

# IACTS

Newsletter



# IACTSCON

Volume 80 - April 2026



INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF CARDIOVASCULAR AND THORACIC SURGEONS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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**Dr. Vinitha Nair**

# FROM THE DESK OF YOUR SECRETARY FROM THE DESK OF YOUR SECRETARY



Dear members, colleagues and friends!

Greetings from my office, the executive committee and myself. My special warm greetings to all of you and your families. May God keep you safe and healthy!

A grand conference in Mumbai has left us with awe and inspiration! We talked, we learnt, we taught, we discussed, we debated and were enriched! Our surgeries and decision making went up a notch and so will our patient care as we treat the myriad diseases that plague humanity.

A conference that brought together the east and west and the middle in every way together! The Euro Asian bridge countries touched us with their frank expressions as they shared their experiences in handling disease patterns and challenges which were so much like ours. The AATS, STS and the EACTS participated under one roof in the roofless halls of Jio. A record number of delegates that exceeded 2500 benefitted from the endless flow of knowledge. The Jio halls were out of the world and the culinary delights provided a satiety for the gastronomical chambers that was surpassed only by the intellectual feast to the cerebral!

The general body was packed with members to a record number that the hall burst at its seams. Although a bit more time would have enabled more discussions certain decisions and directives to keep us going forwards this year were taken responsibly and we at the executive committee are very grateful.

Interest in fellowships is overflowing and very encouraging and we shall start them all as per schedule in August this year. The new orations for the focused conferences have been installed. Resident's teaching and training has peaked with excellent attendance at the monthly iPREP online webinars for exam preparation and the residents are looking forward to the second on site iPREP at Durgapur.

Long live our association! God bless us all!

Warmly yours,

**Dr Jacob Jamesraj** MB MS MCh FIACS FRCS Edin

Secretary, Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons

# PRESIDENT MESSAGE



Dear Members of IACTS,

I am deeply grateful to every member of the Indian Association of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery for the privilege of serving as your President. Thank you for your trust and confidence. I accept this responsibility with humility and a firm commitment to represent your interests while upholding the highest standards of patient care, professionalism, and ethical practice.

My vision is clear: to elevate patient outcomes across India through evidence-based practice, innovation, and inclusive leadership. We will strengthen high-quality education and lifelong learning for all members, foster research that addresses India's unique cardiovascular challenges, and expand access to affordable, context-appropriate cardiothoracic and vascular care in both urban and rural settings..

We will work toward developing national standardized protocols, encouraging multidisciplinary collaboration, and reinforcing ethical frameworks that place patients at the center of every decision. Our goal is to build a resilient ecosystem that enhances training pipelines, supports young surgeons, and positions India as a global leader in cardiothoracic and vascular surgery.

“  
Together, we will move forward with unity, purpose, and integrity. I shall always be the “people’s president “ that I have envisaged.”

Importantly, we will establish innovation and incubation centers to nurture entrepreneurship among cardiac surgeons. These platforms will accelerate ideas from concept to clinical impact, supporting scalable infrastructure, novel services, and collaborative ventures that directly improve patient care.

We will also reconfigure the patient gateway to ensure that cardiac surgeons remain central to the Heart Team model. Through structured referrals, transparent triage systems, and multidisciplinary pathways, patients will receive comprehensive, ethical, and evidence-based cardiac solutions.

Regards,  
**Dr. Satyajit Bose**

President  
Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons

# IACTSCON Mumbai 2026

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgeons.  
Feb 26 to Mar 1 2026



Organising Chairman Dr Anvay Mulay with Mrs Neta Ambani at the Inaugural ceremony.



Organising Secretary Dr Bijoykutty in action.



The President and the Secretary at the inauguration



Mr Mohandas Pai delivering the keynote address



A grand stage



Head fones testify to multiple hall participation used for the first time



Your Secretary speaking.



Serious discussions



A multitude of hands. Responsible participation!



IACTS Fellowship certificates being awarded



Teaching in progress



A helping hand as always  
Dr Manoj Durairaj



With the Euro bridge society



Eternal smiles  
Dr Anil Tendolkar



Light moments



Pensive moments



A packed audience



and the outgoing President after his Presidential Oration – Dr Devagourou Velayudham!

