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NEWS BRIEFS

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Global Higher Education & Institutional Quality Digest

Internal Quality Assurance Cell

DBS Global University, Dehradun

NEWS BRIEF 1**QS World University Rankings 2027 Released: India Achieves Record 52 Universities, IIT Delhi at Historic 118th***Published: 18 June 2026*

The QS World University Rankings 2027 assessed 1,504 institutions across 106 countries and territories. India recorded its strongest presence with 52 universities, up from 14 in 2015. IIT Delhi ranked 118th, while IIT Bombay and IIT Madras remained in the global top 200.

*Image source: QS Quacquarelli Symonds — official results announcement (qs.com)***Source:** <https://www.qs.com/insights/qs-world-university-rankings>**NEWS BRIEF 2****India's Record Performance in QS 2027: Analysis by QS on India's Rising Role in Global Rankings***Published: 19 June 2026*

QS linked India's rise in the 2027 rankings to stronger research performance, employer reputation and internationalisation. The analysis also notes wider participation by private universities, while cautioning that sustained progress will need deeper investment in faculty development, research capacity and global academic networks.

*Image source: QS Quacquarelli Symonds — official insights article (qs.com)***Source:** <https://www.qs.com/insights/indias-ranking-moment-2027>**NEWS BRIEF 3****THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026 Released: University of Manchester Tops Global Ranking***Published: 24 June 2026*

THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026 assessed 1,646 universities from 116 countries and territories. The University of Manchester ranked first overall, followed by Griffith University and Western Sydney University. Asia accounted for more than half of all participating institutions, showing stronger regional engagement with SDG-linked performance.

*Image source: Times Higher Education — official press release (timeshighereducation.com)***Source:** <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/press-releases/out-now-times-higher-education-sustainability-impact-ratings-2026>**NEWS BRIEF 4****UNESCO Releases Inaugural Higher Education Global Trends Report: 269 Million Students Worldwide***Published: 12 May 2026*

UNESCO's first Higher Education Global Trends Report says global higher education enrolment rose from about 100 million students in 2000 to 269 million in 2024. It highlights large regional gaps, rising student mobility, low public spending, gender imbalance in senior academic leadership and weak AI-policy readiness.

*Image source: UNESCO — official article (unesco.org); photo credit Michealjung/Shutterstock***Source:** <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/number-students-higher-education-more-doubled-20-years-inequalities-remain>**NEWS BRIEF 5****AACSB Adopts New Global Standards for Business Education: Voted by Accreditation Council in April 2026***Published: April 2026 (adopted); full transition July 2026*

AACSB adopted new Global Standards for Business Education in April 2026, replacing the 2020 business accreditation standards. The new framework expands AACSB's role beyond accreditation and

adds sharper expectations around impact pathways, teaching effectiveness, risk management, research-informed curriculum and digital agility.

Source: <https://www.aacsb.edu/educators/accreditation/standards-refresh>**NEWS BRIEF 6****UGC Grants Approvals to Three More Foreign Universities: York, Bristol & UNSW Sydney to Open India Campuses in 2026***Published: 9-10 June 2026*

UGC approved three more foreign universities - York, Bristol and UNSW Sydney - to establish India campuses in 2026. These approvals take the formal count to five, alongside Southampton and Liverpool. Planned campuses in Mumbai and Bengaluru will offer programmes in business, economics, AI, data science and cyber security.

*Image source: ANI — photo from the official LoA handover ceremony with Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan***Source:** <https://www.millenniumpost.in/k-reers/3-foreign-varsities-to-launch-india-campuses-in-2026-663690>**NEWS BRIEF 7****Bharat Innovates 2026: PM Modi & President Macron Inaugurate India's Flagship Deep-Tech Innovation Summit in Nice, France***Published: 14-16 June 2026*

Bharat Innovates 2026 was held in Nice, France, as part of the India-France Year of Innovation. The summit brought together 120 Indian deep-tech innovators, 15 HEIs, 45 technology projects and over 500 global stakeholders, strengthening India-France collaboration in research, startups and technology commercialisation.

*Image source: Press Information Bureau, Government of India — official inauguration photos (pib.gov.in)***Source:** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2273045®=3&lang=1>**NEWS BRIEF 8****OECD Digital Education Outlook 2026: GenAI Enhances Performance But Not Always Learning***Published: January 2026 (widely referenced May-June 2026)*

OECD's Digital Education Outlook 2026 warns that general-purpose GenAI can improve task completion without necessarily improving learning. The report favours purpose-built educational AI tools, teacher involvement, stronger assessment design and clear policies on privacy, safety, bias testing and age-appropriate use.

*Image source: OECD — official report cover (oecd.org)***Source:** https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-digital-education-outlook-2026_062a7394-en.html**NEWS BRIEF 9****WEF Future of Jobs Report 2026: 170 Million New Roles by 2030, AI & Green Tech Lead Growth***Published: Davos 2026 edition; widely cited May-June 2026*

The WEF projects that AI and related economic shifts could create 170 million new roles and displace 92 million by 2030, producing a possible net gain of 78 million jobs. Growth is expected in AI, data science, cyber security, green technology, healthcare and education, subject to reskilling.

