

Indian Universities in QS World University Rankings

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in News?

Recently the latest edition of rankings of higher education institutions across the world was released by Quacquarelli Symonds, a higher education analytics firm.

- **QS rankings** - The ranking of universities is published annually and is evaluated based on several parameters including,
 - **Academic reputation** - Global perception of teaching and research quality
 - **Research impact** - Citations per faculty, International Research Network
 - **Diversity** - International students & faculty (introduced in this year's rankings}
 - **Student outcomes** - Employer Reputation, Job placement.
 - **Learning environment** - Student-faculty ratio, academic infrastructure
 - **Sustainability** - Environmental responsibility
- **2026 edition** - In the 2026 edition the analytics firm evaluated 8467 institutions and ranked top 1500 institutions.
- For the first time, over 50 Indian universities feature in the QS World University Rankings 2026 Top 1,500 list.
- This marks significant progress from just 11 universities in 2015, reflecting growing global competitiveness of Indian higher education.
- **World university rankings** - The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United States, secured top position for 14th straight year.
 - Imperial College London secured 2nd position and
 - Stanford University secured 3rd position

Performance of Indian Universities

- Total Indian Universities in Top 1500 - 54 Institutions.
- **New entrants** - 8 universities, including,
 - Ashoka University, Haryana

- Shiv Nadar Institute of Eminence, Greater Noida
- **Top performers:**
 - **IIT Delhi** - 123
 - **IIT Bombay** - 129
 - **IIT Madras** - 180
 - **IIT Kharagpur** - 215
 - **IISc Bengaluru** - 219
- Indian universities are adapting to global benchmarks, improving comparability with international peers.
- **Student-faculty ratio** - Indian Average is **19:1** which is lower than Global Competitiveness Benchmark: **(10-15):1**
- **Research output** - Historically low focus on original research in Indian universities, unlike global trends.
- **Positive shift** seen in IITs, IISERs, and private universities post National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasises research in higher education.
- **Industry linkages** - IITs, IIMs have long prioritised placements.
- Now, even large public universities are focusing on student employability, crucial for ranking success.

Reference

[The Hindu| Indian Universities in QS World University Rankings](#)

