IISc - Times Higher Education Ranking

Why in news?

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In rankings released by Times Higher Education (THE), The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru was placed No. 8 in the list of the **World's Best Small Universities.**

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What is IISc?

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- Indian Institute of Science (IISc) also known as the Tata Institute, is a public university for scientific research and higher education located in Bangalore, India.
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- It was established in 1909 with support from Jamsetji Tata and the Maharaja of Mysore.
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What are IISc's achievements so far?

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- This is not the first time that the Bengaluru-based institute has done well in an international survey.
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- At present, it is in the 201-250 band globally and it is edging closer to the top 200.
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- In 2015, it made it to the list of top 100 engineering universities worldwide and was among the top 30 Asian universities in 2016.
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- This ranking is the result of over 100 years of hard work, a high quality faculty, **independence given to researchers** and government support.

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On what basis the university rankings is done?

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- The world university rankings are based on marks allotted under five key areas — **teaching, research, citations, industry income and international outlook** — with a maximum of 100 marks in each category and for overall performance.
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- **Universities in Singapore are among the best in the world** on all five counts, while Indian universities tend to be weak on scores for citations and international outlook.
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- Caltech is No. 2 in the world rankings and No. 1 in the small universities rankings.
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- It had an overall score of 94.3, with **99.8 for citations,** 90.8 for industry income, 63.4 for international outlook, 95.7 for research, and 95.9 for teaching.
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- Caltech's teacher-student ratio is 6.7. It has 27% foreign students.
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- **IISc scored 47.3 for citations,** 48 for industry income, **18.1 for international outlook,** 49.2 for research, and 50.1 for teaching. IISc has 8.3 student-teacher ratio and only 1% foreign students.
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- To qualify for the Best Small Universities list, institutions had to feature in THE's overall World University Rankings for 2016-17.
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- It had to be teaching **more than 4 subjects** and it has to have less than 5,000 students.
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Why Indian universities perform poorly?

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- Global surveys and pedagogic principles recognise that more faculty per

student makes for an institution with an engaged and interactive teaching environment.
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- **The overall faculty-student ratio in India is 1:27.** This itself is a good indicator of the poor performance of Indian universities.
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- Also, India often treats universities like another government department or at times, even the government's handmaiden.
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- For example, last year, universities in Gujarat were issued a list of "preferred" topics for doctoral research by the state government.
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Source: The Indian Express

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