

## **Brief Report on Orchid Show 2023 organised by The Orchid Society of Karnataka (TOSKAR) on 28 & 29 October at St. Joseph University, Langford Road, Bengaluru**

TOSKAR has been organizing orchid shows annually since 2012 to promote orchid cultivation and conservation. The eighth show, Orchid Show 2023, was held after a 4-year break due to the pandemic. The shows bring together growers, nurseries, and other institutions involved in orchid-related work to popularize orchid cultivation.

With the venue aptly being an educational institution in the form of St. Joseph University, the society's objective of involving young minds and students was being achieved. The University's authorities have extended all the co operation and assistance needed for the show.

At TOSKAR Orchid shows, members display various orchids, which are judged by a panel. Nurseries selling plants and accessories also showcase their blooming plants. The event includes training sessions and demonstrations over two days.

The Orchid Show 2023 was inaugurated on 28 October, 2023 by Dr. M. Jagadeesh, Joint Director, Department of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka. The inauguration was followed by release of souvenir of orchid Show 2023 by Dr. Ronald Mascarenhas, Pro Vice Chancellor, St. Joseph University, Bangalore. The dignitaries were taken around and shown the different areas of members display and the awarded plants in different categories. They were enlightened about the individual display theme by the concerned members. They were explained about the main society's display with "Forest Theme". As orchids are integral part of the Forest ecosystem and are indicators of health of the ecosystem, to have "Forest theme" was appropriate. Later they were taken around to the area where different nurseries were displaying their plants and accessories for sale.

In all about 450 plants in blooms were displayed by members comprising of 12 different genera and alliance apart from several terrestrial orchids. The attraction was the hybrids of the lady slipper orchids of the genus *Paphiopedilum*. In each of the genus category, plants were judged and awarded and altogether about 26 awards were given to the best grown plants by the members. Some of the best Phalaenopsis hybrids were displayed during the show with dazzling blooms. The world's largest orchid *Grammatophyllum speciosum* was also displayed. Several nurseries displayed their blooming Dendrobiums, Vandas and Phalaenopsis. There was display of propagation of orchids by seeds and Tissue culture methods and several flasks were displayed and visitors were explained the process involved.

The show also displayed some of the excellent paintings of orchids plants and flowers done by the members. Members who are very proficient in flower arrangement with orchids, took up the task which was innovative and attractive. TOSKAR stall had displayed some very good paintings of Indian orchids for sale and books on orchids and other accessories. Some of the seed cultured flasks were up for display and sales.

Another vital feature of the show was the Training and Demonstration component which was well received. Three sessions over two days were scheduled each for about two and half hours. Basics of orchid growing and care along with few important genera was dealt during the course. The sessions were attended by both freshers and also hobbyist who were growing. There was a special session on commercial growing of Dendrobium for cut flowers. There were in all 56 participants besides the staff and faculty of Botany department of St. Joseph University.

The Show was attended by as many 3500 visitors over the two days and several dignitaries from outside and also from the University visited. Among them, Vice Chancellor of the University, President of Ramakrishna Mission were there.

For the Images of orchid show, kindly refer to the Photo Gallery: <https://sju.edu.in/gallery/54>