Supporting Information

for

Enhancing barrier height for Yb(III) single-ion magnets by modulating axial ligand fields

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Experimental Section

Instruments and Methods: All the reactions were performed at ambient reaction conditions. Fourier-transform infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin Elmer Spectrum One spectrometer using KBr diluted pellets. The ESI-MS studies were carried out on Bruker MaXis impact mass spectrometer. Microanalyses were performed on a Thermo Finnigan (FLASH EA 1112) microanalyzer. Powder X-ray diffractions were recorded on a Philips X'pert Pro (PANalytical) diffractometer using Cu K α radiation ($\lambda = 1.54190$ Å). The magnetic properties of the polycrystalline samples were measured using a Quantum Design MPMS-XL SQUID magnetometer equipped with a 7 T magnet in the temperature range 2-300 K. The magnetic properties of **1–3** were measured on phase pure polycrystalline powder samples. The data were corrected for the background diamagnetic contribution and the diamagnetic contribution of the compounds were performed with an oscillating ac field of 3.5 Oe oscillating at indicated frequencies between 0.1 and 1500 Hz. The solid state X-band EPR measurements were made on Bruker spectrometers, at IIT Bombay, with a helium gas-flow cryostat. The X-band measurements were carried out at 5K.

Materials: Commercial grade solvents were purified by employing conventional procedures¹. YbX₃.xH₂O were prepared from Yb₂O₃ (Alfa Aesar) by digesting in the respective acid, (HX = HNO₃ (**1**), TfOH (**2**) and HI (**3**) followed by drying under vacuum. Triphenylphosphine oxide (Sigma Aldrich) was used as received. The hydroiodic acid (laboratory grade, containing traces of HBr/HCl) was used as received to prepare YbX₃.xH₂O.

Synthesis and characterisation of $[Yb(Ph_3PO)_4(NO_3)_2][NO_3]\cdot C_2H_5OH$ (1) and $[Yb(Ph_3PO)_4(OTf)_2][OTf]\cdot (C_2H_5OH)_{0.5}$ (2)

To a hot ethanolic solution (20 mL) of YbX₃.xH₂O (X= NO₃ (**1**) and OTf (**2**)) (0.25 mmol) was added a ethanolic solution of Ph₃PO (347 mg, 1.25 mmol) under reflux condition. The reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 4 h and cooled down to room temperature. The solution was then filtered and the filtrate was kept for crystallization at room temperature. Colourless block shaped crystals were obtained within 24 hours. The product has been washed 2-3 times with cold ethanol.

[Yb(Ph₃PO)₄(NO₃)₂][NO₃]·C₂H₅OH (1): Yield: 0.310 g (84.2%, based on ligand), FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3423 (s), 3057 (s), 1618 (w), 1590 (w), 1484 (s), 1437 (s), 1384 (s), 1298 (s), 1186 (w), 1155 (vs), 1121 (s), 1092 (m), 1030 (w), 997 (w), 928 (w), 815 (w), 747 (m), 724 (vs), 693 (s), 541 (vs). ESI-MS: 1410.2789; [M-NO₃]⁻. Elemental analysis (in %) found (Calculated) for C₇₄H₆₆N₃O₁₄P₄Yb₁: C, 58.60 (58.54); H, 4.033 (4.38); N 2.67 (2.77).

[Yb(Ph₃PO)₄(OTf)₂][OTf]·(C₂H₅OH)_{0.5} (2): Yield: 0.335 g (77%, based on ligand), FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3232 (b), 3063 (s), 1613 (w), 1590 (m), 1486 (m), 1438 (vs), 1333 (s), 1278 (m), 1207 (m), 1136 (vs), 1122 (vs), 1081 (s), 1030 (s), 998 (w), 928 (w), 850 (w), 748 (m), 726 (vs), 693

(s), 636 (vs), 542 (vs), 519 (w). ESI-MS : 1584.2034; [M−OTf][−]. Elemental analysis (in %) found (Calculated) for C₇₆H₆₃F₉O_{13.5}P₄S₃Yb₁: C, 52.35 (51.97); H, 3.50 (3.62); S 5.53 (5.48).

Synthesis and characterisation of 3

To a hot ethanolic solution (20 mL) of YbI₃.xH₂O (0.25 mmol) was added a ethanolic solution (10 mL) of Ph₃PO (347 mg, 1.25 mmol) under reflux condition. Yellow precipitate was formed within 10 minutes, the reaction is allowed to reflux for 1 hour. 30 mL Dichloromethane has been added to the reaction mixture and heated under reflux for 2 hours for complete dissolution of the product. The light red solution was then filtered and the filtrate was kept for crystallization at room temperature. Dark brown block shaped crystals were obtained within 1-2 weeks. The crystals have been washed two times with cold ethanol. With the help of crystallography studies, the product was identified as Yb(Ph₃PO)₄(I_{0.53}Br_{0.47})(I_{0.38}Cl_{0.62})][I₃] \cdot C₂H₅OH rather than the expected [Yb(Ph₃PO)₄(I)₂]I₃. The presence of chloride and bromide impurities in the molecule was further confirmed by ESI Mass studies producing additional peaks at m/z 1448 for [Yb(Ph₃PO)₄(I)(CI)][I₃] and at m/z 1357 for [Yb(Ph₃PO)₄(CI)₂][I₃]. (Figure S2b).

