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CSIR-NIIST ranked top research institute in India by SCImago

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Acclaimed for showcasing key innovations such as fluorescent material to detect counterfeit currency at the national events like 'Make in India', Bio-gas plant for the Swach Bharat Mission of the country by CSIR-National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) at Pappanamcode in the city is ranked first among government research institutions in India this year.

The ranking is offered by SCImago Institutions Rankings which is involved in assessing research institutions, world-wide. It reflects the scientific, economic and social characteristics of the institutions.

"CSIR-NIIST has consistently improved over the years and got the recognition of being the top research institution in the country this year. Getting acknowledgement from SCImago Institutions Rankings is an honour for us," CSIR-NIIST director A Ajayaghosh told TOI. In terms of SCImago Institutions Rankings coupling both academic and research institutors, CSIR consortium with its 36 labs is ranked on top followed by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. In the world category, CSIR tops the list with a world ranking of 99. NIIST was in the seventh position in 2009 according to SCImago.

In 2012, CSIR-NIIST was adjudged by Nesta, a UK-based independent innovation foundation for evaluating innovations in Science and Technology research, as the top organization in India and put under the 'rising star of science and innovation in the country'.

On the research indicators that offers NIIST the top ranking, CSIR-NIIST senior principal scientist Nishy P said, "50 percent of the weightage is for science research, quality publication, highly cited in journals and leadership in collaboration, then 30 percent weightage is for the Innovation and Technology partnerships and talent pool and the the remaining 20 percent is for its societal application and impact."

For 2016 and 2015, NIIST is the top ranked research institution according to SCImago Institutions Rankings, which is a world institute involved in the design and development of Science, Technology and Innovation Analytics Solutions, she said. While NIIST was ranked third in 2014, it stood at the sixth position in 2013 and 2012, she said.

NIIST's globally competitive scientific and innovative research are in the areas of Chemistry, Materials, Biology and Environmental Sciences. NIIST is focused on high-quality science leading to potential technologies in Chemical sciences, Agro processing, Microbial process, Mineral processing and Environmental studies and providing consultancies to Industries. Currently, NIIST is focussed on attracting private industries in technology and product developments.