



INSA News Letter



Issue 229

JANUARY - MARCH 2026



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INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY, NEW DELHI
www.insaindia.res.in

Important Events/Meetings

- The Book of Nomination (2026) of Fellows and Foreign Fellows were prepared and circulated to all INSA Fellows.
- Nominations of Indian Fellowship for the year 2026 have been forwarded to respective sectional committee members for their consideration during the meeting to be held in February, 2026.
- The nominations for INSA DISTINGUISHED LECTURES-a) IDL-1 (For INSA Young Associates, INSA Associate Fellows and INYAS below the age of 50 years only) and b) IDL-2 (For INSA Fellows only except those covered under IDL-1) were invited and last date of applying for the same is 25th February, 2026.
- The Joint Meeting was conducted on 11th February, 2026 and the 1st meeting of Sectional Committees were during 11-12 February, 2026 (SC-I to V on 11th February, 2026 and SC-VI to X on 12th February, 2026) to shortlist the nominations for INSA Fellowship.
- A Special Council Meeting was held on 20th February, 2026 in online mode.
- Academy has re-structured the subject areas of all Sectional Committees. Accordingly, all fellows were requested to indicate their Sectional Committees as per new allocation of subject areas.
- Jagadis Chandra Bose Medal (2019) lecture was delivered by Professor K Muniyappa, FNA on “Categories of DNA Lesions and Mechanisms of DNA Repair: Keeping Our Genome Safe” at Department of Biotechnology, Calcutta University, Kolkata on 23rd February, 2026 under the aegis of INSA Kolkata local chapter.
- The nominations received for INSA Young Associates (IYA) / INSA Associate Fellows (IAF)/ INSA Distinguished Lecture-1 & 2 are under process.
- The nominations received for INSA Young Associates (IYA) / INSA Associate Fellows (IAF)/ INSA Distinguished Lecture-1 & 2 for the year 2026 have been forwarded to the Sectional Committee members for further evaluation.
- Nominations for vacancies in INSA Council for the year 2027 have been invited on 2nd March, 2026.
- The Council has decided to reduce and reallocate the subject areas of Sectional Committees (SCs). Accordingly, all Indian Fellows, who were elected under regular SCs (I to X) were asked to provide new SC as per their specializations.
- The voting has been sent to all Fellows regarding merging of two new categories into one renamed as “Science for Society” and reducing the total numbers of fellows to be elected per year from 100 to 60.
- A meeting with Dr Franziska Langer, International Affairs, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) – German Research Foundation, and INSA officials led by Dr Debashis Mitra, Vice President (International), INSA, was held on 14 January 2026 to discuss preparations for the proposed INSA–DFG Early Career Researchers’ Workshop. The meeting focused on finalising the thematic area of the workshop, identifying suggestions for scientific conveners from both sides, and deliberating on the tentative venue and timeline.
- A meeting with Dr Elizabeth Pollitzer, Founder of the Gender Summit Platform, and INSA officials led by Dr Debashis Mitra, Vice President (International), INSA, was held on 23 January 2026 to discuss INSA’s role as a partner in the forthcoming 25th Gender Summit (GS25) – India. The discussions focused on proposed programme structure, partnership modalities, and logistical support, including INSA’s role in hosting the event and facilitating local coordination. Dr Pollitzer outlined the international partnership framework and pre-event outreach activities, while INSA expressed its willingness to collaborate in advancing gender inclusion and diversity in science through the Summit platform.
- INSA, in collaboration with the **Korean Academy of Science and Technology (KAST)**, has jointly submitted a proposal to **AASSA** to host a workshop in India on the theme “**Postdoctoral Researcher Mobility and Placement in Asia.**”

- A bilateral videoconference was held on 3 February 2026, jointly led by Professor Shekhar C Mande, President, INSA, and Professor Helena B Nader, President, Brazilian Academy of Sciences (ABC), both academies emphasized their strong historical ties through multilateral platforms such as G20/S20 and BRICS, and agreed to revitalize cooperation by initiating joint webinars as a first step, with future plans for thematic workshops, enhanced research collaboration in priority areas including health, bioeconomy, physics, mathematics, and energy, as well as promoting access to research infrastructure and greater engagement of early-career scientists.
- A meeting was held on 24 March 2026, through online mode, between the President, INSA and the Secretary, Department of Science & Technology (DST), to discuss the planning and organization of the proposed BRICS Science Academies Forum Meeting under India's BRICS Presidency 2026. The meeting was attended by Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, DST; Dr. Praveen K. Somasundaram, Head, International Cooperation Division, DST; Prof. Shekhar Mande, President, INSA; and Dr Debashis Mitra, Vice President (International), INSA, along with officials from DST and INSA.
- A virtual meeting was held on 5th March between the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), IIT Kanpur, and representatives of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS) to discuss the proposed Global Climate Fellowship. The meeting was attended by Dr. Dalal Najib, Ms Joanne Morse, and colleagues from US NAS, along with Dr Debashis Mitra, Dr Brajesh Pandey, Dr Nidhi Shrivastava, from INSA and Professor Sachchida Nand Tripathi, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. Discussions focused on key modalities to facilitate the planning and implementation of the fellowship programme.
- A coordination meeting between the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and the German Research Foundation (DFG) was held on 6th March 2026 with the participation of Dr Franziska Langer, Dr Vaibhav Agarwal, Dr Nadja Vadgama, and Dr Ina Strauß from DFG Office,

Scientific Conveners Professor Holger Blume (German side) and Professor Shanthy Pavan (Indian side), Dr Debashis Mitra, Vice President, Dr Brajesh Pandey ED, Dr Brotati Chattopadhyay, AED-I and Dr Nidhi Shrivastava from INSA to plan the upcoming India–Germany Early Career workshop. During the meeting, it was agreed that the workshop will be held from 5–9 October 2026 in Chennai, with a duration of 3–4 days, including a potential visit to IIT Madras. The workshop will involve Junior Professors, Assistant Professors, and early-career independent researchers, along with 3–4 senior Principal Investigators. It was decided that DFG will cover travel and accommodation expenses for German participants, while INSA will support Indian participants; venue, food, and local transport costs will be shared equally.