# Lifetime Achievement Awards 2026



Dr P V Satyanarayana



Padamasri Dr Ganesh Mani



Dr P K Deshpande

# Orations

2026

## C S SADASIVAN ORATION

**Dr Shiv Kumar Nair**  
Cardiac Surgery at the Crossroads:  
Reclaiming the future in era of  
Catheters & Keyholes

## GODREJ KARAI ORATION

**Dr Birla Roy Gnanamuthu**  
The resurgence of general thoracic  
surgery : An ode to the Coelocanth

## P K SEN MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Dr Sunder T**  
On Heart Transplantation - "From the  
resounding echoes of Mumbai,1968  
with Dr PK Sen's trailblazing vision,  
via the 1995 Delhi resurgence to the  
current Indian scenario "

## K N DASTUR MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Prof P Rani**  
Small Centre Challenges in Cardiac  
Surgery

## MEHERJI MEHTA MEMORIAL LECTURE

**Dr Malempati Amaresh Rao**  
Traditions Sustained, Horizons  
Expanded"

## NEW ORATIONS ADDED

Dr Solomon Victor memorial Oration  
to be held at the CT CME  
Dr Madhuram Santosham memorial  
Oration at the Thoracic CME  
Dr K M Cherian Memorial Oration  
to be held in Congenital Hall at the  
IACTSCON



C S Sadasivan



Godrej Karai



P K Sen



K N Dastur



Meherji Mehta

Applications open for the Dr Solomon  
Victor Memorial Oration and the  
Dr Madhuram Santosham Memorial  
Oration on the website!

# IACTSCON 2026 Awards

## Best Award Paper

### Joint Best Paper Award

**Dr. Kaushik Prasad (Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences, Narayana Health, Kolkata)**

Predicting Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction from Mobile Phone–Captured ECG Images Using Artificial Intelligence: A Prospective Validation Study

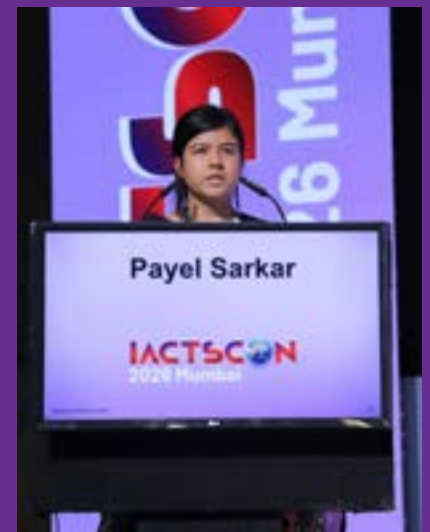
**Dr. Jenil Bhatt (U N Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre, Ahmedabad)**

Early Outcomes of Total, Partial and Non-Chordal Preservation on LV Function Assessed with Global Longitudinal Strain after Mitral Valve Replacement for Severe Mitral Stenosis

### Third Prize

**Dr. Payel Sarkar (Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Narayana Health , Howrah)**

Prospective Observational Study of Implementation of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) in Congenital Cardiac Surgery



## Poster Presentation Awards Joint Best Posters

### Joint Best Posters

**Dr. Santosh Regini Benjamin (Christian Medical College, Vellore)**

Thoracic Surgery as a Day Care Procedure

**Dr. Abhijit Punnakali (Madras Medical Mission, Chennai)**

Retrospective Study on Early Surgical Results of Bentall Procedure – Outcome and Risk Factor Analysis

### Third Prize

**Dr. Divyanshi Shukla (Narayana Institute of Cardiac Sciences, Narayana Health , Bangalore)**

Beyond the Obvious – A Rare Case of Cardiac Paraganglioma Masquerading as CCF



**Dr. Santosh Regini Benjamin**



**Dr. Abhijit Punnakali**



**Dr. Divyanshi Shukla**

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

# Indian Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery

Not receiving our Journal?

Updated your address on your profile page?



## Letter from the Editor



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Six weeks into my tenure as Editor-in-Chief of the Indian Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, I write to you not with a report, but with an invitation: an invitation to be part of something we are building together.

