



National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025

Category-specific
ranking analysis



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Guidance notes for readers

This is a preliminary report based on National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Ranking 2025 released by Ministry of Education (MoE) on 4 September 2025.

The report is prepared only based on available data and while information obtained from the public domain has not been verified for authenticity, we have obtained information, as far as possible, from sources generally considered to be reliable such as National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), data submitted by institutions to NIRF, Ministry of Education (MoE), All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) and University Grants Commission (UGC) websites.

The findings presented in the report are KPMG in India's analysis of published information across these secondary sources. Our analysis is based on the prevailing market conditions and regulatory environment and any change may impact the outcome of our review.

In preparing this report, KPMG in India:

- Has only tried to source, investigate and verify the information, on a best-effort basis, within the limitations of time, veracity of primary sources and to the extent possible.
- Has (where specified) undertaken certain analytical activities on the underlying data to arrive at the information presented and we assume no responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the underlying data or Information and will not be held liable for it under any circumstances.
- Has neither conducted an audit, due diligence, nor validated the reports released as part of National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).
- Wherever information was not available in the public domain, suitable assumptions were made to extrapolate values for the same.

Foreword - KPMG in India

The tenth edition of National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was released on 4 September 2025. NIRF has been continuously evolving over the past 10 years and NIRF 2025 had some methodological changes, added Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) category and implemented negative marking for retracted publications, underscoring a stronger commitment to academic integrity.

Launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Education, NIRF has become India's definitive benchmark for evaluating higher education. It assesses institutions across five parameters: Teaching, Learning and Resources (TLR); Research and Professional Practice (RP); Graduation Outcomes (GO); Outreach and Inclusivity (OI); and Perception (PR). Designed as a credible, data-driven framework, in line with global rankings, NIRF has helped drive improvements in faculty quality, research output, innovation, student centricity, graduate outcomes and institutional inclusivity.

Over years, NIRF has significantly expanded its scope too. Going beyond core disciplines like engineering and management, it now includes architecture, law, agriculture, research institutions, open universities, and skills universities besides the recently included category of Sustainable Development Goals. Participation has surged from 2,426 institutions in 2016 to 7,692 in 2025, with college category alone growing fourfold.¹

Between AY18 and AY23, the top 25 institutions doubled their research projects and research funding saw an increase of over 50 per cent. Institutions ranked 26-50 focused on high-value collaborations, while those in the 51-100 range showed the fastest growth highlighting how NIRF has democratised research opportunities. Consultancy projects and funding follow similar trends - top institutions executed fewer but higher-value projects, while others grew through volume and funding.²

Since 2025, Innovation has accelerated, with India's patent filings have doubled in India. Educational institutions have played a key role, tripling their filings from 2022 to 2024.¹ This momentum, supported by government incentives and NIRF's research emphasis, has positioned India among the top six countries globally for patent activity. Research output has also surged, with India's share of global publications rising from 3.5 per cent in 2017 to 5.2 per cent in 2024. Student enrolments in the top 100 institutions rose 24 per cent over five years, with the top 25 expanding by ~50 per cent. PhD enrolments and graduate numbers have grown steadily, and median salaries have nearly doubled across both top and lower quartile institutions.

Externally, these gains are reflected in global rankings. In the QS World University Rankings 2026, India is the fourth most represented country, with 54 institutions -up fivefold from 2015.²

Despite its success, NIRF faces several challenges. Quantity of research output often outweighs quality, and the perception metric remains subjective. Resource disparities persist, disadvantaging state and rural institutions. To stay relevant, NIRF must refine its methodology, emphasising research quality, deeper integration of employability, internationalisation efforts and expansion to include newer disciplines such as AI, climate sciences, etc.

¹ India Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

² Based on KPMG in India's analysis of NIRF data.



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List of abbreviations used

ESCS	Economically and Socially Challenged Students
FPPP	Footprint of Projects and Professional Practice
FQE	Combined metric for Faculty with PhD (or equivalent) and Experience
FSR	Faculty-student ratio with emphasis on permanent faculty
GO	Graduation Outcomes
GPHD	Metric for Number of Ph.D. Students Graduated
GUE	Metric for University Examinations
HEI	Higher Education Institution
IPR	IPR and Patents: Published and Granted
IQAC	Internal Quality Assurance Cell
MoE	Ministry of Education
NAAC	National Assessment and Accreditation Council
NBA	National Board of Accreditation
NIRF	National Institutional Ranking Framework
OE	Online Education: Online Completion of Syllabus and Exams and Swayam
OI	Outreach and Inclusivity
PERC	Perception
QP	Combined metric for Quality of Publications
RD	Regional Diversity
RP	Research and Professional Practice
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SS	Student Strength including Doctoral Students
TLR	Teaching and Learning Resources
WD	Women Diversity

NIRF journey over 10 years



NIRF journey over 10 years

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched by the Ministry of Education, Government of India on 29 September 2015 with a clear purpose - to establish a framework for benchmarking higher education institutions across India. At a time when the Indian education landscape was rapidly expanding, there was a growing need for a standardised methodology to assess and compare institutional quality. NIRF addressed this gap by introducing a transparent, data-driven ranking system that evaluates institutions on key pillars of education – Leadership, Governance, Faculty, Students, Research and Infrastructure. The first rankings under NIRF were released in April 2016. Its parameters and sub-parameters were carefully designed to reflect both academic excellence and institutional effectiveness. The ranking methodology is anchored in core pillars of institutional quality: transparency, accountability, efficiency, adaptability and innovation.

Over the past decade, NIRF has evolved into a trusted tool for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), fostering a culture of accountability, continuous improvement, and healthy competition among institutions. NIRF aims to empower students, parents, and policymakers with reliable data to make informed decisions, while encouraging institutions to improve their performance and accountability.

Evolution of NIRF categories

Since its inception, NIRF acknowledged the diverse nature of India's higher education ecosystem - spanning the categories for multidisciplinary universities, specialised institutions and standalone colleges. Rather than adopting a common framework for all institutions, NIRF introduced distinct categories over time to ensure fair and meaningful comparisons. HEIs have flexibility to choose and apply under the category that best aligns with their core strengths and academic focus. This flexibility not only respects institutional autonomy but also enhances the relevance and credibility of the rankings. As a result, NIRF has become more inclusive and reflective of the diverse nature of Indian higher education.

The image here provides information on the evolution of categories and subject domains under the NIRF from 2016 to 2025. Initially focused on subject domains such as Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, the framework gradually expanded to include Architecture (2017), Law and Medical (2018), and Dental (2020)- signalling a growing recognition of professional disciplines.

Among categories, the inclusion of 'Research Institutions' (ARIIA) in 2021 underscored NIRF's commitment to recognizing institutions that actively contribute to research-driven and forward-looking practices. In 2023, the introduction of the 'Innovation' category marked a shift toward innovation and research excellence.

The year 2024 saw a push for inclusivity with introduction of 'Open University', 'Skill University' and 'State Public University' aligning with national goals for accessible and employability-driven education.

Finally, the introduction of 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Institutions' in 2025 signifies a forward-looking approach, integrating global sustainability benchmarks into the ranking system. This evolution underscores NIRF's commitment to holistic, inclusive, and globally relevant education quality metrics.

Evolution of categories and subject domains in NIRF



Evolution of parameters in NIRF

While the parameters and sub-parameters used for evaluating institutions in the NIRF framework are largely the same, variations are seen in specific categories such as 'Research Institutions' and 'Innovation', among others and across some subject domains basis their focus. The parameters have remained mostly consistent over the years with addition and changes in weightages of some sub-parameters. Over the years these changes have been introduced to align the ranking system with national priorities and as a response to global education trends. The five broad parameters and entailing sub-parameters are designed to assess institutions holistically, capturing the diverse aspects of the higher education ecosystem.

Following are some key changes introduced at parameter and sub-parameter level over the years:

Teaching and Learning resources (TLR):

TLR is largely seen to have four to five sub-parameters depending on the category and subject domain

- In 2016, TLR parameter had sub-parameters on faculty (FSR, FQE) and spend on infrastructure (LL, SEC)
- In 2018, along with existing sub-parameters student strength (SS) and institution's financial spending (FRU) were included
- In 2024, online education (OE) and regional inclusivity (MIRS) were added to the sub-parameters in TLR aligning with NEP 2020 for a more holistic assessment.

Research and Professional Practice (RP):

RP parameter is largely seen to have two to four sub-parameters depending on the category and subject domain

- In 2016, NIRF emphasised research publications (PU, CP) and quality in terms of citations (CI), patents (IPR), and projects and professional practice (FPPP)
- By 2018, the sub-parameters were enhanced/expanded to refine publication quality metrics (QP)
- In 2024, focus expanded to include research publications and citations in SDGs (PSDG), aligning to India's goals.

Graduation Outcomes (GO):

GO parameter is largely seen to have two to four sub-parameters depending on the category and subject domain

- In 2016, NIRF assessed exam performance (PUE, PPE), placements and higher studies (PHE), and mean salary (MS)
- By 2018, the sub-parameters were refined/expanded to include median salary (GMS), and Ph.D. output (GPHD)
- Since 2018, the sub-parameters have largely remained consistent.

Outreach and Inclusivity (OI):

OI parameter is largely seen to have four sub-parameters across categories and subject domains

- Since 2016, the sub-parameters within OI have remained mostly consistent focusing on regional diversity (RD), women diversity (WD), economically and socially challenged students (ESCS) and facilities for physically challenged students (PCS).

Perception

- In 2016, Perception included peer rating (PR) and applications to seat ratio (SR)
- In 2018, the parameter was refined to include employer perception along with academic peers' perception, with the consideration of accreditation in certain categories
- Since 2018, the parameter has largely remained consistent.

Over the years, NIRF has evolved in response to India's shifting higher education priorities. In 2024, following the wider implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) across states, and growing emphasis on digital learning, cultural integration, and flexible academic pathways, NIRF introduced new sub-parameters under the Teaching and Learning Resources parameter (TLR) to score institutions on - availability of online education, availability of curricula on Indian knowledge systems, multiple entry and exit options for students, and availability of curricula in regional languages.

Similarly, the inclusion of SDG-linked publication metrics under Research Productivity parameter reflects alignment with India's commitment to global sustainability goals. These updates demonstrate how NIRF has continually adapted to remain contextually relevant, embedding national policy directions into its evaluation framework in a timely and strategic manner.

Impact of NIRF on Indian Higher Education

NIRF has played a key role in shaping the landscape of Indian higher education. In pursuit of improved NIRF rankings, several Indian higher education institutions (HEIs) have undertaken significant enhancements in academic and operational outcomes. This has not only elevated their national standing but has also contributed to an improvement in global rankings thereby signaling an improvement in academic quality and institutional performance across the country.

NIRF's impact and influence is particularly evident on following areas:

- **HEI strategic planning:**
NIRF has increasingly enabled institutions to focus on measurable performance areas like teaching quality, research output, and student outcomes, among others. This promotes data-driven decision-making, encourages targeted investments in academics, research infrastructure, etc., and fosters a culture of continuous improvement. There is an increasing need for institutions to use NIRF insights to set priorities, benchmark progress, and align with national education goals
- **HEI operations:**
Through regular data collection, and public reporting, NIRF has gradually influenced HEIs academic and administrative operations by introducing accountability, process discipline, etc. This has impacted several aspects of HEI operations including data governance, compliance and stakeholder engagement, etc. In the last few years, ranking and accreditation frameworks have given an impetus to HEIs to establish systems and processes for providing real time data insights to HEI leadership team and facilitating data backed decision-making at HEIs. To enhance the operations and make it more efficient and outcome-oriented, there is an increasing need for institutions to streamline workflows, improve governance, and enhance processes across academics, research, and student support
- **Enhanced focus on digital and innovation:**
NIRF has broadened its scope by introducing categories such as Innovation and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), along with parameters like online education. These additions reflect a shift toward progressive indicators. These have encouraged institutions to adopt a forward-thinking mindset, focusing on long-term goals such as social impact, incubation, sustainability, and digital transformation. To enhance value and deliver higher impact, there is a need for institutions to increasingly align their future plans with national and global benchmarks, aiming for sustained improvement, and readiness for emerging educational trends.

Key Insights from NIRF 10 Years Data:

In this section we have analysed NIRF data for the last 10 years and tried to capture key insights or highlights which has had an impact in the Indian higher education system. NIRF data reveals consistent improvement across nearly all metrics, reflecting the evolving quality of Indian higher education. For this analysis, we have identified a few key impact areas and have captured below:

1. Increase in participation in NIRF:

The significant rise in the number of participating institutions in NIRF indicates that HEIs are increasingly recognizing the value of NIRF and becoming more performance driven.

The table below shows that the unique number of institutes participating in NIRF has increased significantly in past 10 editions moving from 2426 in 2016 to 7692 in 2025².

Category (year of launch)	Participating institutions in the launch year	Participating institutions in 2025	Growth in participating institutions (%)
Universities (2016)	233	500+	-
Engineering (2016)	1,438	1,584	8%
Management (2016)	609	1,026	68%
Pharmacy (2016)	454	594	31%
Colleges (2017)	535	4030	402%
Medical (2018)	101	223	121%
Law (2018)	71	267	276%
Architecture and Planning (2018)	59	131	122%
Dental (2020)	115	223	103%
Research (2021)	234	273	16%
Agriculture and Allied sectors (2023)	152	173	14%
Innovation (2023)	Not published	777	-
Open University (2024)	12	15	25%
Skill University (2024)	4	11	175%
State Public University (2024)	168	Not published	-
Sustainable Development Goals (2025)	791	791	-

'Colleges' category has experienced the significant increase, growing from 803 to 4,030 institutions followed by Law category. Among newer categories launched in 2024 and 2025, participation by skills universities have surged by 175 per cent, and open universities by 25 per cent, reflecting growing emphasis on flexible and vocational education.

²India Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

Note: The data has been compiled from different base years, depending on when each NIRF category was introduced.

2. Outcome-led systemic improvements:

Based on NIRF data from the last 10 years, it has been observed that HEIs are undertaking reforms in outcome-led areas which has resulted in measurable impact. For instance, HEIs are increasingly taking efforts to improve the number of faculty members with PhD qualification as well as the number of PhD students. This emphasis on cultivating doctoral-level talent has resulted in improved research outcomes.

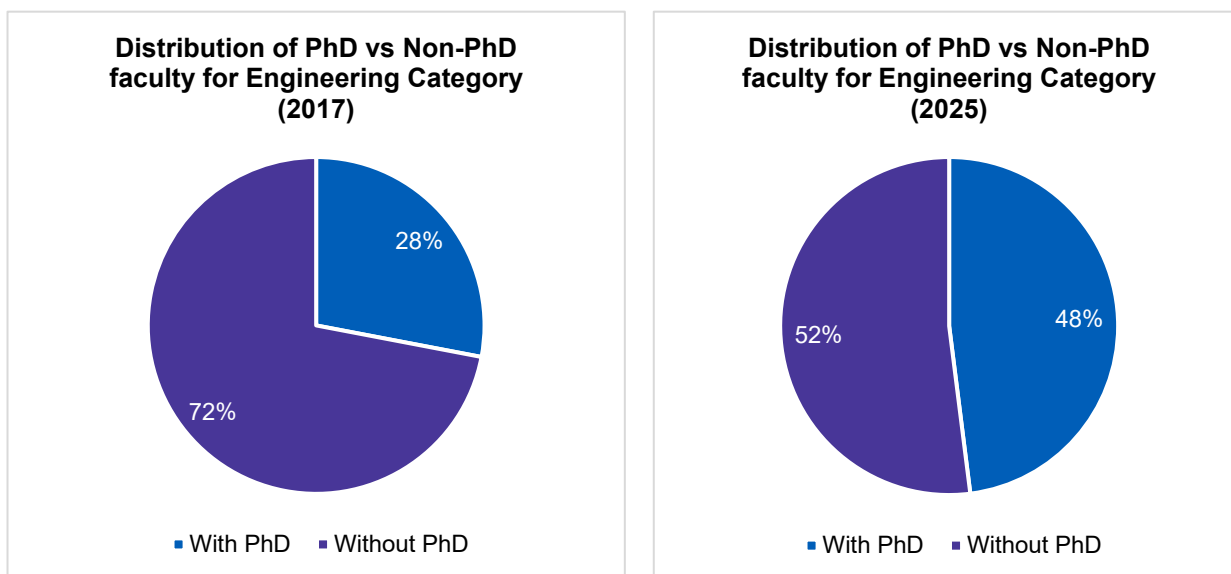
To elucidate outcome-led systemic improvements, data trends on faculty members and PhD metrics have been compared with improvements in research outcomes, in the section below.

Faculty Members

Over the years, Indian higher education institutions have witnessed a rise in the proportion of faculty members holding doctoral degrees. According to NIRF 2025 data, percentage of faculty members with PhD is reaching nearly 60 per cent, in the overall category in 2025 for the top 100 ranked institutions. Several categories now report significantly higher percentages of PhD qualified faculty members reaching more than 90 per cent, in management institutes and over 80 per cent, in engineering colleges. Even among universities and colleges, the share of doctoral faculty has grown, reflecting a broader institutional emphasis on research, academic rigor, and quality teaching. A comparison of engineering category is presented below:

1. PhD faculty members ranked under Engineering category (2017 vs 2025)³

For institutions ranked under the Engineering category, the proportion of PhD faculty members has grown from 28 per cent, in 2017 to 48 per cent, in 2025.⁴



This trend indicates that institutions are increasingly focussing on nurturing doctoral-level talent to enhance overall academic quality and research outcomes

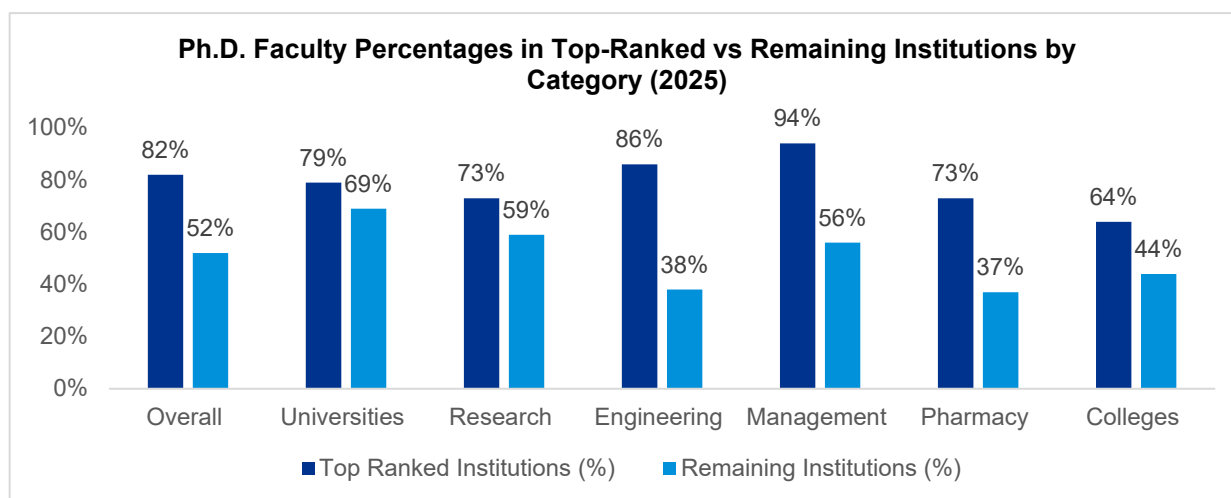
³ NIRF 2017 and 2025 Ranking Report

⁴ India Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

Note: The data has been compiled from different base years, depending on when each NIRF category was introduced.

