

India's QS surge outgrows IITs, 52 universities on list

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New Delhi: India's rise in QS World University Rankings is no longer being driven by IITs, as gains are becoming more dispersed, with more private and state universities, and central institutions making it to the list.

However, the flagship still matters — IIT-Delhi has climbed to 118th in the world, equalling the highest rank ever achieved by an Indian institution. Globally, MIT retained the top spot for the 15th consecutive year, followed by Imperial College London and Stanford University (joint second).

The 2027 rankings — to be released today — mark India's strongest performance since the National Education Policy came into being in 2020. The country now has 52 institutions in the rankings — the fifth-largest contin-

gent globally. Eighteen institutions have achieved their highest-ever rankings, and 13 of them are non-IITs.

IIT-Delhi climbed five places from 123rd to 118th, matching the highest rank ever achieved by an Indian institution, first attained by IIT-Bombay in the 2026 rankings. IIT-Bombay slipped five places to 134th, IIT-Madras rose to 170th, while IIT-Kharagpur climbed to 205th. Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, was ranked 221st globally.

The defining feature, however, is the breadth of improvement. Twenty-six Indian universities improved their positions, nine remained unchanged and 15 declined, while two institutions entered the rankings for the first time. India's improvement rate of 52% places it among the strongest-performing higher educa-

tion systems globally.

The largest gains came from Vellore Institute of Technology, which jumped 94 places to 597th, and BITS Pilani, which climbed 93 places to 575th.

IIT-Hyderabad rose 76 places, Jamia Millia Islamia advanced more than 75 places to 686th, and Shoolini University climbed 51 places to 452nd, entering India's top 10 universities.

India's strongest performance continues to come from research impact and employer recognition — 11 institutions now feature among the world's top 100 for citations per faculty, led by IISc at 21st and IIT-Roorkee at 50th. Six are among the global top 100 for employer reputation, with IIT-Bombay leading India at 32nd. University of Mumbai jumped 70 places to rank 25th for employment outcomes.

INDIA'S RECORD YEAR, AT A GLANCE

INDIA'S TOP 20 UNIVERSITIES

Institutions	2027	2026	Change
IIT Delhi	118 ▲	123	5
IIT Bombay	134 ▼	129	-5
IIT Madras	170 ▲	180	10
IIT Kharagpur	205 ▲	215	10
IIT Kanpur	221 ▲	222	1
IISc Bangalore	221 ▼	219	-2
University of Delhi	322 ▲	328	6
IIT Roorkee	335 ▲	339	4
IIT Guwahati	349 ▼	334	-15
Shoolini University	452 ▲	503	51
Anna University	470 ▼	465	-1
IIT (BHU) Varanasi	510 ▲	566	56
Chandigarh University	526 ▲	575	49
IIT Indore	546 ▲	556	10
Jawaharlal Nehru University	555 ▲	558	3
BITS Pilani	575 ▲	668	93
IIT Hyderabad	588 ▲	664	76
Vellore institute of Technology	597 ▲	691	94
Symbiosis International	655 ▲	696	41
Jamia Millia Islamia	686 ▲	761	75

52 universities ranked, world's fifth most | Rank 118: IIT-Delhi, best ever Indian rank equalled | 18 all time high positions this year | 1.7:1 climbers to fallers

THE WORLD'S TOP 20



Institutions	2027	Change
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1	held
Stanford University	2	1
Imperial College of London	2	held
University of Oxford	4	held
Harvard University	5	held
University of Cambridge	6	held
California Institute of Technology	7	3
University College of London	8	1
ETH Zurich	8	-1
National University of Singapore	10	-2
University of Hong Kong	11	held
Nanyang Technological University	12	held
Peking University	13	1
Tsinghua University	14	3
University of Pennsylvania	15	held
Yale University	16	5
Cornell University	16	held
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	18	14
UNSW	19	1
Johns Hopkins University	20	4

MIT holds No 1 for a 15th straight year | Stanford and Imperial College London tied at 2nd (Imperial in the top two for a third year running) | The Chinese University of Hong Kong leaps 14 places | ETH Zurich (Switzerland) is the highest-ranked university outside the US & UK | NUS (Singapore) is Asia's highest-ranked | 9 of 20 are US universities | 5 of 20 are UK universities | 2 in top 14 are from Mainland China