

Governor calls for research in new areas

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GOVERNOR Vajubhai Vala has called upon youths to take up research in new areas. Delivering the convocation address at the 8th convocation of Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreeshwara University held at JSS Medical College on Wednesday, he said youths can take on developed countries in terms of intellect which was proved by ISRO.

He said the field of medicine has advanced with transplantation of heart, kidney and liver: "Indian scientists should try transplantation of brain that will draw attention of rest of the world," he added.

Stressing the need of good health care to build a strong nation, he said doctors should be service-oriented and should not run behind money or wealth as they are given education by spending tax payers money.

He observed that medical colleges and institutions run by religious mutts raise donation from devotees and public. Vala said doctors should charge high fee from the rich, but should treat poor patients with compassion.

He said doctors should also have courage and goodwill to attend to patients which will mould their leadership qualities. "Gurka, Sikh and Rajput regiments are known for leading from the front with courage and they are protecting borders of the nation," he said. Vala also commended girls for taking away 70 per cent of awards.

He told young doctors to stand by ethics, truth, keep

Acting V-Cs can fill up approved posts, says Vajubhai Vala

Mysuru: Governor Vajubhai Vala expressed displeasure over delay in appointment of vice-chancellors to six universities, including the University of Mysore and Bangalore University, in the state. He told reporters that the state government should complete the process and recommend names of V-Cs to his office. Vajubhai Vala, also Chancellor of Universities, said he does not keep files with him and will clear all files within three days. Asked about Higher Education Minister Basavaraya Reddy not happy with Governor's office for returning files regarding appointment of vice chancellors to Mysore and Bangalore universities, Vala said files were not in order and hence, returned to the government. He said he is committed to appointing vice-chancellors in all varsities in the state.

away from bad practises and imbibe good deeds giving up ego. "The nation wants people who can make others grow greater and advance in all areas, including in medicine and research," he added.

Chancellor Shivarathri Deshikendra Swami, JSS Mahavidyapeeta, executive secretary C G Betsurmash and Vice-chancellor B Suresh were present. Around 1,274 students were conferred with degrees in Medical, Dental, Pharmacy, Biomedical Sciences, Life Sciences and Management Studies.

Call to make clinical trial data public

ICMR makes it mandatory for companies, organisations to disclose outcomes

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

From April, companies and organisations that have registered for clinical trials in India will have to disclose the outcomes of their tests within a year of completing them.

"We never get to know about negative trial results ... globally less than 60% of clinical trial outcomes are disclosed," said Soumya Swaminathan, Head, Indian Council of Medical Research.

Currently, all trials in India are registered on the Clinical Trials Registry - India (CTRI).

Of the trials registered with the CTRI (as on June 30, 2017), 3,318 are prospective and 5,604 are retrospective registrations - which means details of these trials were uploaded after the compan-

ies conducting them had begun recruiting patients.

India has had a mixed record with clinical trials, with reports, earlier in the decade, of prospective drugs being tested on people who were not aware of what they had signed up for. In 2013, the Supreme Court of India forbade fresh applications for clinical trials following a public interest litigation petition due to reports that there had been a high number of deaths among those registered for trials.

Proper mechanism

The court asked the government to set in place a proper mechanism to regulate trials. This led to measures which required that compensation be paid to patients affected by trials and that there was audio-visual proof



India has had a mixed record with clinical trials. •AP

that participants had indeed consented to take part in a trial. However, these requirements were later eased and a streamlined system is

in place which, according to clinical-trial companies, is much more conducive to organising trials.

"There have been instances in the past that threw up problems with trials but we can't vilify the process itself," Dr. Swaminathan added. Among the major trials expected is that of several prospective tuberculosis vaccines that will begin to be tested in 20,000 patients and involve a recombinant vaccine as well as a killed mycobacterium.

Dr. Swaminathan, who is set to take over as deputy director-general at the World Health Organisation later this year, said the ICMR would also commission a study to look at the root cause of deaths in children in Gorakhpur and surrounding regions.

IISc slips to 10th place from 6th in ranking for Brics varsities

'Quantity of Indian research greater than quality, on average'

NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has slipped down to 10th position from sixth in an international ranking of the Brics nations universities done by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).

The QS, which evaluates the performance of universities across the world under certain parameters and ranks them accordingly, released the results titled - '2018 World University Rankings: BRICS,' for universities in Brazil, China, India, Russia and South Africa late on Wednesday.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, rose up to ninth position this year from last year's 13th, making its first-ever appearance in the list of top 10 higher educational institutions of Brics nations.

Chinese institutions grabbed the top four ranks



The IISc, Bengaluru, Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai, and IIT Delhi, received 100 out of 100 (score) for papers per faculty. DH FILE PHOTO

with Tsinghua University retaining the first position for another year.

IIT Delhi slipped down to

17th position from 15th.

IIT Madras, however, climbed up to grab 18th position from last year's 19th.

"India's strength, relative to universities in other Brics nations, lies in the fact that its universities have high proportion of qualified faculty. Fifteen Indian universities receive a perfect score of 100/100 for QS' staff with PhD indicator," the international rating agency said in a statement.

Research productivity

The research productivity of India's universities is "also one of its strengths," it said.

IISc, Bangalore, Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai, and IIT Delhi received 100 out of 100 (score) for papers per faculty. Additionally, all top seven scores for this indicator were achieved by Indian universities, QS noted.

"However, the quantity of Indian research is greater than its quality, on average. No Indian entrant achieves a top 10 score for this indicator, which

is dominated by Chinese universities," it said.

A total of 65 Indian higher educational institutions were ranked.

Performance rating

"This ranking allows Indian policymakers, academics and administrators to measure the performance of their higher education system against competitors with similar aspirations. The 2018 edition indicates that Indian universities – should they wish to compete with the dominant Chinese system – need to implement frameworks that encourage the production of high-impact research," Ben Sowter, research director at QS, said.

Creating "extensive" international research networks allows collaboration and ensures that research receives a wider reach, he underlined.

DH News Service