2. PhD faculty members across top-ranked and the remaining institutions for various categories⁵

Top-ranked institutions consistently show over 73 per cent (across most categories) representation of PhD-qualified faculty members compared to the remaining institution.

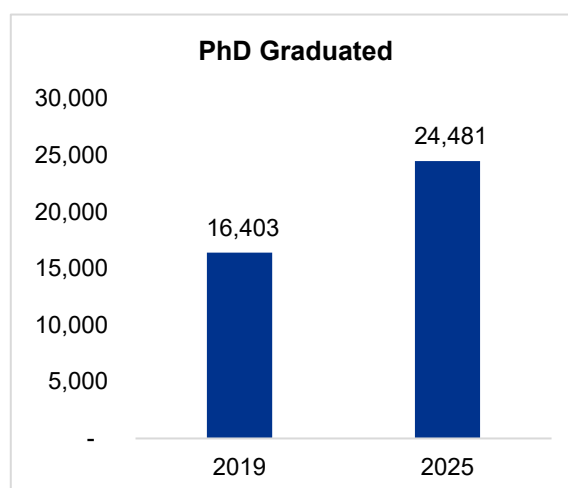
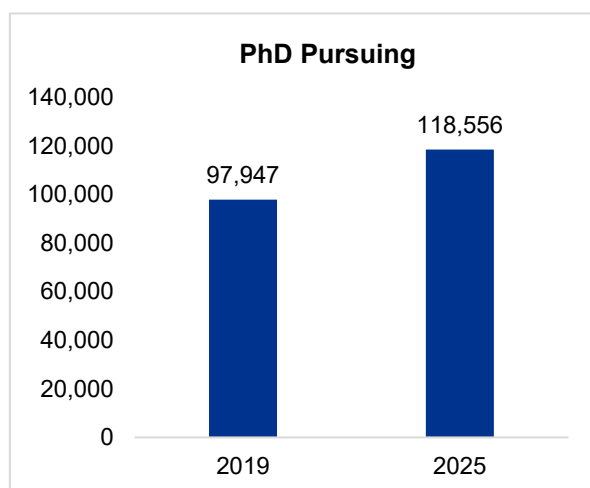


Note – The top Ranked institutions consist of top 100 in Overall, Universities, Engineering, Management and Colleges category, top 50 in Research category and top 101 in Pharmacy category

PhD Students

NIRF's 10-year data shows a growing momentum in PhD doctoral education - PhD enrolment in University category has grown by 21 per cent between 2019 and 2025, while PhD completion surged by nearly 49 per cent. This trend reflects that HEIs are improving the PhD ecosystem to enhance the research productivity.

Interestingly, one of the most significant growth in enrolments came from institutions ranked from 76-100, showing a broadening base of research training. At the same time, higher ranked institutions led in improving PhD completion rates, reflecting a focus on timely graduation.⁵



Research Publications

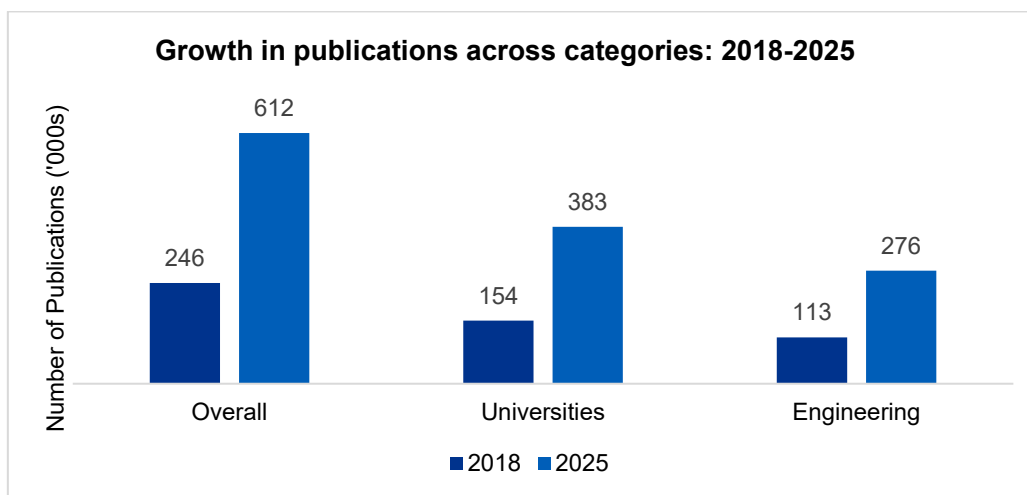
⁵ India Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

Note: The data has been compiled from different base years, depending on when each NIRF category was introduced.

An analysis of 10 years of NIRF data reveals an improvement in research publication output, closely linked to the growing number of PhD-qualified faculty and an expanding pool of doctoral students. This trend indicates that HEIs are actively focussing on enhancing research outcomes.

1. Growth in number of publications across categories from 2018 to 2025⁶

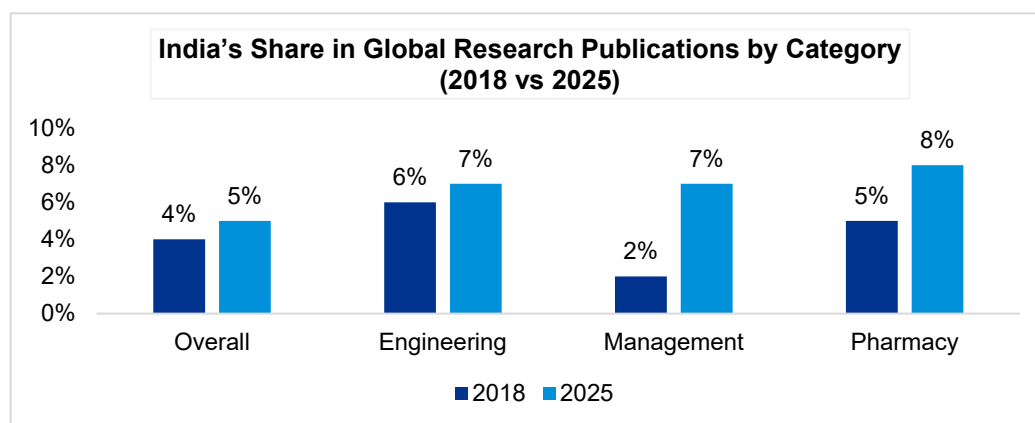
Publication output across disciplines has surged over the last decade, with universities and engineering institutions recording around 150 per cent growth in number of publications. Categories such as Pharmacy and Management saw a remarkable average 300 per cent growth⁷. These improving trends suggest that institutions may be strategically focusing on research excellence.



Note – The top ranked institutions consist of top 100 in Overall, Universities, Engineering categories

2. India's share in global publications⁸

The surge in publication output captured in NIRF rankings reflects India's growing focus on research and innovation in HEIs. This trend is especially visible in disciplines like management, where institutions have significantly scaled up their research contributions in global publications over the last decade.



*Note: The number of institutions considered in each category are as follows —Overall: 100, Engineering: 100, Management: 100, Pharmacy: 101.

⁶ NIRF 2018 and NIRF 2025 Ranking Report

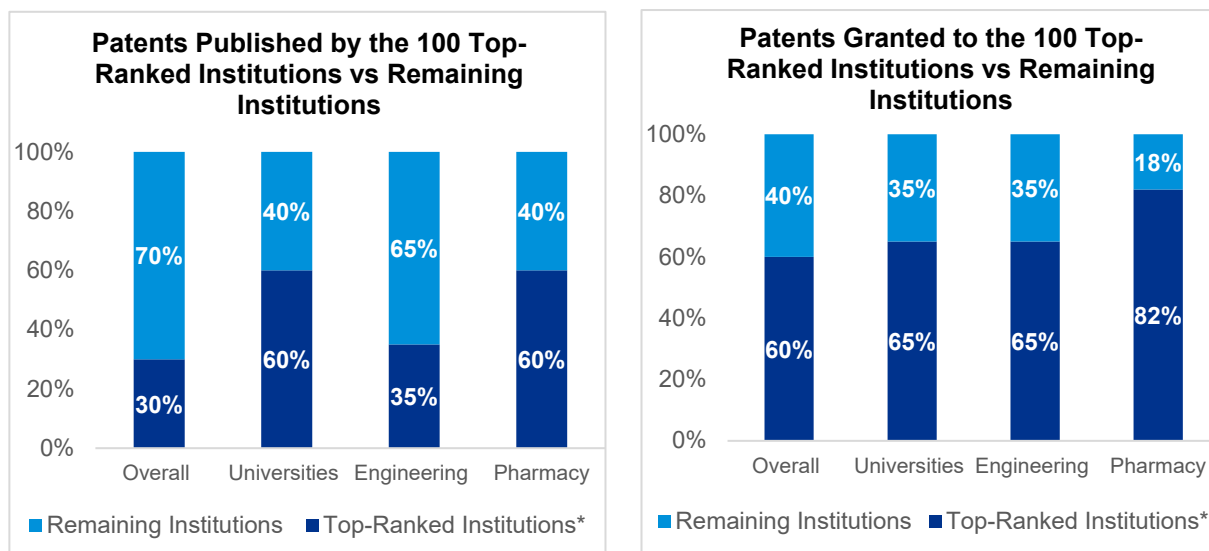
⁷ India Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

Note: The data has been compiled from different base years, depending on when each NIRF category was introduced.

⁸ NIRF 2018 and NIRF 2025 Ranking Report

Publishing and granting of patents⁹

NIRF 2025 data on patents published and granted for top ranked institutions vs remaining institutions indicates an important insight. For Overall and Engineering categories, per cent of patents published is higher for remaining institutions, however patents granted is high for top-ranked institutions.



Note: The number of institutions considered in each category are as follows — Universities: 100, Overall: 100, Engineering: 100, Pharmacy: 101.

Above chart indicates the following points:

- Top ranked institutions in Overall and Engineering categories are consistently able to convert published patents into granted ones
- There is alignment between published (60 per cent) and granted (65 per cent) for Universities Category
- Pharmacy institutions show a very wide gap in churning patents and ensuring quality, with only top institutions achieving high grant rates.



⁹ India Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

Sponsored research and consultancy projects¹⁰

Sponsored research and consultancy projects give an indication of industry-academia ties in the higher education ecosystem. NIRF data from 2019 -2025 clearly indicate an increase in both the number of projects and amount received from **external funding** across both the sub-parameters.

In the below analysis, the top 100 ranked universities are classified by rank bands of 1-25; 26-50; 51- 75 and 76-100.

- Across all rank bands in top 100, the average amount received for sponsored research is observed to have increased significantly indicating increased research activity

- Institutions in the rank band 1-25 are seen to receive significantly higher funding on average compared to institutions in the other rank bands (~9x the funding received by institutions in rank band 76 – 100)

	Avg. number of sponsored research		Avg. amount received for sponsored research (in INR crores)	
	2019	2025	2019	2025
1-25	234	298	61.69	141.55
26-50	452	113	14.99	33.93
51-75	60	154	7.27	40.26
76-100	35	95	6.21	15.86
Total Avg.	195	165	22.54	57.91
Avg amount received per sponsored research			11.5L	35.1L

Consultancy projects

- Similar to sponsored research, across all rank bands in top 100, the average amount received for consultancy projects is observed to have increased significantly indicating increased industry consultancy engagements

- There is an observable shift to higher value and larger consultancy engagements among the top 100 ranked institutions as seen from the increase in average amount received per consultancy project

	Avg. number of consultancy projects		Avg. amount received for consultancy projects (in INR crores)	
	2019	2025	2019	2025
1-25	513	484	9.27	28.17
26-50	97	136	4.43	6.30
51-75	62	150	1.49	12.13
76-100	41	116	1.25	4.40
Total Avg.	178	221	4.11	12.75
Avg amount received per consultancy project			2.3L	5.8L

- Institutions in top 25 are seen to undertake significantly higher number of consultancy projects and are seen to receive higher value projects as well.

¹⁰ India Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

Note: The data has been compiled from different base years, depending on when each NIRF category was introduced.

Overview of NIRF – 2025 rankings



Overview of NIRF – 2025 rankings

NIRF 2025 published rankings for 17 categories evaluates institutions basis 19 sub-parameters organised into five broad parameters. New Ranking Category for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) introduced in NIRF 2025. As a major change a negative marking system based on number of retracted publications was developed and introduced for ranking in Overall, Engineering, Universities and Research Institutions Categories. Elimination of self-citations at institution level, which was introduced in 2024 for categories and subject domains, was implemented for NIRF 2025.

The NIRF 2025 rankings witnessed significant rank movements, with several institutions making dramatic leaps or facing sharp declines. These shifts reflect a growing emphasis on data-oriented, structured strategies adopted by institutions to improve their performance across key parameters. Many institutions that improved their ranks invested in research infrastructure, faculty development, and industry collaborations, while others that stagnated or declined may need to recalibrate their strategies. The 2025 rankings reaffirm that sustained, data-backed performance across parameters is key to institutional advancement in the NIRF ecosystem.

Higher competition levels and improvement in quality of institutions participating in NIRF rankings:

The tenth edition of the NIRF rankings (2025) reflects a continued rise in competitiveness and overall improvement in the quality of higher education institutions across India. Except for the architecture and planning category, all others show a consistent increase in average scores from 2024 to 2025, indicating enhanced institutional performance. Following are some pertinent observations from the average scores of ranked institutions:

- The law category has the highest average score (62.21) and has shown significant improvement over the last four years
- Categories such as University, Engineering, Management, Medical, Pharmacy, Research, and Law have shown steady year-over-year improvement in scores, indicating sustained enhancement in institutional performance. While most categories show improvement, some (like Law, Dental and Agriculture) have shown substantial growth than others.
- The increasing scores across categories indicate a more competitive environment, pushing institutions to continually improve their performance.

Category	Average score of ranked institutions ¹¹			
	2025	2024	2023	2022
University	55.13	53.89	51.45	49.75
Engineering	56.81	55.88	54.05	52.39 ¹²
Management	56.19	54.45	54.26	52.93
Medical	61.11	60.62	59.86	56.95
Dental	60.66	58.19	58.05	58.05
Pharmacy	54.24	52.68	51.37	49.1
Architecture	58.76	59.09	59.79	57.91
College	62.05	58.51	58.60	58.35
Research	56.83	55.99	55.60	53.17
Law	62.31	59.22	57.57	57.34
Agriculture	57.16	54.76	51.61	NA

¹¹ KPMG in India analysis

¹² Average score of top 100 institutions in 2022 rankings

Category wise score movement from 2024 across parameters

The performance improvements in categories like College and Law are primarily driven by gains in TLR, RP, GO, and OI. In contrast, the Dental category's rise is largely attributed to TLR and a notable boost in GO.

Interestingly, the PERC parameter has seen a decline in average scores across most categories, with the exception of Agriculture and Universities. While RP scores have generally improved across categories—except Dental—all categories have shown progress in GO.

Architecture stands out as the only category experiencing a drop in average score, mainly due to decline in both TLR and Perception¹³.

Categories	Difference in average scores of 2025 and 2024	Difference in parameter average scores for 2025 and 2024				
		TLR	RP	GO	OI	Per
College	3.54	7.15	1.66	1.08	1.45	0.23
Law	3.09	3.60	3.74	3.24	2.53	0.32
Dental	2.47	5.87	-3.05	8.68	0.83	-1.84
Agriculture and Allied	2.4	-1.60	4.54	4.66	2.96	3.12
Management	1.74	1.78	3.25	0.94	1.90	-1.49
Pharmacy	1.56	0.90	4.71	0.93	1.14	-4.09
Universities	1.24	0.74	1.72	1.36	1.27	1.09
Engineering	0.93	1.43	2.20	0.90	0.49	-2.85
Research	0.84	-0.30	2.43	1.85	1.75	-3.35
Medical	0.49	-0.75	2.34	0.60	-0.07	-0.97
Architecture and Planning	-0.33	-0.97	2.02	1.56	0.16	-6.68



¹³ KPMG in India analysis

Highlights of University category

Top ranked public and private universities: The university category ranks participating central, state-public, state-private, and deemed-to-be universities across the nation. This year's top three ranked public and private universities are:

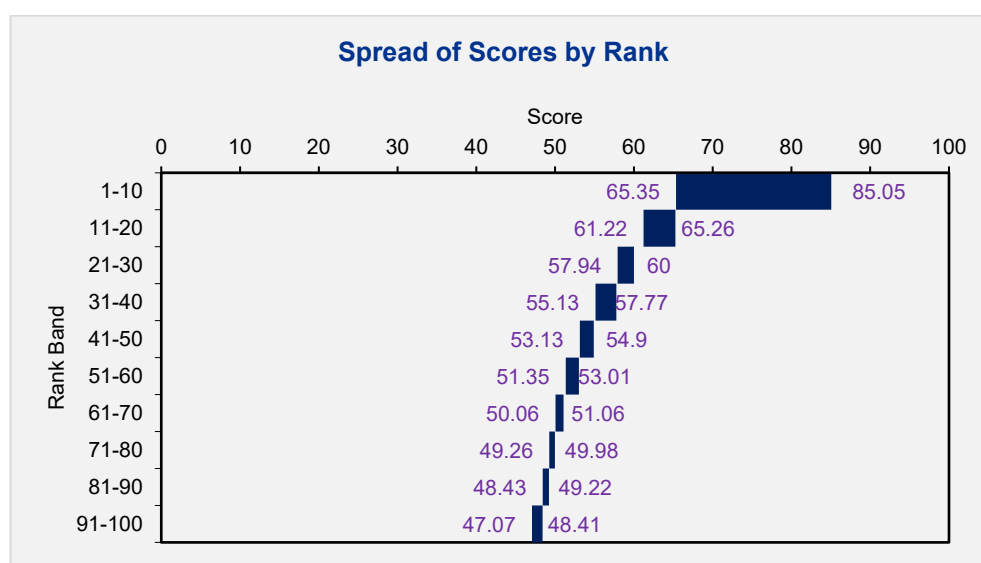
Public Institutions	Rank	Private Institutions	Rank
Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru	1	Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal	3
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	2	Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani	7
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi	4	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore	8

The top three public universities remain consistent compared to 2024, with Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and Jamia Millia Islamia retaining leading positions; however, Jamia Millia Islamia has slipped slightly from rank three to four.

The top three private university rankings saw a reshuffle, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal rose from an overall rank of four to three to become the highest-ranked private university, Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani entered the top three by climbing from rank ten to seven, while Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore is ranked eighth.

