India Rises in QS World Rankings 2026

54 institutions ranked, 5-fold increase since 2015

June 19, 2025
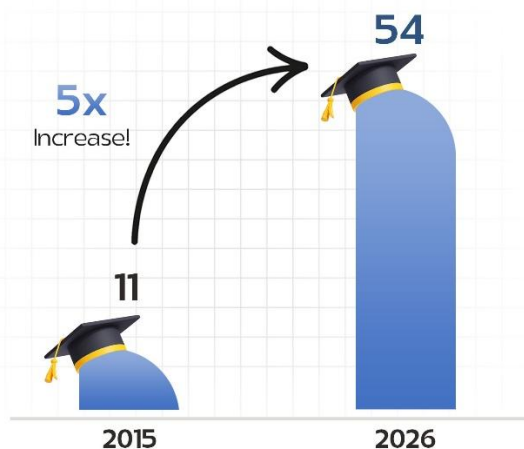
Key Takeaways

- A five-fold increase took India from 11 universities in 2015 to 54 in the QS World Rankings 2026.
- 8 Indian universities debuted, the highest for any country this year.
- 12 IITs feature, with IIT Delhi highest among Indian institutions at 123rd globally.

Introduction

India's higher education institutions have achieved their **best-ever performance** in the QS World University Rankings 2026. A total of 54 universities are featured this year, including **12 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)**. Eight universities have made their debut. India is now the **fourth most represented country**, after the United States, the United Kingdom and China. The full list of ranked Indian institutions is provided in the Annexure.

Number of **Indian Universities in QS World Rankings**

5x Increase!

54

11

2015   2026

India is now the **fourth most** represented country!

Source: QS World University Rankings

The rise has been swift and steady. From just 11 ranked institutions in 2015, India has recorded a remarkable **five-fold increase** over the decade. This makes India the fastest-rising G20 nation in the rankings.

New Indian Entrants in QS World University Rankings 2026:

- IIT Gandhinagar
- Lovely Professional University (LPU)
- Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology
- Ashoka University
- Galgotias University
- Shiv Nadar University
- CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru
- Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (MRIIRS)

This year's results reflect a growing global appreciation for India's academic strength. Indian universities are earning recognition for their quality, research output and contribution to global knowledge.

Key Insights from QS World University Ranking 2026

- India has 54 universities in the QS World University Rankings 2026, making it the fourth most represented country.

- Only the United States (192), the United Kingdom (90), and Mainland China (72) have more universities ranked than India.

- Eight Indian institutions have entered the rankings for the first time. This is the highest number of new entrants from any country this year.

- The number of Indian universities in the rankings has grown from 11 in 2015 to 54 in 2026. This marks a five-fold increase in just over a decade.

- 48 percent of India's ranked universities improved their positions compared to the previous year.

- Six Indian institutions feature in the global top 250.

- IIT Delhi leads the Indian contingent. It is ranked 123rd globally, rising from 150th in 2025.

- IIT Madras recorded one of the biggest jumps, rising 47 places from 227 in 2025 to 180 in 2026.

- A total of 12 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) feature in the list, highlighting their strong presence in global academia.

- Five Indian institutions feature in the global top 100 for Employer Reputation. This reflects strong industry confidence in Indian graduates.

- Eight Indian universities rank among the world's top 100 for Citations per Faculty. Their average score of 43.7 is higher than that of Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States.

- India now has a diverse mix of public and private institutions represented, including central universities, deemed-to-be universities, and technical institutes.

Overview of the QS World University Rankings 2026

The QS World University Rankings are among the most trusted and wide-reaching assessments of higher education worldwide. The 2026 edition is based on data from over 16 million academic papers and insights from more than 151,000 academics and 100,000 employers. The rankings consider a broad mix of factors such as faculty qualifications, research strength, partnerships, and student outcomes.

For this cycle, a new indicator called **International Student Diversity** has been introduced. It looks at both the number of international students and the variety of countries they come from. This complements the existing International Student Ratio, which continues to be a weighted factor.