Yb(Ph₃PO)₄(I_{0.53}Br_{0.47})(I_{0.38}Cl_{0.62})][I₃]·C₂H₅OH (3): FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): Yield: 0.28 g (67%, based on ligand), 3173 (b), 3053 (s), 1589 (m), 1484 (m), 1437 (s), 1313 (w), 1280 (w), 1186 (w), 1144 (vs), 1121 (vs), 1086 (s), 1026 (w), 997 (w), 928 (w), 851 (w), 746 (m), 724 (vs), 691 (s), 542 (vs). ESI-MS: m/z= 1540 for [Yb(Ph₃PO)₄(I)₂]⁺, 1448 for [Yb(Ph₃PO)₄(I)(Cl)]⁺ and 1357 for [Yb(Ph₃PO)₄(Cl)₂]⁺. Elemental analysis for single crystals (in %) found (Calculated) for C₇₄H₆₆Br_{0.47}Cl_{0.62}I_{3.91}O₅P₄Yb₁: C, 45.49 (46.93); H, 3.23 (3.28). The elemental analysis of bulk, polycrystalline sample, showed minor variations from the calculated values due to varying amounts of chloride and bromide impurities in place of axial iodide ligands (see Fig. S33b-c)



Figure S1. FTIR spectra of the complexes 1-3 as disc diluted with KBr.



Figure S2a. Molecular ion peaks in the ESI-MS spectrum of 1, and 2 in methanol



Figure S2b. ESI-MS of single crystalline **3** in acetonitrile solution, showing molecular ion peaks the three species indicated above, confirming the presence of other halo-impurities along with iodide.

Single Crystal X-ray Crystallography

Suitable blocked shaped single crystals of **1-3** were selected and mounted on a Rigaku Saturn 724+ CCD diffractometer at 150K using Paratone oil for unit cell determination and three dimensional intensity data collection. Data integration and indexing was carried out using CrysAlisPro. The crystal was kept at 150 K during data collection. Using Olex2², the structure was solved with the ShelXT³ structure solution program using Intrinsic Phasing and refined with the ShelXL⁴ refinement package using Least Squares minimisation.

Identification code	1 (Yb_1)	2(Yb_2)	3 (Yb_3)	
CCDC number	1985219	1985220	1985221	
Empirical formula	$C_{74}H_{66}N_{3}O_{14}P_{4}Yb_{1}$	$C_{152}H_{126}F_{18}O_{27}P_8S_6Yb_2$	C ₇₄ H ₆₆ Br _{0.47} Cl _{0.62} I _{3.91} O 5P ₄ Yb ₁	
Molecular formula	$[Yb(Ph_3PO)_4(NO_3)_2][NO_3]$ ·C ₂ H ₅ OH	[Yb(Ph ₃ PO) ₄ (OTf) ₂][OTf]· (C ₂ H ₅ OH) _{0.5}	Yb(Ph ₃ PO) ₄ (I _{0.53} Br _{0.47})(I ₀ . ₃₈ Cl _{0.62})][I ₃]·C ₂ H ₅ OH	
Formula weight	1518.21	3512.72	1884.24	
Temperature/K	150(2)	100(2)	123(2)	
Crystal system	orthorhombic	triclinic	triclinic	
Space group	Pccn	P-1	P-1	
a/Å	15.9815(4)	13.6979(2)	13.9941(2)	
b/Å	16.5996(3)	14.6330(2)	15.4903(3)	
c/Å	26.6002(6)	19.8834(2)	17.7810(4)	
α/°	-	94.599(1)	89.738(2)	
β/°	-	108.159(1)	84.044(2)	
γ/°	-	90.614(1)	80.588(1)	
Volume/Å ³	7056.7(3)	3772.1(1)	3781.7(1)	
Z	4	1	2	
$\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.429	1.546	1.655	
µ/mm⁻¹	1.482	1.493	3.231	
F(000)	3092	1772	1822	
Crystal size/mm ³	0.088 × 0.06 × 0.04	0.15 × 0.06 × 0.03	0.12 x 0.075 x 0.07	
Radiation / Å	ΜοΚα (λ = 0.71073)	ΜοΚα (λ = 0.71073)	ΜοΚα (λ = 0.71073)	
Theta range for data collection	2.340 to 24.996°.	2.492 to 24.998°	2.519 to 26.000°	
	-19<=h<=13	-16<=h<=16	-17<=h<=17 -	
Index ranges	-19<=k<=19	-17<=k<=17	19<=k<=19 -21<=l<=21	
	-31<= <=31	-23<=l<=23		
Reflections collected	32667	143550	121805	
Independent reflections	6204 [R(int) = 0.0550]	13224 [R(int) = 0.0496]	14849 [R(int) = 0.0949]	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least squares on F ²	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	Full-matrix least- squares on F ²	
Data/restraints/parameters	6204 / 22 / 461	13224 / 73 / 1024	14849 / 211 / 852	
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.076	1.087	1.078	
Final R indexes [I>=2σ (I)]	R1 = 0.0377, wR2 = 0.0936	R1 = 0.0375, wR2 = 0.0933	R1 = 0.0606, wR2 = 0.1284	
Final R indexes [all data]	R1 = 0.0486, wR2 = 0.1008	R1 = 0.0394, wR2 = 0.0955	R1 = 0.0833, wR2 = 0.1404	
Largest diff. peak/hole /eÅ ⁻³	1.301 / -0.746	1.182/ -1.009	1.219/ -0.493	

Table-S1. Crystal data and structure refinement details for 1-3.



Figure S3(A) : (Left) Molecular structure of **1.** Hydrogen atoms, lattice nitrate anion and lattice ethanol molecules are omitted for clarity. (Right) Coordination environment of Yb(III) ion in **1**.



Figure S3(B) : ORTEP plot of the cationic part of **1** representing thermal ellipsoid with 50% probability. Hydrogen atoms, lattice nitrate anion and lattice ethanol molecules are omitted for clarity.

