



QS World Subject Rankings 2021

Why in News

25 programmes offered by higher education institutions in India **ranked among the top 100 in the world** in their respective subject categories, according to the **latest edition (11th) of the QS World University Rankings by Subject**.

Key Points

▪ About the QS World Subject Rankings:

- **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS):** It is a leading global career and education network for ambitious professionals looking to further their personal and professional development.
 - QS develops and successfully implements methods of comparative data collection and analysis used to highlight institutions' strengths.
- **QS World University Rankings:** It is **an annual publication** of university rankings which **comprises the global overall and subject rankings**.
 - **Six parameters and their weightage** for the evaluation:
 - Academic Reputation (40%)
 - Employer Reputation (10%)
 - Faculty/Student Ratio (20%)
 - Citations per faculty (20%)
 - International Faculty Ratio (5%)
 - International Student Ratio (5%)
- **QS World University Rankings by Subject:** It calculates performance based on **four parameters** — academic reputation, employer reputation, research impact (citations per paper) and the productivity of an institution's research faculty.

▪ Top Performers:

- Globally **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT -USA)** and **Harvard (USA)** are **among top performers, Russia and China record best-ever performances**.

▪ India's Performance:

- The 2021 QS's global university performance comparison offered independent **data on the performance of 253 programs at 52 Indian higher education institutions, across 51 academic disciplines**.
- The **number of Indian universities/institutes in the top 100 subject rankings** has **increased from 8 to 12 this year**.
 - **12 Indian institutions** that have made it to the top 100 of the world - IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IISc Bangalore, IIT Guwahati, IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad, JNU, Anna University, University of Delhi and OP Jindal University.
 - **IIT-Bombay has cornered more top 100 positions** than any other Indian institution.

- **Except one, all the 25 programmes are in institutions run by either the state or union government.** However, **last year, this number stood at 26.**
 - **17 of the 25** globally ranked Indian programmes are in **engineering.** **IIT-Madras's Petroleum Engineering programme registered the best performance among Indian institutes** - 30th in the world.
- The **government-run [Institutions of Eminence \(IoE\)](#) remains significantly better-represented in the rankings** than the private ones.
 - **OP Jindal Global University** has entered the global top-100 for law (76th). This is the **only top-100 result achieved by a private IoE.**
 - **IoE:** It is a government's scheme to provide the regulatory architecture for setting up or upgrading of 20 Institutions (10 from public sector and 10 from the private sector) as world-class teaching and research institutions.
- The **All India Institute of Medical Sciences remained the only institution in the top 300 in the area of life sciences and medicine,** but also dropped more than 10 places.

▪ **Analysis:**

- One of the biggest **challenges faced by India is providing high-quality tertiary education** in the face of exploding demand - this much was recognized by last year's **[National Education Policy \(NEP\)](#),** which set the ambitious target of a 50% gross enrolment ratio by 2035.
 - It should therefore be **small cause for concern that the number of Indian programs featuring across 51 subject rankings has actually decreased over the last year** - from 235 to 233.
 - While this is a minor decrease, it is indicative of the fact that **expanding provision in a way that does not sacrifice quality** remains a highly-challenging task.
- **A number of programs at India's privately-run prospective Institutions of Eminence have made progress** this year, demonstrating the positive role that well-regulated private provision can have in enhancing India's higher education sector.
- **India remains at the forefront of global environmental science research.** Data indicates that **India ranks 5th in terms of its research footprint** in this field - behind only Germany, China, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- **Commonalities between nations** that are improving and nations that are not (**three factors**):
 - First, **an international outlook** - both in terms of faculty body and research relationships- correlates strongly with improved performance.
 - Second, rising universities have received **strong targeted investment from governments** over a decade or more- particularly in China, Russia, and Singapore.
 - Third, **improving relationships with industry** is correlated with better employment, research, and innovation outcomes.

National Institutional Ranking Framework

- The **Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education)** established the **[National Institutional Ranking Framework \(NIRF\)](#) in September 2015.**
- This framework **outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country** according to parameters covering: Teaching, Learning and Resources; Research and Professional Practice; Graduation Outcomes; Outreach and Inclusivity; and Perception.

[Source: IE](#)

