QS Asia University Rankings 2027: 71% of Indian universities slip; IIT Delhi (66th) stays India's best

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News

London-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) released the 'QS World University Rankings: Asia 2027' on 3 Nov 2026, covering 1,722 universities from 26 higher-education systems. India has 325 institutions (34 new). But 71% of returning Indian universities fell in rank, 18% rose and 11% held their place. IIT Delhi, at 66th (59th last year), remains India's top institution. The University of Hong Kong is Asia's No. 1 for the second year running. QS noted that two-thirds of the Indian universities that slipped actually improved their scores – others simply advanced faster.

Key facts

Release	3 Nov 2026 – QS (London); 1,722 universities from 26 systems (195 new)
India	325 institutions (34 new)
Movement	71% fell, 18% rose, 11% unchanged; 21 in Asia's top 200 (20 last year)
India's top 5	IIT Delhi 66, IISc 79, IIT Bombay 83, IIT Madras 85, IIT Kharagpur 90
Asia's top 3	Univ. of Hong Kong, Peking Univ., Tsinghua Univ.
Why	Academic reputation fell for 76% of Indian universities, employer reputation for 83%, international students for 85%

Strength	27 Indian universities in Asia's top 50 for papers per faculty; IISc first in Asia

Background

- QS: Quacquarelli Symonds is a British firm founded in 1990 by Nunzio Quacquarelli, headquartered in London. Its World University Rankings began in 2004 jointly with Times Higher Education (THE); the two parted in 2009. In the QS World University Rankings 2027 (June 2026), IIT Delhi was India's best at 118th in the world.
- Indian ranking: the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched on 29 Sep 2015 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education); first rankings in 2016. Five parameters: Teaching-Learning-Resources, Research, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach-Inclusivity, and Perception.
- Constitution: education was originally in the State List; the 42nd Amendment (1976) moved it to the Concurrent List. Free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 – Article 21A (86th Amendment, 2002). The National Education Policy 2020 targets a 50% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education by 2035.
- Economy/internationalisation: QS Asia uses indicators such as academic reputation, employer reputation, international students and faculty, and student exchange. Indian universities are strong on research volume, but only three are in Asia's top 50 for citations per paper.

Tamil Nadu link: IIT Madras is Tamil Nadu's highest-ranked institution in QS Asia 2027 – 85th (70th last year). In the Government of India's NIRF 2025 (4 Sep 2025), IIT Madras topped the 'Overall' category for the seventh year in a row and has led the engineering category every year since 2016.

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