Yb(1)-O(1)#1	2.213(3)	O(1)#1-Yb(1)-O(1)	89.50(15)
Yb(1)-O(1)	2.213(3)	O(2)-Yb(1)-O(3)#1	75.39(9)
Yb(1)-O(2)	2.245(3)	O(2)#1-Yb(1)-O(3)#1	77.66(10)
Yb(1)-O(2)#1	2.245(3)	O(1)#1-Yb(1)-O(3)	130.37(9)
Yb(1)-O(3)#1	2.407(3)	O(1)-Yb(1)-O(3)	79.93(10)
Yb(1)-O(3)	2.407(3)	O(2)-Yb(1)-O(3)	77.67(10)
Yb(1)-O(4)	2.439(3)	O(2)#1-Yb(1)-O(3)	75.39(9)
Yb(1)-O(4)#1	2.439(3)	O(3)#1-Yb(1)-O(3)	141.12(13)
O(1)#1-Yb(1)-O(2)	95.37(10)	O(1)#1-Yb(1)-O(4)	77.54(9)
O(1)-Yb(1)-O(2)	154.23(10)	O(1)-Yb(1)-O(4)	79.23(10)
O(1)#1-Yb(1)-O(2)#1	154.23(10)	O(2)#1-Yb(1)-O(4)	128.23(10)
O(1)-Yb(1)-O(2)#1	95.37(10)	O(2)-Yb(1)-O(4)	77.18(10)
O(2)-Yb(1)-O(2)#1	91.16(14)	O(3)#1-Yb(1)-O(4)	142.38(9)
O(1)#1-Yb(1)-O(3)#1	79.93(10)	O(3)-Yb(1)-O(4)	52.89(9)
O(1)-Yb(1)-O(3)#1	130.36(9)	O(1)#1-Yb(1)-O(4)#1	79.23(10)
O(1)-Yb(1)-O(4)#1	77.54(9)	O(2)#1-Yb(1)-O(4)#1	77.18(10)
O(2)-Yb(1)-O(4)#1	128.22(10)	O(4)-Yb(1)-O(4)#1	147.07(13)
O(3)#1-Yb(1)-O(4)#1	52.89(9)	O(3)-Yb(1)-O(4)#1	142.38(9)

Table S2: Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (°) in 1



Fig

ure S4: Lattice arrangement in the crystal of **1**. The bulky aryl groups and the presence of nitrate anion in the lattice leads the Yb(III) centres placed away from each other at a distance of 11.745 Å. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



Figure-S5(A): (Left) Molecular structure of **2**, Only one part of the disordered coordinated triflate anion is shown for clarity. Hydrogen atoms, lattice triflate anion and lattice ethanol molecules are omitted for clarity. (Right) Coordination environment of Yb(III) ion in **2**.



Figure-S5(B) : ORTEP plot of cationic part of **2** representing thermal ellipsoid with 50% probability. Only one part of the disordered coordinated triflate anion is shown for clarity. Hydrogen atoms, lattice triflate anion and lattice ethanol molecules are omitted for clarity.

Yb(1)-O(2)	2.172(2)	O(3)-Yb(1)-O(4)	89.32(9)
Yb(1)-O(3)	2.189(2)	O(1)-Yb(1)-O(4)	87.72(9)
Yb(1)-O(1)	2.198(2)	O(2)-Yb(1)-O(8)	92.41(10)
Yb(1)-O(4)	2.203(2)	O(3)-Yb(1)-O(8)	94.21(11)
Yb(1)-O(8)	2.224(3)	O(1)-Yb(1)-O(8)	91.75(11)
Yb(1)-O(5)	2.248(3)	O(4)-Yb(1)-O(8)	85.98(10)
O(2)-Yb(1)-O(3)	91.06(10)	O(2)-Yb(1)-O(5)	88.58(10)
O(2)-Yb(1)-O(1)	92.08(9)	O(3)-Yb(1)-O(5)	86.54(10)
O(3)-Yb(1)-O(1)	173.15(9)	O(1)-Yb(1)-O(5)	87.45(10)
O(2)-Yb(1)-O(4)	178.37(9)	O(4)-Yb(1)-O(5)	93.02(10)
O(8)-Yb(1)-O(5)	178.75(10)		





Figure S6: Lattice arrangement in the crystal of **2**. The bulky aryl groups and the presence of triflate anion in the lattice leads the Yb(III) centres placed away from each other at a distance of 11.99 Å. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



Figure S7(A): (Left) Molecular structure of **3**, Hydrogens and lattice anions are omitted for clarity. (Right) Coordination environment of Yb(III) ion in **3**. Hydrogen atoms and lattice triiodide anion are omitted for clarity.



Figure-S7(B) : ORTEP plot of cationic part of **3** representing thermal ellipsoid with 50% probability. Hydrogen atoms and lattice triiodide anion are omitted for clarity.