- The **Gender Summit 2026 (GS-India Platform Launch)** was held at INSA, New Delhi, on 10 March 2026, in partnership with the Gender Summit Platform (Portia Ltd.), with support from the Elsevier Foundation and the German Research Foundation (DFG). The event convened eminent scientists, policymakers, and institutional leaders from India and abroad to discuss policy frameworks, best practices, and collaborative strategies for promoting gender equity and inclusion in science and innovation systems.
- A meeting was held between Dr Debashis Mitra, Vice President, INSA, and Dr Ramanuj Banerjee, Counsellor (S&T), Embassy of India, Berlin, on 13 March 2026 to discuss the proposed visit of Prof. Shekhar C Mande, President INSA to Berlin for delivering a lecture under the INSA–Leopoldina Distinguished Lecture Series, and to deliberate on the tentative agenda and associated arrangements for the visit.
- A meeting was held on 24 March 2026, through online mode, between the President, INSA and the Secretary, Department of Science & Technology (DST), to discuss the planning and organization of the proposed BRICS Science Academies Forum Meeting under India's BRICS Presidency 2026. The meeting was attended by Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, DST; Dr. Praveen K.

Somasundaram, Head, International Cooperation Division, DST; Prof. Shekhar Mande, President, INSA; and Dr Debashis Mitra, Vice President (International), INSA, along with officials from DST and INSA.

- An online meeting was held between the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina on 24 March 2026. The meeting was attended by Dr Ruth Narmann, Head of International Relations, and Ms Saskia Steiger from Leopoldina, and Dr Debashis Mitra, Vice President (International), Dr Brajesh Pandey, ED; Dr Brotati Chattopadhyay, AED-I and Dr Nidhi Shrivastava, Project Scientist from INSA. The discussion focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation, including the revival of the MoU and joint scientific activities.
- INSA and DST jointly celebrated National Science Day 2026 on 27th February and 28th February 2026. The focal theme of the program was '**Women in Science Catalyzing Viksit Bharat.**' On 27 February venue was INSA Auditorium,

New Delhi and the programme was graced by **Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology, Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, DST and Professor Shekhar C Mande, President, INSA.**

Following programmes were launched/released:

- Launch of Hydrogen Valley Innovation Cluster
- Launch of ANRF-Venture Center Outreach initiative
- Release of Mission Innovation India Report
- Release of Book Indigenous Architecture of Northeast India
- DST Supported Copper Doped Nano Titania Tech Transfer Tech to M/s Rebuild Technologies Service Pvt. Ltd.
- Announcement of Engage with Science

During the afternoon session of Science Day celebration (27 Feb) 'INYAS SARANSH 2025' winners were also felicitated.



- On **28th February 2026 (Saturday) National Science Day was celebrated in the Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.** The programme was chaired by **Professor Ajay K Sood,**

Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India. The programme was aligned with this year's theme: "Women in Science: Catalyzing Viksit Bharat."An engaging panel discussion on

“Science–Policy Interface for Catalysing Viksit Bharat” was organised by INSA during the second half of the programme. The session was chaired by Prof. Shekhar C Mande, President, INSA, and moderated by Professor Indranil Manna, Vice President, INSA. The distinguished panelists included Professor Vivek Kumar Singh (Senior Advisor, NITI Aayog), Dr Ranjana Agarwal (Former Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR), Dr Anjan Ray (Former Director, CSIR-IIP), Dr Jai Asundi (Executive Director, CSTEP), and Dr Kusumita Arora (Director, IGSTC).

Key Takeaways from the Discussion:

- ♦ Dr Jai Asundi emphasised the need to strengthen scientific temper, engineering excellence, and an innovation-driven ecosystem, advocating a shift from import dependence towards indigenous capabilities.
- ♦ Dr Kusumita Arora highlighted the importance of rural women’s education, leadership

representation, and gender-sensitive policy frameworks to ensure inclusive growth.

- ♦ Professor Vivek Kumar Singh underscored the significance of faculty-entrepreneur training programmes and stronger linkages between innovators and incubation centres.
- ♦ Dr Anjan Ray stressed the importance of robust translational research ecosystems, enhanced funding for indigenous research, and its effective commercialisation.
- ♦ Dr Ranjana Agarwal emphasised people-centric and inclusive innovation, particularly in advancing education and health equity.

The discussion clearly reflected that a strong science–policy interface, driven by inclusivity and innovation, is essential for building a self-reliant and developed India. Empowering women in science is not just about representation — it is about leadership, impact, and shaping the future of Viksit Bharat.



National Science Day 2026 at Vigyan Bhawan

Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme

Under the Mission Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme, from the Academy, Dr Sudhanshu Aggarwal, Assistant Executive Director-I (P), went for conducting training sessions at two colleges affiliated with the University of Delhi.

The first programme was held at Hindu College on 29 March 2026 with 40 participants, followed by the second programme at Aryabhata College on 31 March 2026 with 24 participants. The sessions focused on building awareness and enhancing competencies related to civic responsibility, youth engagement in social development, leadership, and community service, in alignment with the broader objectives of the Mission Rashtriya Jan Seva Programme.

Overall batch performance in the Day 1 assessment held on 29 March 2026 was above benchmark, with 78% of the 40 participants scoring very well.

Similarly, in the Day 2 assessment conducted on 31 March 2026, overall performance was above benchmark, with 92% of the 24 participants achieving high scores.

The programmes received a positive response from participants and contributed to enhancing awareness and interest in community service and nation-building initiatives.

Overall, the training programmes were successfully conducted and aligned with the objectives of the Mission Rashtriya Jan Seva Programme.



Training sessions conducted under the Rashtriya Karmayogi

The Indian National Science Academy (INSA) organised a Distinguished Public Lecture titled “AI Viewed as Algorithms and Computation for Optimisation and Simulation” by Professor Sami Erol Gelenbe, Institute of Theoretical & Applied Informatics, Polish Academy of Sciences, on 24 February 2026 at 2:30 PM in the INSA Auditorium, New Delhi.

In his lecture, Professor Gelenbe traced the historical and computational foundations of contemporary AI,

introduced his Random Neural Network model, and highlighted its applications in adaptive network routing, medical image analysis, texture generation and cyberattack detection.

The event was presided over by Professor Ashutosh Sharma and was attended by university and college students, researchers and faculty members, leading to a very interactive discussion session with numerous questions and comments from the audience.



