

FORUM FOR ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEES IN INDIA

FERCICON 2026

OCTOBER 29, 30 & 31

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH ETHICS:
TRANSFORMING DIGITAL INDIA
FROM ACADEMIA, INDUSTRY & BEYOND.**

“Navigating Ethical Issues in a Digital World”



Venue:

Dwaraka Auditorium,
Gnanagangothri Campus,
New BEL Road, MSR Nagar,
Bengaluru 560 054

Dear Esteemed Delegates, Speakers, and Participants,

It is with immense pleasure and honour that we welcome you to FERCICON 2026, the annual conference of the Forum for Ethics Review Committees in India (FERCI), to be hosted by Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS), Bengaluru, India, from October 29th to 31st, 2026. We are privileged to bring together Institutional Ethics Committee members, researchers, academicians, healthcare professionals, policymakers and research-ethics advocates from across India and beyond. Bengaluru, a renowned hub of scientific innovation, healthcare, technology and higher education, provides an ideal setting for this important gathering.

As the Indian national chapter of FERCAP (Forum for Ethics Review Committees in Asia-Pacific), an initiative of WHO-TDR, FERICI has been working since 2008 to strengthen the ethical review of biomedical and health research in India. Through training, capacity building, SOP development, quality improvement and collaboration, FERICI supports Ethics Committees in promoting responsible research and safeguarding the dignity, rights, safety and well-being of research participants.

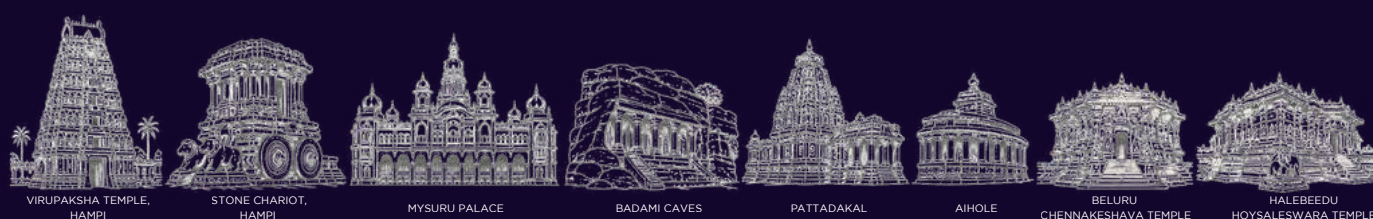
Reflecting this commitment, the theme of FERCICON 2026, "Transforming Research Ethics for a Digital India: From Academia, Industry and Beyond - Navigating Ethical Issues in a Digital World," addresses the profound changes brought about by artificial intelligence, digital health, big data, emerging technologies and industry-academia collaborations. The conference will examine the opportunities and ethical complexities emerging from these developments and explore responsible, participant-centred approaches to research in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

FERCICON 2026 will offer a dynamic programme of keynote lectures, panel discussions, thematic presentations, poster sessions, workshops and pre-conference events, providing opportunities to share experiences, discuss emerging issues and strengthen ethical research practices across academia, industry and healthcare. The conference aims to foster scientific integrity, participant welfare and responsible innovation, while strengthening the capacity of Ethics Committees and other stakeholders to navigate the changing research environment.

We warmly invite you to join us in Bengaluru for three days of learning, exchange and meaningful engagement as we collectively shape the future of research ethics in a digital world. We look forward to welcoming you to Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences for an enriching and memorable FERCICON 2026.

