



# Research in colleges: South India performs well but Karnataka has a long way to go

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**Bengaluru:** Southern states account for over 40% research projects sanctioned by the University Grants Commission (UGC) under its Major Research Project Scheme (MRPS) over the past three years.

## UNDER UGC

Of 819 research projects funded by UGC between 2016-17 and 2018-19, 325 projects were bagged by five southern states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and the Union Territory of Puducherry. South India accounted for nearly Rs 34 crore of the Rs 82 crore expenditure

## INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

In the past year, UGC has taken up 83 joint projects worth Rs 46 crore with prominent universities abroad. The initiatives include UK India Education Research Initiative, Israel Science Foundation, Indo Norway Cooperation Program, Indo-German Program, 21st Century Knowledge Initiative with the US.

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES

In the next three to four years, ministry of human resource development plans to fund 2,364 research projects under three new schemes - Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC); Impacting Research Innovation and Technology (IMPRINT) and Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS)

incurred on these projects.

While Tamil Nadu topped the all-India list with 143 projects, Karnataka stood sixth

with 45. Northern states like Uttar Pradesh (63) and Punjab (48) are ahead of Karnataka.

The MRPS seeks to promote



**At the bottom**  
Goa, Mizoram - 6  
Manipur - 4  
Bihar - 2  
Tripura, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh - 1

macy, medical and agricultural sciences, among others, and multi-disciplinary researches in related fields by teaching faculty of colleges and universities.

## Teacher shortage to blame, says BU V-C

Speaking about Karnataka's performance, vice-chancellor of Bangalore University KR Venugopal said, "Shortage of teachers is the reason why we don't have enough projects. More than 50% teaching posts are vacant in universities and colleges across Karnataka and as a result, teachers are burdened with classroom responsibilities and aren't taking up research."

According to Venugopal, there is a likelihood of Karnataka doing well in science research but it needs to buck up in humanities and arts.

Northeastern and eastern states are at the bottom of the list, bagging only a handful of projects.

UGC, in its reply to a query in the Rajya Sabha earlier this month, stated that no proposals for research projects were received from Nagaland, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, and Lakshadweep. Besides research projects, UGC has invested Rs 1,769 crore to fund research by teachers and students across India under various schemes.