Yb(1)-O(1)	2.169(4)	O(4)-Yb(1)-Cl(1)	88.6(5)
Yb(1)-O(4)	2.182(4)	O(2)-Yb(1)-Cl(1)	89.1(5)
Yb(1)-O(2)	2.187(4)	O(3)-Yb(1)-Cl(1)	91.5(4)
Yb(1)-O(3)	2.200(4)	O(1)-Yb(1)-Br(1)	87.5(2)
Yb(1)-Cl(1)	2.598(12)	O(4)-Yb(1)-Br(1)	93.1(2)
Yb(1)-Br(1)	2.899(9)	O(2)-Yb(1)-Br(1)	89.2(2)
Yb(1)-I(2)	2.970(6)	O(3)-Yb(1)-Br(1)	89.0(2)
Yb(1)-I(1)	2.973(4)	Cl(1)-Yb(1)-Br(1)	178.2(5)
P(1)-O(1)	1.504(4)	O(1)-Yb(1)-I(2)	89.5(2)
P(2)-O(2)	1.508(4)	O(4)-Yb(1)-I(2)	90.0(2)
P(3)-O(3)	1.493(4)	O(2)-Yb(1)-I(2)	87.8(2)
P(4)-O(4)	1.505(4)	O(3)-Yb(1)-I(2)	93.8(2)
O(1)-Yb(1)-O(4)	93.07(16)	Br(1)-Yb(1)-I(2)	175.8(3)
O(1)-Yb(1)-O(2)	90.13(16)	O(1)-Yb(1)-I(1)	89.27(15)
O(4)-Yb(1)-O(2)	176.12(15)	O(4)-Yb(1)-I(1)	92.56(14)
O(1)-Yb(1)-O(3)	175.14(15)	O(2)-Yb(1)-I(1)	89.68(13)
O(4)-Yb(1)-O(3)	90.51(15)	O(3)-Yb(1)-I(1)	87.29(14)
O(2)-Yb(1)-O(3)	86.43(15)	Cl(1)-Yb(1)-l(1)	178.3(5)
O(1)-Yb(1)-Cl(1)	91.9(4)	I(2)-Yb(1)-I(1)	177.19(19)

Table S4: Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (°) in 3



Figure S8: Lattice arrangement in the crystal of **3**. The bulky aryl groups and the presence of triiodide anion in the lattice leads the Yb(III) centres placed away from each other by a distance of 10.976 Å. H atoms are omitted for clarity.



Figure **S9**: The coplanarity of the equatorial Ph_3PO ligands are represented for **1-3**. (a) The four O atoms of Ph_3PO ligands are not in the same plane due to the presence of two nitrate anions coordinated to Yb(III) centers via chelation in case of **1**. (b-c) The four oxygen atoms of Ph_3PO are coplanar along with Yb(III) in case of **2** and **3**. (Yb, orange; O, red; P, pink; N, blue; S, yellow; F, bright green; Cl, dark green; Br, tan; I, violet and C, black)

Table S5. Continuous Shape measures⁵ of the coordination polyhedra of eight coordinated Yb(III) in **1**.

Label	Symmetry	Shape	Deviation
OP-8	D8h	Octagon	28.736
HPY-8	C7v	Heptagonal pyramid	24.723
HBPY-8	D6h	Hexagonal bipyramid	13.026
CU-8	Oh	Cube	11.881
SAPR-8	D4d	Square antiprism	4.759
TDD-8	D2d	Triangular dodecahedron	2.791
JGBF-8	D2d	Johnson gyrobifastigium J26	9.627
JETBPY-8	D3h	Johnson elongated triangular bipyramid J14	25.302
JBTPR-8	C2v	Biaugmented trigonal prism J50	3.752
BTPR-8	C2v	Biaugmented trigonal prism	3.531
JSD-8	D2d	Snub diphenoid J84	2.326
TT-8	Td	Triakis tetrahedron	12.709
ETBPY-8	D3h	Elongated trigonal bipyramid	22.898

Table S6. Continuous Shape measures of the coordination polyhedra of six-coordinated Yb(III)in **2** and **3**.

Label	Symmetry	Shape	Deviation	Deviation	Deviation	Deviation	Deviation
			in 2	in 3l₂	in 3IBr	in 3ICI	in 3ClBr
HP-6	D6h	Hexagon	32.287	33.664	33.868	33.583	33.143
PPY-6	C5v	Pentagonal pyramid	27.972	28.283	28.083	28.573	28.346
ОС-6	Oh	Octahedron	0.146	2.325	2.185	1.591	1.405
TPR-6	D3h	Trigonal prism	14.907	17.131	16.692	16.936	16.706
JPPY- 6	C5v	Johnson pentagonal pyramid J2	31.558	30.936	30.739	31.275	31.080



Figure S10. Simulated

(black) and experimental (red) PXRD pattern of 1-3.



Figure S11. The temperature-dependence of magnetization data for 1 (a), 2 (b) and 3 (c) at different temperatures at 0.1T



Figure S12. The field-dependence of magnetization data for **1** (a), **2** (b) and **3** (c) at different temperatures (2K, 4K, 6K and 8K).



Figure S13: Frequency dependence of (a) in-phase (χ') and (b) out-of-phase (χ'') molar magnetic susceptibility for complex **1** in the presence of various dc fields at **1.8** K.



gure S14: Frequency dependence of (a) in-phase (χ') and (b) out-of-phase (χ'') molar magnetic susceptibility for complex 2 in the presence of various dc fields at 1.8 K



Figure S15: Frequency dependence of (a) in-phase (χ') and (b) out-of-phase (χ'') molar magnetic susceptibility for complex **3** in the presence of various dc fields at 1.8 K



Figure S16: (a) Frequency dependence of in-phase molar magnetic susceptibility (χ') for complex **1** under an applied dc field of 2.5KOe. Solid lines are guides for the eyes. (b) Cole–Cole plot for **1** under an applied dc field of 2.5KOe. Solid black lines are the best fit to the Debye model.

The Cole-Cole data were fitted by considering single relaxation process using the generalized Debye model, as follows:

where χ_S =adiabatic susceptibility, χ_T = isothermal susceptibility, ω =angular frequency, τ = relaxation time, and α reflects the extent of distribution of the relaxation times.

