

## JNCASR symposium inspire future researchers

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), an autonomous Institute under Department of Science & Technology organized InSearch 2020 a 1-day symposium to create an appreciation of science and inspire a future in research among students in Undergraduate and Master's programmes.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the series which began in January 2018 to draw the attention of participants to the fact that a scientific question is often best addressed with a broad mind, equipped with multiple skill sets and diverse perspectives.

“It excited students about classical and contemporary research problems and pointed out that they too can become future scientists. Most undergraduate and postgraduate college education in India remains disconnected from research laboratories. This symposium wishes to narrow that gap by bringing students into JNCASR campus and presenting to them world-class researchers in diverse areas of scientific enquiry,” said Dr Sheeba Vasu, organizer of InSearch 2020 symposium.

“Today's research is multi-disciplinary and collaborative in nature, and that is not obvious to students who often consider branches of study as water-tight compartments with little overlap, she added.

The event showcased exciting research in the field of Biology carried out by Indian scientists to inspire young students towards a future in scientific research. There were 250 participants of whom 25 were teachers and the remaining were undergraduates and master's students and few PhD students.



An array of brilliant scientists from various research organisations within Bangalore, namely – Indian Institute of Science, National Centre for Biological Sciences, Centre for Human Genetics, University of Agricultural Sciences, Nature Conservation Foundation, all of whom have made large contributions to science and are well recognized for their impact on the scientific community in general delivered lectures and talks.

The talks covered a range of topics from recent advances in neuroscience research, to how our immediate surroundings can inspire fundamental research questions, approaches to wildlife conservation in India and the meeting of diverse disciplines in the journey of scientific inquiry.

In addition, four talks by PhD students from various departments within JNCASR provided a glimpse of their own studies.

Students had the opportunity to interact informally with the speakers over tea and lunch breaks, and also visited the research labs on campus. These talks and associated events motivated the audience towards thinking of a future in research that will be holistic and multidisciplinary in nature.

A photography competition on the theme Life in unexpected places, encouraged the viewer to appreciate the myriad life forms with which we share our biosphere. Many participants expressed their appreciation of the excellent talks and wished for this event to be continued in the future.

In the past two years about several participants including students and their teachers have been a part of the symposium.