

# IIT-Delhi tops in India in QS World Univ Rankings

## 294 Varsities From Country In Asia List

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Mumbai: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has retained its position as India's top university for the fifth consecutive year, ranking 59 in QS World University Rankings: Asia 2026, slightly lower than last year's 44. It is followed by Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (64), and IIT Madras (70). India's showing this year is defined by research productivity and academic depth—five universities rank among Asia's top 10 for 'Papers Per Faculty' and 28 among top 50, while 45 Indian institutions feature in the top 100 for 'Staff with PhD'.

In just a decade, India's presence in the Asia rankings has surged from 24 universities in 2016 to 294 in 2026—a 1,125% increase, making India Asia's research powerhouse, leading the region in productivity and faculty strength.

As Jessica Turner, CEO of QS Quacquarelli Symonds, said: "India's higher education transformation is now visible in the data—a system that's globally relevant and locally empowering."



IIT-Bombay ranked 11th in Asia for 'employer reputation'

India's higher education system has expanded its regional footprint, backed by strong research output and faculty quality, with now 294 ranked universities in 17th QS Asia Rankings, the second-most represented system after China (395). Of these, seven feature in top 100, 20 in top 200, and 66 in top 500. Of the Indian institutions ranked last year, 36 improved, 16 remained stable, and 105 declined—even as 137 universities made their debut, the highest-ever number from India. Nineteen achieved their best-ever rank, including Chandigarh University, BITS Pilani, Shoolini University, and OP Jindal Global University.

India, however, continues to lag behind regional leaders on internationalisation indicators—a persistent challenge reflected in limited foreign student and faculty inflows. The results see The University of Hong Kong crowned Asia's best university, unseating Peking University, which slips to se-

cond. Nanyang Technological University climbs one position to joint-third alongside the National University of Singapore.

Turner said: "In just five years since the National Education Policy launched, India has built system-level capacity that is globally relevant and locally empowering. The entry of over 130 Indian universities into this year's Asia Rankings is a strong signal of depth as well as breadth. As research ecosystems mature and international partnerships scale, India is positioning itself not only as a study destination but as a global knowledge leader shaping innovation, inclusion, and sustainable growth across Asia."

Indian universities have also strengthened their regional standing for academic and employer reputation—key indicators of brand value and graduate readiness. IIT Bombay leads on both counts, ranking 11th in Asia for 'employer reputation' (up five places) and 26th for Academic Reputation.

According to QS, India's strengths remain firmly research-led. Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences ranks 6th in Asia for 'Citations per Paper', while Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences leads in 'International Research Network' (19th).