With Warm Regards,

Dr. Swati Sinha
Organizing Secretary, FERCICON 2026
Associate Professor, Dept. of Biotechnology,
Faculty of Natural Sciences, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences
Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.
Email: ruasfercicon2026@msruas.ac.in

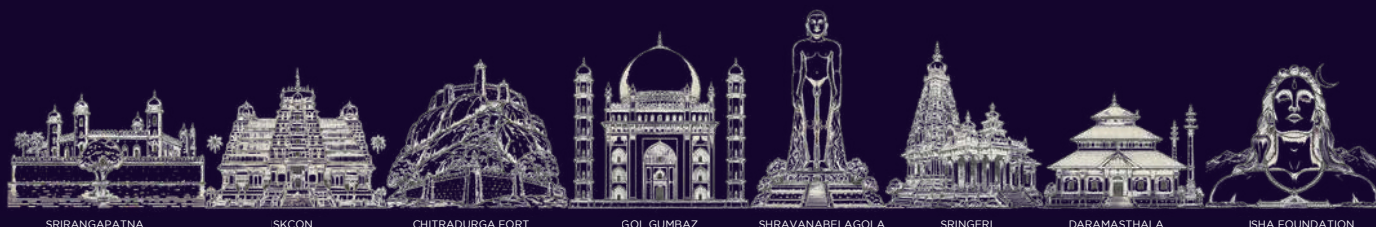


Oct 29th

Time	Session	Resource Person
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Dilemma and decision-making in Ethics Review - Deliberations on real-life deidentified cases	Dr Santanu Tripathi Vice President, FRCI Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology, JIMSH, Kolkata.

Oct 30th

Time	Session	Resource Person	Chair person/s
8:30 am - 9:30 am	Registration		
9:30 am - 10:00 am	Setting the Context	Dr. Nandini K Kumar DDG (SG), ICMR, New Delhi. Dr. Vibha A Shetty Professor. Prosthodontics, FDS, RUAS, Bengaluru.	
10:00 am - 10:45 am	Dr. Vasantha Muthuswamy Oration Lecture Navigating the Ethical Use of AI in Social Science Research and Ethics Review	Dr. Cristina E Torres Adjunct Professor, University of Philippines Manila and Asian Regional Coordinator, FERCAP, Manila.	Dr. Sanjay Ramakrishana Bijwe Dean - Research & Innovation, RUAS, Bengaluru.
10:45 am - 11:00 am	Coffee Break		
11:00 am - 11:45 am	Inauguration		
11:45 am - 12:30 pm	Plenary-Theme Lecture From AI-Assisted to AI- Generated Research: Where do ethics and accountability begin?	Dr Nageshwar Gupta M Head of AI and Data Science, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, RUAS, Bengaluru.	Dr. Nanda Kumar B S Dean (I/C) - School of Public Health, RUAS, Bengaluru.
12:30 pm - 1:15 pm	Ethics of CSR	Dr Chethana Thirthahalli, Technical Lead, Health, HCL, Bengaluru.	Dr. Swati Sinha Associate Professor RUAS, Bengaluru.
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm	Lunch		