Professor Gelenbe Delivering distinguished lecture

Financial Assistance by INSA

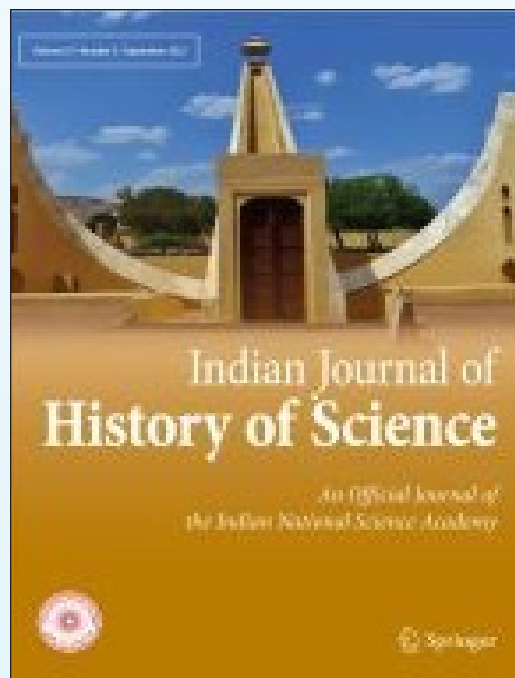
- One Indian scientist was supported by the Academy for attending the ISC (International Science Council) sponsored conferences abroad.
- Two Indian scientists were supported by the Academy for attending the Non-ISC (International Science Council) sponsored conferences abroad.

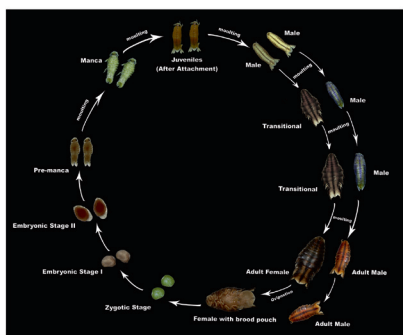
Recent Publications of the Academy

Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy:
Vol 92 No.1 (March 2026 issue): Published.

Indian Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics, Vol 57
No. 1 (Feb 2026 issue): Published.

Indian Journal of History of Science, (61 Issue1) (March
2026 issue): In Press





Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy

An Official Journal of the Indian National Science Academy

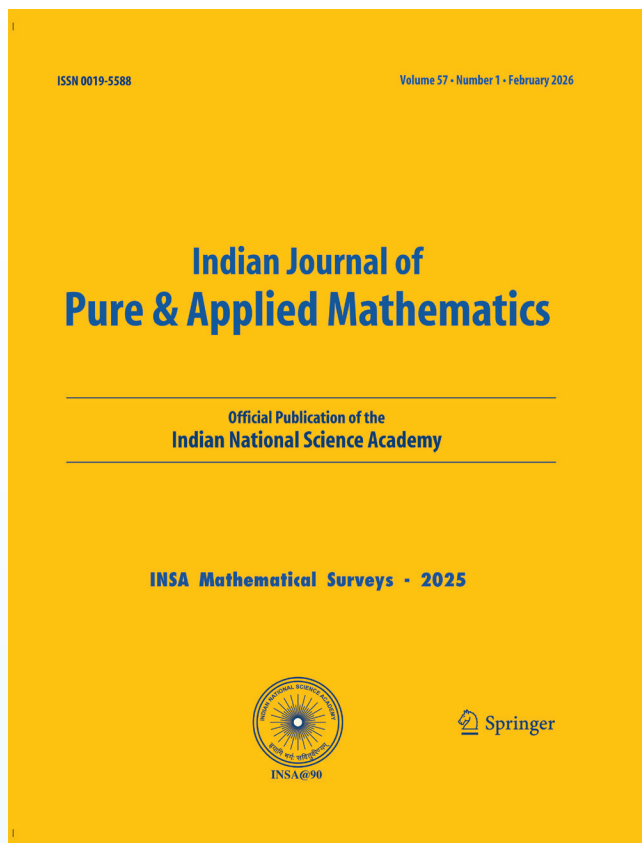


Springer

Indian National Young Academy of Science (INyas) Activity

The Indian National Science Academy established Indian National Young Academy of Science (INyas) in December 2014. Following outreach activities have been carried out by INyas members.

1. The event titled “*Science in Action – From Lab to Society*” was conducted on 16 January 2026 at Mavinkura, Honnavar, Karnataka, under the convenorship of Dr Aditya Sadhanala (South Zone, coordinated by Dr Divya P Kumar). The programme was specifically designed for school students, with a total of 12 participants. The outreach initiative effectively demonstrated the translation of fundamental laboratory research into real-world applications with societal impact. Students were introduced to innovative renewable energy technologies such as flexible perovskite solar cells, perovskite quantum dots for optoelectronic applications, and eco-friendly dye-sensitized solar cells. Practical demonstrations on energy storage



Science In Action - From Lab to Society

systems and advanced piezoelectric sensors further enriched their understanding. The event successfully bridged theoretical learning with applied science, fostering curiosity and motivating students to explore future pathways in science, engineering, and sustainable technologies.

2. The two-day workshop titled “*Decoding Pathogens Using Genomics Approaches for One Health (DePG-OH) 2026*” was held on 21–22 January 2026 in offline mode, convened by Dr. Pankaj



President INSA, Prof. Shekhar C. Mande during the 02-day workshop

Bharali in the North Eastern Region (NER), with participation from 150 researchers, scholars, and students. Organized under the GDP-FINER project funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, the programme brought together experts from premier institutions including NCBS Bengaluru, BRIC-CDFD, CSIR-CCMB, CSIR-IGIB, WII, and ICAR. The workshop featured expert lectures and hands-on training on genomic sequencing tools and computational pipelines for pathogen detection. Key themes included zoonotic spillover, antimicrobial resistance, environmental surveillance, and biodiversity monitoring. The programme emphasized the “One Health” approach, integrating human, animal, and environmental health, and significantly contributed to capacity building, particularly for participants from the northeastern region.

3. The lecture on the theme “*Science for Society,*” titled “*Recent Advancement in Energy Storage Devices; Battery and Supercapacitor,*” was organized on 23 January 2026 at the Central University of South Bihar (CUSB), Gaya, Bihar, under the convenorship of Dr. Rohit Ranjan Shahi. The session was attended by 85 university students, forming the primary target audience. Delivered by Dr. Vimal Kumar Tiwari, the lecture focused on the fundamental principles and recent advancements in battery and supercapacitor technologies. It highlighted the critical role of energy storage in renewable energy integration, electric mobility, and sustainable development. The session also explored career opportunities in the energy sector and stressed the importance of indigenous technological development.

Science for Society lecture at CUSB, Bihar

Active student engagement reflected strong interest, and the lecture successfully connected academic concepts with real-world technological applications.