We have published our April issue and the May issue is ready to go to press. Two issues in six weeks may seem a modest beginning, but behind each one sits a process I am working hard to strengthen: rigorous peer review, attention to methodological quality, and a focus on the kind of work that reflects the genuine depth of expertise within our community.

The vision I hold for IJTC is one of earned international recognition. I want this to be a journal that cardiac surgeons across the world turn to, not only because it is indexed, but because the work within it is trustworthy, original, and clinically meaningful. There is only one way to achieve this: by publishing work of genuine quality and maintaining standards we are proud of. Recognition that is earned through rigour endures; recognition that is manufactured does not.

As a community, I believe it is time for us to be more ambitious in the kind of research we produce and submit. Case reports have always had a place in our literature. They teach, they alert, and they document the rare and the unexpected. But a journal, and a specialty, cannot grow on case reports alone. I would encourage our members to think beyond the single case to the case series, beyond the case series to the prospective study, and beyond the single-institution experience to the multicentre collaboration. India has an extraordinary volume of cardiac surgical activity distributed across scores of excellent centres. If we can harness that collective experience with methodological discipline, with proper data governance, ethical approvals, and collaborative intent; we have the potential to generate evidence that genuinely informs global practice. The infrastructure for this exists. What is needed now is the will, the coordination, and the academic rigour to make it happen.

I also want to address something that cannot be ignored in any conversation about scientific publishing today: the use of artificial intelligence in manuscript preparation. AI tools have genuine utility as they can assist with language, help structure arguments, and support authors for whom English is not a first language. Used responsibly, they are a legitimate aid. However, there is a growing and deeply concerning trend of manuscripts being generated wholesale by AI, with authors doing little more than feeding data into a language model and submitting the output. This is not authorship. It is a fundamental misrepresentation of intellectual work, and it undermines the trust on which peer-reviewed science depends. I want to be direct: the IJTC will not be a venue for this.

To meet our objectives, I need your involvement in the most practical sense. If you have a case series, a multicentre dataset, an outcomes study, or a thoughtful review, I encourage you to submit it here first. The IJTC should be your journal of choice, not your fallback. And I would particularly welcome ideas and energy from younger members of the association: surgeons who are generating new data, asking new questions, and whose intellectual curiosity will define where this specialty goes next.

Beyond submissions, I am genuinely keen to know what you want from this journal. Should we do more on surgical education? On outcomes data from Indian centres? On emerging technologies, training, or global collaborations? Please write to me. These conversations shape editorial direction in ways that no policy document ever could, and no message from the membership will go unread.

The Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons has always been defined by its collegiality and its commitment to excellence. Our journal should reflect both. I am honoured to serve in this role, and I look forward to hearing from you.

With warm regards,

**Dr Pradeep Narayan**

Editor-in-Chief, Indian Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery



# IJCVTS Awards

## Best Original Article

Lalthazuali, Gupta A, Balakrishnan I, Mehta K, Gupta A. Effect of ultrasound-guided transversus thoracic plane block on post-operative analgesia in patients undergoing cardiac surgery through midline sternotomy, a randomized controlled trial. *Ind J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg.* 2025;41:1532-1543.

## Best Brief Research Report

Idhrees M, Kasturi S, Kumar A, Velayudhan B. Use of saphenous vein to reimplant intercostal arteries during thoraco-abdominal aortic replacement. *Ind J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg.* 2025;41:41-44.

## Best Case Report

Shetty T, Aironi B, Kulkarni D, Patil P. Institution of cardiopulmonary bypass in an awake patient for resection of isolated intrathoracic right subclavian artery aneurysm causing near total compression of the trachea. *Ind J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 2025;41:175-178.

## Best Reviewer Awards:

- Dr. Debasis Das
- Dr. Amber Malhotra
- Dr. Kirun Gopal



# IACTS events for 2026



**iPREP 2026**

**Organising Secretary –  
Dr Satyajit Bose**

**June  
13, 14  
Durgapur**



**CTCME**

**Organising Secretary  
Dr Korah T Kuruvillah**

**August  
28, 29**

**Technocollege**

**Organising Secretary -  
Dr Mallampatti Amaresh Rao**

**October  
24, 25**

**Thoracic CME**

**Organising Secretary –  
Dr Sivamuthukumar**

**November  
2026**



<https://www.iactskon2027.com/>

f.i.a.c.s.