			-		
Т/К	χs	χτ	τ	α	Residual
1.8	0.0189630	0.620083	0.284381E-03	0.119263	0.626371E-03
2.0	0.0184624	0.560877	0.181048E-03	0.111424	0.599484E-03
2.2	0.00857502	0.521165	0.114522E-03	0.117712	0.155168E-02
2.4	0.0900189	0.473562	0.873418E-04	0.0294192	0.185653E-02
2.6	0.106817	0.438657	0.576918E-04	0.0291069	0.431154E-03
2.8	0.129297E-13	0.410521	0.232696E-04	0.105359	0.294226E-03
3.0	0.184360	0.385030	0.346972E-04	0.0199938	0.172327E-03
3.2	0.222879	0.361623	0.313728E-04	0.00434066	0.947230E-04

Table-S7. Fitting parameters for Cole-Cole plot for complex 1



Figure 17 : (a) Frequency dependence of in-phase molar magnetic susceptibility (χ') for complex **2** under an applied dc field of 2KOe. Solid lines are guides for the eyes. (b) Cole–Cole plot for **2** under an applied dc field of 2KOe. Solid black lines are the best fit to the Debye model.

The Cole-Cole plot was fitted by considering two relaxation process using the modified Debye model, as follows

$$\chi_{AC}(\omega) = \chi_{S1} + \chi_{S2} + \frac{\chi_{T1} - \chi_{S1}}{1 + (i\omega\tau_1)^{(1-\alpha_1)}} + \frac{\chi_{T2} - \chi_{S2}}{1 + (i\omega\tau_2)^{(1-\alpha_2)}}$$
.....eq.2

т (к)	Xs,tot	Δχ1	τ ₁	α1	Δχ2	τ2	α2	Residual
1.8	0.692620E-02	0.285980E+00	0.305447E-02	0.199625E+00	0.394385E+00	0.259701E-01	0.433038E-01	0.659628E-03
1.95	0.536316E-02	0.280657E+00	0.263245E-02	0.219798E+00	0.349673E+00	0.197655E-01	0.328229E-01	0.195109E-03
2.1	0.574814E-02	0.260901E+00	0.208949E-02	0.218306E+00	0.324260E+00	0.139663E-01	0.237098E-01	0.154092E-03
2.25	0.707352E-02	0.198075E+00	0.129622E-02	0.179174E+00	0.350392E+00	0.920587E-02	0.413563E-01	0.139371E-02
2.4	0.441676E-02	0.197040E+00	0.107210E-02	0.193512E+00	0.320204E+00	0.612081E-02	0.280300E-01	0.509928E-03
2.55	0.666777E-02	0.122638E+00	0.568762E-03	0.132621E+00	0.362821E+00	0.364596E-02	0.509082E-01	0.753604E-03
2.7	0.805448E-02	0.114067E+00	0.458982E-03	0.114757E+00	0.342810E+00	0.246108E-02	0.384664E-01	0.408081E-03
2.85	0.114292E-01	0.810447E-01	0.294456E-03	0.151147E-01	0.347417E+00	0.164649E-02	0.321283E-01	0.619901E-03
3	0.120271E-01	0.767899E-01	0.252906E-03	0.334894E-03	0.329961E+00	0.114142E-02	0.324363E-01	0.198425E-03
3.2	0.980885E-02	0.604979E-01	0.176771E-03	0.545740E-02	0.328327E+00	0.781788E-03	0.257609E-01	0.286838E-03
3.3	0.857915E-02	0.585654E-01	0.149662E-03	0.980848E-02	0.314274E+00	0.568671E-03	0.297612E-01	0.140908E-03
3.45	0.637159E-02	0.651639E-01	0.125462E-03	0.123814E-01	0.292744E+00	0.427022E-03	0.166866E-01	0.298214E-03
3.60	0.217472E-06	0.377389E-01	0.600890E-04	0.533043E-01	0.312468E+00	0.294563E-03	0.311813E-01	0.880237E-04
3.75	0.796969E-03	0.401393E-01	0.521206E-04	0.251932E-01	0.295700E+00	0.230122E-03	0.189971E-01	0.157916E-03
4	0.588611E-02	0.139970E-01	0.301067E-04	0.351820E-01	0.296250E+00	0.145337E-03	0.266241E-01	0.781187E-04
4.45	0.165215E-02	0.183541E-14	0.162403E-04	0.774519E-03	0.280693E+00	0.671323E-04	0.304545E-01	0.687950E-04
4.95	0.203405E-01	0.119753E-14	0.925788E-05	0.226137E-02	0.234159E+00	0.398235E-04	0.126610E-01	0.425551E-04
5.45	0.162537E-01	0.249920E-01	0.340466E-05	0.111766E-01	0.192005E+00	0.256485E-04	0.393980E-01	0.125809E-03

Table-S8. Fitting parameters for Cole-Cole plot for complex 3



Figure S18: (a) Frequency dependence of in-phase molar magnetic susceptibility (χ') for complex **3** under an applied dc field of 1KOe. Solid lines are guides for the eyes. (b) Cole–Cole plot for **3** under an applied dc field of 1KOe. Solid black lines are the best fit to the Debye model. The data were fitted by considering single relaxation process using eq.1

Т/К	χs	χτ	τ	α	Residual
1.8	0.2018	0.92681	0.0014	0.23393	0.00274
1.95	0.186648	0.86655	0.0012	0.22893	0.00296
2.1	0.175129	0.80538	0.00102	0.22003	0.00232
2.25	0.165445	0.75678	8.86638E-4	0.21335	0.00184
2.4	0.158072	0.70864	7.60574E-4	0.19482	0.00246
2.55	0.150977	0.66658	6.44677E-4	0.18166	0.00159
2.7	0.145367	0.62947	5.46487E-4	0.16846	0.00138
2.85	0.139551	0.59633	4.67216E-4	0.15417	9.51012E-4
3	0.133227	0.56703	3.95457E-4	0.14526	8.39321E-4
3.15	0.128102	0.53959	3.34594E-4	0.13311	6.70898E-4
3.3	0.124888	0.51545	2.86664E-4	0.12173	5.59474E-4
3.45	0.121915	0.49295	2.44328E-4	0.10833	5.23124E-4
3.6	0.115679	0.47316	2.08335E-4	0.10544	3.65741E-4
3.75	0.113421	0.45431	1.79011E-4	0.09095	1.95887E-4
4	0.109848	0.42629	1.40366E-4	0.07899	1.30296E-4
4.45	0.119948	0.37949	9.5183E-5	0.03495	1.57871E-4
4.95	0.116776	0.34195	6.35832E-5	0.02161	1.1919E-4
5.45	0.0855024	0.31152	3.70296E-5	0.04508	6.38011E-5
5.95	0.111451	0.2861	3.03908E-5	0.02247	2.83403E-5
6.45	0.0947135	0.26447	2.1235E-5	0.00842	1.13128E-4