4. The seminar titled “*Stress Management, Mental Health Awareness, and Digital De-addiction*” was conducted on 21 January 2026 at Government PG College, Sirohi, Rajasthan, organized by INYAS in collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry, GMC Sirohi. The programme targeted undergraduate and postgraduate students, with a total participation of 100 attendees. The session was delivered by Dr. Devendra Singh Basera, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, who addressed common stress factors among students such as academic pressure, interpersonal challenges, and excessive digital usage. The seminar emphasized practical coping strategies, the importance of balanced routines, and digital detox practices. Students were also educated on identifying early symptoms of mental health issues such as anxiety, sleep disturbances, and reduced concentration.



Stress Management, Mental Health Awareness

The event successfully promoted awareness, encouraged timely help-seeking behavior, and contributed to fostering a healthier academic environment.

- The two-day programme titled *“Air Quality Information Awareness Course”* was conducted on 29–30 January 2026 at the Central University of Jammu under the convenorship of Dr Shweta Yadav, as an INYAS Zonal Event (North Zone) under RuSETUP-2026. The event targeted school students (Classes VIII–X) and undergraduate and postgraduate students, with a total of 160 participants. Organized in collaboration with INSA and the Himalayan High Altitude Atmospheric and Climate Research Centre (H2A2CR), the programme aimed to build awareness and competence in air quality science and environmental responsibility. The course was delivered by Sarath Guttikunda, Founder of Urban Emissions. Info and Adjunct Professor at IIT Delhi, who shared global insights on air pollution studies. Day 1, conducted under the *“Atmos Kids”* initiative, engaged school students through interactive learning methods including games, quizzes, and demonstrations on pollution basics and impacts. Day 2 focused on higher education students, providing in-depth exposure to air pollution monitoring, modelling tools such as SIM-air, emission calculators, GIS applications, and policy implications. The programme successfully integrated scientific tools with participatory learning, fostering informed and proactive environmental stewardship among participants.



Air Quality Information Awareness Course

- The training programme titled *“Unveiling the World of Biotechnology”* was held on 30 January 2026 at KIIT University under the convenorship of Dr Namisha Sharma as an INYAS event. The programme primarily targeted school teachers,

with 32 teachers forming the core audience out of a total of 50 participants, including volunteers, trainers, and delegates. The workshop aimed to enhance practical understanding of applied biotechnology through hands-on training. Participants, representing Kendriya Vidyalayas and other leading schools in Bhubaneswar, engaged in laboratory sessions covering Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), Real-Time PCR, and microtomy sample preparation. Additionally, the programme introduced advanced microscopy techniques such as confocal microscopy and Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM). Graced by Dr Shiharan Bose, Deputy Commissioner of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (Bhubaneswar Region), the event emphasized experiential learning over theoretical instruction. It successfully bridged the gap between school-level teaching and modern biotechnological practices, equipping educators with updated technical skills and strengthening school–academia collaboration.

ONE-DAY BIOTECHNOLOGY BOOT CAMP

Theme:
Unravelling the World of Biotechnology

Jointly Organized by
School of Biotechnology, KIIT Deemed to be University,
Recognized Centre of Excellence by
Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India.
&
Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INYAS),
Bhubaneswar Chapter, INSA.

30th January, 2026

10:00 am onwards

School of Biotechnology,
KIIT-DU, Campus-II

About the Program:

The Biotechnology Boot Camp is designed to ignite curiosity and enhance understanding of cutting-edge concepts in Biotechnology among high school biology teachers. The program will offer hands-on exposure to advanced laboratory techniques, interactive sessions with experts, and discussions on integrating modern biotechnological advancements into school curricula.

Highlights:

- ☞ Talk by Indian National Young Academy of Sciences (INYAS) Resource Person
- ☞ Certificate of participation to all participants
- ☞ Hands-on experiments and demonstrations on Molecular Biology Techniques
- ☞ Visit to KIIT-Technology BusinessIncubator-The hub of Startups
- ☞ Demonstration of High-end electron microscopy and other imaging facilities
- ☞ Networking Lunch with eminent scientists and educators

Who Can Participate:

On recommendation by school: High school biology teachers (Teaching 9th-12th grade) with a passion for science education and innovation. Interested candidates should send their consent through mail provided in the contact detail below, latest by 25th Jan, 2026. Participants should provide their designation and school address along with the consent mail. No fees charged for the camp.

Resource Persons:

- Prof Srinivas Patnaik
- Dr Gargi Dey

KIIT School of Biotechnology, BBSR

- Dr Mrenmay K Giri
- Dr Santosh Kumar
- Dr Gulab Chand Arya

INYAS, BBSR

- Dr. Namisha Sharma
- Scientist, BRIC
- Institute of Life Sciences, BBSR

Contact Detail: (91) 9238864798 and (91) 9937238440
Email: dean@kiitbiotech.ac.in, gargidey@kiitbiotech.ac.in

Training programme titled *“Unveiling the World of Biotechnology”* at KIIT University

7. The INYAS Zonal event titled “*Vigyan ki Pathshala – Science Awareness Camp*” was conducted on 31 January 2026 at PM Shri Government Inter College, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, under the convenorship of Dr Chhama Awasthi, in collaboration between the NCR and Central Zones. The programme targeted senior secondary school students and teachers, with approximately 350 participants (330 students and around 20 teachers). The camp featured a series of expert lectures delivered by faculty from IIT BHU, including Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Mahto, Dr Ashish Kumar Mishra, and Dr Sumit Kumar Singh. The sessions covered interdisciplinary themes such as the transition from cellular intelligence to artificial intelligence, career opportunities after school education, and the role of curiosity in scientific discovery. The event facilitated direct interaction between students and eminent academicians, fostering scientific curiosity, career awareness, and research-oriented thinking. The programme concluded with networking interactions and received strong appreciation from local education authorities, highlighting its effectiveness in promoting STEM education at the school level.



INYAS Zonal event titled “*Vigyan ki Pathshala – Science Awareness Camp*” at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

8. The workshop titled “*NextGen Agri Leaders: An Interactive Workshop on Career Pathways in Agriculture & Allied Sciences*” was conducted on 03 February 2026 at ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi, under the convenorship of Dr Reshma Gills as an INYAS

Zonal Event (South Zone). The programme targeted students of Classes X–XII along with teachers, with a total of 50 participants. Organized as part of Foundation Day celebrations in collaboration with ICAR–CMFRI and NAAS–YUVA, the workshop aimed to introduce young learners to diverse career pathways in agriculture and allied sciences. Expert sessions by leading scientists covered topics including leadership in marine sciences, entrepreneurship opportunities under DST initiatives, academic pathways in India and abroad, and career prospects in veterinary sciences and agribusiness. The bilingual format ensured inclusivity and enhanced engagement. The interactive sessions enabled participants to gain clarity on career planning, skill development, and innovation-driven opportunities, thereby promoting agriculture as a dynamic and future-oriented field.