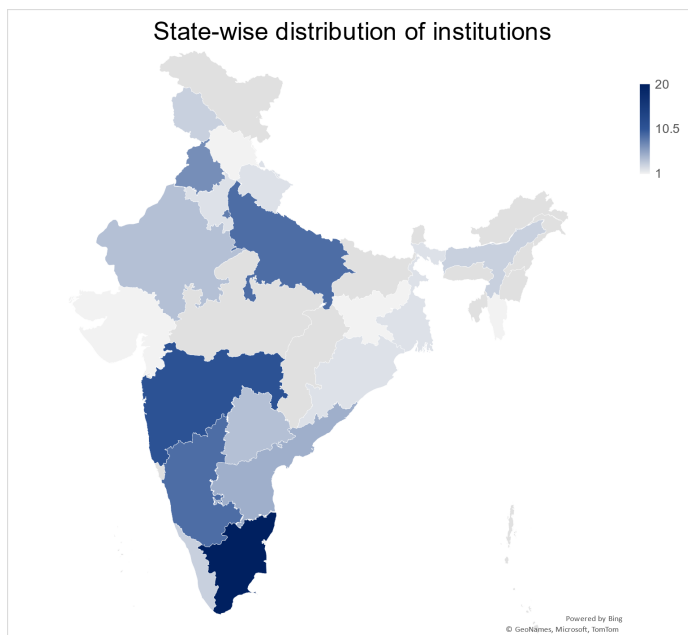
Public/govt. funded universities dominate the rankings: Among the top 100 NIRF-ranked universities, 56 are public or government-funded institutions, while 44 are privately managed highlighting a strong public sector dominance in ranking in university category.

Variation in scores by rank band: The distribution of scores across the top 100 NIRF-ranked universities reveals a clear pattern of competitiveness. Institutions ranked in the top 10 have a wide score range, from the mid-60s to mid-80s indicating strong differentiation and relative stability in rank positions. In contrast, universities ranked between 61 and 100 are tightly clustered, with 40 institutions scoring between 47.07 and 51.06. In this band, a score increase of just 3.99 points can result in a rank jump of up to 40 positions, making it one of the most competitive bands. This underscores the challenge faced by institutions in the lower half of the rankings, where competition becomes intense and even a marginal decline in score can result in a significant drop in visibility and ranking¹⁴.



¹⁴ KPMG in India analysis

Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are the top three states:



State	Institutions in Top 100 NIRF ¹⁵	
	2025	2024
Tamil Nadu	20	22
Maharashtra	11	10
Uttar Pradesh	9	9
Karnataka	9	11
Delhi	8	7
Punjab	7	7
Andhra Pradesh	5	5
Telangana	4	3
Rajasthan	4	3
Jammu and Kashmir	3	2
Assam	3	2
Kerala	3	4
Haryana	2	0
West Bengal	2	2
Odisha	2	2
Uttarakhand	2	3
Pondicherry	1	1
Himachal Pradesh	1	1
Gujarat	1	1
Chandigarh	1	1
Mizoram	1	1
Jharkhand	1	1

Tamil Nadu continues to dominate university category rankings with 20 institutions in top 100, two fewer than last year. It is followed by Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh with 11 and nine institutions, respectively. Northern states including Haryana, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab either show a positive shift or maintain their ranking, suggesting growing institutional competitiveness. Southern states such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala, traditionally strong performers, have seen slight declines. Western states (Maharashtra, Rajasthan) show modest gains, while Eastern states remain largely stable. Haryana entered the top 100 with two institutions (up from none in last year). Maharashtra, Delhi, Telangana, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, and Assam each added one institution. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, traditionally strong performers, saw a decline of two institutions each. Kerala and Uttarakhand lost one institution each.

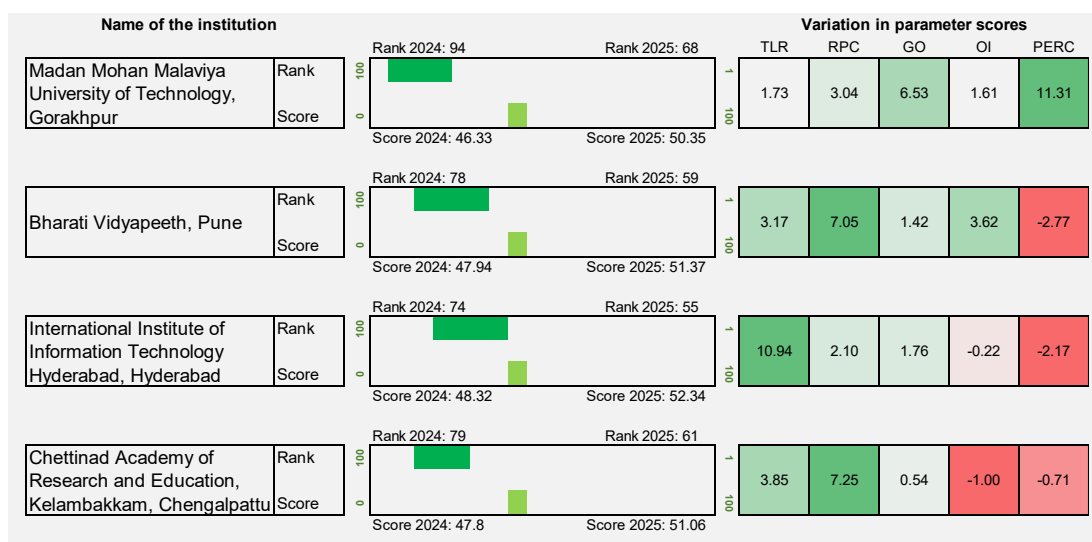
There are eight new entrants into top 100: Among the eight new entrants in the rankings, three institutions were not ranked in 2024, while the remaining five have advanced from the 101–200 rank band.

Name	City	State	2025 rank	2024 rank
Indian Agricultural Research Institute	New Delhi	Delhi	16	Not ranked
Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology of Kashmir	Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir	75	Not ranked
Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University	Hyderabad	Telangana	81	151-200
Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management (GITAM)	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	88	101-150
Central University of Rajasthan	Kishangarh	Rajasthan	89	151-200

¹⁵ KPMG in India's analysis

Name	City	State	2025 rank	2024 rank
Padmashree Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Mumbai	Mumbai	Maharashtra	91	101-150
Assam University-Silchar	Silchar	Assam	97	Not ranked
Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology	New Delhi	Delhi	100	151-200

A total of 42 universities have shown an improvement in rankings in top 100: Among them, Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology, Gorakhpur recorded the most significant improvement within the Top 100, climbing 26 positions from Rank 94 in 2024 to Rank 68 in 2025, driven by a 6.53-point increase in its GO score and an 11.31-point gain in PERC. Interestingly, the rise of the top four climbers was fuelled by improvements across different parameters. Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune showed notable gains in RP, Outreach OI, and TLR. Indian Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad's ascent was primarily attributed to an increase in its TLR score, while Chettinad Academy of Research and Education, Kelambakkam, Chengalpattu improved significantly in both RP and TLR. The top four climbers within the top 100 are depicted below¹⁶.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

Institutions with significant improvement in ranking in last four years

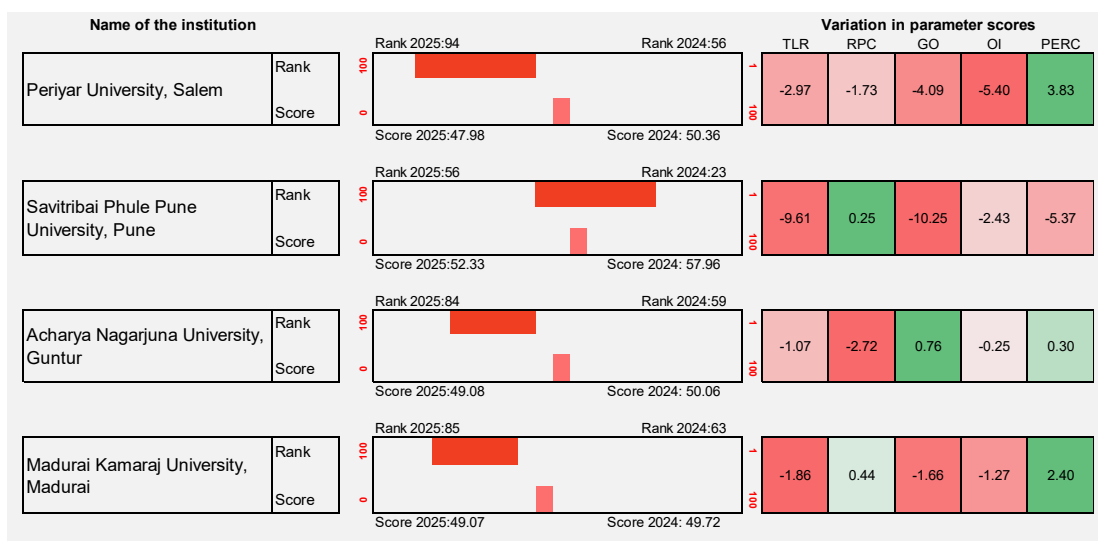
The following institutions have improved significantly in rankings in the university category over the last four editions of NIRF. More than 80 percent of these universities are private, indicating increased focus and investments among private universities in institutional development to enhance overall quality.

S. No	Name	City	State	Score	2025 rank	2021 rank	Rank change
1	UPES	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	54.44	45	100	55
2	Graphic Era University	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	53.92	48	98	50
3	Jain University	Bengaluru	Karnataka	50.95	62	99	37
4	Chandigarh University	Mohali	Punjab	61.27	19	52	33
5	Lovely Professional University	Phagwara	Punjab	57.77	31	62	31
6	Chettinad Academy of Research and Education	Chengalpattu	Tamil Nadu	51.06	61	92	31

¹⁶ KPMG in India analysis

S. No	Name	City	State	Score	2025 rank	2021 rank	Rank change
7	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	55.55	37	65	28
8	International Institute of Information Technology	Hyderabad	Telangana	52.34	55	83	28
9	Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology and Research	Guntur	Andhra Pradesh	50.06	70	97	27
10	Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education	Krishnan Koil	Tamil Nadu	58.37	28	50	22
11	Bharathidasan University	Tiruchirappalli	Tamil Nadu	55.85	36	57	21
12	Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences	Solan	Himachal Pradesh	50.16	69	89	20

46 universities in the top 100 list have dropped in rankings this year¹⁷. The universities which have dropped by maximum number of ranks from 2024 are shown below along with their change in parameter scores. Four universities, Periyar University, Salem, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, and Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai experienced notable declines in their NIRF rankings in 2025. The most consistent contributors to the decline were TLR and OI, which negatively impacted all four institutions. GO also showed a downward trend in three cases. While PERC improved for three universities, it was insufficient to offset the overall score decline. The data indicates that institutions unable to maintain consistent performance across core academic and student-focused metrics may experience a decline in rankings, even if their PERC indicators improve. This highlights the need for holistic progress across all NIRF parameters to ensure sustained competitive positioning.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

¹⁷ KPMG in India analysis

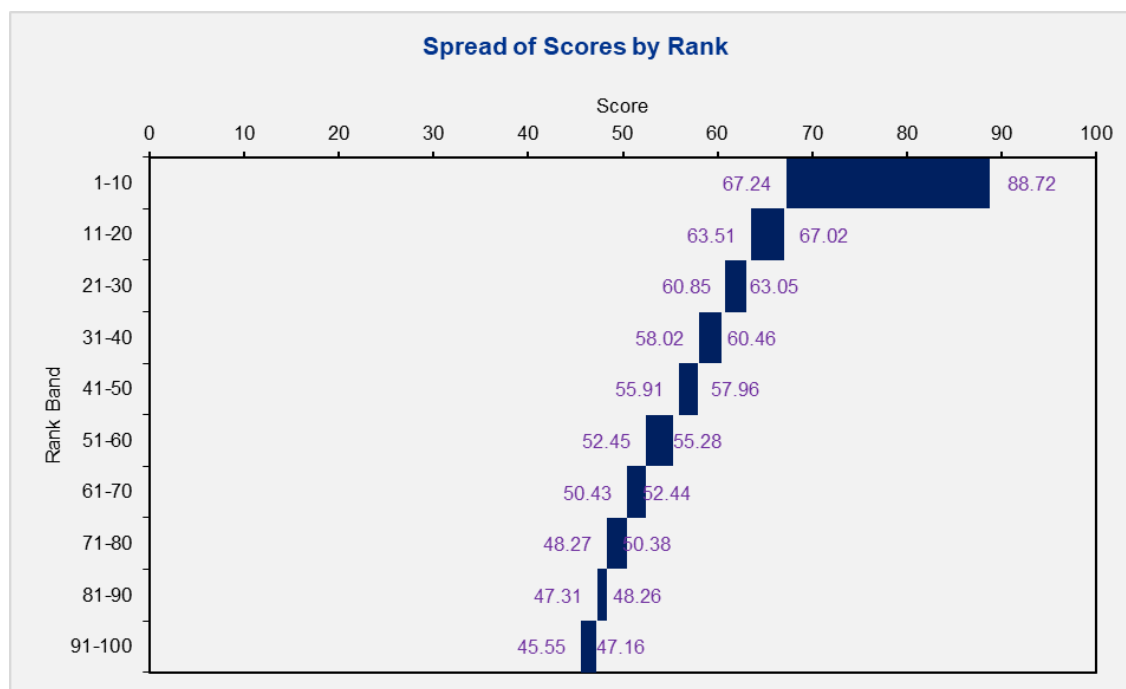
Highlights of Engineering category

In the Engineering category, 1584 institutions participated across central, state-public, state private, and deemed-to-be engineering institutes across the nation. This year's top three ranked public and private engineering institutes are:

Public Institutions	Rank	Private Institutions	Rank
Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	1	Birla Institute of Technology & Science – Pilani	11
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	2	S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai	14
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	3	Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore	16

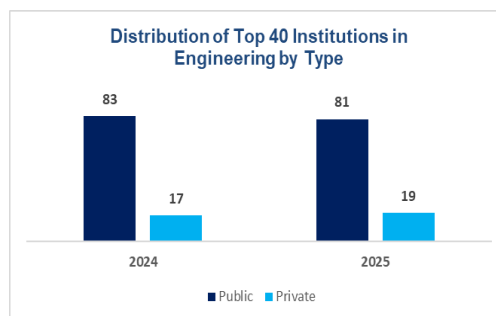
Three public institutions continue to be at the top of the rankings. However, amongst private institutes, there has been a change in positions – while Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore was the top-ranked private institute last year, it is now Birla Institute of Technology & Science – Pilani which has taken up the position with a gain of over nine positions. S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai continues to be ranked second amongst private institutes, and Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore is ranked 16.

For institutes in the rank band 11–100, a small variation in score results such as 0.50 can result in a larger change in their rankings. The rank band between 61 and 100 is the most competitive. A change of 6.89 points in score can lead to a rank change of 40 positions. In rank band 71-100, over 27 universities have a score between 45.55 and 49.36, indicating the difficulty in transitioning from a 45-point score to a 50-point score. However, for a similar change in score within the top 20 band, the rank changes by fewer than 10 positions¹⁸.



¹⁸ NIRF Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

Engineering continues to be dominated by public institutes with public institutes featuring the most in the top 10. In terms of total representation, the number of private engineering institutes has increased from 17 in 2024 to 19 in the top 100 ranks.



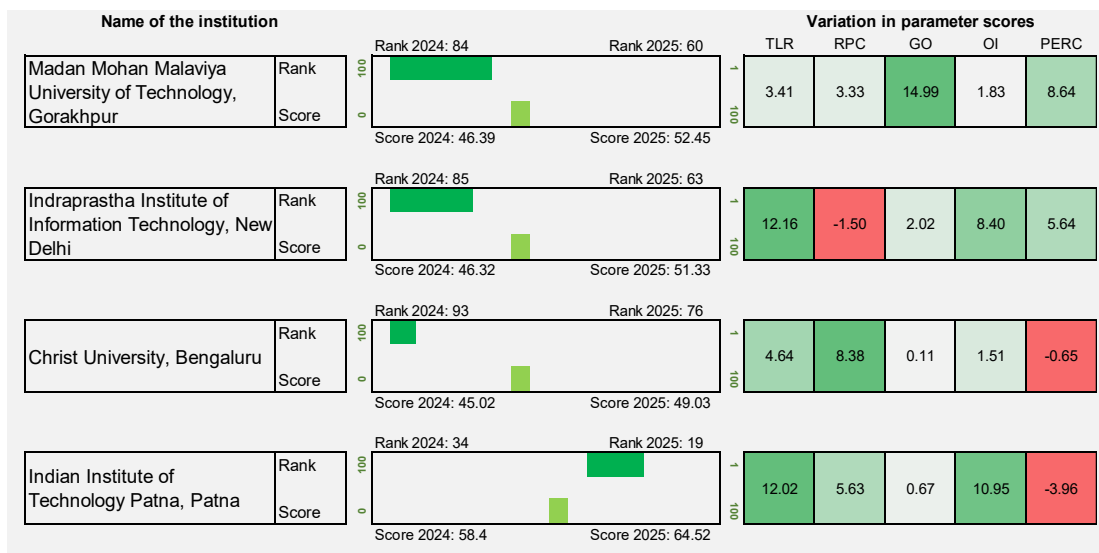
There are eight new entrants into top 100: Out of the eight new entrants, there are two private institutes and six public institutes, reflecting the continued excellence of India's public engineering institutes¹⁹.

