

How BITS Pilani hit a new NIRF high

BUT A CLOSER LOOK AT THE RANKINGS REPORT REVEALS THERE ARE AREAS THAT NEED ATTENTION



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IN THE recently-released NIRF rankings, BITS Pilani was one of the strongest performers – compared to 2024, its Overall NIRF rank in 2025 jumped from 23 to 16; it entered into top-10 universities for the first time (ranked 7), it was the second-best in pharmacy, and its rank among engineering colleges jumped from 20 to 11 (it was India's best private engineering college).

Prof V Ramgopal Rao, group vice-chancellor of BITS Pilani, told FE that these results are a testament to the institute's focus on excellence. "Our performance marks our best-ever showing across all key categories," he said. "It includes a historic entry into the top-10 universities, and in pharmacy we are the second-best in the country. In the NIRF Research category, we moved up eight places from 24th to 16th."

What fuelled the rise?

Prof Rao said that BITS Pilani demonstrated significant improvement in faculty-related metrics.

"In the Overall category, our faculty-student ratio (FSR) improved from 18.96 to 22.82, and the proportion of faculty with PhDs (FQR) shot for faculty with PhD and experienced rose from 14.77 to 16.75. These gains were reflected in the University and Engineering rank-

ings, as well," he said.

He added that research productivity was a key driver. Publications (PI) increased from 19.25 to 23.89, and the quality of publications (QPI) improved from 21.08 to 25.11 in the Overall category. The institute also saw a notable increase in intellectual property rights (IPR) or patents, rising from 5 to 8. The number of PhD graduates (GPHD) was higher across all categories,



V RAMGOPAL RAO, GROUP V.C., BITS PILANI

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NIRF 2025 ANALYSIS OF BITS PILANI

BITS Pilani (with campuses in Pilani, Goa, and Hyderabad) achieved its best-ever performance across all categories in the NIRF 2025 rankings

Category	2024 rank	2025 rank	Change
Overall	23	16	7 ▲
University	19	7	12 ▲
Engineering	20	11	9 ▲
Pharmacy	3	2	1 ▲
Research	24	16	8 ▲

■ BITS Pilani entered into the top-10 Universities (ranked 7) for the first time.

■ In Pharmacy, it was among the top-2 nationwide.

■ Its rank in Engineering climbed to 11 (best private engineering college in India).

■ Its Overall NIRF rank improved from 23 to 16.

with a rise from 15.19 to 17.74 in the Overall category. "This reflects our strengthening doctoral education programmes," Prof Rao said.

Women diversity

The institute's commitment to inclusivity was another factor that helped it rise up the ranks. Women diversity (WDI) improved from 17.38 to 20.09 in the Overall category, and saw similar gains across Engineering and Pharmacy. Prof Rao said that a major factor in the University category's jump was the massive surge in perception and accreditation scores, from 19.68 to 49.19, primarily due to the NAAC A++ accreditation rating.

Areas for improvement

While this year's rankings seem to be a major victory for BITS Pilani, a closer look at the NIRF rankings reveals areas needing attention. For

example, 'perception' scores for the Overall, Engineering, Pharmacy, and Research categories declined slightly, with only the University category seeing an improvement due to accreditation. Additionally, there were small dips in the score for funded projects (FPPP, or Footprint of Projects, Professional Practice, and Executive Development Programmes) in the Overall, University, and Research categories, though the Engineering programme saw an increase in this area.

But Prof Rao said that the NIRF 2025 report paints a picture of a university on a strong upward trajectory, driven by enhanced academic and research metrics, and a commitment to quality education. "We are proud of this performance, but we view it as a milestone on a longer journey," he said. "We are committed to achieving greater heights in the years to come."