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30 Pune scientists in top 2% list compiled by Stanford

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Pune: As many as 30 scientists from Pune-based institutes are in the top 2% in the world list published by Stanford University, Elsevier Research Intelligence and SciTech Strategies. They are classified into 22 scientific fields and 176 sub-fields.

Nine scientists are from NCL, six from Pune university, five from IUCAA, three from IISER Pune, two each from ICAR-National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management, Baramati and DIAT and one each from Symbiosis International, MIT and D Y Patil Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune, among the others.

“It was motivating for me to be in the list. We need more innovative research whereby original contributions will be visible in any matrix,” Nirmalya Ballav, a scientist from IISER, Pune, said.

Ashwini Kumar Nangia, director of CSIR-NCL said a few names are in the below 100 rank in their fields. “This is a sign of infrastructure and research support for science and technology in the past two decades,” he added.

Bhushan Patwardhan, UGC vice-chairman, said, “An analysis would help know where we stand among peers. Such recognition gives motivation to perform better. The credit for this accomplishment goes to my research students, collaborators and colleagues,” he said.

“I am proud to have five colleagues in the list, 20% of faculty and emeritus. I would expect more than half of our faculty in such a list given our quality of publications and the impact of our research. The indices may not be ideal. Astrophysicists Jayant Narlikar and radio astronomer Govind Swarup are not in it. Nobody from the LIGO project has made it,” Somak Raychaudhury, IUCAA director, said.