Name	Type	City	State	2025 rank	2024 rank
Symbiosis International	Private	Pune	Maharashtra	46	Not participated
Indian Institute of Technology Dharwad	Public	Dharwad	Karnataka	77	101-150
National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur	Public	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand	82	101-150
Panjab University	Public	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	93	101-150
Atal Bihari Vajpayee Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management	Public	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	96	101-150
National Institute of Technology Hamirpur	Public	Hamirpur	Himachal Pradesh	97	101-150
Pandit Deendayal Energy University	Private	Gandhinagar	Gujarat	98	101-150



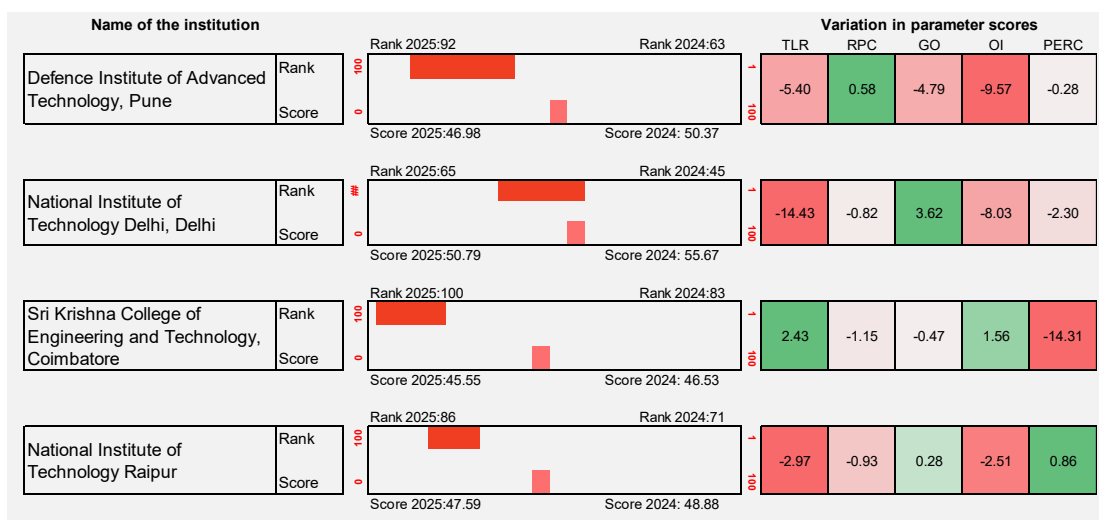
¹⁹ NIRF Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

A total of 36 institutes have shown an improvement in rankings: Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology, Gorakhpur saw the maximum improvement in the top 100, climbing 24 ranks – from 84 in 2024 to 60 in 2025. All the top four climbers experienced their significant improvement in their TLR scores while Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, New Delhi and Indian Institute of Technology Patna (IIT-P) saw the biggest improvement in TLR scores. IIT-P saw the largest increase in score which improved by 6.12 points²⁰.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

A total of 37 institutes have dropped in rankings this year: Out of the 37 institutes, four institutes have seen the highest drops in both ranks and scores. Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune saw the sharpest decline, falling 29 positions from 63 in 2024 to 92 in 2025. National Institute of Technology Delhi saw the sharpest decline in score as their score decreased by 4.88 points.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

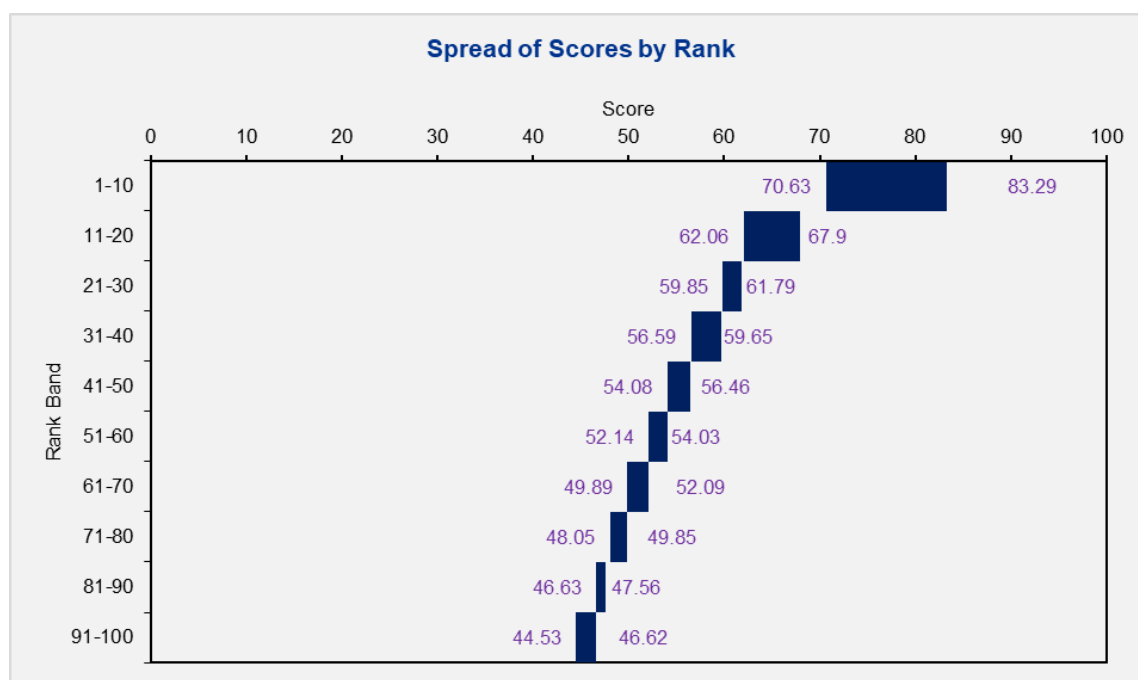
²⁰ KPMG in India analysis

Highlights of Management category

- In the Management category, 1026 institutions participated across central, state-public, state private, and deemed-to-be engineering institutes across the nation. This year's top three ranked public and private management institutes are²¹:

Public Institutions	Rank	Private Institutions	Rank
Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad	1	Management Development Institute, Gurugram	9
Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore	2	XLRI – Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur	10
Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode	3	Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Pune	11

- Three public institutions continue to be at the top of the rankings. However, amongst private institutes, there has been a change in positions – while XLRI – Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur was the top-ranked private institute last year, it is now Management Development Institute, Gurugram which has taken up the position with a gain of two positions (ranked nine). XLRI has moved to rank ten, while Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Pune is ranked 11th.
- In the top rank band (1-10, 11-20), scores are more spread out, indicating clearer differentiation in performance. In the lower rank bands (61-100), there is high competition as many universities are tightly packed in score. To jump from rank 100 to 80, a significant change in score of 3.03 points is required highlighting the stacking of institutes in the band. However, to jump from rank 80 to 60 would require a score variation of 0.49 reflecting the power of minute improvements making a difference to an institute's standing²².

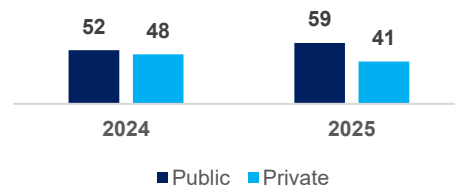


²¹ NIRF Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

²² KPMG in India analysis

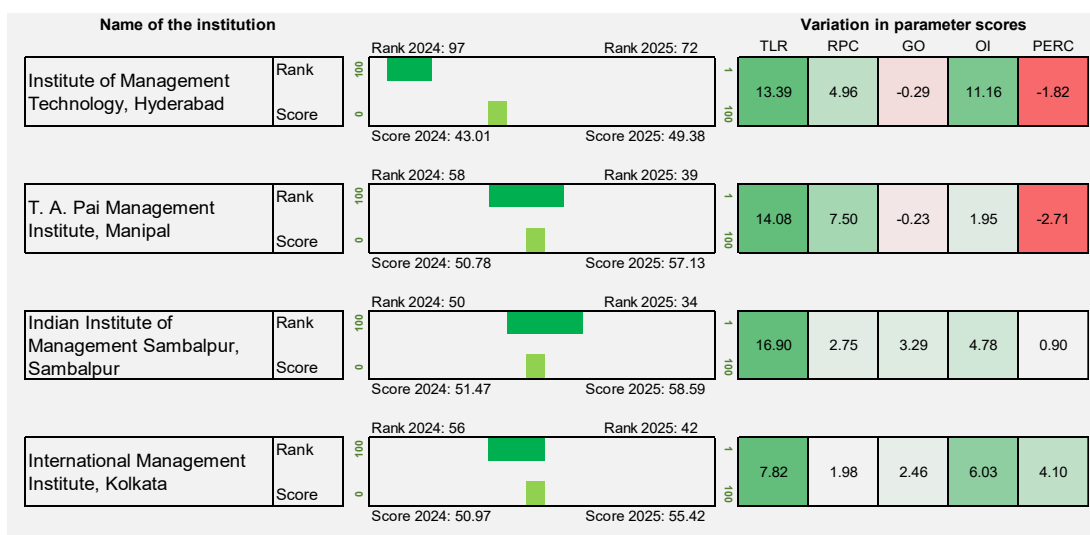
- Management category continues to be dominated by public institutes. However, private institutes are also represented well in comparison to public institutes with the difference between the two being less than 30. The number of private institutes represented has fallen from 48 in 2024 to 41 in 2025.
- **There are five new entrants into top 100²³:** Out of the five new entrants, there are three public institutes while two of the new entrants are private institutes reflecting a growing trend in performance of private management institutes.

Distribution of Top 40 Institutions in Management by Type



Name	Type	City	State	2025 Rank	2024 Rank
S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology	Private	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	56	Not participated
Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology	Public	Gorakhpur	Uttar Pradesh	83	Not participated
Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur	Public	Jodhpur	Rajasthan	98	Not participated
Institute of Management Technology, Nagpur	Private	Nagpur	Maharashtra	99	Not ranked
University of Lucknow	Public	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	100	Not participated

A total of 40 institutes have shown an improvement in rankings²⁴: Institute of Management Technology, Hyderabad saw the maximum improvement in the top 100, climbing 25 ranks – from 97 in 2024 to 72 in 2025. All the top four climbers experienced their significant improvement in their TLR scores where Indian Institute of Management Sambalpur (IIM-S) saw the biggest improvement which also saw the largest increase in overall score by 7.12 points.

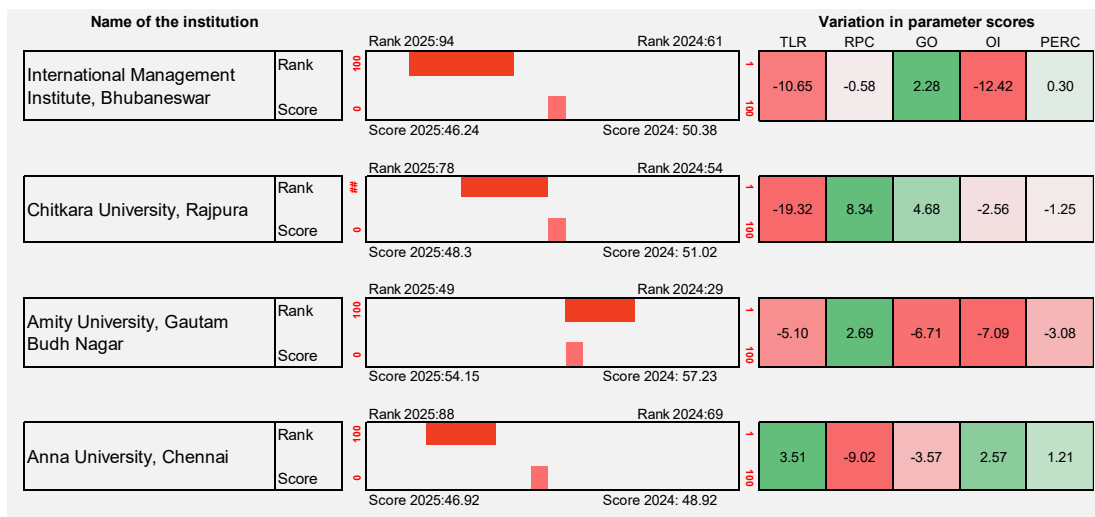


*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 202

²³ NIRF Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

²⁴ KPMG in India analysis

Forty institutes have dropped in rankings this year²⁵: Out of the 40 institutes, four institutes have seen the highest drops in both ranks and scores. International Management Institute (IMI) Bhubaneswar saw the sharpest decline, falling 33 positions from 61 in 2024 to 94 in 2025 with a sharp decline in overall score registering a decline of 4.14 points. International Management Institute, Bhubaneswar, along with Chitkara University, Gautam Budh Nagar saw significant decline in TLR scores.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024



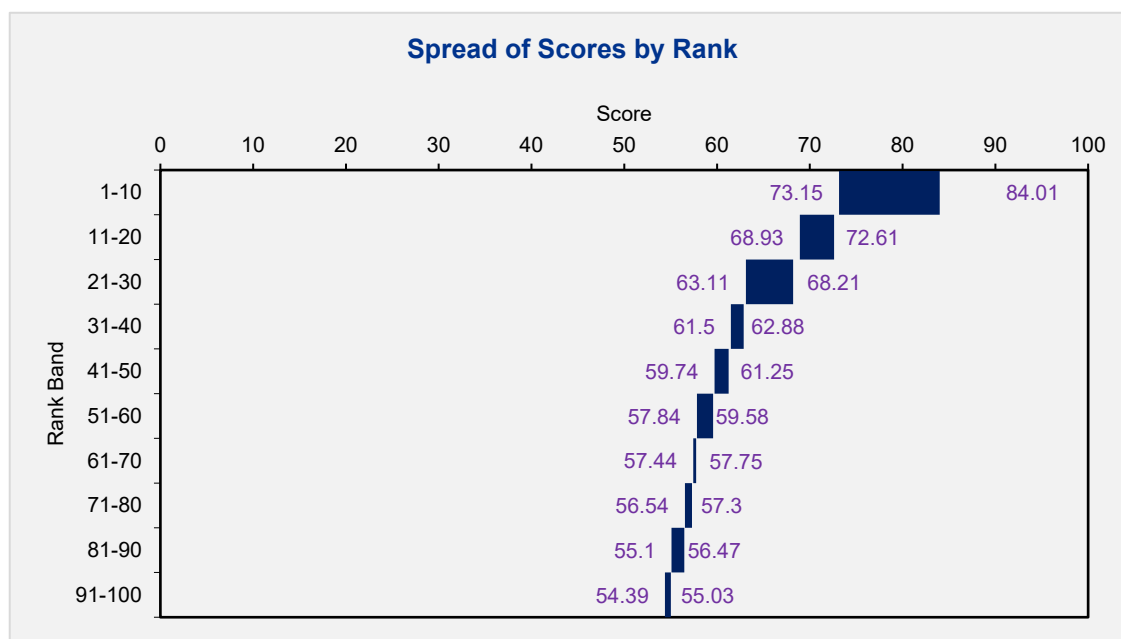
²⁵ KPMG in India analysis

Highlights of Colleges category

- The Colleges category ranks participating public and private Indian colleges. This year's top three ranked public and private colleges are²⁶:

Public Institutions	Rank	Private Institutions	Rank
Hindu College, Delhi	1	St Stephens's College, Delhi	5
Miranda House, Delhi	2	Rama Krishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary College, Kolkata	6
Hans Raj College, Delhi	3	St. Xavier's College, Kolkata	8

- Three public institutions secure the top three rankings in NIRF 2025 with Atma Ram Sanatan Dharm College being replaced by Hans Raj College, Delhi, which improved its position by 9 ranks to secure the third position. The top three private institutions remain the same as last year, although their ranks have dropped slightly from NIRF 2024.
- Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Kerala continue to dominate the top 100 with 33, 32, and 18 institutions respectively, accounting for 83 per cent of the top 100 institutions.
- The rank band between 61 and 100 is the most competitive. A score drop of just 3.36 points (from 57.75 to 54.39) results in a rank change of 40 positions. This indicates a dense clustering of institutions in this score range. In contrast, only 20 colleges (ranks ~1–20) have scores between 68.93 and 84.01. This shows that top-ranked colleges are more spread out, while lower-ranked ones are tightly packed into a rank band. Institutions in the 50–100 range can climb ranks significantly with small score improvements, while top-quartile institutions need substantial score gains to move up a few ranks²⁷.



²⁶ NIRF Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

²⁷ KPMG in India's analysis 2025 based on NIRF India Rankings 2025 and 2024

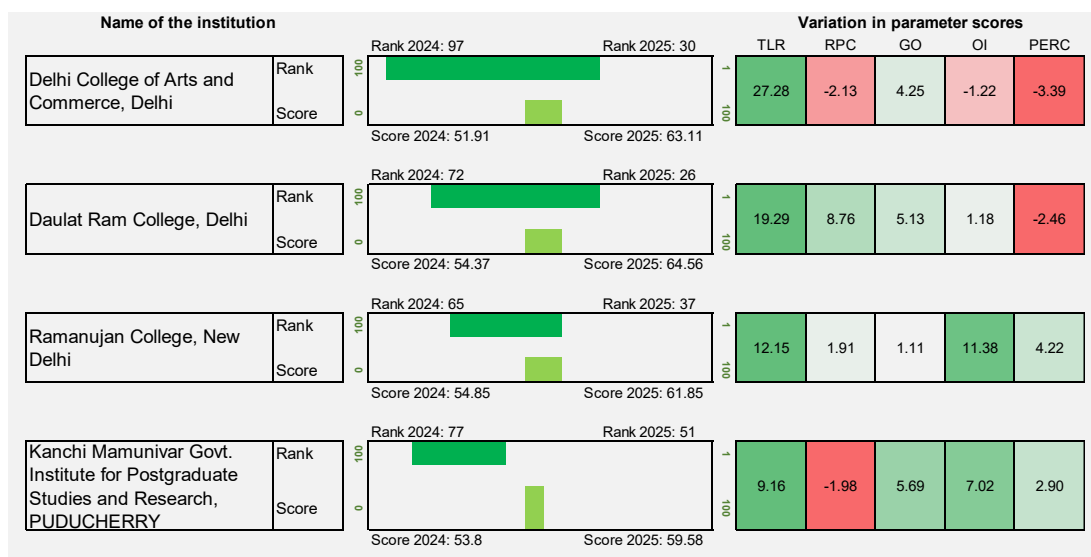
There are 15 new entrants into top 100: Out of the 15 new entrants, three colleges are new additions to the college category rankings while the others were previously in the rank band 101 to 200²⁸.

Name	Type	City	State	2025 rank	2024 rank
Ramjas College	Constituent	Delhi	Delhi	28	Not ranked
Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College	Constituent	Delhi	Delhi	29	101-150
Shaheed Bhagat Singh College	Constituent	New Delhi	Delhi	39	101-150
Shyam Lal College	Constituent	Delhi	Delhi	43	101-150
Lady Brabourne College	Affiliated	Kolkata	West Bengal	47	Not participated
Rajah Serfoji Government College	Autonomous	Thanjavur	Tamil Nadu	79	101-150
Sri Sarada College for Women (Autonomous)	Autonomous	Salem	Tamil Nadu	81	101-150
Farook College	Autonomous	Kozhikode	Kerala	82	101-150
Christ College (Autonomous)	Autonomous	Thrissur	Kerala	87	101-150
Ram Lal Anand College	Constituent	New Delhi	Delhi	90	Not ranked
DG Vaishnav College	Autonomous	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	91	101-150
Union Christian College	Autonomous	Ernakulam	Kerala	96	101-150
PGDAV College	Constituent	New Delhi	Delhi	97	151-200
Government College, Attingal	Affiliated	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	99	101-150
Fatima College	Autonomous	Madurai	Tamil Nadu	100	101-150

A total of 30 colleges have shown an improvement in rankings: Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, Delhi saw the maximum improvement in the top 100, climbing 67 ranks - from 97 in 2024 to 30 in 2025 with an improvement in overall score by 11.2 points. The college achieved this by boosting its Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR) score - through a sharper faculty-student ratio, a more qualified and experienced faculty base, and a rise in per-student financial investment, especially in labs and salaries. Daulat Ram College improved its ranking (from 72 in 2024 to 26 in 2025) largely by improving its FSR ratio, FQE, FRU and also by improving its research outcomes. In fact, all the top four climbers experienced their most significant improvement in their Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR) score. The top four institutes who have improved their ranking within the top 100 are depicted below²⁹:

²⁸ NIRF Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

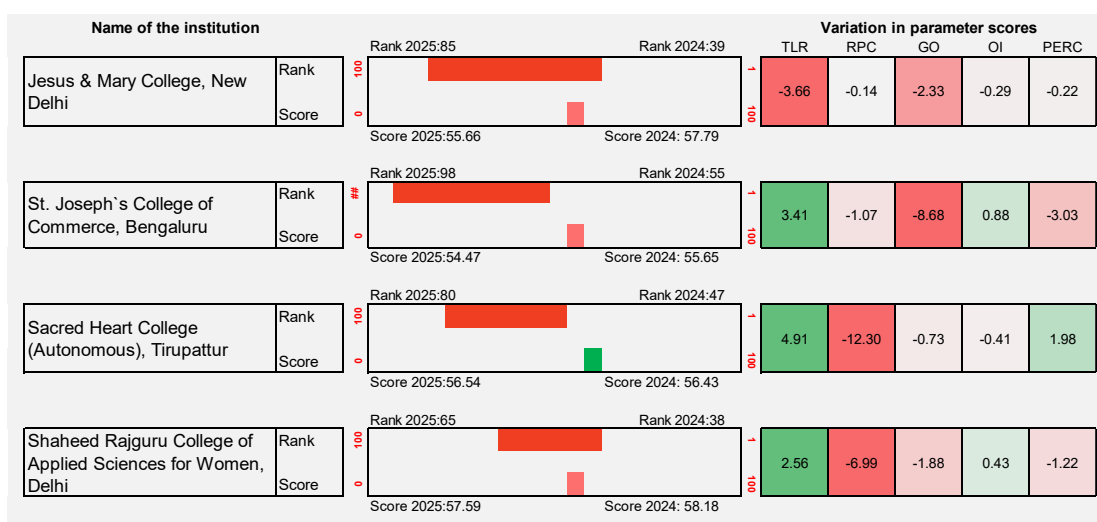
²⁹ KPMG in India analysis



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

47 colleges have dropped in rankings this year. The colleges which have dropped maximum number of ranks from 2024 are shown below along with their change in parameter scores. Jesus and Mary College, Delhi witnessed the largest drop in rankings among other institutions dropping from rank 39 in 2024 to rank 85 in 2025. This is largely because of a sharp decline in its TLR score resulting from a reduced FSR and FQE score.