Source: <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2026/01/davos-here-s-what-to-know-about-jobs-and-skills-transformation/>

NEWS BRIEF 10**UGC Amends Deemed University Regulations 2026: NAAC Accreditation Criteria Revised, State Colleges Can Apply**

Published: 21 April 2026 (Gazette); widely reported May 2026

UGC's 2026 amendment to deemed university regulations allows autonomous and constituent colleges of state universities to apply for deemed-to-be university status, subject to state approval. It also updates the NAAC requirement to accreditation for three cycles, including the latest cycle, or an equivalent NAAC grade.

Source: <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/ugc-allows-state-colleges-to-apply-for-deemed-university-status-or-become-off-campus-of-universities20260424220705/>

NEWS BRIEF 11**OECD Report: International Students in Higher Education - Comparative Analysis of Six Major Destinations**

Published: 28 April 2026

The OECD compared international student pathways in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK. It finds mobility entering a more uncertain phase, with policy tightening in some destinations. Student success remains linked to finance, wellbeing, language readiness, housing, visa conditions and institutional support.

Source: https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/international-students-in-higher-education_005ff28d-en.html

NEWS BRIEF 12**British Council Launches UK Higher Education Hub in India to Advance India-UK Vision 2035**

Published: 5 February 2026 (ongoing through May-June 2026)

The British Council launched the UK Higher Education Hub in New Delhi to support the India-UK Vision 2035 education agenda. The Hub will help UK universities coordinate India partnerships, branch-campus activity, events, outreach, advisory support and programmes such as GGP, UKIERI and SCOUT.

Source: <https://www.britishcouncil.in/programmes/higher-education/uk-education-hub>

NEWS BRIEF 13**India's AI Impact Summit 2026: Ministry of Education Partners with Global AI Community Following Paris AI Action Summit**

Published: 19-20 February 2026 (ongoing through May-June 2026)

India's AI Impact Summit 2026 focused on AI literacy, responsible AI governance, AI curriculum integration, data policy, faculty development and university research hubs. The discussions point to a more structured national approach to AI in higher education, rather than isolated institutional adoption.

Source: <https://opportunities-insight.britishcouncil.org/short-articles/opportunities/engagement-opportunities-india-early-2026>

NEWS BRIEF 14**QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026: India Doubles Top-50 Placements, Southern Asia Most Improved**

Published: March 2026 (16th edition)

QS Subject Rankings 2026 covered more than 21,000 programmes from about 1,900 universities across 100 countries. India doubled its top-50 subject placements to 27 across 12 institutions. Southern Asia recorded the highest share of improving institutions, signalling broader subject-level progress.

Source: <https://www.topuniversities.com/subject-rankings>

NEWS BRIEF 15**UNESCO GEM Report 2026 Released: Focus on Access and Equity in Higher Education**

Published: 2026

UNESCO's GEM Report 2026 opens a trilogy on access, quality and relevance. It shows major growth in enrolment but slower gains in completion. Global tertiary GER reached 44% in 2024, while the graduation ratio rose only to 27%, underlining retention and completion concerns.

Source: <https://www.unesco.org/reports/gem-report/en/2026-access-equity>

NEWS BRIEF 16**AACSB Global Standards for Business Education: New 'Global Standards for All Schools' Framework Expands Role Beyond Accreditation**

Published: 9 January 2026 (draft); adopted April 2026; transition July 2026

AACSB's 2026 standards create a global quality framework for all business schools, not only those pursuing accreditation. The model separates universal global standards from accreditation standards and places stronger emphasis on teaching effectiveness, scholarship, societal impact and digital agility.

Source: <https://www.aacsb.edu/media-center/news/2026/01/aacsb-opens-public-comment-on-2026-global-standards-for-business-education>

NEWS BRIEF 17**India's Startup India Turns a Decade: Over 2 Lakh Registered Startups, 112 Unicorns, USD 350 Billion+ in Value**

Published: 16 January 2026 (continued relevance through May-June 2026)

Startup India completed a decade with more than 2 lakh DPIIT-recognised startups, 112 unicorns and an ecosystem value above USD 350 billion. The initiative has generated over 15 lakh jobs, with nearly half of recognised startups now emerging from Tier II and Tier III cities.

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2214872®=3&lang=2>

NEWS BRIEF 18**OECD Education Policy Outlook: Strengthening Career Mobility for Longer Working Lives**

Published: 18 June 2026

OECD's Education Policy Outlook highlights lifelong learning and mid-career reskilling as core policy priorities. Based on 230 policies across 35 education systems, it points to micro-credentials, short-cycle programmes and flexible pathways as important tools for serving non-traditional and working learners.