5 years of full membership

Three annual conferences attended

Two publications in IJCVTS





## Curio Corner

The fifth curio corner comes to you with a song! The singer we saw is Dr Nikunj Pawar! Armed with melody in his voice he transforms his concern for a stress free life into reality. He encourages his patients to live healthy enabling longevity of graft and man alike!

He is joined by his friends in what he calls SwarDocs and the group actively busts stress with song!

A lesson for all of us! Music heals be it humming in our cars as we drive or listening to music as we relax. The rhythms of string and pipe beat the rhythms of destiny!

LOKMAT  TIMES

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**LOKMAT TIMES • Anchor**

# This medico uses music to make doctors tension free

**SHREYI WADHAWANE**  
LOKMAT NEWS NETWORK

**Nagpur:** Due to constant rush, patients arriving at any time, sudden operation, time taken for complex operation, increasing number of patients etc., the daily routine of doctors has gone haywire. Music has the ability to calm the mind, relieve tension and fatigue. In view of this, a doctor set up a music studio at home. After this, each doctor added his live show on YouTube and Facebook. Today this show is getting a wide response. Guidance on various diseases is also being given through this show.

Nikunj Pawar is the name of this music-loving doctor. Dr Pawar is a famous cardiac surgeon of Central India. During Covid time, misunderstandings about the disease were being spread, he made few videos and uploaded them on Facebook. These videos got good response. Efforts have been made to give information along with songs so that the video is not boring.

Dr. Nishikant Lakhunde had an important contribution in this



This gave birth to the idea of a show to sing songs live on Facebook and give information about Covid. But transport was closed at that time. Despite this, he gathered the necessary equipment to sing the songs and perform on them live. Following the rules of Covid, he made a music studio at home. His first live show got an overwhelming response. After this he started doing this show every 15 days. Doctors were also working under stress during the Covid period. Dr Pawar started encouraging each doctor to sing his favorite songs for entertainment even if it was for a short time. "After practicing for three-four days at home, we used to show it live on Facebook. It was named 'SwarDoc'. After this the number of Covid patients reduced. But his show continues. Through this, a platform has become available to doctors who are fond of singing songs," he said.

Nagpur File  
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## Obituaries



### Dr Sameer Kadam

Dr Sameer Kadam was a young and brilliant cardiovascular surgeon practising in Mumbai. He served as professor at the MGM Medical College Navi Mumbai and Medical Director, MGM Hospital CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai. He breathed his after a long and valiant fight. May God grant his noble soul eternal peace and bliss. Deepest condolences to members of his bereaved family and friends.

### Dr Dronamraju Dilip

Dr. Dronamraju Dilip was a distinguished cardiac surgeon, an exemplary teacher, and a compassionate healer who dedicated his life to the service of humanity. His early professional journey started at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in the United Kingdom reflecting his commitment to acquiring global expertise before returning to serve his homeland. In 1993, Dr. Dilip achieved a landmark milestone by establishing the open heart surgery program at Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS), Tirupati. Therafter he worked as a free lancer. He will always be remembered not only as a pioneering surgeon but also as a kind and noble human being.



### Dr Sudhakar Raju

Dr Sudhakar Raju was a soft spoken and pleasant surgeon who was always eager to help all. He hailed from Kurnool in Andhrapradesh. He did his MCh from NIMS Hyderabad and served at the Global hospital Hyderabad. He then moved into government service where he spent most of his professional life. He loved doing thoracic surgeries.

### Dr Mohan Krishnan

Dr Mohan Krishnan was a hardworking and pleasant surgeon who hailed from south Kerala. He served in the government service working at the Calicut Medical College and Trivandrum Medical college. He was a pious and devout person who served the poor of the society with avidity and kindness. Our heartfelt condolences to his family.





## **IACTS SECRETARIAT**

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