

Landscape of elite, research-intensive higher educational institutions in India – lessons from the Scimago Institutions Ranking

Since the first global university rankings became available in 2003 when Shanghai Jiao Tong University published the results in what is now known as the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), such rankings have been taken seriously. The Shanghai ARWU rankings are based mainly on research indicators, as are many other similar rankings, e.g. the CWTS Leiden Ranking, the Higher Education Accreditation Evaluation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) University ranking, and the EU Assessment of University-Based Research (AUBR). Here, we look at the state-wise contribu-

tions of higher educational institutions (HEIs) to India's presence in five successive years from the latest Scimago Institutions Ranking (SIR)¹, namely from 2015 to 2019. These elite, research-intensive institutions belonging to the higher education sector are the biggest contributors to India's academic research output.

SIR evaluates the performance of leading research institutions in the world, using bibliometric data from Scopus (www.scopus.com), an Elsevier product. The analysis is based on indicators addressing issues like research perfor-

mance, innovation outputs and societal impact measured by their web visibility. Typically, a report for a year covers the output over a rolling window of five years previous to that year (e.g. the report for 2019 covers the period 2013–17). The institutions have been chosen on the basis of having published at least 100 scientific documents of any type, i.e. articles, reviews, short reviews, letters, conference papers, etc. during the last year of the respective five-year window as collected by the Scopus database. In the 2019 report, 168, 170, 179, 197 and 212 institutions belonging to the higher education sector from India appeared in this elite list for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively, showing a steady and healthy progression (from 5.8% of the world total in 2015 to 6.1% in 2019). Note that the institutions are chosen based only on the research output criteria, i.e. they need to have over 100 published works included in Scopus during the last year of the period considered. As a result, some institutions will fade away from year to year, while new ones will appear in this elite list.

Table 1 shows the state-wise participation of the institutions in the higher education sector from India that appear in SIR 2019 for the period 2015–2019. For each year, the largest share goes to Tamil Nadu (TN), accounting for more than 20% of the total. Karnataka and Maharashtra follow TN, with less than half its number. Among the bigger states, Bihar is conspicuously backward; only one HEI from that state appears in this list of elite institutions.

1. <https://www.scimagoir.com/> (accessed between 16 and 17 May 2019).

GANGAN PRATHAP

*A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Technological University,
Thiruvananthapuram 695 016, India
e-mail: gangan_prathap@hotmail.com*

Table 1. State-wise participation of institutions in the higher education sector from India that appear in Scimago Institutions Ranking (SIR) 2019 for the period 2015–2019

State/Union Territory	SIR				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Tamil Nadu	35	36	38	38	40
Maharashtra	12	12	16	17	17
Karnataka	15	14	14	16	16
Uttar Pradesh	10	12	11	12	16
West Bengal	10	10	10	10	10
Delhi	9	9	9	9	10
Gujarat	5	6	7	7	10
Punjab	8	8	9	9	9
Telangana	8	8	8	8	8
Kerala	6	6	6	7	7
Andhra Pradesh	5	7	6	7	7
Assam	5	5	6	6	7
Rajasthan	5	4	4	5	7
Odisha	5	5	5	7	6
Haryana	5	5	5	6	6
Madhya Pradesh	4	4	5	6	6
Various*	4	4	4	5	5
Uttarakhand	3	3	3	4	5
Jammu and Kashmir	2	2	2	3	5
Puducherry	3	1	2	4	4
Himachal Pradesh	3	3	3	3	3
Jharkhand	2	2	2	3	3
Chandigarh	1	1	1	1	1
Meghalaya	1	1	1	1	1
Bihar	1	1	1	1	1
Goa	1	1	1	1	1
Mizoram	0	0	0	1	1
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
Total	168	170	179	197	212
World	2890	2894	2966	3234	3471
Percentage	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.1

*These are institutions at various locations in India.