

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 34
ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025

Global rankings of Indian institutions

34 Shri Satnam Singh Sandhu:

Will the Minister of *Education* be please to state:

- (a) details of growth in global rankings of Indian institutions after introduction of National Education Policy (NEP), 2020;
- (b) the steps taken to improve India's standing in global education rankings;
- (c) the progress regarding internationalisation and mobilities under NEP;
- (d) steps taken for encouragement for institutions getting better places in these rankings;
- (e) whether experts from the Indian diaspora are being consulted to align Indian universities with global accreditation frameworks; and
- (f) the details of any such collaborations or advisory mechanisms?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (f) of RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 34 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU REGARDING GLOBAL RANKINGS OF INDIAN INSTITUTIONS

(a) to (f): Government of India launched National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 with an aim for holistic development of students and to transform the education landscape into an inclusive, and learner-centric ecosystem. NEP 2020 lays emphasis on improving the overall quality of education in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) through a set of initiatives including the provision of quality infrastructure, strengthening of the research and innovation ecosystem, promotion of industry-academia linkages etc.

NEP guided initiatives by Government of India have led to significant improvements in the performance of Indian HEIs in international rankings, including the QS World University Rankings (QS WUR).

54 Indian Institutions have been ranked in the QS WUR 2026. This is India's highest ever representation QS WUR. Eight Indian institutions have been ranked for the first time, which is the highest number for any country in this edition, both within the G20 and globally.

The number of Indian HEIs featuring in the QS World University Rankings has doubled in the past five years, rising from 27 in QS WUR 2021 to 54 in QS WUR 2026, thus underscoring sustained policy initiatives, strengthened research and innovation capacity, and the steadily rising global profile of India's higher education system.

The Government of India has been making concerted efforts to enhance the quality of education across the country. These efforts not only reflect in the growing global presence and academic competitiveness of Indian HEIs, but also impact their performance in international rankings. The details of the initiatives are as follows:

- **Sustained Support to the Higher Education Sector**

Central and State Governments have been extending sustained financial support to the Higher Education sector to strengthen quality infrastructure, faculty development, and student training. The Higher Education Department of Government of India, has enhanced its budgetary allocation (RE) from over Rs. 36,000 crores in 2021-22 to a Budget Estimate of over Rs. 50,000 crores for 2025-26.

Government of India also provides financial support to State Governments under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)/ Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) scheme under three components namely, "Enhancing Quality and Excellence in select State Universities", "Infrastructure Grants to Universities" and "Multi-Disciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU)" for improvement in Higher Education.

In order to establish Quality Infrastructure in premier institutions, funding support in form of loans through Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) is also extended to Higher Education Institutions. A total of 109 Higher Education Institutions have been sanctioned, a total amount of over Rs 43,000 crores till 31.3.2025.

- **Mission Mode Recruitment:** Since 2022, all Central HEIs have undertaken Mission Mode recruitment drive to fill the vacancies and till 24.10.2025, a total number of 29,979 posts have been filled up by all CHEIs in Mission Mode, out of which 17,494 are faculty positions.

- **Regulatory Framework to promote Quality of Education through Global Engagement:**

With an aim for enhanced academic collaboration with Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) leading towards academic and research excellence in the Indian Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), the University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued the regulation “UGC (Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes) Regulations, 2022.” In addition to academic collaboration, these regulations aim to promote, mobility of students and faculty through joint degree and dual degree programmes.

- **Skill Augmentation for increased Employability:**

To enhance employability of the students and achieve the objectives of NEP 2020, the National Credit Framework (NCrF) has been issued, enabling integration of Skill Education into academia.

UGC has formulated guidelines for the introduction of Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes to be offered by Higher Education Institutions to provide practical exposure during the course of study expected with the aim to enhanced competencies of the graduates and the employment thereof.

To ensure that curriculum of technical education aligns with the requirements of the Industry, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has issued Model Curriculum in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Space Technology, Electronic Engineering (VLSI Design and Technology), Robotics and Artificial Intelligence etc. Due representation of Industry stakeholders is ensured in the curriculum revision committees. Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with leading industries and organisations have been signed to facilitate internship, skilling and upskilling of students and faculty members.