It is interesting to note that while one of these four institutions has improved their score from the previous year and the other institutions have witnessed only a marginal decline in scores (under 2.5 points), all of them experienced a significant drop in ranking. One of the key reasons for their decline in rank is the rank-band in which they fell, as all of them were in a rank band of 30-60. In this rank band, there are an increased number of institutions scoring higher, improving the average score across all parameters and thereby getting better ranks. So, these institutions, despite maintaining similar/slightly better scores have suffered a drop in rankings. This points to an increasing competition between the colleges, wherein a stagnation or marginal decline in score can result in a significant shift in ranks³⁰.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

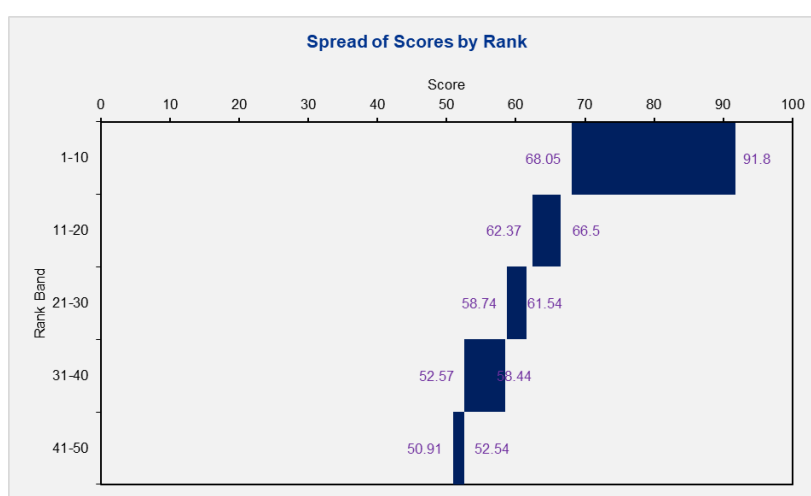
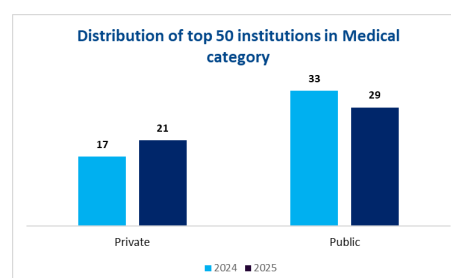
³⁰ KPMG in India analysis

Highlights of Medical category

- Increase in participation in NIRF 2025:** Since the inclusion of the medical category in the NIRF rankings in 2018, annual participation has consistently exceeded 100 institutions. In 2025, the category recorded its highest participation to date, with 223 medical institutions taking part in the rankings. Of these, the top 50 have been ranked, reflecting both growing interest and increased competitiveness within the sector.
- Top ranked medical institutes across categories:** All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi has retained its top position in the medical category for the seventh consecutive year, reaffirming its leadership in academic and clinical excellence. Notably, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research entered the top three public medical institutions, improving its rank from fifth to fourth in medical category. Christian Medical College, Vellore, ranked third overall, continues to lead among private medical institutions, maintaining its position as the highest-ranked non-governmental medical college in the country³¹.

Public institutions	Rank	Private institutions	Rank
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi	1	Christian Medical College, Vellore	3
Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh	2	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore	9
Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research, Puducherry	4	Kasturba Medical College, Manipal	10

- Public institutions claim majority in top 50:** The top 50 ranked medical institutions are dominated by public sector entities, with 29 government institutions compared to 21 from the private sector, highlighting the continued leadership of publicly funded medical education in India.
- Variation in scores:** The top 10 institutions show a wide score spread of 23.75 points, reflecting significant performance differentiation. As ranks descend, score gaps narrow, down to just 1.63 points in the 41–50 band, indicating intense competition where a small score change can the rank indicating intense competition, where even a small change in score can significantly impact the ranking. However, the 31–40 band breaks this trend with a wider 5.87-point gap, suggesting a transitional zone where performance varies more sharply. This presents an opportunity for institutions in this band to leap ahead with focused improvements.

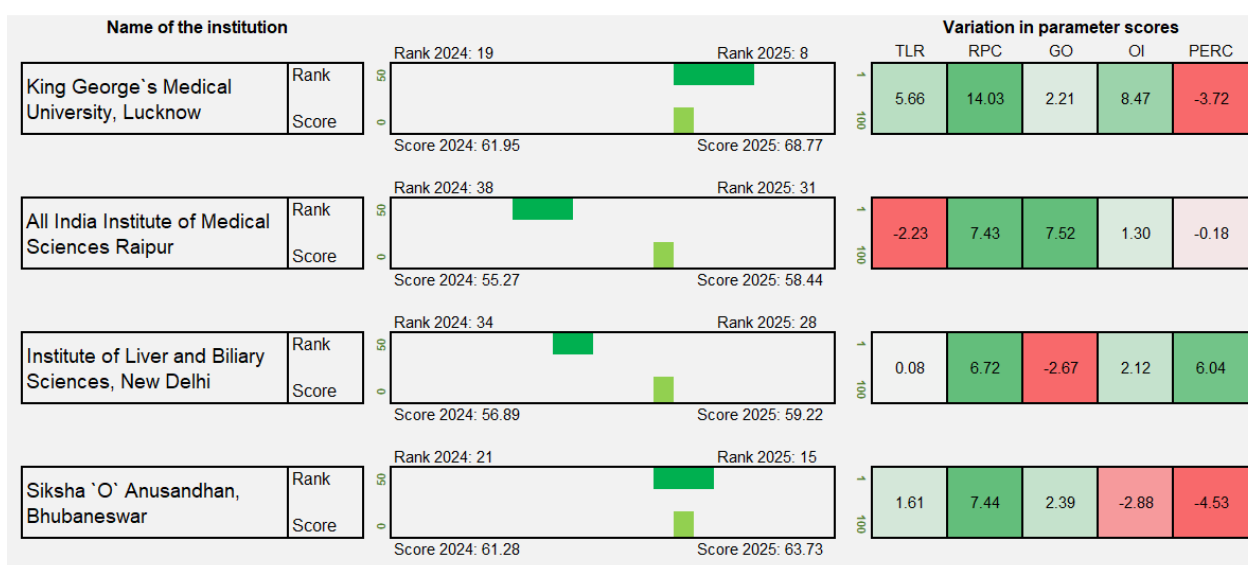


³¹ KPMG in India analysis

- **Three new entrants into top 50³²:** The top 50 this year has three new entrants (B. J. Medical College, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, and Chettinad Academy of Research and Education) that have achieved rank 45, 46 and 49, respectively. Details of new entrants are provided further in the table.

Name of the institute	State	2025 rank	2024 rank
B. J. Medical College	Gujarat	45	Not ranked
Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College	Karnataka	46	Not ranked
Chettinad Academy of Research and Education	Tamil Nadu	49	Not ranked

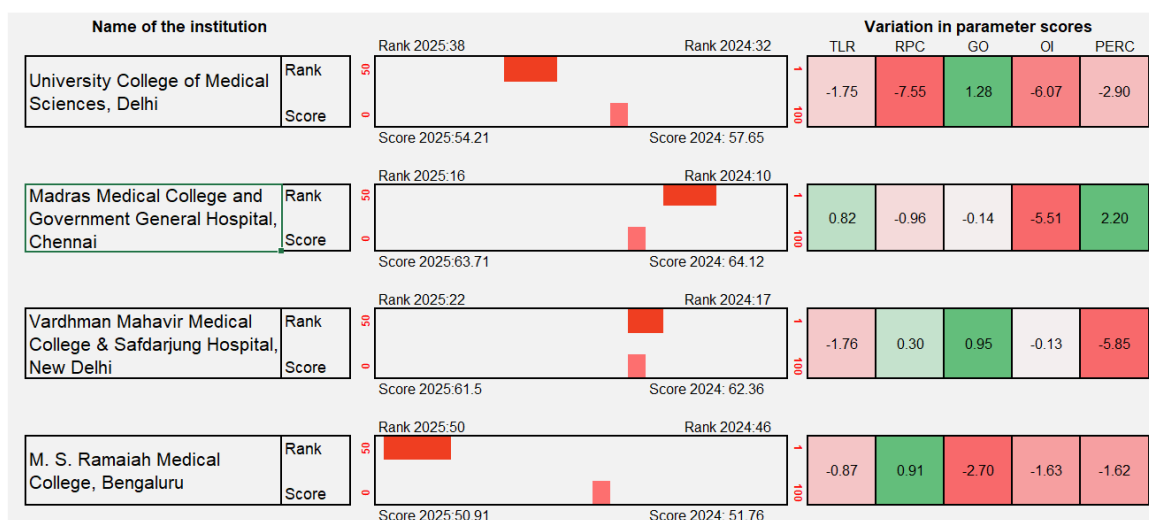
A total of 22 institutions showed an improvement in rankings: The institutions with significant rank improvements in NIRF 2025 demonstrate diverse performance strategies. King George's Medical University recorded the highest leap within the top 50, moving from Rank 19 to 8, driven by substantial gains in RP (+14.03), OI (+8.47), and TLR (+5.66). AIIMS Raipur advanced 7 positions (38 to 31), despite a decline in TLR, due to improvements in GO (+7.52) and RP (+7.43). ILBS New Delhi rose 6 ranks, with balanced gains in RP, OI, and Perception, offsetting a drop in GO. Siksha 'O' Anusandhan also climbed 6 ranks, supported by improvements in TLR, RP, and GO, despite declines in OI and Perception. While RP remains a consistent driver, the data reveals that institutions achieving the most upward mobility did so through multi-parameter improvements, underscoring the importance of a balanced and strategic performance approach across teaching, research, outcomes, and stakeholder engagement.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024.

³² KPMG in India Analysis

A total of 20 institutions have shown a decline in ranks in top 50: The institutions with the most notable rank decrease in NIRF 2025 reflect the impact of uneven performance across key parameters. University College of Medical Sciences recorded the steepest fall within the top 50, dropping 6 positions (Rank 32 to 38), primarily due to sharp declines in RP, OI and PERC, despite a modest gain in GO. Madras Medical College and Government General Hospital, Chennai also fell six ranks (10 to 16), driven by a significant drop in OI, although it saw improvements in TLR and PERC. Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital slipped five ranks (17 to 22), largely due to a sharp decline in PERC and TLR, with only marginal gains in GO and RP. M. S. Ramaiah Medical College dropped four positions (46 to 50), affected by a broad-based decline across OI, GO, TLR, and PERC, with a slight improvement in RP. While OI and PERC continue to be influential, the data reveals that institutions experiencing the most downward mobility did so due to multi-parameter decline. This underscores the importance of maintaining a balanced and resilient performance strategy across teaching, research, outcomes, and stakeholder engagement to sustain competitive positioning³³.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024



³³ KPMG in India analysis

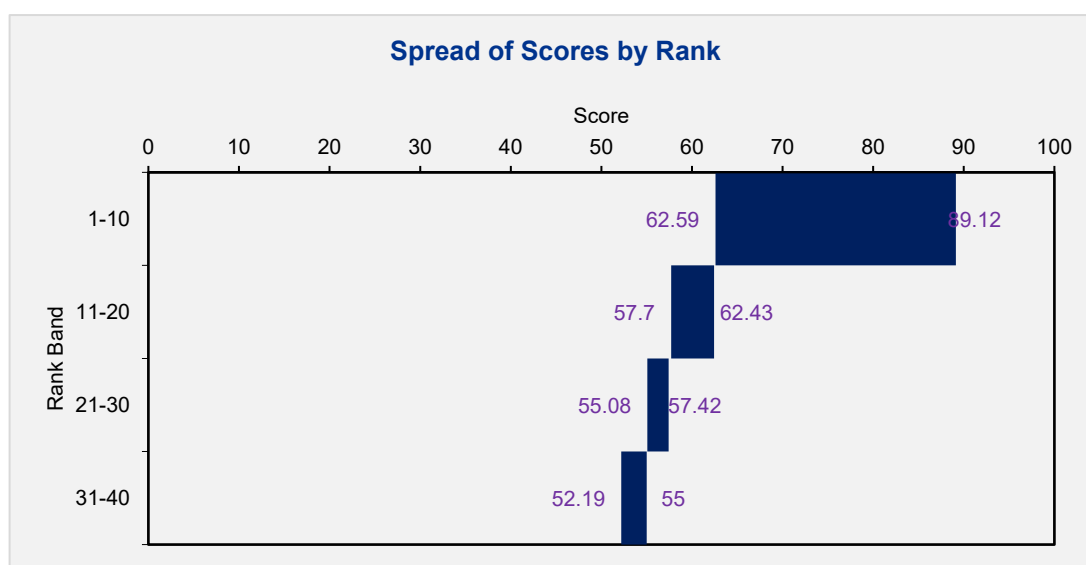
Highlights of Dental category

The number of participating institutions has increased – The upward trend in institutional participation within the dental category continues to gain momentum. In 2025, a total of 223 institutions participated, marking a year-on-year increase of over 21 percent. Of these, 40 institutions have been ranked, reflecting growing competitiveness and interest in benchmarking quality. Delhi has emerged as the top-ranked institution in its debut participation. Meanwhile, the top three private institutions have remained the same, albeit with a change in order, underscoring their consistent performance and sustained excellence³⁴.

Public Institutions	Rank	Private Institutions	Rank
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi	1	Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai	2
Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, Delhi	3	Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune	4
King George's Medical University, Lucknow	6	Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Manipal	5

Private institutions dominate the dental rankings: In contrast to other categories, the majority of institutions ranked in the dental category are private (60 percent), which is consistent with last year's trend. Only 16 out of the top 40 ranked institutions are public or government funded.

Variation in scores: For the top 10 ranks, the variation between the minimum and maximum scores is 26.53 marks, indicating a wide performance spread among the highest-ranked institutions. In the 11–20 rank band, the score variation narrows significantly to 4.73 points, suggesting a tighter competition among institutions in this tier. Interestingly, the 21–30 rank band shows an even smaller variation of 2.34 points, which means that minor differences in scores could lead to significant shifts in rankings within this band. The 31–40 rank band has a slightly higher variation of 2.81 points compared to the previous band, but still reflects a closely contested group of institutions. This pattern highlights that competition intensifies in the middle ranks, and institutions aiming to climb the rankings in these bands must focus on incremental improvements across multiple parameters. For top-ranked institutions, maintaining leadership may require more substantial innovation or differentiation, given the wider score spread.

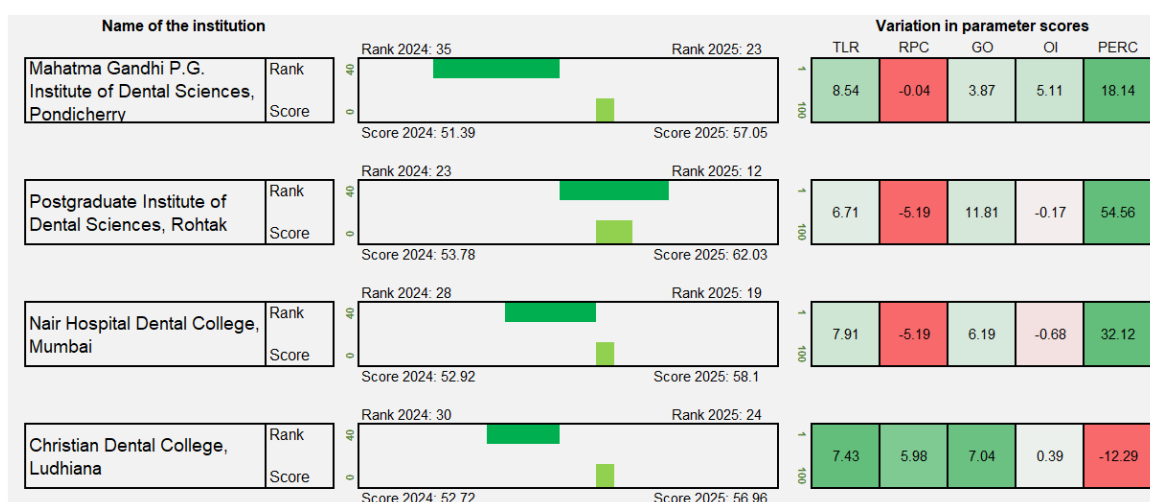


³⁴ KPMG in India analysis

Name of the institute	City	State	2025 rank	2024 rank
All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi	New Delhi	Delhi	1	Not participated
Sree Balaji Dental College & Hospital	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	27	Not participated
K L E Society's Institute of Dental Sciences	Bengaluru	Karnataka	40	Not ranked

A total of three new entrants into top 40: In the 2025 rankings, three institutions have emerged as new entrants in the top 40, reflecting both strategic participation and improved performance. One out of them, K L E Society's Institute of Dental Sciences (Bengaluru), had participated in 2024 but did not secure a rank, marking a significant leap this year. Meanwhile, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi and Sree Balaji Dental College & Hospital (Chennai) participated for the first time this year, with AIIMS Delhi entering directly at Rank One.

A total of 11 institutions showed an improvement in rankings: Among the notable rank improvers in 2025, Mahatma Gandhi P.G. Institute of Dental Sciences, Postgraduate Institute of Dental Sciences, Nair Hospital Dental College, and Christian Dental College have each advanced by six to 12 positions compared to 2024. Three of these institutions excluding Christian Dental College, have recorded significant gains in Peer Perception (PERC), which played a major role in their improved rankings. Similarly, all four institutions have shown marked improvement in Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR), contributing positively to their overall scores. Notably, while three of the four institutions experienced a decline in Research and Professional Practice (RP) scores, these setbacks were effectively offset by strong gains in TLR and PERC, underscoring the multidimensional drivers of institutional performance³⁵.

