

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 347
ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025**

QS World University Rankings 2026

***347. Dr. C M Ramesh:**

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

- (a) whether the country has recorded its strongest presence in QS World University Rankings (QS-WUR) 2026, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Higher Education System of the country is the fastest growing among G20 countries;
- (c) the factors contributing to the fluctuations in the rankings of Indian institutions in the QS-WUR during the last five years; and
- (d) the efforts being made by the Government to bring Indian Educational Institutions in the top 500 rank to attract the international students?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 347 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.11.2025 ASKED BY HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT DR. C M RAMESH REGARDING QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2026

(a) to (d): To enhance the quality of higher education, the Government of India has undertaken several measures, including the provision of quality infrastructure, strengthening of the research and innovation ecosystem, promotion of industry-academia linkages etc.

The above initiatives have been complemented by robust accreditation and ranking mechanisms by National Board of Accreditation (NBA) and the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) respectively which galvanised the Indian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to a more competitive environment. The improved quality of education in turn, contributed 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, marking a growth from 11 institutions in QS WUR 2015 to 54 in QS WUR 2026. 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 featured 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.

Government of India has made concerted efforts to improve Quality of Education in the country. Since 2014, augmentation of Higher Education ecosystem has been undertaken by establishment of new Central Higher Educational Institutions (CHEIs) in the fields of Technical Education, Management, Science Education & Research, Information Technology, and Humanities. CHEIs are envisaged to function as pace setter institutions to provide academic leadership to other institutions in the region. Since 2014, 16 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIIT), 8 Central Universities (CU), 8 Indian Institute of Management (IIM), 7 Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), 2 Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) and 1 National Institute of Technology (NIT) have been established.

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.

Government has also approved a new Central Sector Scheme, One Nation One Subscription (ONOS). ONOS envisages 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.

Ministry of Education launched the World Class Institutions scheme in the year 2017 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 includes 08 public category institutions, namely - IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IISc Bangalore, BHU Varanasi, University of Hyderabad, and University of Delhi and 04 private category institutions namely - BITS Pilani, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, O.P. Jindal Global University and Shiv Nadar University, Greater Noida. 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.

The ‘Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education’ (MERITE) 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.

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. The Budget 2025-26 has also provided for setting up of an AI CoE in field of Education with an outlay of Rs. 500 crores.

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

- University Grant Commission’s (UGC’s) Regulations 2022 enables framework for Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes.
- 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. As on 4th August, 2025, 12 foreign universities have been issued letter of Intent (LoI) by the UGC for establishing their campuses in India.
- 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.