Source: https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/education-policy-outlook-2025_c3f402ba-en.html

NEWS BRIEF 19**India Ranked 5th Globally in QS 2027 by University Representation; Private Universities Leading Growth**

Published: 18-19 June 2026

India became the fifth most represented country in QS World University Rankings 2027, with 52 ranked universities and 24 private institutions. QS links the progress to stronger citations, academic reputation and wider institutional participation, reinforcing the connection between quality systems, research and rankings.

Source: <https://newsletters.qs.com/what-can-the-qs-world-university-rankings-2027-tell-us/>

NEWS BRIEF 20

OECD Assessment: Cross-Border Higher Education Quality Assurance Reviewed Under 2026 OECD/UNESCO Guidelines

Published: 2026 (OECD Document C(2026)27)

OECD's 2026 review of cross-border higher education quality assurance examines how countries are responding to branch campuses, franchise models and online transnational education. It stresses student protection, recognition of qualifications and stronger safeguards against low-quality provision.

Source: [https://one.oecd.org/document/C\(2026\)27/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/C(2026)27/en/pdf)

NEWS BRIEF 21

Nature Paper: ESG Framework Applied to University Sustainability Performance Across 1,397 Institutions

Published: 20 February 2026

A Nature-published study analysed sustainability performance across 1,397 universities using ESG indicators and Bayesian belief networks. It found governance to be a high-leverage factor, shaping how environmental and social initiatives translate into overall sustainability performance.

Source: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-026-07409-3>

NEWS BRIEF 22

QS Sub-Saharan Africa Rankings 2026: Inaugural Edition Released with 69 Institutions

Published: 1 June 2026

QS launched its first Sub-Saharan Africa university rankings in 2026, covering 69 institutions across six countries. The regional ranking gives African universities a contextual benchmark and offers Indian institutions a reference point for Africa-focused partnerships, research collaboration and student exchange.

Source: <https://www.qs.com/rankings-performance>

NEWS BRIEF 23

India's Deep-Tech Sector Reaches 3,600+ Startups; KPMG Report Highlights Role of HEIs in Deep-Tech Growth

Published: June 2026

June 2026 startup analyses estimate India's deep-tech base at more than 3,600 startups, about 12% of recognised startups. The sector shows resilience but faces talent gaps in AI, machine learning, quantum computing, chip design and cyber security, making HEIs critical to the research-to-market pipeline.

Source: <https://blog.mean.ceo/startups-india-news-june-2026/>

NEWS BRIEF 24

UNICEF-UNESCO Joint Report: Economic Inequality Shapes Children's Educational Outcomes from Childhood Through Higher Education

Published: 12 May 2026

UNESCO and UNICEF linked economic inequality with weaker health, learning and education outcomes. Their reports show higher education enrolment has grown sharply, but access and completion remain unequal across regions and income groups. Without stronger public investment, disadvantages can carry across generations.

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/05/1167492>

NEWS BRIEF 25

EQUIS Accreditations Update: EFMD's Accredited Schools List Updated Through May 2026

Published: Updated May 2026

EFMD updated its EQUIS-accredited schools list in May 2026. EQUIS reviews business schools on governance, strategy, faculty, programmes, research, corporate connections and internationalisation. Triple Crown accreditation through AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS remains rare and signals high global business-school recognition.

Source: <https://www.efmdglobal.org/accreditations-assessments/business-schools/equis/equis-accredited-schools/>

NEWS BRIEF 26

WEF Highlights Learning-to-Earning Sandbox: Universities, Employers & Governments to Co-Design Workforce-Linked Education

Published: January 2026 (Davos); implications through May-June 2026

WEF's Learning-to-Earning Sandbox brings universities, employers and governments together to design work-linked education models. It focuses on apprenticeships, internships, micro-credentials, paid work, AI fluency and human-centred skills such as creativity, adaptability and innovation.

Source: <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2026/01/davos-here-s-what-to-know-about-jobs-and-skills-transformation/>

NEWS BRIEF 27

QS World Future Skills Index 2027 Released: Data-Driven Skills Intelligence for Global Higher Education

Published: 18 June 2026

QS released the World Future Skills Index 2027 alongside the World University Rankings. The index connects higher education outcomes with employer demand and skills readiness, giving universities a data-led tool to review curriculum alignment in technology, sustainability, management and social-sector skills.

Source: <https://www.qs.com/insights/qs-world-university-rankings>

NEWS BRIEF 28

Foreign Universities in India - 18 Institutions Preparing for August-September 2026 Launch: Historic Milestone for Indian Higher Education

Published: Multiple sources; confirmed through June 2026

At least 18 foreign universities were preparing India programmes for August-September 2026, with five having formal UGC approvals. The expansion could retain part of India's overseas education spending while raising competition and quality expectations within the domestic higher education market.

Source: <https://www.collegeaccessprogram.in/blog/india-opens-its-doors-foreign-universities-land-in-india/>