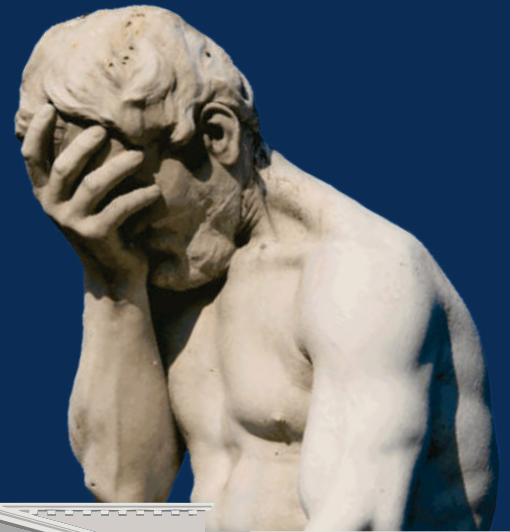


FRAUDULENT AND FABRICATED RESEARCH PAPERS IN INDIAN ACADEMIA



What is plaguing research in our government institutions and universities?

Absence of a robust mechanism to ensure research integrity!

Research integrity requires strict adherence to professional standards, encompassing intellectual honesty, transparency, and accountability. It ensures that data is accurately collected, analyzed and reported without fabrication.



Transparency and accountability are sorely missing in the Indian research ecosystem. Research fraud is rampant in India's public funded research institutions. No questions asked. No punishments given to erring scientists.

It takes 3-5 years of concerted efforts and considerable resources under the Right to Information Act to uncover research fraud in our public funded institutions and universities.



Data fraud in banks and commercial organizations attracts criminal investigations and punishments. But data fraud in the research papers help researchers receive PhDs and promotions in public institutions. A grim reality in India.



Every year thousands of crores of taxpayers' money go down the drain in the name of research.

National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad under ICMR is a leader in research fraud. Complaints to top authorities invariably lead to top to bottom coordinated cover ups and ostrich like responses.



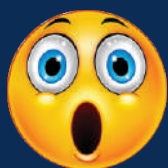
SAMPLE THIS

P-value (Probability value) is calculated based on the observed data. When there is no observed data, calculating P-value is mathematically impossible. ICMR scientists mysteriously make this possible though!

Title of the research paper	No. of samples detected for pesticide Isopropalin in control group	Mean $\pm$ SD for pesticide Isopropalin in control group	P-value for pesticide Isopropalin in control group
Chronic exposures to cholinesterase-inhibiting pesticides adversely affects the health of agricultural workers in India. (April 2024)	0	ND	0.280
Biomonitoring of pesticide exposure and its health implications in agricultural areas of Telangana, India: A brief report. (June 2024)	0	ND	0.280



THIS IS A CLEAR SIGN OF DATA FALSIFICATION



Surprisingly, the Research Integrity Officer(!) of the ICMR and the Director had approved these papers for publication. The study burnt **Rs 36 lakhs** of public money. Worse still, this impugned study also formed a part of a PhD thesis under CSIR fellowship. Frankly, one can't see such blunders even in college summer project reports.

In this impugned study, the ICMR scientists fictitiously managed to find residues of several pesticides that were never registered / used in India.



HERE IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE.

A CSIR funded research paper published by King George's Medical University, Lucknow in the year 2023 claimed finding residues of endocrine disrupting chemicals in breast milk samples at levels below the lowest level of detection (LLOD) used in the laboratory analysis. This is a weird and undemonstrable claim; made possible only with data falsification.



WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM CHINA !



China has emerged as a superpower in science in recent decades by following a “**zero tolerance**” approach for research frauds.

In China, the **Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)** and **Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)** lead in coordinated investigations against research fraud.

Verified cases of research fraud result in severe punishments including:



Bans
from applying
for research
grants



Revocation
of existing
titles and
research
funding



Termination
of
employment



Backlisting
in a national
database
(naming and
shaming)



Prison terms
for serious
research frauds
and academic
misconduct

A RECENT EXAMPLE FROM CHINA

In May 2026, Dr. Wang Ping, Dean of Life Sciences School at China's Tongji University was severely punished for research misconduct in a 2025 nature study.

His fault?

“Wang failed to properly supervise the experimental data and the quality of the paper, and did not fulfil the responsibilities of a corresponding author in ensuring data authenticity and reproducibility”.

Dr. Wang was removed from his position as Dean, demoted by two ranks, issued 24 months ban on promotion, pay rise and research funding applications.

The university said it would use Wang's case as a lesson to strengthen oversight of research integrity among the staff and the students.

A few years ago, Dr. Wang received China's Prestigious Distinguished Young Scholars Award from the Ministry of Education. But that past award did not shield him from the present offence.

Source: South China Morning Post, 7th May 2026

THIS IS UNTHINKABLE IN INDIA.

NEEDED



For Indian science to progress beyond publishing papers, we need similar “**zero tolerance**” approach in India.

India's Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education and University Grants Commission (UGC) have to **introduce and implement a robust instrument to ensure research integrity in our public funded institutions** - something similar to the ones in China, USA and many other countries, including Thailand.



Indian taxpayers' money cannot be wasted on fraudulent and fabricated research papers.



It's time to stand up and shake up the *status quo*.

India cannot become a developed nation unless we discipline our science.



Issued by Centre for Environment & Agriculture (CENTEGRO), a Mumbai based think tank.
We actively work, among others, on matters that concern Indian agriculture, trade, economy, health and environment.
E: info@centegro.org W: indianagriculturalfacts.com