOWLU, K, R. MAITY, A. SHENOY AND S. S. DASH. (2026). Two new species of *Henckelia* (Gesneriaceae) from Arunachal Himalayas. *Taiwania*. 71(2): 227-236.
3. CHOWLU, K, S. TAID AND G. KRISHNA. (2026). Recollection of one-leaved *Henckelia monophylla* endemic to Arunachal Pradesh, India along with its typification and notes on conservation. 137: e70087. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fedr.70087>.
4. DALAVI , JAGDISH V., MAYUR Y. KAMBLE, POOJA S. BHAGURE AND SHARAD S. KAMBALE (2026). Taxonomic revision of Hibiscus Sect. Lilibiscus (Malvaceae) in India with a new record of *H. clayi* for the Flora of India. *Feddes Repertorium* DOI: 10.1002/fedr.70079
5. DALAVI, JAGDISH V. AND MAYUR Y. KAMBLE (2026). Calyx and Epicalyx morphology in Indian *Hibiscus* L. (Malvaceae) with its Taxonomic Importance. *Nordic Journal of Botany* DOI: 10.1002/njb.05095
6. DEBTA, MANASRANJAN, BASUNDHARA PILLAI AND TAPAN SEAL. 2026. Comprehensive analysis of free and total amino acids in *Chloroxylon swietenia* DC.: Implications for nutritional and functional food potential. *International Journal of Food Science and Nutrition* 11(1): 117-121.
7. DUBEY RASHMI & Jash, Sayantan & Pandey, Amit. (2026). Taxonomic and Phylogenetic Contributions to Bambusicolous Mycobiota: A Novel Species and a New Record of *Dictyoarthrinium* (Didymosphaeriaceae, Pleosporales, Dothideomycetes) from India. *New Zealand Journal of Botany*. 64. e70014. 10.1002/nzb2.70014
8. JALAL, J.S., J. JAYANTHI AND Y. ROUT 2025. A Checklist of the Orchids of the Northern Western Ghats. *J. Orchid. Soc. India* 39: 117-124.
9. JASH, S. & RASHMI DUBEY. 2026. *Vaginatispora bharatensis*, sp. nov. – revealing the first conidial morph of genus *Vaginatispora* based on morphological and multigene phylogenetic analyses. *Mycologia*. DOI: 10.1080/00275514.2026.2619104
10. KUMAR, A. AND T. CHAKRABARTY 2026. Second-Step Lectotypification of *Cinnadenia paniculata* (Lauraceae). *Feddes Repertorium* 137(1):e70077. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fedr.70077>
11. KUMAR, PUNEET, S. BHATTACHARYYA, H. SINGH AND S.K. SINGH. 2026. *Spermacoce remota* Lam.: A New Addition to the Flora of the Western Himalayas" *National Academy Science Letters* 10.1007/s40009-026-01957-7
12. M., BHEEMALINGAPPA, C. MURUGAN, AND VINAY RANJAN. Wildflowers: A Comprehensive Review of Ecological, Nutraceutical and Socio-Economic Aspects. *BIONATURE* 46 (1):82-88. <https://doi.org/10.56557/bn/2026/v46i12093>.
13. MAITY, R., U.L. TIWARI AND S.S. DASH 2026. A New Species of Wild-Kiwi from India. *Feddes Repertorium* 137(1): e70078. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fedr.70078>
14. MIDIGESI A.K., G.A. EKKKA, P.A. DHOLE, R.O. PRAKASH AND L.J. SINGH. 2026. An Emended Taxonomy, Conservation, and Edible Potential of *Phoenix lallani* R.Kr. Singh (Arecaceae): An Endemic Palm of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. *Feddes Repertorium* 137:e70083.
15. MONDAL, B., C.O. SAMUEL, AND R. GOGOI. *Impatiens microcentra* (Balsaminaceae), a New Addition to the Flora of India. *Feddes Repertorium* 137: e70069. doi: 10.1002/fedr.70069
16. ONKAR NATH MAURYA*, NEELIMA A.M., ANURAG KESHARWANI, SUBODH KUMAR, MADHURITU BISWAS, JAYANTA KUMAR MRIDHA, SAUGATA ROY, B. LAKSHMANUDU AND ARNAB CHATTERJEE 2026. Taxonomic Inventory of Plants Conserved in the Associated Botanic Garden at the Botanical Survey of India, Central Regional Centre, Prayagraj. *Journal of Plant Development Sciences*. 18(1): 1-19.
17. PANIGRAHI, T., M. MUKHERJEE, M. PALANISAMY, A.S. DADHICH AND G. PRAMANIK 2026. Fourier Transformed Infrared Spectroscopy-based Macronutrients and Mineral Composition Analysis of Marine Macroalgae of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. *Regional Studies in Marine Science* 95(2026): 104881. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rsma.2026.104881>
18. PARIHAR A. 2026. *Ramaria flava*. A new report of a clavarioid fungus for Arunachal Pradesh, India. *Journal of Plant Development Sciences*. 18 (1): 37-40.
19. ROUT, Y. AND J.S. JALAL 2026. New synonym of *Oberonia brachystachys* Lindl. (Orchidaceae). *Feddes Repertorium* 137, no. 1: e70051. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fedr.70051>.

20. SANJAY MISHRA, B. LAKSHMANUDU, NEELIMA A.M. AND VINAY RANJAN. 2026. *Muntingia calabura* L. (Muntingiaceae): a new generic addition to the flora of Madhya Pradesh, India. *Journal of plant science development* 18(1): 47-50.
21. SINGH R.K., K.S. DOGRA, KUMAR A., PUNEET KUMAR., B. MEENA AND YODHVEER. 2026. German Ivy (*Delairea odorata* Lem.): A new invasive alien species from North-West Himalaya, India. *Indian Forester*, 152 (1): 80-82.
22. SONI, A.K., U.L. TIWARI, A. KUMAR, AND B. THAKUR 2026. New Botanical Discovery: *Cornus wardiana* Rushforth & Wahlsteen, a New Record of a Plant from India. *Feddes Repertorium* 137(1):e70076. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fedr.70076>
23. SRIVASTAVA, NITISHA, SINJINI MUKHERJEE* AND ARTI GARG 2025. An emerging threat to biodiversity: first report on the collection of invasive alien species *Matricaria discoidea* (Asteraceae) from Uttar Pradesh, India. *Indian Journal of Forestry* 48(2): 140-142 (2026)5.

BOOKS

1. GUPTA, PRATIBHA 2025. *Amazing Antarctica: First Indian Scientific Expedition to Larsemann Hills, Antarctica (Cyanoprokaryotes and Algae)*. Botanical Survey of India. pp 183.
2. BHAUMIK, M. AND A.A. MAO 2026. Botanical Paintings [By artists of Botanical Survey of India during post-independence period]. pp. 1-424. Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata ISBN: 978-81-987352-6-3
3. भारत के पुष्पीय पौधे - खंड - I (Flowering Plants of India, Volume 1). Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata. (Selected Families Translated in Hindi by Mr. Adhyatma Roy, Library Information Assistant). Botanical Survey of India, 2026.