NextGen Agri Leaders: An Interactive Workshop on Career Pathways in Agriculture & Allied Sciences

**A Career Awareness Programme for
Students of Classes X to XII**

Date: 3rd February 2026
Time: 2.30 PM – 4.00 PM
Venue: Room No. 201,
ICAR–CMFRI, Kochi

Jointly Organized by
NAAS–YUVA | INSA–INYAS | ICAR–CMFRI, Kochi

This programme is designed as part of **CMFRI Foundation Day Celebrations** to inspire young minds to explore the vast and exciting career opportunities in Agriculture and Allied Sciences. Through interactive sessions with leading experts and young scientists, students will gain valuable insights into academic pathways, emerging fields, and future prospects in agriculture, fisheries, veterinary and related sectors. The initiative aims to attract talented youth to agri-based professions and nurture the next generation of agri-leaders who will contribute to food security, sustainability, and rural development.

Interact with the Experts



Dr. Grinson George
Director
ICAR–CMFRI, Kochi



Dr. Vipinkumar V. P.
Principal Scientist
ICAR–CMFRI, Kochi



Dr. Reshma Gills
Senior Scientist
ICAR–NAARM, Hyderabad



Dr. Jess Vergis
Senior Scientist
ICAR–IVRI, Izatnagar

Conveners

• Eldho Varghese – National Fellow (ICAR),
ICAR–CMFRI, Kochi & Member, NAAS–YUVA
• Jess Vergis – Senior Scientist,
ICAR–IVRI, Izatnagar & Member, NAAS–YUVA
• Reshma Gills – Senior Scientist,
NAARM, Hyderabad & Member, INSA–INYAS

Interested schools may contact:
Dr. Eldho Varghese
ICAR–CMFRI, Kochi
Mobile: 9968401427
Email: eldhoiasri@gmail.com



“NextGen Agri Leaders: An Interactive Workshop on Career Pathways in Agriculture & Allied Sciences” at ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi

9. The “3rd Global Summit on Diamond Open Access” was organized from 2–6 February 2026 in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India, organized by the Indian National Young Academy of Science (INyas) in collaboration with national and international partner institutions. This global summit targeted researchers, publishers, policymakers, librarians, and open science advocates, with a total participation of 347 individuals (168 in-person and 179 online). The summit focused on promoting the Diamond Open Access model, which ensures free access to research for both authors and readers without publication fees. Over five days, the programme featured plenary lectures, panel discussions, workshops, and collaborative sessions addressing sustainable funding, regional and multilingual publishing, peer review quality, and challenges in commercial publishing. A key outcome was the development of a global roadmap to scale and sustain Diamond Open Access initiatives. The summit reinforced global commitment toward equitable, inclusive, and community-driven scholarly communication systems, highlighting India’s leadership in advancing open science.



3rd Global Summit on Diamond Open Access

10. The outreach programme titled “Village to Vision: INyas Rural Science Education Initiative” was conducted on 08 February 2026 at IISER Berhampur under the convenorship of Dr Parikshit Moitra, as an INyas Zonal Event (East Zone). The programme targeted rural school

students (Classes VII–IX) and science teachers, with a total of 210 participants (170 students and 40 teachers). The initiative was designed to strengthen rural science education through a dual-track engagement model focusing on both teacher capacity building and student motivation. Teachers participated in mentorship sessions emphasizing experiential pedagogy, low-cost teaching models, and curriculum integration, while students engaged in interactive sessions, exposure visits, and motivational activities with scientists. The programme successfully established a link between rural schools and a premier research institution, fostering scientific temperament, enhancing teaching methodologies, and encouraging long-term academic aspirations among rural learners.



Outreach programme titled “Village to Vision: INyas Rural Science Education Initiative” was conducted at IISER Berhampur

11. The “Workshop on Theoretical and Computational Aspects of Partial Differential Equations” was organized from 09–13 February 2026 at the Department of Mathematics, IIT Roorkee, Uttarakhand, with partial sponsorship from INyas (North Central Zone). The programme was coordinated by Prof. Dwijendra N. Pandey and Professor Manil T Mohan, targeting MSc students, BS-MS students, and early-stage PhD scholars, with a total of 55 participants. The workshop provided comprehensive exposure to theoretical foundations and computational techniques



“Workshop on Theoretical and Computational Aspects of Partial Differential Equations” at IIT Roorkee

in Partial Differential Equations (PDEs). The curriculum covered fundamental concepts such as classification of PDEs, Sobolev spaces, and variational methods, alongside advanced topics including elliptic and parabolic equations, regularity theory, and functional analysis. The numerical component focused on finite element methods, discretization techniques, and error analysis. The programme successfully integrated theoretical rigor with computational application, enhancing participants’ research capabilities and fostering academic engagement in advanced mathematical sciences.

12. The one-day workshop titled *“Hydrogen Production and Storage”* was conducted on 11 February 2026 at Vellore Institute of Technology under the convenorship of Dr Sakthivadivel Duraisamy, as an INYAS Zonal Event (South Zone). The programme targeted students and scholars, particularly from rural backgrounds, with a total of 26 participants. The workshop aimed to bridge knowledge gaps in emerging clean energy technologies, focusing on decentralized green hydrogen solutions. It featured expert lectures, interactive discussions, and a live demonstration of a metal hydride-based hydrogen storage system. Key topics included hydrogen production methods such as steam gasification and biogas digesters, integration of renewable energy sources, storage mechanisms, and applications in agriculture and transportation. The programme



“Hydrogen Production and Storage” Workshop at Vellore Institute of Technology

effectively combined theoretical knowledge with practical exposure, empowering participants with insights into sustainable energy technologies and motivating them toward innovation in clean energy solutions.

13. The international outreach programme titled *“Women in Green Hydrogen: Catalysing Viksit Bharat”* was conducted from 23–27 February 2026 at the Research Centre for Carbon Solutions, Heriot-Watt University, Scotland, UK, under the convenorship of Dr Sakthivadivel Duraisamy. The event targeted young female researchers, with a



“Women in Green Hydrogen: Catalysing Viksit Bharat” at the Research Centre for Carbon Solutions, Heriot-Watt University, Scotland, UK

total participation of 7 individuals. Organized under the aegis of INYAS as part of National Science Day celebrations, the programme focused on empowering women in STEM through international exposure and advanced research training. Participants engaged in specialized laboratory sessions on green hydrogen technologies, interacted with global experts, and explored interdisciplinary research methodologies. The programme emphasized mentorship, networking, and leadership development, enabling participants to build international collaborations and enhance their research capabilities. The initiative significantly contributed to promoting inclusivity and innovation in sustainable energy research.

