

Indian institutes slip down in THE Asia Rankings 2019

IISc Bengaluru and IIT Indore are the only Indian institutes to appear in the list of top 50

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Universities from China, Singapore and Hong Kong bagged the top ranks in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2019. Tsinghua University, China, National University of Singapore and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology secured the first, second and third positions, respectively.

As many as 49 Indian institutes made it to the Asia University Rankings 2019. Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, stood at 29th position followed by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore, at 50th rank. IIT Indore has scored 86.5 points in the 'citations' category, which is higher than all the

Top institute rankings

Institutes	2018	2019
IISc Bengaluru	29	29
IIT Bombay	44	54
IIT Kharagpur	60	76
IIT Delhi	86	91
IIT Madras	103	120
Panjab University	114	136
IIT Guwahati	112	143
University of Delhi	144	156

Indian institutes. Pradeep Mathur, director of IIT Indore, says, "We are in top 10 globally, based on citations and it is one of our strongest parameters. Higher citation reflects the importance, value and dissemination of university's research work across the globe. Our efforts in research have rightly favoured us in the rankings."

Most of the Indian institutes have witnessed a downslide in their rankings this year. IIT Bombay slipped from 44th rank in 2018 to 54th in 2019. IIT Delhi and IIT Kharagpur have moved down 5 and sixteen notches, respectively, as compared to their

last year's rank. IIT Madras that had topped the NIRF 2019 rankings ahead of IISc, stood at 120th rank.

V Ramgopal Rao, director of IIT Delhi, expressed his discontent and surprise over the fall in rankings of several IITs. He added, "We have more focus on QS World University Rankings and NIRF rankings as we believe they have more transparent and inclusive processes in place." However, Mathur feels that the rankings of the older IITs have been affected due to the rigidity they witness while implementing new programmes. "Since they were established at a time when the research engagement was not given as much significance as it is today, that legacy hampers their overall progress," he adds.

"Rankings must be taken with a pinch of salt. Too much emphasis on rankings takes away the essence of learning, innovation and improvement," said UB Desai, director of IIT Hyderabad, which stood at 135th rank in the 2019 rankings.