

With 1.3m papers in 2023-2024, India ranks 4th as research hub

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Mumbai: India is now the world's fourth-largest producer of research, generating 1.3 million academic papers in 2023-24, trailing only behind China (4.5m), US (4.4m), and UK (1.4m), according to the 2024 QS World University Rankings by Subject, compiled by QS Quacquarelli Symonds.

The agency offers a detailed analysis of over 16,400 university programmes from 1,500-plus universities in 95 countries. The rankings cover 56 academic disciplines and five faculty areas (arts and humanities, engineering and technology, life sciences, natural sciences and social sciences).

India's overall performance showed a notable 17% year-on-year improvement. Jessica Turner, QS CEO, said: "One of the biggest challenges faced by India is educational — providing high-quality tertiary education in the face of exploding demand: this was recognised by 2020's NEP (National Education Policy), which set the ambitious target of a 50% gross enrolment ratio by 2035. It should, therefore, provide some reassurance that the number of Indian programmes featuring across our 55 subject rankings and five broad faculty areas has increased this year — from 355 to 424." India's highest-ranked university is JNU for development studies (20th globally, a new entry in this discipline); the next two highest ranked universities are IIM-Ahmedabad, debuting in the 22nd position for business and management studies while Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (deemed to be university) secured the 24th spot globally in dentistry and is the only Indian university to

HOW INDIAN INSTITUTES FARED GLOBALLY

Best subject-wise ranks

➤ Jawaharlal Nehru University excelled by ranking **20th** in Development Studies and **11th** in Academic Reputation among Indian universities



➤ IIT-Bombay excelled in Engineering-Mineral & Mining, ranking **25th**, and claimed the sixth position globally for Employer Reputation

➤ IIT-Madras secured the **29th** place in Petroleum Engineering and ranked 8th in Employer Reputation. It also stood out in Engineering-Mineral & Mining, placing **45th** globally

➤ Indian School of Mines ranked **44th** in Engineering-Mineral & Mining, with over 1,44,000 academics globally endorsing its Academic Reputation



➤ National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research got **64th** place for Pharmacy & Pharmacology, and ranked 9th globally for Citations per Paper



OTHER INSTITUTES THAT DID WELL IN COUNTRY

Institute	Subject	2023 rank	2024 rank
IIT-Bombay	Chemistry	116	95
IIT-Delhi	Computer science and information systems	67	63
IIM-Ahmedabad	Business studies	53	22
IIT-Madras	Engineering-Mechanical, Aeronautical & Manufacturing	49	55
Indian Institute of Science	Physics and Astronomy	110	134
AIIMS, New Delhi	Medicine	123	127
Jawaharlal Nehru University	Sociology	68	91

Six Indian universities stood out globally by ranking in the top 10 for Employer Reputation in specific subjects, based on feedback from 98,000 employers surveyed by QS

achieve perfect score (100/100) in one of the QS indicators, namely the H Index, ranking number one in this metric, within dentistry. Research-wise, India has achieved a 20% improvement in the citations per paper indicator, reflecting research capability. Additionally, there has been 16% growth in the international research network indicator, which measures volume and diversity of research partnerships. However, there was a slight decrease of

5% in the index, which assesses the balance between research productivity and its impact.

"India stands as one of the world's most rapidly expanding research centres. From 2017 to 2022, its research output surged by an impressive 54%, based on data from Scopus/Elsevier; QS's bibliometric and research affiliate. This increase not only more than doubles the global average but also significantly exceeds the output of its more traditionally recognised Western

peers," said QS in its press note. Sowter added, "Given its current trajectory, India is on the brink of overtaking the United Kingdom in research productivity. However, in terms of research impact, measured by citation count, India ranks ninth globally for the 2017-2022 period. While it is an impressive result, prioritising high-quality, impactful research and its dissemination within the academic community is the essential next step."