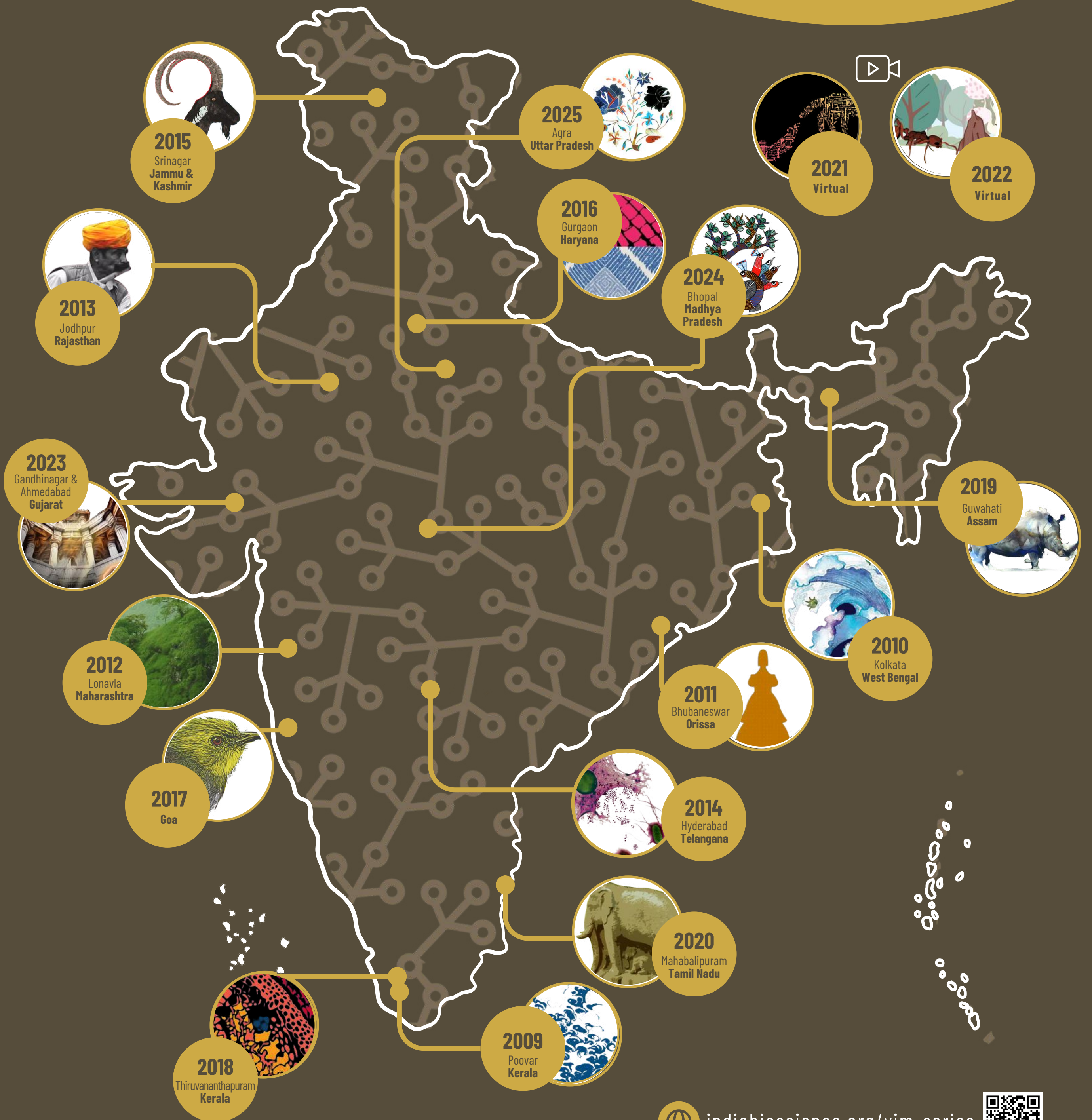


# The Young *i*nvestigators' Meeting Series



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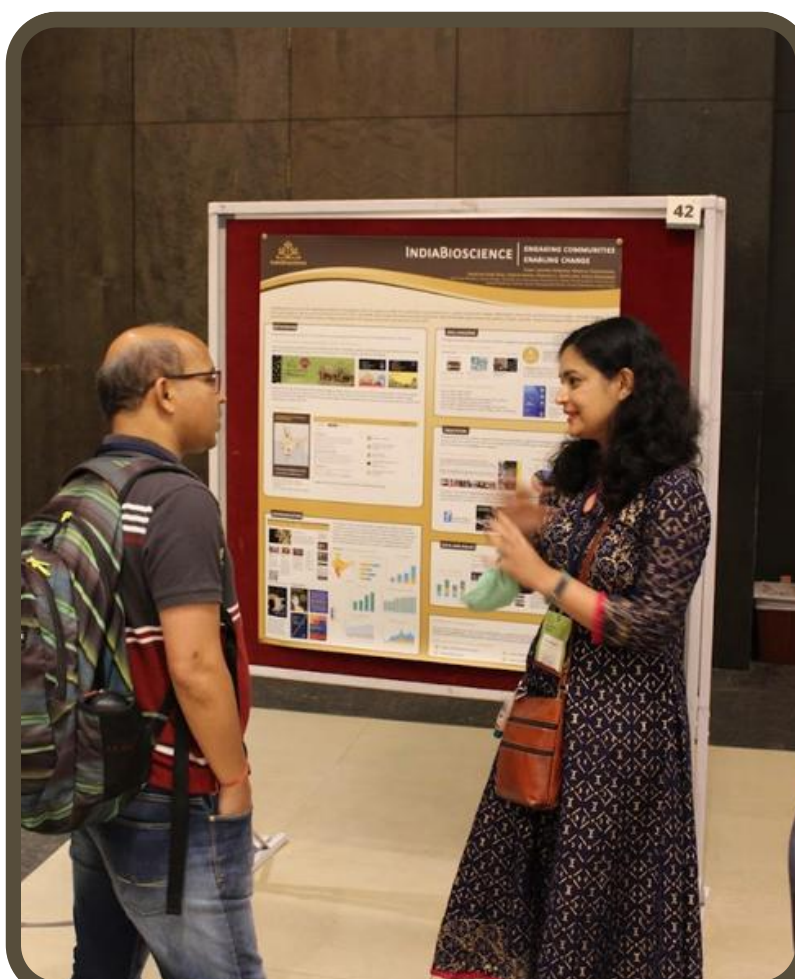




**IndiaBioscience** is a program that serves as a catalyst to promote changes in the culture and practice of the life sciences in India. By engaging with academia, government, and industry at various levels, it promotes advancements, collaborations and conversations among various stakeholders. The inaugural Young Investigators' Meeting in Thiruvananthapuram in 2009 laid the foundation for the formation of IndiaBioscience.



The annual **Young Investigators' Meeting (YIM)** brings together exceptional young investigators, postdoctoral fellows, mentors, and senior scientists, heads of institutes, and representatives from funding agencies for **four and a half days** of discussions and interactions focusing on science and careers in a broad range of disciplines of biology, as well as mentorship and networking.





## Young i nvestigators' Meeting

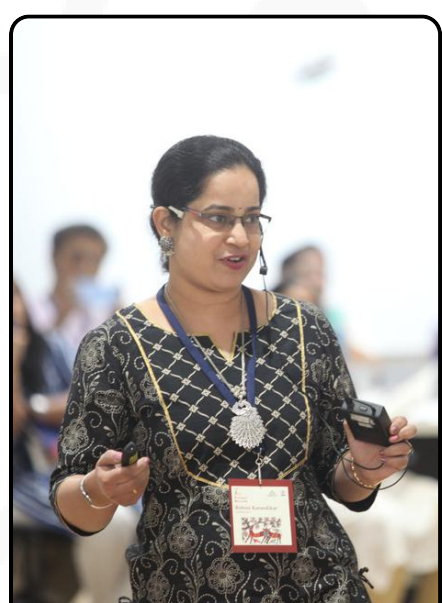
Across 16 years, YIMs have been held at different locations across India, with a meeting format that hosts special talks, mentor talks, poster sessions and panel discussions to foster discussions on important and relevant issues, and opportunities in the life science ecosystem in India. These include starting a research group, academic publishing, grants and funding, interdisciplinary research, collaborations and mentorship, diversity, equity and inclusion, among many others.

Each year, the meeting brings together 40 Young Investigators (YIs) and 40 postdoctoral fellows (PDFs), and also adapts to include new features and sessions relevant to doing contemporary life science research.

The PDF Satellite Meeting at YIM allows postdoctoral fellows to understand the life science research ecosystem in India, and meet directors and vice-chancellors from institutes and universities across the country, all in one place.

In doing so, YIM brings together postdoctoral fellows from India and abroad with young investigators and mentors (mid/senior scientists) to promote new connections and facilitate a first-hand experience on building and establishing a research group in India.

Over the years, YIM has enabled young scientists in India connect, collaborate and exchange ideas to advance their research pursuits and expand their professional opportunities.





## Starting of the YIMs

The idea of YIMs was first discussed in 2007 at a dinner conversation between Ron Vale (who was on sabbatical at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru) and three young faculty members who felt the need to have a platform for like-minded scientists to meet and discuss common challenges and ideas.