14. The “Residential Training Program – National Science Day Celebration” was held on 24 February 2026 at the Manipal School of Life Sciences under the convenorship of Dr Nirmal Mazumder as an INYAS Outreach Event. The programme targeted high school students (Classes IX–XI), with 24 participants residing on campus. Designed to foster scientific curiosity through experiential learning, the programme featured hands-on demonstrations in optics and physics, including diffraction, refraction, electrical circuits, microscopy, and laser-based experiments. Students were divided into small groups and rotated across experimental stations for personalized learning. Interactive activities such as the “Optics Pictureka” game and quizzes



“Residential Training Program – National Science Day Celebration”

further enhanced engagement. The programme successfully strengthened foundational scientific understanding while promoting active participation and curiosity among young learners.

15. The SPARC-sponsored international symposium cum workshop titled “Scaffold in Tissue Engineering: Platforms, Innovations and Policy (STEP-IN 2026)” was conducted on 23–24 February 2026 at IIT Kharagpur under the convenorship of Dr Shivendu Ranjan and Dr Nishant Chakravorty as an INYAS Outreach Activity. The programme targeted researchers, clinicians, industry professionals, and students, with a total of 190 participants. Organized in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University, the workshop provided a multidisciplinary platform focusing on biomaterials, tissue engineering, and biomedical devices. The programme featured keynote lectures, panel discussions, and hands-on training sessions on advanced techniques such as bioprinting, electrospinning, and microscopy. It emphasized translational research, industry collaboration, and policy alignment, significantly enhancing participants’ technical competencies and fostering global research engagement in regenerative medicine.



“Scaffold in Tissue Engineering: Platforms, Innovations and Policy (STEP-IN 2026)” at IIT Kharagpur

16. The “National Science Day Celebration – INYAS Outreach Event” was conducted on 28 February 2026 at Narayana E-Techno School, Bhopal, under the convenorship of Dr Sarvesh Kumar Pandey. The programme targeted school students, with

approximately 60 participants. The event included interactive activities such as a GK Rapid Fire session, a dedicated Girls' Interaction Session with extempore speaking, and a poster competition. These activities aimed to enhance scientific awareness, communication skills, and confidence among students, particularly empowering young girls to engage in science and leadership roles. The programme successfully fostered critical thinking, creativity, and active learning, aligning with INYAS's outreach objectives.



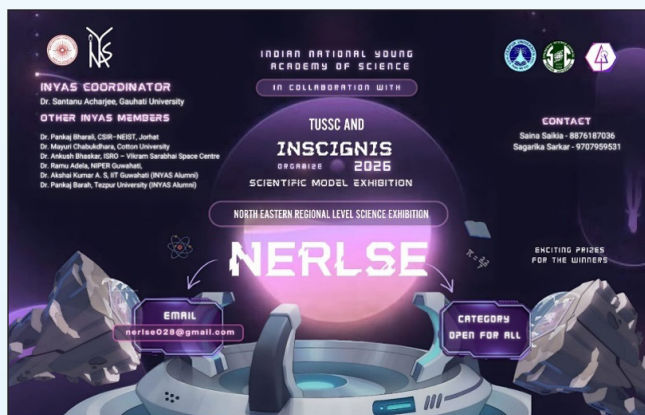
“National Science Day Celebration – INYAS Outreach Event” was conducted on 28 February 2026 at Narayana E-Techno School, Bhopal

- The programme titled “Science Promotion Guest Lecture and Quiz – National Science Day Celebration” was conducted on 28 February 2026 at Samata High School, Sangli, Maharashtra, under the convenorship of Dr Ashwini Kale as an INYAS Outreach/Participation Event. The event targeted school students of Classes VIII and IX, with a total of 59 participants. The guest lecture, “Ignite Curiosity and Career Opportunities in the Scientific Era,” highlighted the contributions of eminent scientists such as C. V. Raman, Albert Einstein, and A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. The programme also included a science quiz competition to promote active learning and engagement. The initiative successfully inspired students, particularly from rural backgrounds, to develop scientific curiosity and explore career opportunities in science.



“Science Promotion Guest Lecture and Quiz – National Science Day Celebration” at Samata High School, Sangli, Maharashtra

- The “North Eastern Regional Level Science Exhibition (NERLSE) 2026” was organized on 28 February 2026 at Tezpur University, Assam, under the convenorship of Dr Santanu Acharjee as an INYAS Zonal Outreach Event (NER Zone). The exhibition targeted school students, with participation exceeding 150 individuals and 27 project groups. The event showcased innovative projects across themes such as science, technology, environmental sustainability, and



“North Eastern Regional Level Science Exhibition (NERLSE) 2026” at Tezpur University, Assam

innovation. A panel of expert judges evaluated the exhibits, and top-performing teams were awarded. The programme provided a platform for young

students to demonstrate creativity, engage with experts, and explore scientific research pathways, thereby strengthening scientific outreach in the northeastern region.

19. The “National Science Day Celebration 2026” was conducted on 28 February 2026 at the Manipal School of Life Sciences, MAHE, under the convenorship of Dr. Nirmal Mazumder as an INYAS Zonal Outreach Event (South Zone). The programme targeted high school students, with approximately 200 participants. The event featured hands-on demonstrations in optics and physics, including experiments on diffraction, refraction, lenses, lasers, and holography. Students participated in small groups and engaged in interactive learning through experimental stations and quiz activities. The programme effectively promoted scientific awareness, experiential learning, and curiosity among students.



“National Science Day Celebration 2026” at the Manipal School of Life Sciences

20. The programme titled “National Science Day: Pragati Science Camp” was conducted on 28 February 2026 at Swami Vivekananda Memorial Autonomous College under the convenorship of Dr Namisha Sharma as an INYAS Outreach Event. The event targeted undergraduate and postgraduate students, with around 80 participants. The programme included lectures, project presentations, poster competitions, and live demonstrations on plant biotechnology, cancer biology, infectious diseases, and nanotechnology. Interactive activities such as scientific games further enhanced engagement. The initiative successfully promoted interdisciplinary learning, research awareness, and scientific curiosity among students.



