

NIRF India Rankings 2023

Why in news?

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) recently released the eighth edition of India Rankings for 2023.

What is NIRF rankings?

- The Ministry of Education in 2015 drafted and implements the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).
- The Education Ministry releases the NIRF Ranking every year since 2016 and 2023 is the 8th edition.
- The NIRF rankings also known as the **India Rankings**, evaluates the 'quality' of educational programs offered by higher education institutions in colleges and universities in India.
- **Criteria** - NIRF ranks higher education institutions in 5 categories and 8 subject domains.
- The NIRF evaluates institutions on five parameters and 16-18 sub-parameters.
- Ranks are assigned based on the sum of marks secured by institutions on each of these parameters.
- The ranks helps universities in identifying areas for improvement in teaching, research, resources, and infrastructure.

Categories (5)	Subject Domains (8)	Parameters (5)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall • Universities • Colleges • Research institutions • Innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering • Management • Pharmacy • Medical • Dental • Law • Architecture and planning • Agriculture and allied sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching, learning and resources • Graduation outcome • Research and professional practices • Outreach and inclusivity • Perception

What is new in the India Rankings for 2023?

- There are 3 distinct additions of the 2023 edition of India Rankings.
1. Introduction of a new subject namely Agriculture & Allied Sectors

2. Integration of the '*Innovation*' ranking previously executed by the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) into the India Rankings.
 3. Expansion of scope of 'Architecture' to '*Architecture and Planning*' to include institutions imparting courses in Urban and Town Planning.
- The new additions have increased portfolio of India Rankings to 13 categories and subject domains.

What are the key findings of this ranking?

- **Participation** - According to the Ministry of Education, in this edition of NIRF, 5,543 institutions offered themselves for ranking under overall, category-specific or domain-specific ranking.
- Only 12.3% of higher educational institutions participated in the ranking process.
- There is near to no information on the parameters decided by NIRF for the remaining 87.7% of higher education institutions.
- **Rural-urban Divide** - AISHE data show that about 43% of the universities and 61.4% colleges are in rural areas.
- The list of top 100 colleges shows scant presence of colleges from rural areas.
- **Quantity and Quality** - There is an incongruence between quantity and quality.
- According to AISHE, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of colleges in the country, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- The list of top 100 colleges does not feature a single college from U.P. and features only 3 colleges from Maharashtra and 2 from Karnataka.
- **State Universities** - Quality differences are evident between private and government institutions as well.
- The highest rank secured by a private institution is 15 in overall rankings and 6 in university rankings.
- Government institutions finds top place in the list which shows there is a tremendous scope for many more State universities if quality is improved.

The AICTE-prescribes faculty-student ratio of 1:20. Only 33.98% of engineering colleges adhere to it.

- **Faculty strength** - Higher faculty-student ratio shows better quality of institutions.
- The average number of faculty in the top 100 universities is 645, while for the remaining universities it is only 242.
- **Scientific publications** - Faculty strength and quality also get reflected in scientific publications.
- The 12.3% of institutions which have participated in the ranking contribute close to 90% of scholarly output in the country.

As per the All India Survey on Higher Education ([AISHE](#)) 2021, there were 1,113 universities and 43,796 colleges in 2020-21.

What could be inferred from the findings of the report?

- The rankings underscore the urgent need for quality enhancement in the higher education system.
- Rankings like NIRF should serve the purpose of being an input for informed **evidence-based policy** decisions.
- China's share of world publications increased from 5% in 2000 to 26% in 2018, facilitated by massive research investments by the Chinese government.
- India's share in the overall world scientific publications is about 4.81% and requires immediate attention.
- India as a nation aspiring to reap rich demographic dividends, needs **higher budgetary outlays** for higher education.

References

1. [The Hindu - Rankings, and the realities of higher education](#)
2. [Zee News - NIRF Ranking 2023](#)
3. [Ministry of Education - NIRF](#)

