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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.