Table-S9. Fitting parameters for Cole-Cole plot for complex 3

Table-S10:	Comparison of magnetism	of 1-3 with	other repo	orted mon	ionuclear	Yb(III)-based
SIMs.						

SI	Complex	Coordination	H(dc)/	U _{eff}	τ ₀ /s	Ref.
no.		number	Oe	/К		
1	1	8	2500	9.58	2.26 x 10 -6	This work
2	2	6	2000	28.16	2.88 x 10 ⁻⁸	This work
3	3	6	1000	21.27	8.34 x 10 ⁻⁷	This work
4	$[Yb^{III}(H_3L)_2]Cl_3 \cdot 5CH_3OH \cdot 2H_2O,$	6	400	6.86	2.0 × 10 ⁻⁵	6
	H ₃ L = tris(((2-hydroxy-3-					
	methoxybenzyl)amino)ethyl)-amine					
5	[Yb(H ₃ Bmshp)(DMF) ₂ Cl ₂]·DMF·1.5H ₂ O	7	1500	14.5	2.38 × 10 ⁻⁵	7
	[Yb(H ₃ Bmshp)(DMF) ₂ Cl ₂]·H ₄ Bmshp	7	600	202	7 16 × 10 ⁻⁷	
	(H ₄ Bmshp = (2,6-bis[(3-ethoxysalicylidene)		000	50.5	7.10 ~ 10	
	hydrazinecarbonyl]-pyridine))					
6	Yb(trensal),	7	2000	53.2	1.5 × 10 ⁻⁸	8
	H₃trensal=2,2',2"-					
	tris(salicylideneimino)triethylamine					
7	$Yb(NO_3)_3(tBu_3PO)_2$	8	1000	23.0	6.8 × 10 ⁻⁷	9
8	$[Yb(tta)_3(L)] \cdot 2CH_2Cl_2$	8	1500	6	1.9 × 10 ⁻⁵	10
9	[Yb(QR1) ₂][NO ₃](CH ₃ OH)(H ₂ O) _{0.5}	8	1000	5.37	1.0x 10 ⁻⁵	11
	[Yb(QR1)(tta)₂](CH₃OH)	8	1000	16.1	1.78 x 10 ⁻⁷	
10	[Cp*Yb(DAD)(THF)]·C ₇ H ₈	8	1500	19.6	1.74 × 10 ⁻⁶	12
	enediamido[2,6-					
	$Me2C6H3NCH=CHNC_6H_3Me_2-2,6]_2-(DAD)$					
11	$[Yb(9-Accm)_2(NO_3)(dmf)_2]$	8	750	28.9	4.6 × 10 ⁻⁸	13
13	$Na[YbDOTA(H_2O)]\cdot 4H_2O$	9	1000	29	4 x 10 ⁻⁷	14
14	[Yb(Tpz) ₂ Bpz]·CH ₂ Cl ₂	9	1500	28	2 × 10 ⁻⁸	15
	Tpz = hydrotris(pyrazolyl)-borate					
	Bpz = dihydrobis(pyrazolyl)borate)					

Computational Details

Post Hatree-Fock *ab initio* CASSCF/RASSI-SO/SINGLE_ANISO calculation has been performed using MOLCAS 8.2 programme package¹⁶. The relativistic effect of Yb has been taken into account by DKH Hamiltonian¹⁷. The disk space of the two electron integral has been reduced by cholesky decomposition technique¹⁸. We have used ANO-RCC VTZP basis set for Yb; VDZP basis set for O, N, F,Cl,Br and I; VDZ basis set for P, C and H. All the basis sets have been taken from the ANO-RCC library implemented in MOLCAS 8.2 programme package. The CASSCF calculation has been performed with considering thirteen electrons in seven 4f orbitals i.e., using CAS (13,7) active space. We have computed seven doublet CSFs (configuration state functions) using this active space. These CSFs have been mixed by RASSI-SO to compute spin-orbit energy levels¹⁹. Finally, the g tensor, magnetic susceptibility, molar magnetisation, barrier height for magnetisation reversal have been calculated using the SINGLE_ANISO which interfaced with RASSI-SO energies²⁰.



Figure S19: The g_{zz} anisotropy axis of complex **1**. Colour code: Yb-sky blue; O-red; N-blue; P-orange; C-grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.

0,		0 0	
Energy (cm ⁻¹)	g_x	g_y	gz
0.0	0.939	1.264	7.007
90.5	0.434	2.581	4.966
225.5	0.964	1.072	7.235
290.5	0.504	1.150	7.297

Table-S11.	The energy	of the four	Kramers	doublets along	with a	tensor of	complex 1
Table-STT.	THE CHEIGY	of the loui	Namers	uoublets along	VVILII 🖻		COMPLEX I



Figure S20: Model for Atom number with LoProp charge of **1**. Colour code: Yb-sky blue; O-red; N-blue; P-orange; S-green yellow; F-light yellow; C-grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity. The increase in the LoProp charge along the equatorial plane increases the axiality of this complex compared to **1** which is also reflected in the increase of the B_2^0 value (also see Fig. S23, S24 and Tables S12, S13, S19, S20).

