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'Dearth of funds a drag on education'

Staff Reporter



Dearth of funds for research is dragging down the academic sector, Gangan Pratap, outstanding scientist, NIIST, CSIR, Thiruvananthapuram, has said.

He was delivering the keynote address at the inaugural function of the 26th Kerala Science Congress held at the Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University headquarters on Tuesday.

Dr. Gangan Pratap said academic standards could be improved only through research-oriented higher education and allocating adequate funds for research. "A good university should create its own knowledge base by research integrated with teaching. Such a method is not happening in India as the research department in our universities is small, focussing only on examinations," Dr. Pratap said.

While the mobile phone giant Nokia spent Rs.30,000 crore on research, the budgetary allocation for research in universities in the State a year was only Rs.300 crore, Dr. Pratap said.