QS has also fine-tuned its scoring method. This adjustment gives a more accurate picture of each institution's performance. Some scores may appear different from past years even if the rank has stayed the same.

Methodology

The QS World University Rankings use a structured approach to assess institutions across the globe. Each ranking is built on a set of measurements that help evaluate different aspects of university performance. These measurements are grouped as follows:

- **Lens:** A collection of indicators linked by a common theme, such as research or employability.

- **Indicator:** A specific area of performance, such as Citations per Faculty or Employer Reputation. Institutions are scored and ranked on each indicator, which contributes to their overall rank.

- **Metric:** A detailed calculation within an indicator, used to generate precise scores.

Weightings for each performance lens and indicator:

Lens	Weightage	Indicator	Weightage
Research and Discovery	50%	Academic Reputation	30%
		Citations per Faculty	20%
Employability and Outcomes	20%	Employer Reputation	15%
		Employment Outcomes	5%
Global Engagement	15%	International Faculty Ratio	5%
		International Research Network	5%
		International Student Diversity	0%
		International Student Ratio	5%
Learning Experience	10%	Faculty Student Ratio	10%
Sustainability	5%	Sustainability	5%

Conclusion

The QS World University Rankings 2026 highlight a growing global trust in India's education ecosystem. More universities are featured than ever before. Many are moving up the list. This consistent rise reflects the momentum created by the National Education Policy 2020 and other ongoing reforms. With a stronger focus on research, quality, and global collaboration, India's universities are steadily earning their place on the world stage.

Annexure:

S No.	Institution	Rank (2026)	Previous Rank (2025)
1	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)	123	150
2	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)	129	118
3	Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)	180	227
4	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IITKGP)	215	222
5	Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore	219	211
6	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)	222	263
7	University of Delhi	328	328
8	Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG)	334	344
9	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR)	339	335
10	Anna University	465	383
11	Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences	503	587
12	Indian Institute of Technology Indore	556	477
13	Jawaharlal Nehru University	558	580
14	Indian Institute of Technology BHU Varanasi (IIT BHU Varanasi)	566	531
15	Savitribai Phule Pune University	566	631-640
16	Chandigarh University	575	691-700
17	Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH)	664	681-690
18	University of Mumbai	664	711-720
19	Birla Institute of Technology and Science	668	801-850
20	Jadavpur University	676	721-730
21	Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Vellore, India	691	791-800
22	Symbiosis International (Deemed University)	696	641-650
23	National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli	731-740	701-710
24	Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi	761-770	851-900
25	Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology	771-780	851-900
26	University of Calcutta	771-780	751-760
27	IIT Gandhinagar	801-850	--
28	University of Hyderabad	801-850	801-850
29	Manipal Academy of Higher Education - Manipal University (MAHE)	851-900	901-950
30	O. P. Jindal Global University (JGU)	851-900	1001-1200
31	Lovely Professional University (LPU)	901-950	--
32	Panjab University	901-950	1001-1200
33	Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (SIMATS)	901-950	951-1000
34	University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES)	901-950	801-850
35	Amity University	951-1000	1001-1200
36	Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University	951-1000	1001-1200

37	Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar (IIT BBS)	951-1000	951-1000
38	Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh	1001-1200	1001-1200
39	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	1001-1200	1001-1200
40	Banaras Hindu University	1001-1200	1001-1200
41	Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology	1001-1200	--
42	SRM Institute of Science and Technology	1001-1200	1001-1200
43	Ashoka University	1201-1400	--
44	Chitkara University	1201-1400	1201-1400
45	Galgotias University	1201-1400	--
46	Osmania University, Hyderabad	1201-1400	1201-1400
47	Pondicherry University	1201-1400	1201-1400
48	Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology	1201-1400	1201-1400
49	Shiv Nadar University	1201-1400	--
50	Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (Deemed to be University), SOA	1201-1400	1201-1400
51	CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru	1401+	--
52	Indian Institute of Information Technology - Allahabad	1401+	1401+
53	Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi	1401+	1201-1400
54	Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (MRIIRS)	1401+	--

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