“National Science Day: Pragati Science Camp” at Swami Vivekananda Memorial Autonomous College

21. The webinar titled “Fueling the Future of Science: Funding Pathways for STEM Scholars” was conducted on 28 February 2026 in online mode under the convenorship of Dr Pratibhamoy Das and Dr Anuraj Singh as an INYAS Outreach Event. The programme targeted students, researchers, and faculty members, with 40 participants. The sessions covered national and international funding opportunities, including DAAD scholarships and DST funding schemes. Expert speakers provided detailed guidance on application procedures, eligibility criteria, and research opportunities. The webinar effectively enhanced participants’ awareness of funding pathways and encouraged strategic academic planning.

**Fueling the Future of Science:
Funding Pathways for STEM Scholars**
STEM- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
Online Mode

Theme: National Science Day- "Women in Science: Catalyzing Viksit Bharat"
Time- 10-12 PM, Date- February 28, 2026

Target Audiences- Bachelor Students
Master Students
Doctoral Students
Faculties

Registration Link : <https://forms.gle/5mKwz9t8h4L1L1m>
Registration is FREE

Organizers

Speakers

Dr. Pratibhamoy Das, IIT Patna
Dr. Anuraj Singh, ADV - IITM Gwalior
Dr. Pramod Prasad, Scientist, AERF Govt. of India
Rashi Khanduja, Programme Officer, DAAD

"Fueling the Future of Science: Funding Pathways for STEM Scholars" in an Online mode

22. The workshop titled *"Insights into Microplastics in Aquatic Environments"* was conducted from 2–6 March 2026 at IIT Indore under the convenorship of Prof. Kiran Bala as an INYAS Outreach Event. The programme targeted researchers and students, with 25 participants. The workshop featured expert lectures, laboratory visits, and hands-on sessions covering microplastic detection, analytical techniques such as FTIR and Raman spectroscopy, and interdisciplinary approaches including AI and multi-omics. The programme provided comprehensive exposure to environmental challenges and advanced research methodologies, fostering collaboration and critical thinking among participants.

23. The *"Industry-Academia Workshop on Sustainable Cooling"* was conducted on 5–6 March 2026 at Vellore Institute of Technology under the convenorship of Dr Sakhivadivel Duraisamy as an INYAS Zonal Event (South Zone). The programme targeted students, researchers, and industry professionals, with approximately 110 participants. The workshop featured technical sessions, hackathons, and expert interactions focusing on sustainable cooling technologies, energy efficiency, and climate-responsive solutions. The event emphasized industry-academia collaboration and inclusivity, particularly highlighting women's participation in science, and successfully promoted innovation and problem-solving.



Workshop at Vellore Institute of Technology



Workshop titled "Insights into Microplastics in Aquatic Environments" was conducted from 2–6 March 2026 at IIT Indore

24. The programme titled *“Beyond the Lab: Women in Science – Careers, Challenges & Choices”* was conducted on 6 March 2026 at BARC, Mumbai, under the convenorship of Dr Ruma Gupta as an INYAS Zonal Event (West Zone). The event targeted researchers and scientists, with around 130 participants. The programme

included keynote lectures, invited talks, and panel discussions addressing career pathways, challenges, mentorship, and inclusivity for women in science. It provided a platform for dialogue, networking, and knowledge exchange, promoting leadership and empowerment in STEM fields.



Programme titled “Beyond the Lab: Women in Science – Careers, Challenges & Choices” was conducted on 6 March 2026 at BARC, Mumbai

25. The session titled *“Promoting D.E.S.I.G.N for BioE3 Challenge: Engaging Young Minds for Future Solutions”* was conducted on 10 March 2026 at HNB Garhwal University under the convenorship of Professor Pooja Saklani as a remote area lecture. The programme targeted MSc, integrated MSc,

and PhD students, with around 50 participants. The session featured expert lectures on the BioE3 Mission and sustainable biotechnology applications, particularly in agriculture and livelihood development. Interactive discussions and Q&A sessions encouraged innovation and research-oriented thinking among participants.



“Promoting D.E.S.I.G.N for BioE3 Challenge: Engaging Young Minds for Future Solutions” was conducted on 10 March 2026 at HNB Garhwal University

26. The programme titled *“SCI-BUILD 2026: Science-based Building through Hands-on Learning”* was conducted on 11 March 2026 at CSIR-CRRI, New Delhi, under the convenorship of Dr Siksha Swaroopa Kar as an INYAS Zonal Event (NCR Zone). The event targeted students and young researchers, with approximately 70 participants. The highlight was a hands-on bridge-building challenge requiring teams to design and construct models using basic materials. The activity promoted teamwork, engineering skills, and problem-solving, with the best model sustaining significant load. The programme successfully encouraged experiential learning and innovation.



“SCI-BUILD 2026: Science-based Building through Hands-on Learning” at CSIR-CRRI, New Delhi

27. The expert lecture titled *“Sustainable Heterogeneous Catalysts for Energy and Environmental Applications”* was conducted on 16 March 2026 at NIT Srinagar under the convenorship of Dr Vijay Kumar as an INYAS Outreach Activity. The programme targeted students, researchers, and faculty members, with over 50 participants. Delivered by Prof. Venkata Krishnan, the lecture covered advanced catalyst design, nanomaterials, and applications in energy and environmental sustainability. The session promoted interdisciplinary research awareness and encouraged innovation in sustainable technologies.



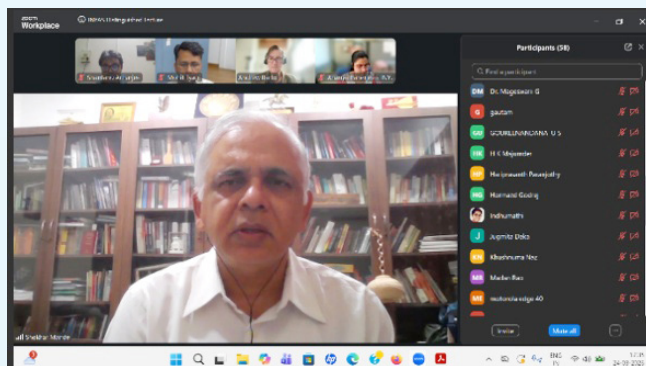
“Sustainable Heterogeneous Catalysts for Energy and Environmental Applications” was conducted on 16 March 2026 at NIT Srinagar

28. The expert lecture titled *“Keeping Time with the Skies”* was conducted on 21 March 2026 at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Thiruvananthapuram, under the convenorship of Dr Shabnam Iyani as an INYAS Outreach Activity. The programme targeted school students, with 40 participants. The lecture introduced fundamental astronomical concepts such as solar and sidereal time, lunar phases, and calendar systems. The interactive session successfully connected scientific principles with everyday observations, fostering curiosity and scientific thinking among students.