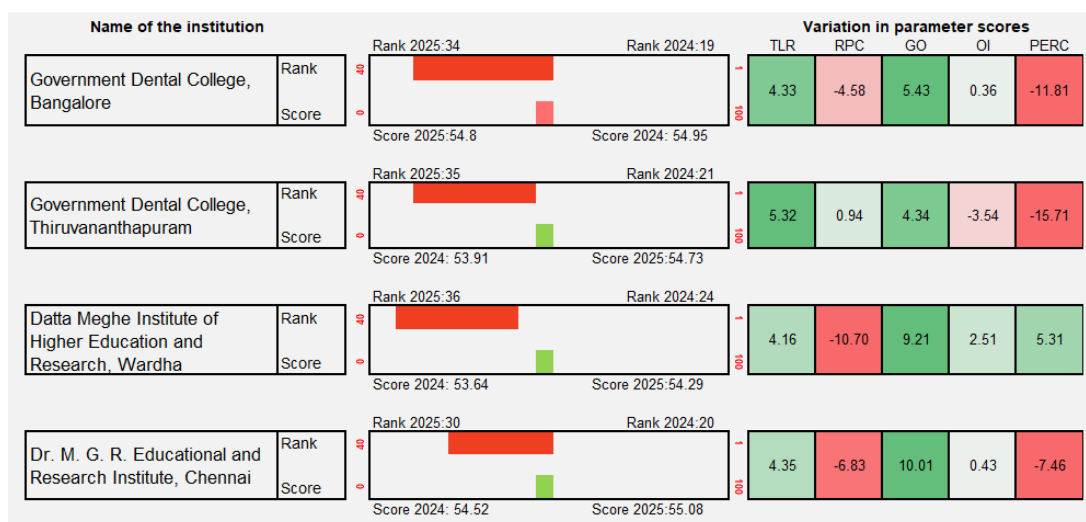


*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

³⁵ KPMG in India analysis

A total of 18 institutions have recorded a decline in rankings in this category in 2025. Interestingly, this drop occurred despite improvements in key academic performance parameters with 17 institutions improving their GO and 16 showing gains in TLR. However, the decline appears to be driven by widespread drops in PERC and RP, with 14 institutions seeing a fall in PERC and 15 in RP.

Among the top four institutions with the steepest declines, Government Dental College, Bangalore, Government Dental College, Thiruvananthapuram, Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education and Research, and Dr. M. G. R. Educational and Research Institute, rank drops ranged from 10 to 15 positions. Similar to the overall pattern in this category, a common pattern among these institutions is a decline in RP and/or PERC scores, which appear to have significantly impacted their rankings. For instance, Government Dental College, Bangalore experienced a sharp decline of -11.81 in PERC, while Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education and Research saw a -10.70 drop in RP. Interestingly, all four institutions recorded positive gains in TLR, suggesting improvements in academic infrastructure or teaching quality. However, these gains were insufficient to offset the negative impact of declining perception and research metrics, highlighting the increasing influence of these parameters in the overall ranking framework of Dental Category³⁶.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024



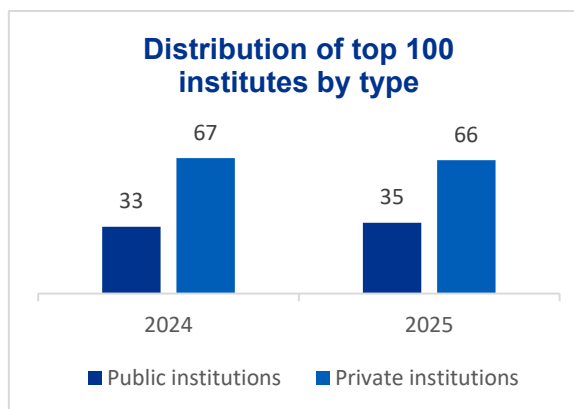
³⁶ KPMG in India analysis

Highlights of Pharmacy category

- **Increase in participation in NIRF 2024:** Pharmacy has been part of the rankings since the first edition of NIRF rankings released in 2016. During this period, the number of participating institutes has increased by over 90 percent. Number of participating institutions in 2025 increased to 594 from 467 in NIRF 2024 ranking.
- **Top ranked pharmacy institutes across categories:** Jamia Hamdard, a govt funded private institution has retained the top position in Pharmacy category yet again in 2025. Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani, another private institution secured the second place this year. Panjab University made a significant leap rising from rank seven in 2024 to rank three in 2025. National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Hyderabad and Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai held ranks five and six respectively³⁷:

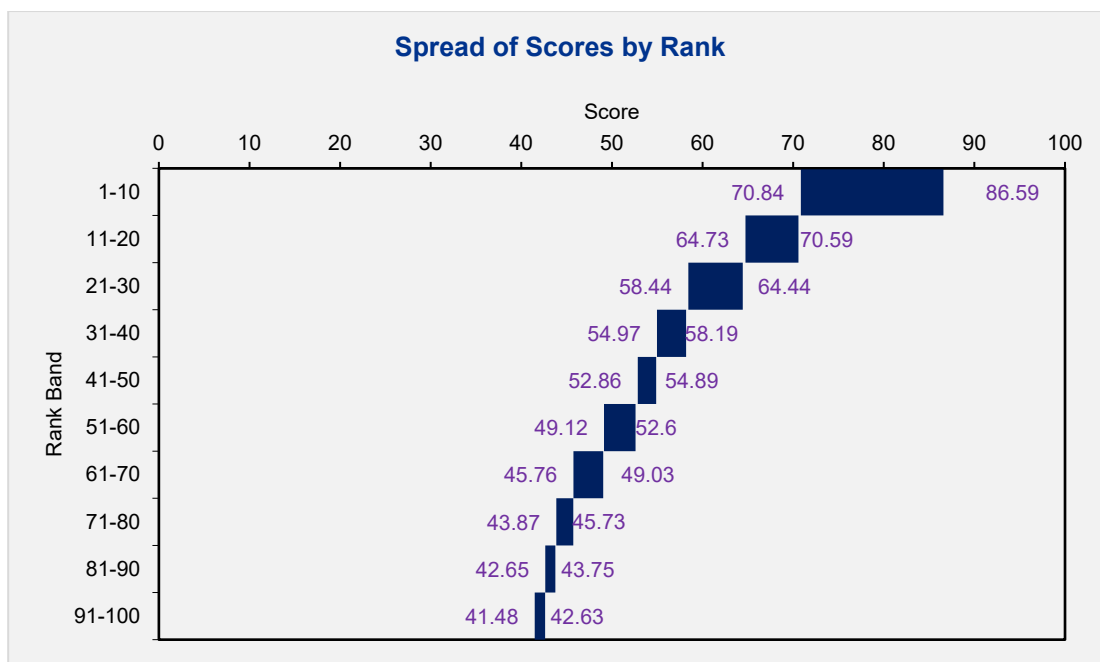
Public Institutions	Rank	Private Institutions	Rank
Panjab University, Chandigarh	3	Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi	1
National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Hyderabad	5	Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani	2
Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai	6	JSS College of Pharmacy, Ooty	4

- **Private institutions claim majority in top 100:** Overall, in 2025, private institutes held a dominant position in the Pharmacy rankings, with 66 institutions making the top 100 list³⁸.
- **Variation in scores:** For institutes in the rank bands 31–100, even a small variation in score results in a larger change in their rankings. The rank band between 71 and 100 is the most competitive. A change of 4.11 points in score can lead to a rank change of 30 positions. On the other hand, there is a gap of ~28 points between rank band 1-10 and 21-30. Beyond the top 30, rankings are highly sensitive to minor score changes, reflecting dense clustering in the lower bands.



³⁷ NIRF Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

³⁸ KPMG in India analysis



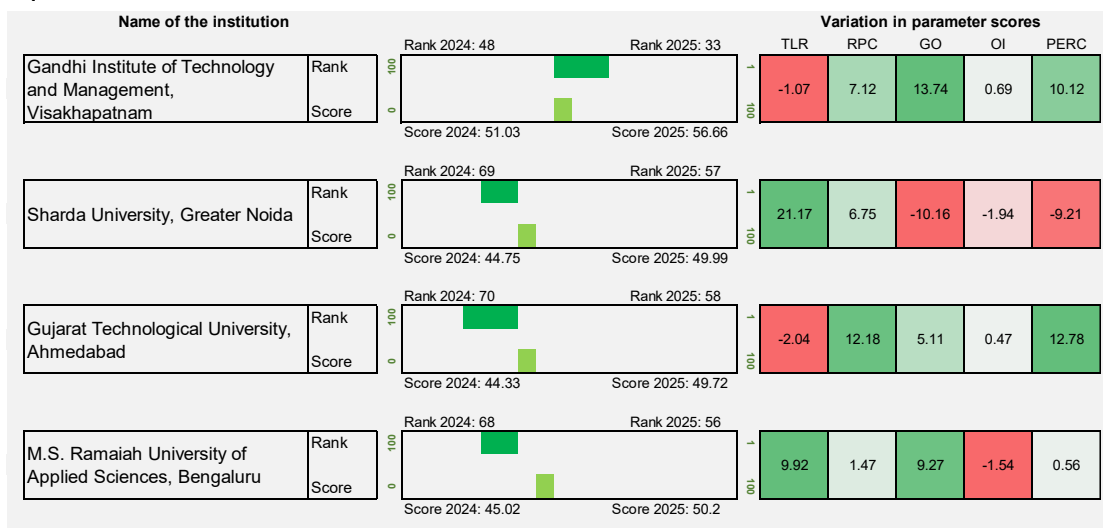
- **12 new entrants into top 100:** Out of the 12 new entrants, seven institutes are new additions to the Pharmacy category rankings while the others were previously in the rank band 101 to 125³⁹.

Name	Type	City	State	2025 rank	2024 Rank
Amity University	Private	Gurugram	Haryana	62	Not participated
Central University of South Bihar	Public	Gaya	Bihar	63	Not participated
Uttaranchal University	Private	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	75	Not participated
Assam University	Public	Silchar	Assam	76	Not participated
NIMS University	Private	Jaipur	Rajasthan	79	Not participated
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology	Public	Nadia	West Bengal	83	Not ranked
Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohikhand University	Public	Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh	86	101-125
G. D. Goenka University	Private	Gurgaon	Haryana	90	101-125
IFTM University	Private	Moradabad	Uttar Pradesh	93	101-125
IES Institute of Pharmacy	Private	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	95	101-125
JIS University	Private	Kolkata	West Bengal	97	101-125
Shree Guru Gobind Singh Tricentenary University	Private	Gurgaon	Haryana	100	Not ranked

³⁹ NIRF Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

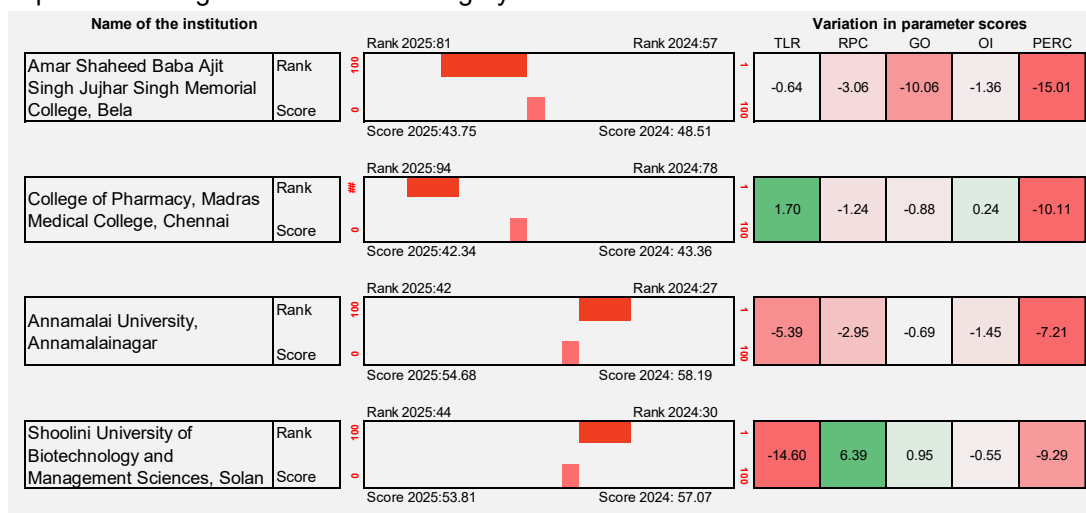
A total of 41 institutes have shown an improvement in rankings: Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management (GITAM) saw the maximum improvement in the top 100, climbing 15 ranks - from 48 rank in 2024 to 33 rank in 2025. It is followed by Sharda University, which improved its ranking by 12 ranks between 2024 and 2025. There is no one single parameter across which all top gainers have shown an improvement in score. While GITAM showed an improvement in GO and Perc, Sharda University showed a considerable improvement in its TLR score, Gujarat Technological University witnessed an improvement in RP and Perc, and M.S Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences showed an improvement in its TLR and GO score.

The top four institutes with the highest rank jump within the top 100 Pharmacy institutes are depicted below⁴⁰:



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

39 institutes have shown decline in rankings this year: Four institutes which have dropped maximum number of ranks from 2023 are shown below along with their change in parameter scores. Amar Shaheed Baba Ajit Singh Jujhar Singh Memorial College, Bela witnessed a steep decline by 24 ranks from 57 in 2024 to 81 in 2025. Also, 21 out of these 39 institutes that had a drop in rankings, had an improvement in scores over 2024, showcasing increase in average scores across parameters and the increasing quality and competition among institutes in this category.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

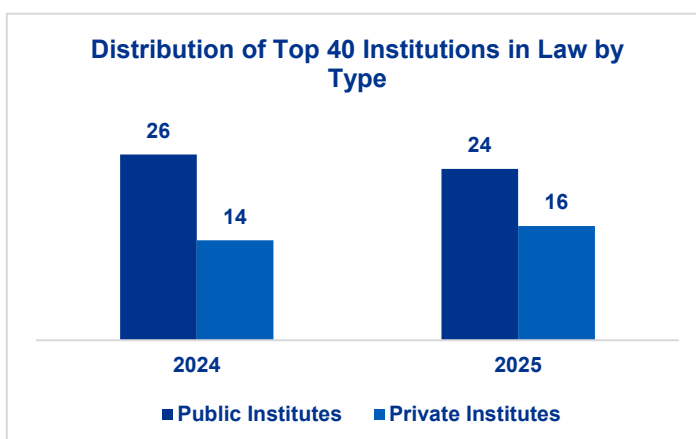
⁴⁰ KPMG in India analysis

Highlights of Law category

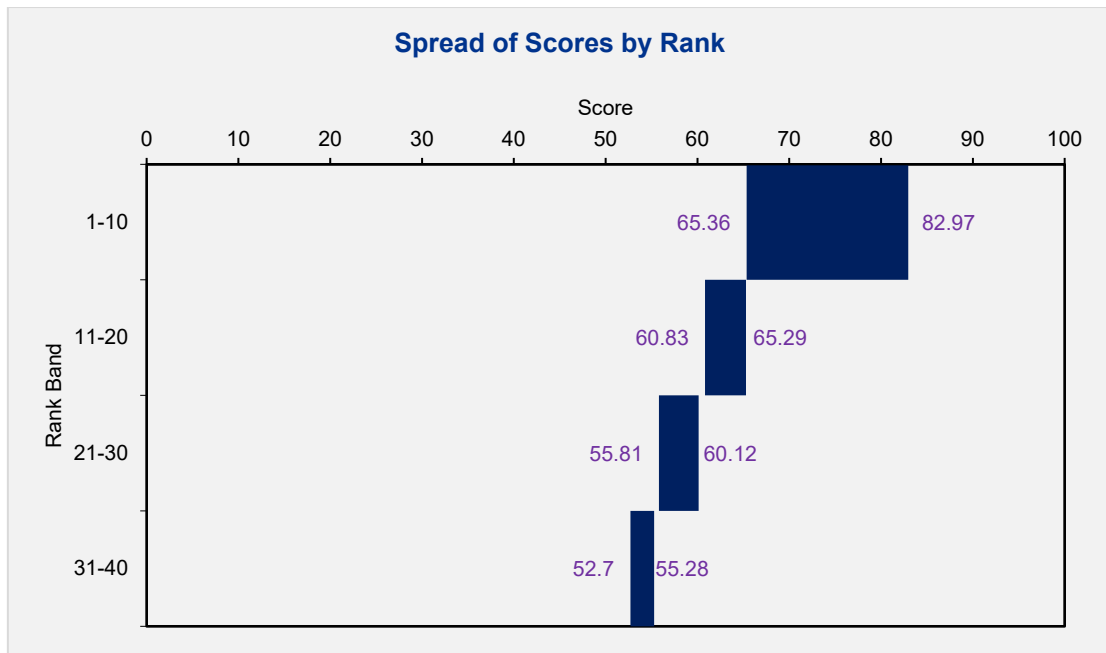
- The number of ranked institutions as well as the number of participating institutes in the Law category rankings have been increasing since its inception as a category in 2018. The number of **ranked institutions** has increased from **10 in 2018 to 40 in 2025**. Similarly, the number of participating **institutions** has increased from **71 in 2018 to 267 in 2025**.
- Top-ranked Institutions:** Public universities continue to dominate the rankings, with National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, National Law University, New Delhi, and Nalsar University of Law, Hyderabad retaining the top three positions. Among private institutions, only Symbiosis Law School and Siksha 'O' Anusandhan feature in the top ten. This year's top three ranked public and private institutions are as⁴¹:

Public Institutions	Rank	Private Institutions	Rank
National Law School of India University, Bengaluru	1	Symbiosis Law School, Pune	7
National Law University, New Delhi	2	Siksha 'O' Anusandhan, Bhubaneswar	10
Nalsar University of Law, Hyderabad	3	Shanmugha Arts Science Technology & Research Academy, Thanjavur	11

- Public universities continue to dominate the rankings**, with 24 institutions in the top 40—consistent with trends from previous NIRF editions. Notably, the number of private institutions has increased from 14 in 2024 to 16 in 2025⁴⁴.
- Variation in scores by rank band:** In 2025, the top 10 institutions show a wide score range of 17.61 points (65.36 to 82.97), indicating clear differentiation at the top. In contrast, the 21–40 band is far more competitive, with a spread of 4.31 in the 21–30 band and 2.58 in the 31–40 band indicating that even a small change in score within these bands can lead to a significant shift in rank.



⁴¹ NIRF Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sep 2025



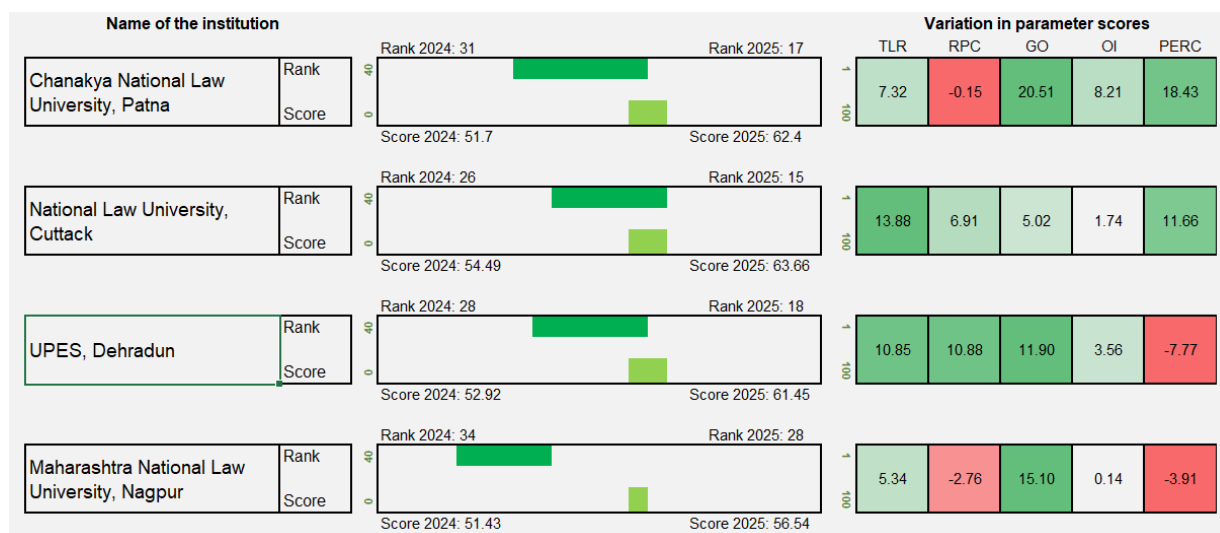
- **There are seven new entrants into top 40:** Of the seven new entrants in 2025, two institutions—S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology and Cochin University of Science and Technology—applied for the first time in this category⁴².