- **Enhanced Focus on Research & Innovation and Setting up of Research Parks**

With an objective of Research & Development driven integration of academic, industry and enterprise creation, Research Parks have been set up in premier HEIs to establish research ecosystem around these institutions. These research parks facilitate funded research from Industry, promoting Industry-Academia collaborations. Since 2014, Government has established 6 new Research Parks, one each at IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, IIT Guwahati, IIT Hyderabad and IISc Bangalore and IIT Gandhinagar.

With an aim to attract the best minds to pursue high - quality research in India's premier academic institutions, the Government launched Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme in 2018-19 with total financial outlay of Rs. 1650 Crores.

- **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):** In alignment with the principles of NEP 2020, Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), has been established as an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of natural sciences including mathematical sciences, engineering and technology,

environmental and earth sciences, health and agriculture. Total estimated cost of Anusandhan National Research Foundation for five years is Rs. 50,000 crores.

- **One Nation One Subscription:** Government has approved ONOS scheme to expand access to scholarly journals to a vast diaspora of students, faculty, researchers and scientists of all disciplines, of all Higher Educational Institutions under the management of the Central or State Government and Research & Development Institutions of the Central Government, through a national subscription coordinated by a central agency. More than 6300 such institutions are covered under this scheme. A total of about Rs.6,000 crore has been allocated for the scheme for 3 calendar years, 2025, 2026 and 2027.
- **Institution of Eminence:** Ministry of Education launched the World Class Institutions scheme to grant the status of Institution of Eminence (IoE) to 10 higher educational institutions each from the public and private category and enable them to emerge as world class teaching and research institutions. Twelve institutions have been notified as IoE so far. These include 08 public category institutions, and 04 private category institutions. Only public institutions are provided funds under the scheme. An amount of Rs 6198.99 Crore (approximately) has been sanctioned for the 08 public institutions since the inception of the scheme.
- **Centres of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence:** Furthermore, in order to conduct interdisciplinary research, develop cutting-edge applications, and create scalable solutions in three areas of health, sustainable cities and Agriculture, Government has approved establishment of three Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial intelligence (AI), one each in the areas of health, sustainable cities and agriculture with a total financial outlay of Rs. 990.00 Cr over the period of FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28. An AI CoE in field of Education with an outlay of Rs. 500 crores has been sanctioned in IIT Madras.
- **MERITE:** The ‘Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education’ Scheme has been approved for implementation in 275 technical institutions comprising 175 engineering institutions and 100 polytechnics. The objective of the scheme is to improve the quality, equity and governance in technical education covering all States/UTs by implementing interventions aligned with the National Educational Policy-2020 (NEP-2020). It is a ‘Central Sector Scheme’ with total financial implication of Rs.4200 crore for a period from 2025-26 to 2029-30.

To promote “Internationalization of Education” in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India several initiatives have been undertaken by Ministry of Education including:

- UGC has issued “UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations 2023” to facilitate establishment of branch campuses of Foreign HEIs in India. University of Southampton has already opened its campus in Gurugram, 13 Letters of Intent (LoI) have been issued to FHEIs from Australia, Italy, UK and USA to open their campuses at various places in India.
- Indian institutions such as IIT Madras, IIT Delhi and IIM Ahmedabad have established offshore branch campuses in Zanzibar in Tanzania and Abu Dhabi in Dubai, respectively, thereby expanding India’s academic footprint abroad.
- Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) to encourage research collaboration between top Indian Institutes with the premier foreign institutes.
- Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) scheme to bring the best of international expertise into India’s education system. The scheme seeks to tap into a global talent pool of eminent faculty members, scientists, and entrepreneurs, and to promote their engagement with Higher Education Institutions across the country.

The above initiatives have been complemented by robust accreditation and ranking mechanisms through National Board of Accreditation (NBA) and the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) respectively. NIRF launched in 2015 has been publishing India Rankings annually, which has galvanised the Indian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to a more competitive environment. NBA has also been organising mentoring workshops sharing best practices and acquainting Indian HEIs with the methodology and procedure for participating in International Rankings.

With regard to alignment of Indian Universities with Global Accreditation Frameworks, NBA, the National Accreditation body holds permanent signatory status of Washington Accord since 13th June 2014. The accreditation process and methodology used by NBA to accredit programs therefore aligns with international standards for engineering education. NBA also offered support to other countries like Nepal and Mauritius to become member of Washington Accord.