Atom	LoProp charge
Yb	2.5523
078	-0.6510
O81	-0.6426
079	-1.0896
O80	-1.0854
04	-0.6509
O5	-1.0894
O6	-1.0855
07	-0.6426

Table-S12. LoProp charge of Yb and coordinated atoms with Yb of complex 1.



Figure S21: (a) Comparison of the computed magnetic susceptibility of **1** with experiment. Black spheres correspond to the experimental magnetic susceptibility data for **1**. (b) Comparison of computed molar magnetisation of **1** with experiment. The solid red line corresponds to the *ab initio* computed value.

k	q	B _k ^q (1)	B _k ^q (2)	B _k ^q (3I ₂)	B _k q (3a)
	-2	9.80E-01	3.51E-01	4.35E-01	7.08E-01
	-1	1.71E-01	-8.97E-01	8.31E-01	7.05E-02
2	0	-5.23E+00	-8.90E+00	-1.67E+01	-5.35E+01
	1	-1.51E+00	-3.57E+00	2.18E-01	-8.88E-02
	2	-2.92E+00	3.25E+00	-4.92E-01	-4.38E-02
	-4	-4.96E-01	3.61E-01	-9.95E-01	-1.45E+00
	-3	-6.97E-02	1.71E-02	5.74E-02	2.90E-02
	-2	2.49E-02	-5.02E-02	1.21E-02	1.56E-02
	-1	-8.42E-03	5.14E-02	-3.39E-02	2.02E-03
4	0	-3.62E-02	-2.21E-01	-1.46E-01	-1.02E-01
	1	4.40E-02	1.11E-01	-1.87E-02	3.45E-03
	2	-5.46E-02	-1.28E-02	-7.52E-03	-2.90E-03
	3	1.35E-01	2.14E-02	-3.56E-02	-4.25E-02
	4	7.10E-01	-1.17E+00	7.64E-01	-1.26E-02
	-6	-2.86E-03	-1.17E-03	7.32E-04	1.04E-04
	-5	5.26E-03	4.51E-04	2.45E-03	1.32E-03
	-4	-5.84E-04	9.32E-03	-2.23E-02	-2.90E-02
	-3	-2.24E-03	8.70E-04	1.74E-03	6.05E-04
	-2	1.10E-03	1.53E-04	6.51E-04	9.85E-04
	-1	-3.01E-03	-3.48E-03	2.93E-04	-4.77E-04
6	0	-2.95E-03	9.73E-04	-1.01E-03	-2.23E-03
	1	1.74E-02	-5.22E-03	-3.31E-04	-1.96E-04
	2	-1.40E-03	2.38E-03	-4.18E-04	-1.21E-04
	3	4.64E-03	5.76E-04	-6.66E-04	1.03E-04
	4	3.40E-03	-2.67E-02	1.72E-02	-9.14E-04
	5	-8.85E-03	3.53E-03	3.42E-03	3.03E-03
	6	1.75E-03	1.10E-03	8.92E-05	-6.87E-04

Table-S13. The *ab initio* computed crystal field parameter of complex 1, 2 and 3I₂.



Figure S22: (a) The g_{zz} anisotropy axis of complex **2**. (b) The g_{zz} anisotropy axis of **3I**₂. Colour code: Yb-sky blue; I-cyan; O-red; N-blue; P-orange; S-green yellow; F-light yellow; C-grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.

Energy (cm ⁻¹)	g _x	g _y	gz			
0.0	0.188	0.890	6.882			
329.3	0.329	1.665	5.516			
392.1	0.337	1.905	5.660			
567.1	4.368	3.576	1.251			

Table-S14. The energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of complex 2.

Table-S15. The energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of 312.						
Energy (cm ⁻¹)	g _x	g _y	gz			
0.0	0.129	0.172	7.663			
447.5	3.630	3.541	3.025			
663.4	5.056	3.688	0.793			
691.9	4.346	2.878	0.715			

Table-S16. The CAS(13,7) computed energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of **3IBr**.

Energy (cm ⁻¹)	g _x	g _y	gz
0.0	0.136	0.201	7.627
430.7	3.694	3.608	2.848
627.5	4.597	4.173	0.791
665.9	3.881	3.452	0.578

Table-S17. The CAS(13,7) computed energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of **3ICI**.

Energy (cm ⁻¹)	g _x	g _y	gz
0.0	0.229	0.34	7.392
350.3	3.948	3.855	1.795
470.4	4.629	3.901	0.552
566.2	4.223	3.602	0.463

Table-S18. The CAS(13,7) computed energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of **3BrCl**.

Energy (cm ⁻¹)	g _x	g _y	gz
0.0	0.287	0.416	7.260
339.0	3.995	3.882	1.486
444.9	4.388	3.972	0.395
550.1	4.079	3.821	0.771



Figure S23: Model for Atom number with LoProp charge of **2**. Colour code: Yb-sky blue; O-red; N-blue; P-orange; S-green yellow; F-light yellow; C-grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.

Atom	LoProp charge
Yb	2.5818
018	-0.9981
019	-1.0493
O14	-1.0914
015	-1.1025
016	-1.0960
017	-1.0936

 Table-S19.
 LoProp charge of Yb and coordinated atoms with Yb of complex 2.

Table-S20.	The comparison of LoProp charge of the Yb and axial atoms in 312, 2	3IBr, 3	BICI and
3BrCl.			

