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NIIST tops government research institute list

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Thiruvananthapuram: The CSIR-National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) at Pappanamcode, which has key innovations such a fluorescent material to detect counterfeit currency as part of 'Make in India' campaign, biogas plant for the Swachh Bharath mission, etc., has been ranked first among government research institutions in India this year.

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

"CSIR-NIIST has improved consistently over the years and became the top research institution in the country this year," CSIR-NIIST director A Ajayaghosh said. In terms of SCImago Institutions Rankings coupling both academic and research institutions, CSIR consortium with its 36 labs is ranked on top followed by the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. In the world, CSIR is ranked 99. NIIST was in the seventh position in 2009 in the SCImago rankings and was ranked sixth in 2012 and 2013, before being ranked third in 2014.

In 2012, NIIST was adjudged by Nesta, a UK-based independent innovation foundation for evaluating innovations in science and technology research, as the top institute in India.

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

NIIST's globally competitive scientific and innovative research are in the areas of chemistry, materials, biology and environmental sciences. The institute 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.