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ticipation rate (30 per cent) during 2021-2022.

## WHY INDIA LAGS BEHIND IN RESEARCH

India is home to premier institutes like IITs, yet when it comes to research, it lags behind. A recent report by British higher education analyst Quacquarelli Symonds with data from the research analytics platform SciVal, mentions that though India's research output is more than double the global average (between 2017 and 2022, India's research output grew by around 54 per cent, taking it to the fourth position globally in producing academic papers), it lags behind in citations as it stood ninth globally.

Shaji of IISER says that research must not only be limited to theoretical studies but must find applications in industry as well. He suggests an industrial partnership wherein industry leaders can guide researchers on real world applications. "Our new i2 science programme (integrated and interdisciplinary sciences) focuses on applied aspects of science, whether it is medicinal chemistry or bio-physics so that students can not only indulge in research but also take up the skill, jobs or even start new ventures in these kinds of areas," he says.

When it comes to newer technologies and rapidly advancing AI and robotic systems, India is behind in terms of citations. Last year, former Niti Aayog chairman Amitabh Kant, too, noted that the country lags behind in artificial intelligence research and needs to elevate its supercomputing capabilities. He had noted that India falls behind in core and applied research and must take efforts to catch up with the US and China.

Prof Ashish Verma, convenor, sustainable transportation lab, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, makes a case for governmental