Name	Type	City	State	2025 Rank	2024 Rank
Cochin University of Science and Technology	Public	Cochin	Kerala	13	Not participated
Central University of South Bihar	Public	Gaya	Bihar	23	Not ranked
S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology	Private	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	25	Not participated
Nirma University	Private	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	33	Not ranked
Himachal Pradesh National Law University	Public	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	34	Not ranked
Galgotias University	Private	Gautam Budh Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	36	Not ranked
Central University of Punjab	Public	Bathinda	Punjab	40	Not ranked



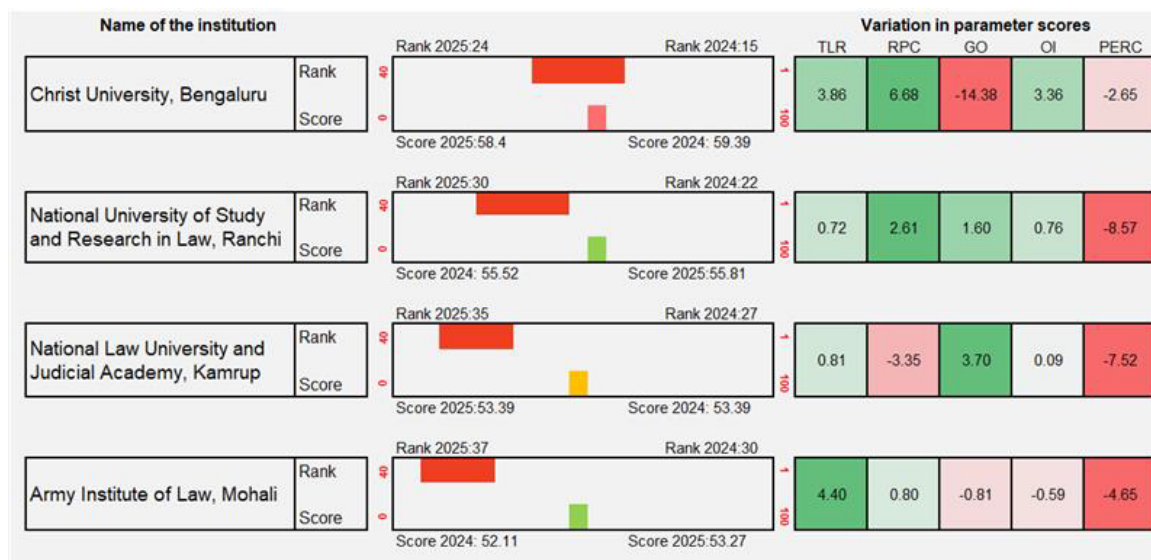
⁴² NIRF Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sep 2025

A total of 9 institutions have shown an improvement in rankings: Chanakya National Law University recorded the highest improvement in 2025, rising 14 ranks from 31 to 17. All top four climbers within the top 40 showed gains across all five parameters, with the most significant improvement in Graduation Outcomes (GO). The top four climbers within the top 40 are shown below along with their growth in parameter scores⁴³.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

19 institutions have dropped in rankings this year. The institutions which have dropped maximum number of ranks from 2024 are shown below along with their change in parameter scores. It is important to note that **13 out of 19** of these institutions have improved their score from the previous year yet experienced a significant drop in ranking. This points to an increasing competition, wherein a stagnation or marginal decline in score can result in a significant shift in ranks⁴⁴.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

⁴³ NIRF Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sep 2025

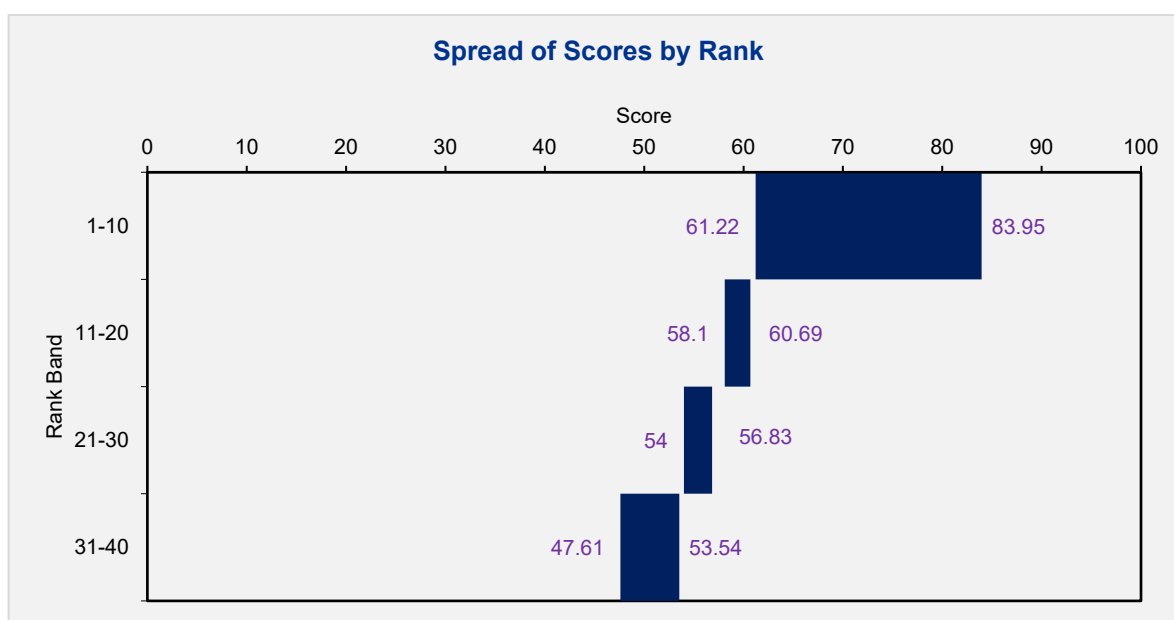
⁴⁴ KPMG in India analysis

Highlights of Architecture and Planning category

- The Architecture and Planning category ranks participating central, state-public, state-private, and deemed-to-be architecture and planning institutes across the nation. Three public institutions at the top remain unchanged, with a slight change in order. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur moved down one place to the rank three whereas National Institute of Technology, Calicut moved up one place to the rank two. Amongst private institutes, Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology University, Ahmedabad continued to occupy the topmost position (rank Six). However, S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology moved down seven places from rank 11 in 2024 to rank 18 in 2025, while Chandigarh university dropped from 13 to 14 rank but still came in the second place amongst private institutes. Thus, this year's top three ranked public and private architecture and planning institutes are⁴⁵:

Public Institutions	Rank	Private Institutions	Rank
Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee	1	Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology University, Ahmedabad	6
National Institute of Technology, Calicut	2	Chandigarh University, Mohali	14
Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	3	S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai	18

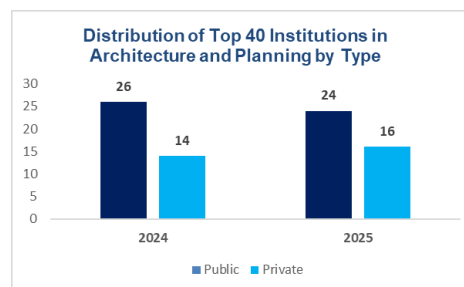
- The top rank band (1-10) has a wide score spread which indicates that rank changes require substantial score improvements. The lowest rank band (31-40) has a moderate spread which indicates moderate density accompanied by moderate competition. However, it is the middle rank bands (11-20, 21-30), that showcase tightly clustered scores indicating high competition. In this band, small changes such as a two-point increase may move up an institute by six to seven ranks⁴⁶.



⁴⁵ NIRF Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

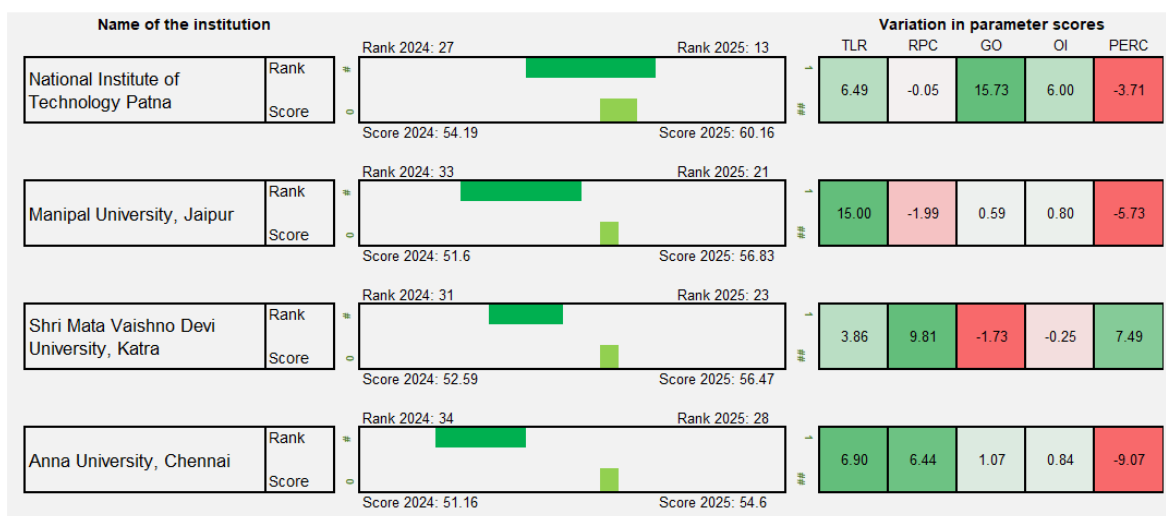
⁴⁶ KPMG in India analysis

- Architecture continues to be dominated by public institutes. However, there has been a slight increase in the number of private institutes being represented from 14 in 2024 to 16 in 2025.
- **There are three new entrants in the category⁴⁷:** Out of the new entrants, there is only one private institute while the rest of the new entrants are public institutes with dedicated departments for architecture and planning.



Name	Type	City	State	2025 rank	2024 rank
Jadavpur University	Public	Kolkata	West Bengal	16	Not participated
Christ University	Private	Bengaluru	Karnataka	34	Not participated
Faculty of Architecture and Planning, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow	Public	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	39	Not participated

A total of 15 institutes have shown an improvement in rankings⁴⁸: National Institute of Technology Patna (NIT-P) saw the maximum improvement, climbing 14 ranks – from 27 in 2024 to 13 in 2025. All the top four climbers experienced their significant improvement in their TLR scores where Manipal University Jaipur saw the biggest improvement. The largest increase in overall score by 5.97 points was also recorded by NIT Patna.

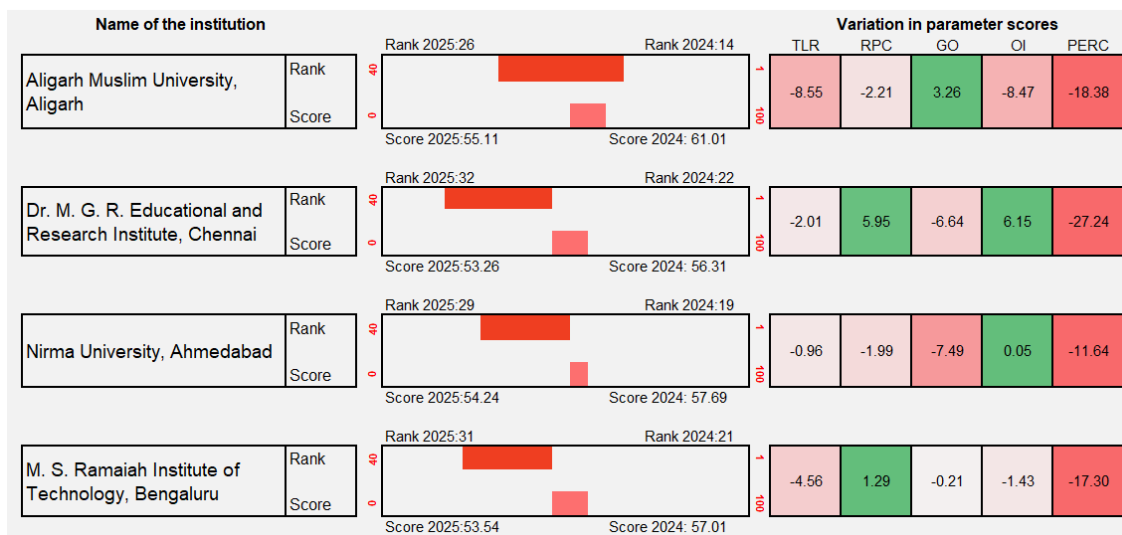


*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

⁴⁷ NIRF Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sept 2025

⁴⁸ KPMG in India analysis

A total of 15 institutes have dropped in rankings this year: Out of the 15 institutes, four institutes have seen the highest drops in both ranks and scores. Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) saw the sharpest decline, falling 12 positions from 14 in 2024 to 26 in 2025. All 4 institutes saw sharp decline in their Perception scores. AMU also saw the sharpest decline in overall score as their score decreased by 5.9 points.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

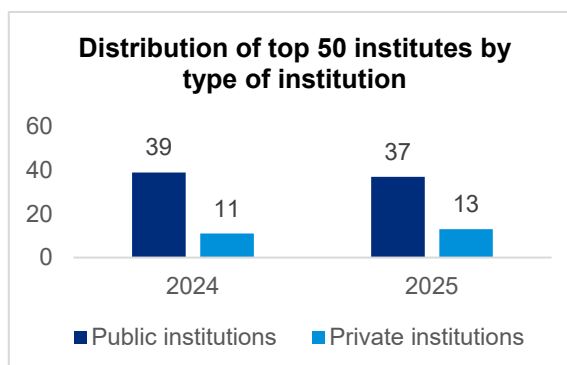


Highlights of Research Institutions category

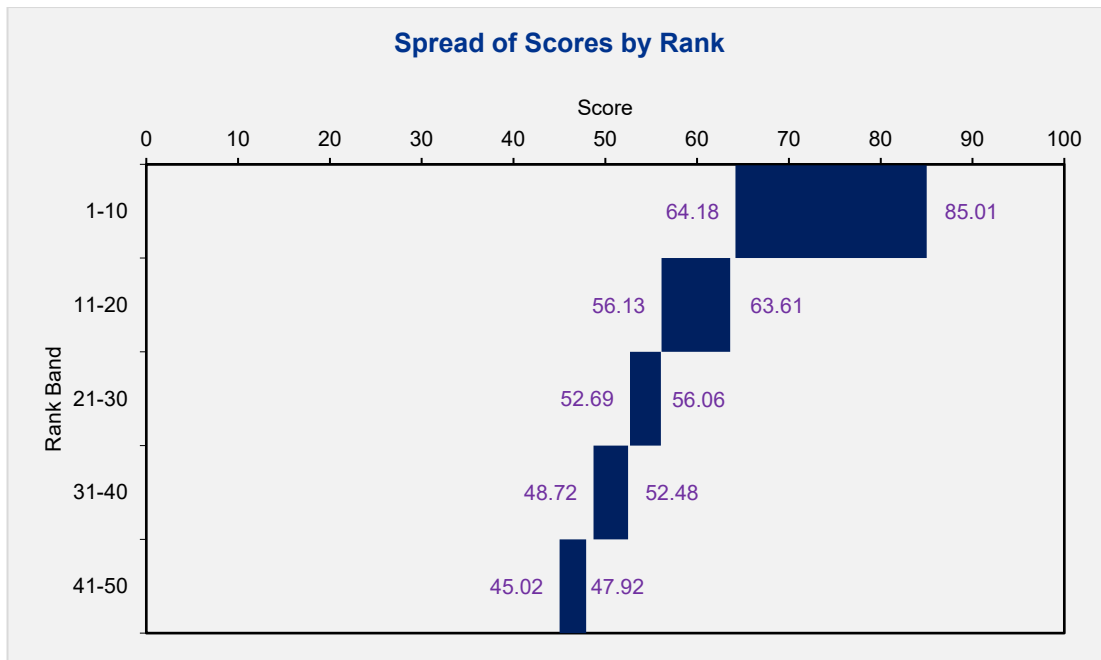
- **Total number of participating and ranked institutes in NIRF 2025:** This category was introduced in 2021 in the NIRF rankings. In the fifth edition of the research institutions category rankings, a total of 50 institutions have been ranked.
- **Top-ranked research institutes across categories:** From the inception of the research category Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru has been ranked first. It is followed by Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi respectively. Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, ranked 13, has overtaken Vellore Institute of Technology (ranked 14) to become the highest-ranked private institute in the Research category of NIRF 2025⁴⁹.

Public Institutions	Rank	Private Institutions	Rank
Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru	1	Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai	13
Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	2	Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore	14
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	3	Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani	18

- The same three public institutions have held their top spots in the Research category rankings, as last year, demonstrating consistency in performance. Among private institutions, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences has advanced seven places from 2024. BITS Pilani has climbed eight positions to rank 18 emerging as the third highest-ranked private institute in the Research category.
- **Public institutions claim majority in top 50:** Amongst the top 50 institutes, public institutes held a dominant position in the Research rankings with 37 public institutes. However, representation of public institutes saw a slight decline from 39 in 2024. On the other hand, private institutes saw an increase in presence from 11 in 2024 to 13 institutes in 2025.
- **Variation in scores:** For ranks 1-10 the variation between minimum and maximum scores is around 20.83 points. For institutions in the rank bands 21-30, 31-40 and 41-50 the difference in scores is much less, and a small deviation in scores would result in a larger movement in rank bands. Between the ranks 31 and 50, there is a difference of only 7 points. Between 41 and 51, there is a difference of only 3.7 points.



⁴⁹ KPMG in India analysis



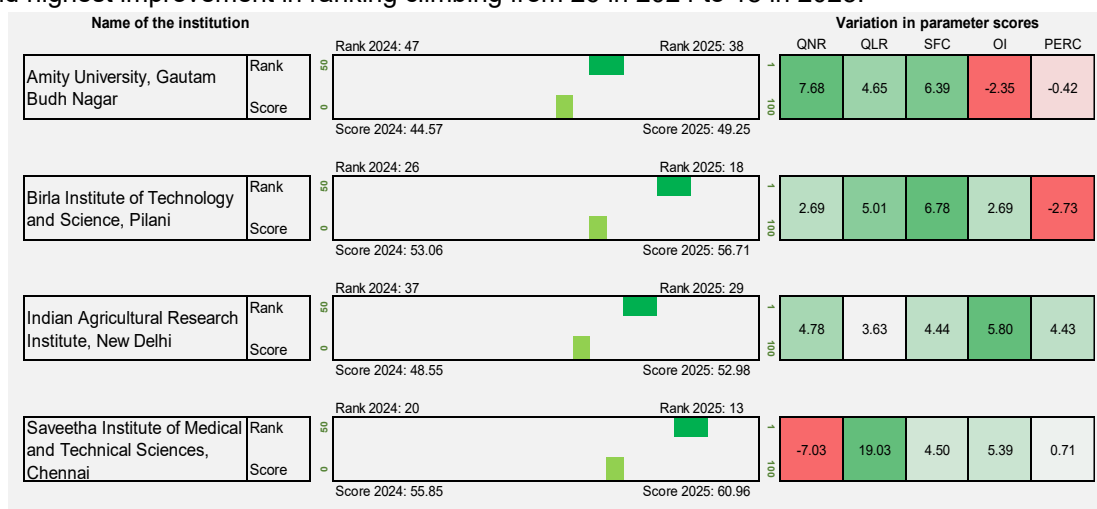
- **There are five new entrants into top 50:** None of the five institutes received any ranking in NIRF 2024 under Research category. Three of these five institutes are public institutes, and the other two are private institutes⁵⁰.