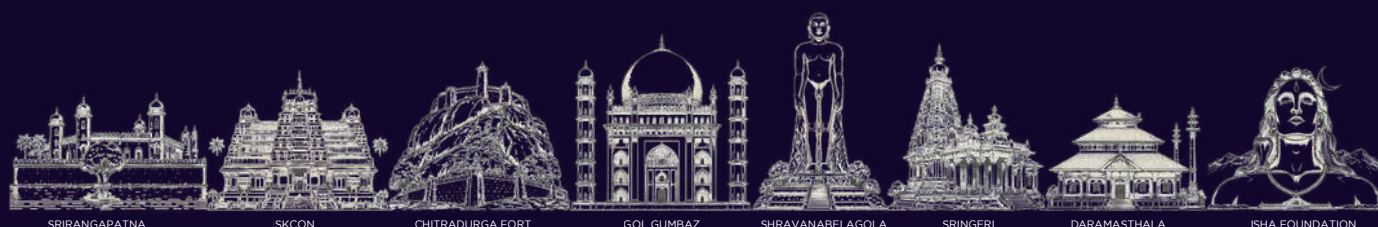
Oct 30th

Time	Session	Resource Person	Chair person/s
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm	Panel Discussion: AI in academic research: Opportunities, Risks, and Ethical Responsibilities	Dr Gunjan Kumar Scientist D, CSTU, ICMR Headquarters, New Delhi Dr Sudipto Pallab Roy Scientist F, CSTU, ICMR Headquarters, New Delhi Dr Bikash Medhi Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology, PGIMER, Chandigarh Dr Hardhavardhan Rao HoD, Gastroenterology, Ramaiah Medical College, Bengaluru. Dr Chandil Kumar Gunashekara Chair- HL7, Bengaluru. Dr VV Binoy- Associate Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.	Moderator - Dr. Chandrashekar Janakiram President, UG and PG Dental Education Board, National Dental Commission, New Delhi.
3:15 pm - 3:30 pm	Coffee Break		
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Topic- Panel Discussion: Ethical issues related to AI in Regulatory Trials	Dr Chandrashekar Ranga Joint Drug Controller, CDSCO, New Delhi Dr R H Jani Former Head & Senior Vice President – Global Clinical R&D, Zydus Cadila Healthcare Limited, Ahmedabad. Dr Pramila Kalra - Professor of Endocrinology & Metabolism, Ramaiah Medical College, RUAS, Bengaluru Dr Vishwanath Professor of Medicine and Head of Clinical Operations, Ramaiah Medical College, RUAS, Bengaluru. Dr Jerin Jose Cherian Scientist E, CSTU, ICMR Headquarters, New Delhi	Dr. Anuradha HV Member Secretary, Ethical Committee, Ramaiah Medical College, RUAS, Bengaluru.
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm		FRCI AGM	
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Quiz competition- Final	Dr Anuradha HV	
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Cultural Program		



Oct 31st

Time	Session	Resource Person	Chair person/s
9.00 - 10.30 am	Oral/ Poster Presentations		Dr. Lalita Savardekar Scientist F, ICMR-NIRWH, Mumbai
9.30 am - 11.30 am	ICMR Round Table - Non-Regulatory Clinical Trials	Dr. Roli Mathur Scientist G and Head, ICMR Bioethics Unit, Bengaluru Dr Chandrashekar Ranga Joint Drugs Controller (India), CDSCO, New Delhi Dr Sudipto Pallab Roy Scientist F, CSTU, ICMR Headquarters, New Delhi Dr Narinder Kumar Mehra Chair, Ethics Committee, RUAS, Hon Emeritus Scientist and Former Dean Research, and National Chair, AIIMS, New Delhi. Dr Bikash Medhi Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology, PGIMER, Chandigarh Dr Santanu Kumar Tripathi Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology, JIMSH, Kolkata Dr Ganesh N Dhakale Professor & Head, Dept. of Pharmacology, AIIMS, Nagpur Dr Temsunaro Rongsen Chandola Senior Scientist, SAS, New Delhi Dr VinaVaswani Director, Centre for Ethics, Yenepoya University, Mangalore Dr Sanjay Juvekar Consultant (Research) KEM Hospital and Research Centre, Pune	Dr Aparna Mukherjee Scientist F & Head Reproductive, Child Health & Nutrition (RCN) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Headquarters, New Delhi
11.30 am - 11.45 am	Coffee Break		



Oct 31st

Time	Session	Resource Person	Chair person/s
11.45 am - 12.45 pm	ICMR Dissemination session on ICMR Operational Guidelines for Single Ethics Review of Multicentre Research in India	Dr Jerin Jose Cherian Scientist E, CSTU, ICMR Headquarters, New Delhi Dr Gunjan Kumar Scientist D, CSTU, ICMR Headquarters, New Delhi Dr. Nandini K Kumar DDG (SG), ICMR, New Delhi Dr Vinita Agarwal Professor, Department of Pathology SGPGIMS, Lucknow Dr Sudha Ramalingam Professor & Head, Community Medicine PSG IMSR. Coimbatore Dr Olinda Timms Professor, Dept. of Health and Humanities St. John's Research Institute, Bengaluru Dr Shifalika Goenka Director, Centre for Public Health Ethics, PHFI, New Delhi. Dr Sunita Taneja Senior Scientist, SAS, New Delhi	Moderated by Dr. Roli Mathur Scientist G and Head, ICMR Bioethics Unit, Bengaluru
12.45 pm - 1.15 pm	Lessons from real world Ethics Committee practice	Dr Olinda Timms Professor, Dept. of Health and Humanities St. John's Research Institute, Bengaluru	
1.15 pm - 1.45 pm	UNESCO's recommendations on Ethics of AI	Dr. Dafna Feinholz Chief, Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology Section, UNESCO, Paris	Dr. Vijayashree Professor & HOD, General Medicine, Ramaiah Medical College, RUAS, Bengaluru.
2.00 pm	Lunch		



