



IndiaBioscience article style guide

Types of articles:

On the IndiaBioscience website, we feature two kinds of articles. First are **news pieces**, which can be short summaries of recently published research work, coverage of events related to life sciences in India or new developments relevant to the science community (policies, institutes, awards, etc.). The second are **columns** that explore a variety of topics related to research and biology. They are categorised as *Opinions*, *Conversations*, *Education*, *Exploring Science* and the *Indian Scenario*.

We request that authors contact us before writing a piece to pitch/discuss article ideas. While pitching for a news story based on a published research article, the link to the paper should be sent along with the pitch.

This guide attempts to provide guidelines for authors interested in writing for us. We list general style guidelines followed by more specific instructions for particular types of articles.

General guidelines:

All drafts should preferably be submitted as a Word File (.doc, .docx). Changes made during the process of editing must be done with 'Track Changes' ON.

If the author has used generative AI tool(s), like ChatGPT, for purposes other than grammar and spell-checks, then the postscript should mention this clearly and describe how the tool(s) was used.

All articles must be written in **British English**.

Titles for all articles must use sentence case, not title case.

Example: "Key players in transport pathways in melanin synthesis identified", and NOT "Key Players in Transport Pathways in Melanin Synthesis Identified"

References should preferably be provided as links in the text whenever possible. If a link cannot be found, it can be listed at the end of the article.

Images (title images or in-line images), if sent by authors, should come with captions and photo credits. We encourage authors to use copyright-free or Creative Commons-licensed images only. If using copyrighted images, then authors should have written permission from the copyright holder, and the author should retain this proof to supply if required.

We do not use titles (Dr., Prof. etc.) for **scientist names** mentioned in the articles. The first mention of a scientist should typically introduce them with full name and affiliation (*example: Jonaki Sen, Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur*). Subsequent mentions can simply use the scientist’s last name. Note: (Medical) Doctors may be an exception to this rule in some cases. However, we recommend they be introduced just as scientists, but can also be introduced appropriately but consistent with the rule (*example: Indraneel Mitra, a cancer surgeon and scientist, and the principal investigator of this study*)

The table below lists styles—fonts, formats—that we use in our articles

References	Prud’homme B, Minervino C, Hocine M, Cande JD, Aouane A, Dufour HD, Kassner VA & Gompel N. 2011. Repeated morphological evolution through cis-regulatory changes in a pleiotropic gene. <i>Nature</i> 440: 1050-3.
Journal names	Full name in italics: <i>Nature</i>
Institute names	Full name (abbrev.), location: Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. In subsequent references, just the abbreviation may be used.
Career stages	Graduate student/PhD Postdoc/Postdoctoral researcher Post Doctoral Fellows Young Investigators Junior/Senior Research Fellow MD, DM, MSc, BSc, BTech
Hyperlinks	Use hyperlinks for papers, reports and conferences
Species names	For news summaries, the paper is usually a good guide for appropriate nomenclature. In general— For fauna, the first part of a binomial species name, the genus, is capitalised. The second part, the species, is never capitalised (<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>). (Source) For flora, refer to this Wiki article.
Genes and proteins	Refer to this page.
Date	date month year; e.g., 7 March 2017
Time	12-hour format; e.g., 9 a.m., 10:30 p.m. As our readers are spread across time zones, it is best to specify the time zone too, e.g., 5:45 a.m. IST.

Special guidelines for ‘News’ articles:

Word length: 500-600 words

Title: Succinct but clear. Wordplay is ok, but vagueness is not. The title should give some idea of what the piece is about.

Teaser: One or two lines that set up the article or capture the highlight(s).

Photo(s): Photos are a great addition to a news piece and authors are encouraged to provide one or two pictures. Editors will work with authors to find photos.

Body:

- For news summaries, the introduction should be crisp and direct, introducing the reader to the study or the latest developments. Say what’s new in the first two sentences. You need to grab the reader's attention here with the new thing/ development.
- Bring context and history/background after the introduction. If possible, correlate with previous work in the field. This will help the reader get some perspective.
- A brief description of methods, esp. highlighting novel and innovative techniques, if any, and a discussion of the results and their implications must be included. It helps to contact the author(s) about the work and include quotes.
- Get into the relevance of the work. Get a quote from someone unrelated to the study but cognizant of the subject. (Find them through references in the paper or by searching the topic on Google Scholar or finding related articles on PubMed)
- Use quotes effectively. Choose the ones that carry the narrative forward.

Special guidelines for the ‘Conversations’ column and other interviews:

The **title** must include the name of the interviewee; the **author** is the interviewer. The **postscript** should mention the mode of the interview: email, recorded, etc.

The title image must have the photo of the person being interviewed.