Name	Type	City	State	2025 Rank	2024 Rank
Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) Varanasi	Public	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	22	Not ranked
Chandigarh University	Private	Mohali	Punjab	34	Not ranked
Indian Institute of Technology Patna	Public	Patna	Bihar	39	Not ranked
UPES	Private	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	45	Not ranked
Malaviya National Institute of Technology	Public	Jaipur	Rajasthan	50	Not ranked



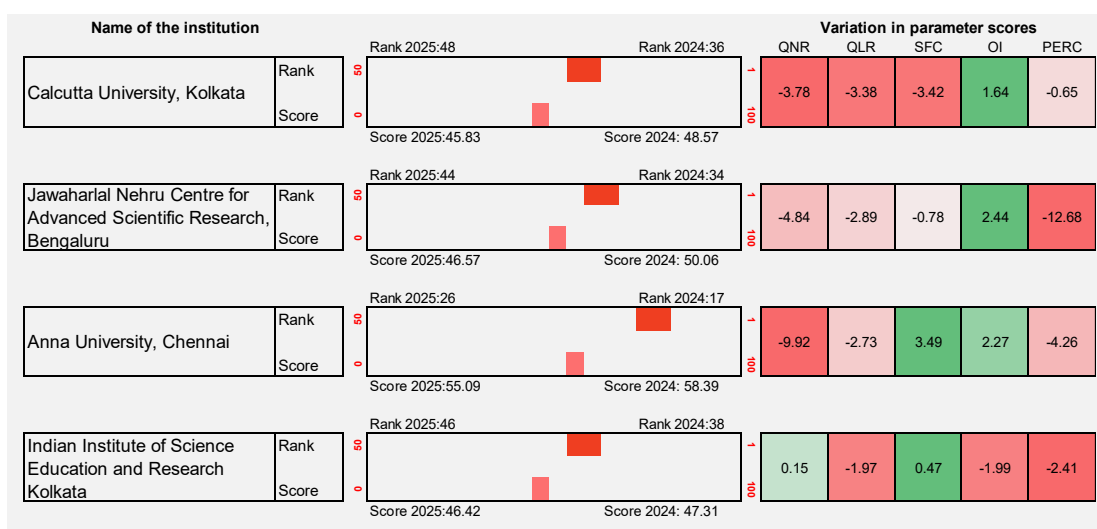
⁵⁰ KPMG in India analysis

A total of 14 institutes have shown an improvement in rankings⁵¹: Amity University saw the maximum improvement in the top 50, climbing nine ranks - from 47 in 2024 to 38 in 2025. BITS Pilani showed the second highest improvement in ranking climbing from 26 in 2024 to 18 in 2025.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

A total of 22 institutions have shown a decline in ranks⁵⁴: The institutions that have dropped the maximum number of ranks from 2024 are shown below along with their change in parameter scores. A decrease in qualitative research scores is witnessed uniformly across all these institutions. 17 out of the 22 institutions have seen a drop of less than five ranks. Calcutta University has seen the largest decline in ranks from 36 in 2024 to 48 in 2025. Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research-Bengaluru, Anna University-Chennai and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research-Kolkata are the other institutes that have witnessed high decline in ranks.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

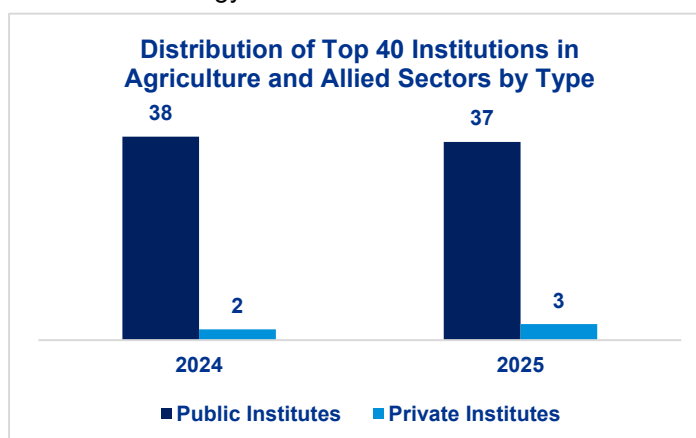
⁵¹ KPMG in India analysis

Highlights of Agriculture and Allied Sectors category

- In NIRF 2025, the 'Agriculture and Allied Sectors' category saw its highest participation yet, with **173 institutes**. Introduced in 2023 with 152 entries and followed by 145 in 2024, the category continues to grow. Each year, the **top 40 institutes** have been ranked.
- Top-ranked Institutions:** Public institutions dominate the top 40 ranks, with Amity University (15), Lovely Professional University (17) and S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology (33) being the only private universities represented⁵²:

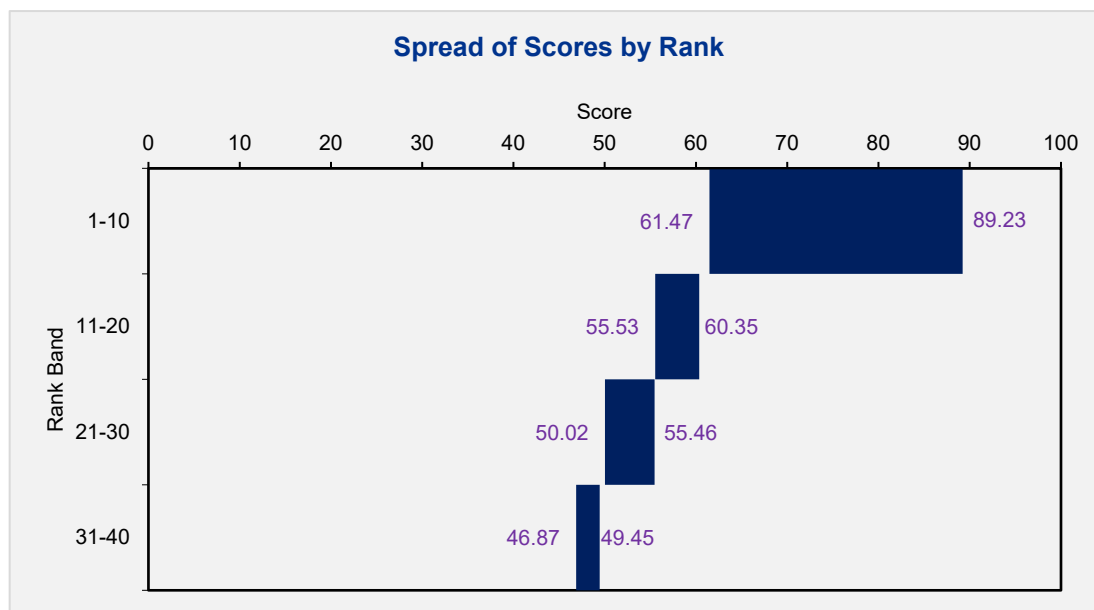
Public Institutions	Rank	Private Institutions	Rank
Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	1	Amity University, Gautam Budh Nagar	15
ICAR - National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal	2	Lovely Professional University, Phagwara	17
Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	3	S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai	33

- In 2025, three public institutions continue to lead the rankings. While the top three institutions remain unchanged from last year, Lovely Professional University has moved up five positions, and Amity University and S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology have entered the list.
- The strong presence of public institutions in top ranks reflects the Government's commitment to agricultural research and education. At the same time, the inclusion of private universities in the top 40 underscores their growing competitiveness in the sector.
- Variation in scores by rank band⁵³:** In the 2025 rankings, the top 10 institutions span a wide score range from 61.47 to 89.23, with a gap of 27.76, indicating clear differentiation at the top. In contrast, the 11–20 and 21–30 bands show tighter competition, with score gaps of 4.82 and 5.44 respectively. The 31–40 band is the most competitive, where a score change of just 2.58 points can shift an institution across ten ranks.



⁵² NIRF Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sep 2025

⁵³ KPMG in India analysis



- **There are four new entrants into top 40⁵⁴:** Of the four new entrants in 2025, three institutions applied for the first time in this category, while Dr. YSR Horticulture University had previously applied but did not secure a position in the top 40.

Name	Type	City	State	2025 Rank	2024 Rank
Amity University	Private	Gautam Budh Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	15	Not Participated
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University	Public	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	21	Not Participated
S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology	Private	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	33	Not Participated
Dr Y S R Horticulture University	Public	West Godavari	Andhra Pradesh	40	Not ranked

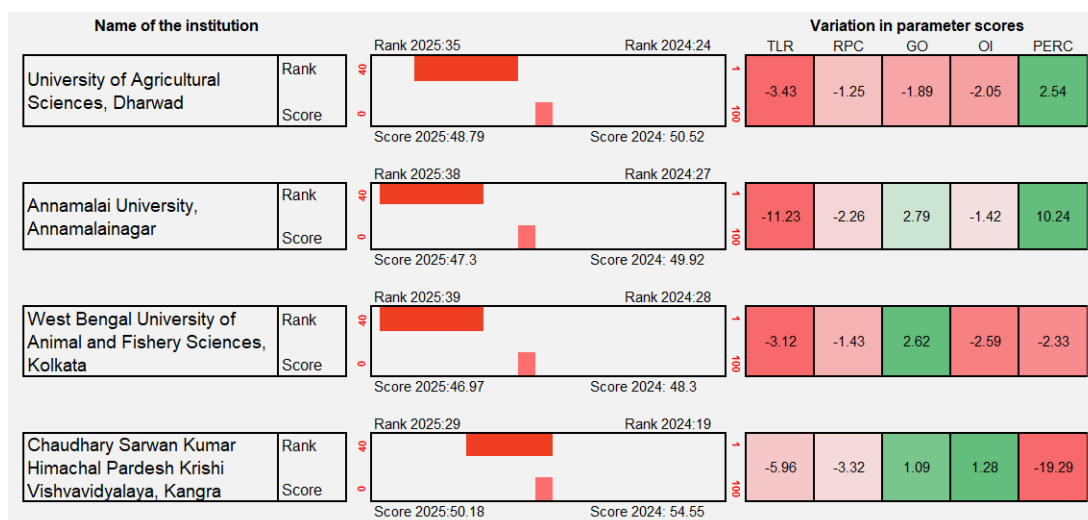
A total of 9 institutions have shown an improvement in rankings: Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University saw the maximum improvement, climbing 15 ranks - from 29 in 2024 to 14 in 2025. All the top four climbers improved across all five parameters. The top four climbers within the top 40 are shown below along with their growth in parameter scores.

Name of the institution		Variation in parameter scores						
Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Samastipur	Rank	Rank 2024: 29Rank 2025: 14		TLR	RPC	GO	OI	PERC
	Score	Score 2024: 47.94Score 2025: 58.25		-8.43	30.41	3.35	-0.81	36.30
Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad	Rank	Rank 2024: 37Rank 2025: 24		2.70	7.78	19.16	5.25	7.37
	Score	Score 2024: 44.73Score 2025: 52.97						
Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur	Rank	Rank 2024: 39Rank 2025: 28		12.80	1.86	1.18	7.99	10.30
	Score	Score 2024: 44.14Score 2025: 50.6						
Central Agricultural University, Imphal West	Rank	Rank 2024: 31Rank 2025: 24		2.82	2.15	12.01	13.82	1.79
	Score	Score 2024: 47.53Score 2025: 52.97						

*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

⁵⁴ KPMG in India analysis

A total of 19 institutions have dropped in rankings this year⁵⁵. The institutions which have dropped maximum number of ranks from 2024 are shown below along with their change in parameter scores. It is important to note that **10 out of 19** of these institutions have improved their score from the previous year yet experienced a significant drop in ranking. This points to an increasing competition between the universities, wherein even a marginal increase in score can result in lower rank.



*The values for the parameters are the differences between the scores in 2025 and 2024

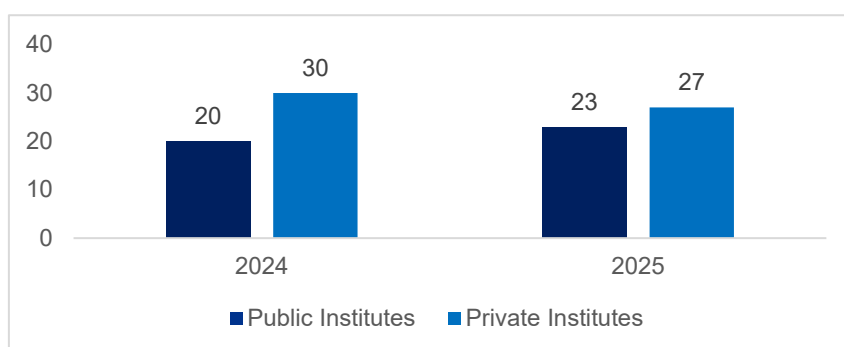


⁵⁵ KPMG in India analysis

Highlights of Innovation category

- **Total number of participating institutions:** The innovation category rankings saw 777 institutions participating for the 2025 rankings decreasing from 808 participants in 2024. Out of these participating institutions only 10 institutions have been given unique ranks, and the next 40 institutions have been categorised into 11-50 rank band.
- **Top ranked institutions:** Public institutions particularly institutions of national importance dominate the top 10 ranks in innovation category ranking, with no representation from private institutes.
- The dominance of public institutions in the top 10 innovation ranks reflect the government's strong commitment to **advancing research and innovation through its premier national institutes**. Additionally, private institutions are also picking up, with all 27 featuring in the rank band 11–50, though none have yet broken into the top 10⁵⁶.

Distribution of top 50 innovation institutions by type of institution



Institution	2025 Rank	2024 Rank
Indian Institute of Technology Madras	1	2
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	2	1
Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru	3	4
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur	4	9
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur	5	5
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad	6	3
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi	7	7
Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	8	6
Anna University	9	10
Indian Institute of Technology Mandi	10	8

- **IITs continue to dominate the Innovation category**, with eight out of the top 10 institutions being IITs and no new entrants joining the list this year.
- Among the top 10 institutions, four institutes have shown improvement in their rankings compared to 2024. **IIT Kharagpur** has seen the highest improvement, climbing five ranks from nine in 2024 to four in 2025.
- Four institutes have shown a drop in rankings. **IIT Hyderabad** experienced the largest drop, falling three ranks from three to six. Meanwhile IIT Kanpur and IIT Delhi have retained their positions at five and seven, respectively.

⁵⁶ KPMG in India analysis

Highlights of SDG Institutions (New Category)

- **New category:** NIRF 2025 introduced a new category to assess institutions on their Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) practices. This addition highlights the growing importance of sustainability in higher education rankings.
- **791 Institutions participated in this category, with the top 10 ranked.** The table below lists these institutions ⁵⁷:

Rank	Institute Name	Type
1	Indian Institute of Technology Madras	Public
2	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Delhi	Public
3	Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi	Public
4	S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai	Private
5	Manipal Academy of Higher Education-Manipal, Manipal	Private
6	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	Public
7	Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi	Public
8	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi	Public
9	National Institute of Technology, Rourkela	Public
10	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	Public

- **Public universities are seen to dominate the rankings**, with eight institutions in the top 10.
- **Scoring Methodology:** Institutions are assessed on their alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals through parameters such as sustainable campus practices (energy, water, waste), SDG-focused research, community outreach, and inclusivity. No individual scores are published, and only the top 10 institutions were ranked.



⁵⁷ NIRF Rankings 2025, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Sep 2025

Way forward

Since its launch, the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) has played a transformative role in shaping India's higher education landscape. By introducing a structured, data-driven approach to institutional evaluation, it has fostered greater transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement across the sector. Institutions have responded by enhancing performance in key areas such as teaching standards, research productivity, student outcomes, and inclusivity. NIRF's expansion into diverse categories has democratised recognition, allowing regional and emerging institutions to gain visibility. Its emphasis on research and innovation has helped institutions attract funding and forge strategic partnerships. Furthermore, NIRF's growing alignment with international benchmarks and its influence on policy and funding decisions have positioned it as a vital tool for driving competitiveness and equity in Indian higher education.

KPMG in India has been actively engaged in analysing NIRF rankings since their inception. Through ongoing dialogue with a wide spectrum of higher education institutions, we have developed a set of recommendations aimed at enhancing the framework's effectiveness. These suggestions are designed to improve objectivity, encourage healthy competition, and support students in making well-informed choices about their educational pathways.

1. Prioritise Research Quality Over Quantity

- Introduce metrics that assess research impact such as citation indices, h-index, and societal relevance
- Encourage interdisciplinary and translational research that addresses real-world challenges.

2. Make Perception Metrics More Equitable and Transparent

- Refine perception scoring by integrating alumni feedback, employer surveys, and peer reviews
- Develop separate indices for regional and emerging institutions to ensure fair visibility and recognition.

3. Bridge Resource Gaps Across Institutions

- Adopt a contextual scoring model that considers factors like funding levels, geographic location, and student demographics
- Provide targeted support to under-resourced institutions to strengthen infrastructure and data reporting capabilities.

4. Strengthen Employability and Industry Engagement

- Include metrics that track graduate employability, internships, job relevance, and industry collaborations
- Monitor alumni career progression and entrepreneurial outcomes to reflect long-term student success.

5. Enhance Global Alignment and Benchmarking

- Incorporate indicators for internationalisation such as foreign student enrolment, global faculty exchange, and joint research programmes.

6. Promote Inclusivity, Innovation, and Continuous Improvement

- Recognise emerging disciplines like AI, climate science, and sustainability through dedicated categories
- Track student satisfaction, alumni impact, and institutional contributions to equity and regional development.

About KPMG in India

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KPMG entities in India offer services to national and international clients in India across sectors. We strive to provide rapid, performance-based, industry-focussed and technology-enabled services, which reflect a shared knowledge of global and local industries and our experience of the Indian business environment.

About Education and Skill Development Practice (E&S) – Government and Public Services (G&PS)

The education and skill development practice of KPMG in India comprises a team of experienced professionals delivering forward-looking advisory services across the spectrum, such as K-12 education including Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), foundational literacy and numeracy skills, Technical and Vocational Education, and Training (TVET), higher education, education technology, and supplementary education.

We are a part of the KPMG Connected Enterprise for higher education and a key member of the KPMG Global Steering Committee for education and skill development. Our team has delivered multiple engagements in the past decade, catering to a wide range of clients, including the central and state governments, regulators, public institutions, private educational institutions, corporates, not-for profit organisations, with bilateral and multi-lateral donors, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), foundations and ed-tech players.

Our key service offerings include:

- University transformation
- Ed-tech growth strategy
- Job creation and livelihoods
- Public private partnership models
- Online learning – strategy and execution assistance (Future skills)
- Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and school education (K12)- program management of large-scale rollout, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building tools.



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