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 3rdposition

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 that 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