Atom	3l ₂	Atom	3IBr	Atom	3ICI	Atom	3BrCl
Yb	2.4246	Yb	2.4466	Yb	2.4629	Yb	2.4837
12	-0.8202	I	-0.8144	I	-0.8276	Br	-0.8555
13	-0.8148	Br	-0.8498	Cl	-0.8623	Cl	-0.8622
08	-1.0935	08	-1.0936	08	-1.0894	08	-1.0893
O9	-1.0880	O 9	-1.0878	O9	-1.0831	O 9	-1.0829
010	-1.0854	O10	-1.0856	010	-1.0809	O10	-1.0810
011	-1.0898	011	-1.0902	011	-1.0846	011	-1.0849



Figure S24: Model for Atom number with LoProp charge of **3** ($3I_2$). Colour code: Yb-sky blue; O-red; N-blue; P-orange; S-green yellow; F-light yellow; C-grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.



Figure S25: (a) Comparison of the computed magnetic susceptibility of **2** with experiment. Black spheres correspond to the experimental magnetic susceptibility data for **2**. The solid red line is the computed magnetic susceptibilities. (b) Comparison of computed molar magnetisation of **2** with experiment. The solid red line corresponds to the ab initio computed value.



Figure S26: To understand the role of dynamic correlation on the magnetic anisotropy and the estimated barrier heights, further calculations were performed on model systems wherein the phenyl groups in complex **3** ($3I_2$) are replaced by methyl groups. The CASSCF calculation yield barrier height which is similar to the original complex while CASPT2 found to enhance the U_{eff} further worsening the match (also the estimated susceptibility, see Table S22-23). As dynamic correlation reveals deviation in the estimated barrier height, but these calculations are only a distant possibility at present, even for yet unknown models. (a) Comparison of the computed magnetic susceptibility data for **3**. (b) Comparison of computed molar magnetics of **3** with experiment. The solid red line corresponds to the computed value with CAS (13,7) on **3I**₂ (only iodide in both axial position). The solid green line corresponds to the computed value of **3** from partial occupation of I, Br and Cl in the axial position.



Figure S27: Supercell model of **3I**₂. Colour code: Yb-sky blue; O-red; N-blue; P-orange; S-green yellow; F-light yellow; C-grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity. "To estimate the lattice effect on the barrier heights, additional calculations were performed using the point charge model on **3I**₂ wherein neighbouring molecules in the crystal lattice were replaced by point charges. The calculations yield only marginal alteration to estimate the barrier height and ligand field parameters (see Table S21 for lattice effects)."

complex $3I_2$.Energy (cm⁻¹) g_x g_y g_z 0.00.0560.2217.688465.33.2223.3013.688

2.233

5.943

0.796

690.9

Table-S21. The energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of the supercell of



Figure S28: The beta electron density of Yb (III) in **1** (a) **2** (b) **3** (**3I**₂) (c) **1b** (d) **2b** (e) and **3b** (**3I**₂) (f). Colour code: Yb-sky blue; O-red; N-blue; P-orange; S-green yellow; F-light yellow; C-grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.

Table-S22. The CAS(13,7) computed energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of the modelled complex of **3** (**3**I₂).

Energy (cm ⁻¹)	g _x	g _y	gz
0.0	0.152	0.225	7.589
415.7	3.743	3.670	2.694
599.4	5.436	3.260	0.715
656.0	4.828	2.647	0.393

Table-S23. The CASPT2 computed energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of the modelled complex of $3 (3I_2)$.

Energy (cm ⁻¹)	g _x	g _y	gz
0.0	0.192	0.246	7.527
533.4	3.916	3.841	1.963
660.1	5.123	3.512	0.657
835.0	4.631	3.170	0.315



Figure S29: The g_{zz} anisotropy axis of complex **3a** (**3I**₂). Colour code: Yb-sky blue; O-red; Nblue; P-orange; S-green yellow; F-light yellow; C-grey. Hydrogens are omitted for clarity.



Figure S30: Mechanism of magnetic relaxation of complex **3a** (**3I**₂). The red line indicates the QTM and TA-QTM via ground KD and excited KD respectively. The olive line indicates the transition probability between KD1 and KD2. The sky-blue line indicates mechanism of orbach relaxation. The blue characters indicate the m_J composition of each KD.

Energy (cm ⁻¹)	g _x	g _y	gz
0.0	0.010	0.031	7.924
1081.0	1.700	1.713	5.190
1681.6	1.562	1.878	2.940
1984.4	4.691	4.374	1.074

Table-S24. The energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of **3a** (**3I**₂).

Table-S25. The energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of	of complex 1b .
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Energy (cm ⁻¹)	g _x	g_{y}	gz
0.0	5.307	3.760	1.101
154.5	0.668	0.878	3.432
702.2	0.066	0.085	5.747
1432.2	0.009	0.009	8.001

Table-S26	The energy o	f the four Krame	ers doublets along	g with g te	ensor of complex 2b.
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Energy (cm ⁻¹)	g _x	g_y	gz
0.0	5.123	4.009	1.173
516.5	0.548	0.560	3.472
1187.9	0.002	0.016	5.756
2015.0	0.006	0.006	8.002

Energy (cm ⁻¹)	g _x	g _y	gz
0.0	4.595	4.551	1.166
269.6	0.011	0.031	3.469
741.3	0.006	0.015	5.749
1394.4	0.005	0.004	8.002

Table-S27. The energy of the four Kramers doublets along with g tensor of complex 3b (3l₂).



Figure S31: (a) The energy of the KD2-KD1 with average LoProp charge of axial atoms coordinated to metal. (b) The energy of the KD2-KD1 with the B_2^0 axial crystal field parameter.



Figure S32: Solid state X-band EPR spectra of 1, 2 and 3 at 5 K.

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igure S33a. Elemental analysis for the single crystals of 3.

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Figure S33b. Elemental analysis for the polycrystalline sample of 3 (batch A).

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Figure S33c. Elemental analysis for the polycrystalline sample of 3 (batch B)

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