Read more:



“After that dinner,” says Vale, who is now Vice President and Executive Director of the Janelia Research Campus at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, **“it struck me that the need was probably greater than these few individuals I had dinner with. There were probably similar conversations that needed to be held all over India.”**

## Anecdotes from participants

“The organising team went over and beyond to make the event a huge success. We enjoyed the hospitality by IndiaBioscience. The networking opportunities and ideas exchanged were unique at YIM, and different from other scientific conferences.”

“The informational webinar and pre-event huddle were excellent and very timely. These events prepared us very well to know what to expect in YIM 2024 and how we can be better prepared to make full use of opportunity. Childcare grants were very important for the participants who were caring for their young ones.”



Each year:



40 Young investigators



40 Postdoctoral fellows



6-7 Mentors from India and 3-4 international mentors



20+ Institute heads and representatives

Across 16 YIMs:



610+ Young investigators



50+ Organisers



605+ Postdoctoral fellows



60+ Mentors





**Location of  
Postdoctoral fellows  
across 16 YIMs**



**Location of  
Young  
Investigators  
across India  
across 16 YIMs**



## Key Highlights

-  Mentor talks
-  Panel discussions
-  Breakout sessions
-  Poster sessions
-  PDF lightning talks
-  Institutional talks
-  Mini-workshops
-  EMBO Global Lecture Series
-  Networking sessions
-  Special talks
-  Diverse locations
-  Diverse participation
-  Supports sustainability
-  Inclusivity across career stage and gender
-  Support for and promotion of traditional regional art and artists
-  Stalls/booths/talks by representatives of supporting organisations



### IndiaBioscience childcare grants

A selected YIM applicant (Young Investigator/ Postdoctoral Fellow), speaker, mentor, organiser, resource personnel, or workshop trainer (irrespective of gender) can apply for this grant as parents/legal guardians.



**DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**  
Ministry of Science & Technology



Other supporting organisations

# YIM Impact/Outcomes

## Regional Young Investigators' Meetings (RYIMs)

Regional meeting grants to support local networking and collaboration

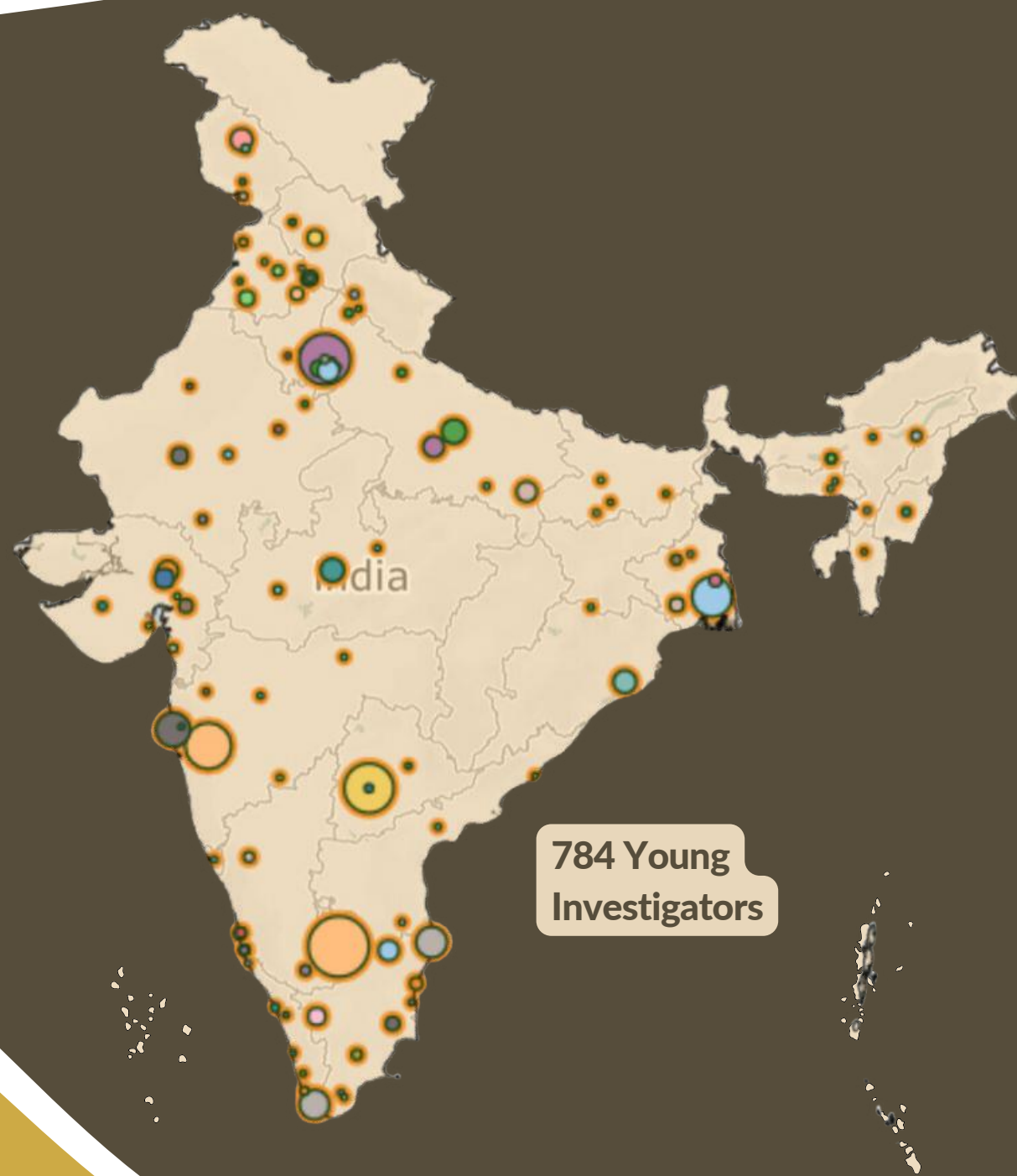


Scan to view details about the RYIM 2024-2025 grants



## Interactive database of life science researchers in India

This resource is an interactive map showing the geo-distribution of life science researchers in our database.



## Mentor talks

Every year at the YIM, mid/senior scientists (mentors) describe their scientific journeys providing inspirational as well as amusing anecdotes about their experiences with establishing scientific careers.



View mentor talks from previous YIMs



## The IndiaBioscience Outreach Grants were

initiated to provide seed funding to young researchers to step out of their labs and build stronger connections with the broader public through innovative science outreach efforts.



# YIM Impact/Outcomes

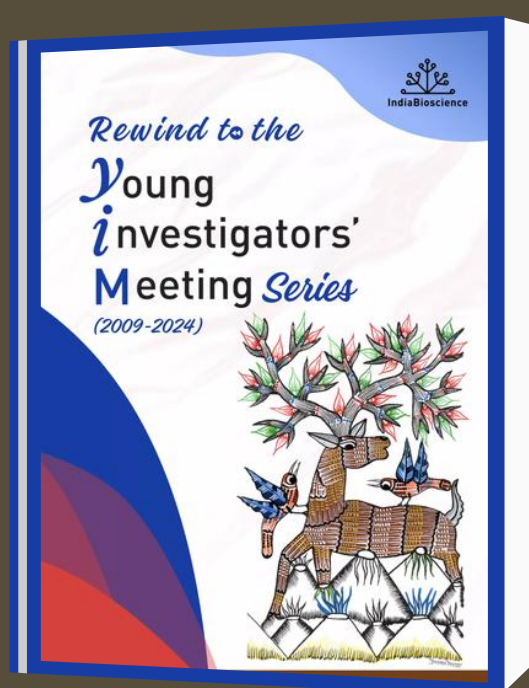
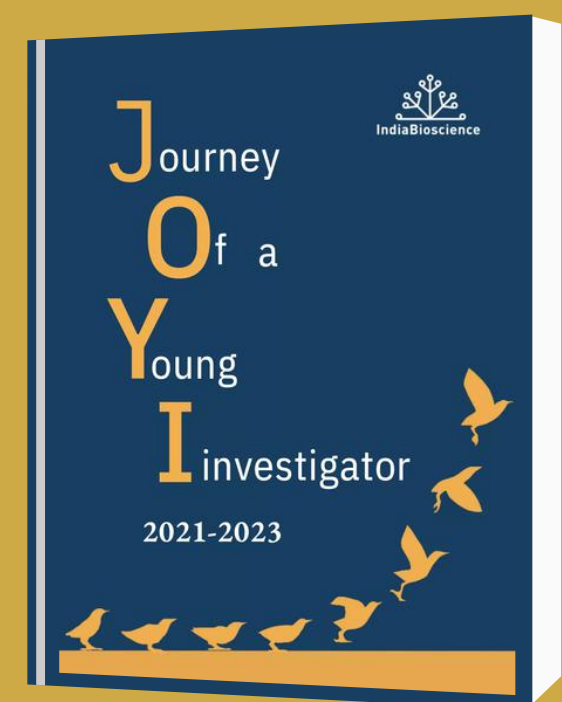


Results from the nation-wide **YI survey** to understand challenges faced by life science researchers in India



## JOYI: Journey of a Young Investigator

The e-collection celebrates the stories of young investigators attending YIMs from 2018-2023



## Rewind to the Young Investigators' Meeting series (2009–2024)

This e-compedium celebrates the journey of scientists who have attended Young Investigators' Meetings (YIM) in the last 16 years, since the first meeting in 2009.

## YI 101: A peer guide for early-career faculty in the life sciences in India

The e-book is a peer guide for early-career faculty to navigate starting out as a YI in India.

