

Merck announces 2025 Merck Young Scientist Award winners

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Winners in the Emerging Talent category receive Rs 2,50,000, while winners in the Scientific Excellence category receive Rs 3,50,000



Merck, a leading science and technology company, has announced the winners of the Merck Young Scientist Award 2025, honouring and recognising India's brightest researchers driving groundbreaking innovations in Life Sciences.

The fourth edition of the award ceremony, held in Bengaluru, was attended by prominent academicians, researchers, and industry experts, reflecting Merck's commitment to empowering India's next generation of scientists.

This year's award programme was structured around two main categories — Emerging Talent (early-career scientists, within five years of Post-PhD) and Scientific Excellence (mid-career researchers, five to ten years post-PhD). Within each category, winners were recognised across two disciplines: Biological Sciences and Chemical Sciences.

A total of 16 finalists were selected after a comprehensive review process, four winners and four runners-up each in Biological Sciences and Chemical Sciences across the two categories.

The winners of the Merck Young Scientist Award 2025 are as follows:

Category 1: Chemical Sciences

Scientific Excellence Winners Dr. Janakiram Vaitla, IIT Delhi

Dr. Bishnu Prasad Biswal, NISER-
Bhubaneswar

Scientific Excellence Runners-
up

Dr. Basudev Sahoo, IISER Thiruvananthapuram

Dr. Ritika Gautam, IIT Kanpur

Emerging Talent Winners

Dr. Susanta Hazra, IISc

Dr. Vignesh Palani, IISc

Emerging Talent Runners-up

Dr. Sanjib Panda, IIT Madras

Dr. Indu Bala, IIT Mandi

Category 2: Biological Sciences

Scientific Excellence Winners Dr. Gaurav Ahuja, IIIT-D

Dr. Tapomoy Bhattacharjee, NCBS

Scientific Excellence Runners-
up

Dr. Jogender Singh, IISER Mohali

Dr. Amitesh Anand, TIFR Mumbai

Emerging Talent Winners

Dr. Swati Sudhakar, IIT Madras

Dr. Amit Nain, IIT Delhi

Emerging Talent Runners-up

Dr. Jyoti Tanwar, RCB

Dr. Naziya Chaudhary, ACTREC

Winners in the Emerging Talent category received Rs 2,50,000, while runners-up were awarded Rs 1,00,000 each. Each winner in the Scientific Excellence category received Rs 3,50,000 (including a travel grant of Rs 1,00,000), while runners-up were awarded Rs 1,25,000.