Registration Fees: Including GST 18%

Category	Registration Fee Till 10 th October, 2026	Registration Fee from 11 th October to 25 th October, 2026	Registration Fee from 26 th October, 2026 / SPOT
FERCI Member	₹ 5,900/-	₹ 6,490/-	₹ 7,080/-
FERCI Non-member	₹ 6,490/-	₹ 7,080/-	₹ 7,670/-
Student*	₹ 4,130/-	₹ 4,720/-	₹ 5,310/-
Spouse	₹ 5,310/-	₹ 5,900/-	₹ 6,490/-
Children (5-12 years)	₹ 2,950/-	₹ 3,540/-	₹ 4,130/-
Group of 5 FERICI Members (must include one lay person and one legal member)	₹ 23,600/-	₹ 26,550/-	₹ 29,500/-
Group of 5 Non FERICI Members	₹ 26,550/-	₹ 29,500/-	₹ 32,450/-
Industry Delegate	₹ 8,260/-	₹ 8,850/-	₹ 9,440/-
Pre-Conference Event	₹ 1,770/-	₹ 2,124/-	₹ 2,360/-

*Studentship to be certified by the concerned Head of the Department.

REGISTRATION
QR CODE

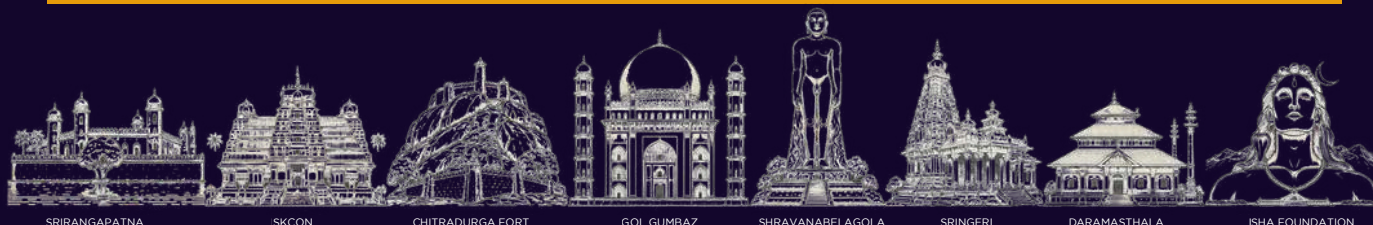


We invite research scholars and students to submit original abstracts for Presentations (Poster/Oral) at FERICON 2026. Abstracts are invited featuring best practices pertaining to:

- **AI and research ethics**
- **Digital health**
- **Big data and data privacy**
- **Emerging technologies**
- **Digital informed consent**
- **Ethics of AI-enabled research**
- **Governance of health data**
- **Technology-driven clinical research**
- **Ethical challenges in academia–industry collaborations**

Submit: ruasfercicon2026@msruas.ac.in

Last date: 10th October, 2026



Forum for Ethics Review Committees in India
FERCICON 2026

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH ETHICS:
TRANSFORMING DIGITAL INDIA
FROM ACADEMIA, INDUSTRY & BEYOND.**

"Navigating Ethical Issues in a Digital World"



Collaborate across
disciplines



Strengthen ethical
practice



embrace digital
transformation



Innovate for a
better future



Conference Secretariat
FERCICON 2026 Secretariat

 Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences

 ruasfercicon2026@msruas.ac.in

 080 - 4536 6666

Scan for Location
FERCICON 2026



www.msruas.ac.in