

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2918
ANSWERED ON 18.03.2026

Global ranking of Indian Universities

2918 **Shri Vivek K. Tankha:**

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

- (a) how India's higher education institutions fare on NITI Aayog indicators relating to research intensity, faculty quality, internationalisation and governance, in light of the absence of any Indian University in the global top 100;
- (b) the gaps identified by NITI Aayog or NEP-aligned reviews that constrain global competitiveness; and
- (c) the institution-wise reform strategies, outcome benchmarks and timelines adopted, in coordination with NITI Aayog, to place Indian Universities among the global top 100?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c): 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 in 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 have increased from 11 institutions in 2015 edition to 54 institutions 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 undertaken several initiatives to enhance the quality of education and global competitiveness of Higher Education Institutions.

- Government of India provides **financial support to State Governments** under Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)/ Pradhan Mantri Uchchar 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Measures such as the **National Credit Framework, Apprenticeship-embedded programmes and industry-aligned curricula** aim to enhance employability of graduates.
- Major initiatives including establishment of **6 new Research Parks since 2014** and schemes such as the **Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF), One Nation One Subscription** (₹6,000 crore covering 6,300+ institutions) are strengthening research, innovation and academic excellence.
- **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).
- To promote “**Internationalization of Education**” in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India several initiatives have been undertaken by Ministry of Education including the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (**SPARC**) to encourage research collaboration between top Indian Institutes with the premier foreign institutes. Also, the Global Initiative of Academic Networks (**GIAN**) scheme has been started to bring the best of international expertise into India’s education system. GIAN 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. “**Study in India**” program has been started with an overall objective to increase the number of international students coming to study in India.
- 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.

NITI Aayog has been providing specialised strategic, functional and technical inputs to the Government across various sectors, including higher education. These inputs, in the form of study reports, policy papers and recommendations guide reforms aimed at strengthening institutional quality, research, innovation and governance in the higher education sector.