“Keeping Time with the Skies” was conducted on 21 March 2026 at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Thiruvananthapuram

29. The *“INYAS Distinguished Lecture on Artificial Intelligence – Rediscovering Reinforcement Learning”* was conducted on 24 March 2026 in online mode under the convenorship of Dr Santanu



“INYAS Distinguished Lecture on Artificial Intelligence – Rediscovering Reinforcement Learning” was conducted on 24 March 2026

Acharjee. The programme targeted academicians, researchers, and industry professionals, with 168 registrations and over 90 attendees. Delivered by Professor Andrew Barto, the lecture explored foundational concepts and applications of reinforcement learning, including examples such as AlphaGo and robotics. The session provided deep insights into artificial intelligence research and fostered academic engagement.

30. The “National Water Conference 2026” was conducted on 24 March 2026 at IIT Indore under

the convenorship of Dr Kiran Bala as a conference supported by INYAS. The programme targeted researchers, academicians, and practitioners, with approximately 80 participants. The conference featured keynote lectures, technical sessions, and research presentations on water quality, climate change, hydrology, and sustainable water management. It provided a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration, addressing critical challenges in water resources and sustainability.



“National Water Conference 2026” was conducted on 24 March 2026 at IIT Indore

OBITUARY NOTES

FELLOWS

PROFESSOR KASTURI DATTA

DOB: 14.3.1943

DOD: 03.3.2026

YOE: 1994

Council Member: 1999-2001

Kasturi Datta has earned her BSc (Chemistry), MSc (Biochemistry) and PhD degrees from Calcutta University, after which she worked in the USA, first at the State Research Institute for Neurochemistry, New York, as a post-doctoral fellow and then at the Department of Biochemistry, University of Los Angeles as a Biochemist. Later on, she spent years as Visiting Professor at Roche Institute of Molecular Biology, Nutley, New Jersey. On returning to India, Datta joined the School of Environmental Science, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, where she started a Biochemistry Laboratory and initiated both teaching and research programmes in environmental biology.



PROFESSOR MADHAV DHANANJAYA GADGIL

DOB: 24.5.1942

DOD: 07.1.2026

YOE: 1984

Madhav Gadgil obtained his BSc (1963), MSc in Zoology (1965) from Bombay and PhD (1969) from Harvard University, USA. He has been a Lecturer in Biology at Harvard University (1969-71), a Research Officer at Agharkar Research Institute, Pune (1971-73), a Visiting Professor of Human Biology at Stanford (1991) and a Distinguished Visiting Lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley (1995). He worked at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (1973-2004) and was responsible for the establishment of the Centre for Ecological Sciences (1983). Since his retirement in 2004, he was associated with Agharkar Research Institute, Pune.



PROFESSOR PADAM CHAND JAIN

DOB: 30.9.1930

DOD: 23.12.2026

YOE: 1978

Padam Chand Jain earned his BA (Hons) in Mathematics and MA (Maths) degrees from Delhi University, after which he joined Hindu College, Delhi University, as a Lecturer (1951). He obtained his PhD degree from Delhi University on 'Statistical Theory of Turbulence' under the supervision of FC Auluck. He worked as a Visiting Professor of Mathematics (1963-65) at Maths Research Centre, University of Wisconsin, jointly with Don Greespan, M Kawaguti and Ben Noble. On returning to India, he worked as a Professor of Applied Mathematics at BITS, Pilani, Rajasthan before joining IIT-B, Mumbai as Professor of Mathematics in 1966.



DR RAMESHWAR PRASAD SHARMA

DOB: 20.2.1940

DOD: 07.1.2026

YOE: 1999

Council Member: 2001-2003

RP Sharma obtained MSc (Botany) (1962) and PhD (1969) (Specialization: Cytogenetics) under the supervision of Dr MS Swaminathan. Thereafter, he did postdoctoral research at Biokemsika Institution, University of Stockholm, Sweden (1970-71); and the Department of Biochemistry, Stanford University, and Biotechnology Centre, Ohio State University, USA (1988). Initially, he worked in the Department of Genetics, subsequently in the National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology (NRC), Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi; becoming Professor of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology and Project Director at NRC before superannuation (2000). He worked as FAO Chief Technical Advisor/Consultant at Agricultural Genetics Research Institute, Hanoi, Vietnam up to 1992; CSIR Scientist Emeritus up to 2005; and INSA Senior Scientist (up to 2010) at NRC coordinating the DBT-sponsored project on 'generation, characterization and use of EMS induced mutants of upland variety Nagina-22 for functional genomics of rice'.



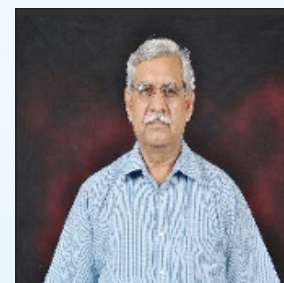
PROFESSOR HARINDRA SINGH BALYAN

DOB: 10.8.1951

DOD: 22.1.2026

YOE: 2010

H S Balyan obtained his M.Sc. and M. Phil. From Meerut University. He was Lecturer 1980-86, Reader 1986-99, Professor, 1999-2014, and Head, 2008-10, Department of Genetics & Plant Breeding (formerly Agricultural Botany), Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut (formerly Meerut University, Meerut); Dean Faculty of Agriculture (two terms). He also served as Hon. Emeritus Professor & INSA Senior Scientist at Department of Genetics & Plant Breeding, Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut.



HR ACTIVITY

Celebration of 91st INSA Foundation Day

91st INSA Foundation Day was celebrated in the Academy on 7th January, 2026. Professor Abhay Karkandikar, Secretary to the Govt. of India, Department of Science Technology (DST) delivered a public lecture on “Transforming S&T Landscape Towards Vikisit Bharat” on 07th January, at 3:00 p.m. in INSA Auditorium.



Celebration of 150 years of Vande Mataram on 7th November, 2025 to 7th November, 2026.

The INSA has organized an Essay competition for staff on the topic “Swatantrata Ka Mantra Vande Mataram” at 11 a.m. on 09th January, 2026, in the Academy for celebrating 150 years of Vande Mataram.



POSH and Hindi Workshop

The Academy organized a workshop for staff on the topic “Safe and Inclusive INSA work Environment” (Part of Hindi Workshop) on 17th March, 2026 at 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. in Multipurpose Hall. The lectures were delivered by three experts IC members- Professor Madhu Dikshit, FNA, Former Vice-President (International affairs), INSA, Mrs Manju Bagai, Legal Advisor and Mrs Seema Joshi, Advocate.

