

B'uru scientists shine on global stage

Over 190 scientists from city make global list of most cited researchers this year; city-based academicians laud achievement, but point out scope for betterment in research

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Carrying out quality research requires investment in infrastructure, including cutting-edge laboratories, while quality of PhD work remains a concern and research culture in higher education continues to be underdeveloped, says former BU Vice Chancellor

Researchers from Bengaluru have made their mark in the Stanford/Elsevier Top 2% Scientists List for 2025, released recently. As many as 193 scientists from Bengaluru have made it to the global list of most cited researchers this year.

Out of these, the majority (134 researchers) are from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), followed by 13 researchers from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), 6 from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), 5 researchers from Christ University, 4 from St John's National Academy of Health Sciences and 3 each from National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro

Sciences (NIMHANS), Presidency University, and Raman Research Institute (RRI).

Researchers from as many as 24 institutes in the city have made it to the list. The prestigious list is based on a composite indicator (c-score), calculated from citation metrics such as total citations, H-index, H-index adjusted for the number of authors, citations to single-author papers, citations to single or first-author papers, and citations to single, first, or last-author papers. The c-score combines these

metrics to provide a comprehensive measure of a scientist's impact, accounting for both the quantity and the quality of their contributions.

The metrics cover the entire career of a scientist up to the end of the previous year and focus on citations received during the previous year. Researchers are classified into 22 scientific fields and 174 sub-fields, allowing for a comprehensive representation of various disciplines. This classification is based on the Stanford University and Elsevier data

used for the ranking. City-based academicians have lauded this achievement. However, they opine that there is a scope for improvement in research in higher education, not just in Bengaluru, but across the country.

Improvement in funding, sufficient infrastructure availability, along with cutting-edge laboratories, quality faculty, updated curricula, and strong research culture are the needs of the hour.

Venugopal KR, former Vice Chancellor of Bangalore University, said that 193 is a commendable figure, reflecting a significant number of researchers featured in the top 2 per cent list of most-cited scholars. However, this list does not capture the scope of inventions, and therefore does not fully represent the contribution to the global research landscape. "To carry out good research, we need investment to develop infrastructure, including cutting-edge laboratories. The qualities of PhD work need improvement. Places of higher education are still not cultivating a research culture," he said, adding that young researchers should be encouraged to publish papers. He emphasised the need to look beyond, into the realms of research products and innovation.