

The Asia University Rankings 2024

According to the 12th edition of Times Higher Education's (THE) Asia University Rankings (2024), the highest-placed Indian institution is the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru (Karnataka), which is ranked 32nd. The 2024 list includes 91 Indian institutions.



Country/region	Number of institutions	Top Institution	Rank
Japan	119	The University of Tokyo	3
India	91	Indian Institute of Science	32
China	88	Tsinghua University	1
Turkey	75	Koc University	483
Middle East		Middle East Technical University	489
Iran	73	Sharif University of Technology	495
Taiwan	45	National Taiwan University (NTU)	20
Pakistan	40	Quaid-i-Azam University	121
South Korea	39	Seoul National University	14
Indonesia	24	University of Indonesia	201-282
Malaysia	23	Universiti Teknologi Petronas	462

Key Point

- ❖ Tsinghua University (China) has led the list for the sixth consecutive year, followed by Peking University (China) and the National University of Singapore (NUS) (Singapore) in second and third place, respectively.
- ❖ The Asia University Ranking 2024 includes 739 universities from 31 countries/regions. This represents a 10.5% growth, up from 669 in 2023.
- ❖ Japan has the greatest presence on the 2024 list, with 119 universities, followed by India (91, up from 75 in 2023) and Mainland China (86).

Indian Scenario:

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru is the only Indian institute included among the top 50 and top 100 Asian universities.

- ❖ In 2023, four Indian institutes/universities were ranked in the top 100.
- ❖ The ranking of Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences (Himachal Pradesh) fell from 77th to 150th in 2024, while Mahatma Gandhi University (Kerala) fell from 95th to 134th.

About Times Higher Education (THE):

- ❖ THE, (Formerly The Times Higher Education Supplement -The Thes), is a British magazine reporting on news and issues related to higher education.
- ❖ Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Paul Howarth
- ❖ Headquarters- London, The United Kingdom (UK)

India's First Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager

IIT-Bombay and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) have cooperated to develop India's first Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager, in accordance with the National Quantum Mission's goal of positioning India as a global leader in quantum technology.



Key Point

- ❖ The goal is to create an enhanced sensing tool that will improve precision in semiconductor chip examination, reduce chip failures, and increase energy efficiency.
- ❖ The Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager, like magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), provides non-invasive and non-destructive imaging of semiconductor chips, overcoming the limits of previous technologies in detecting anomalies as chip sizes shrink.
- ❖ It uses nitrogen-vacancy centres in diamonds, as well as specialised gear and software, to dramatically improve failure analysis, device development, and optimization procedures. It also visualizes three-dimensional charge flow in multi-layer chips, allowing for more advanced fault diagnosis.⁷
- ❖ It will have numerous applications, including microelectronics, biological and geological imaging, and fine-scale imaging of magnetic fields.

About TCS

- ❖ **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- ❖ **Founded:** 1 April 1968
- ❖ **Parent:** Tata Group
- ❖ **Founders:** Faquir Chand Kohli, J. R. D. Tata

Red Flag Exercise 24

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has joined a 16-day multi-nation massive military exercise in Alaska, United States, aimed at providing realistic training to participating troops in a simulated combat environment. The exercise, known as 'Red Flag 24', began on May 30 and will continue till June 14.



Key Points

- ❖ It is a two-week advanced aerial combat training exercise designed to integrate aircrew in a multinational environment.
- ❖ It is intended to simulate a realistic and demanding situation, bringing together pilots and equipment from several nations and services.
- ❖ Approximately 3100 service members are expected to fly, maintain, and support over 100 aircraft during the exercise.
- ❖ The IAF used Rafale fighter jets in the Red Flag 24 exercise.
- ❖ The exercises can be tailored to incorporate multiple forces into a realistic threat environment, taking advantage of the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex's more than 77,000 square miles of airspace, the world's biggest combat training range.

About Red Flag Exercise

- ❖ Since their debut in 1975, Red Flag exercises have been meant to provide a thorough learning environment by simulating actual combat scenarios.
- ❖ There are two different Red Flag drill locations: Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada and Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska.
- ❖ The United States Air Force Warfare Center (USAFWC) organizes the Nevada exercise, while the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), the US Indo-Pacific Command's air component command, manages the Alaska exercise.

Lokmata Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Tricentenary Celebrations

The year-long Lokmata Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Tricentenary Celebrations were officially inaugurated on May 31, 2024, in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India. The event marked the 300th birth anniversary of Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar, the revered queen of the Malwa region who ruled from 1766 to 1795.



Key Points

- ❖ The year-long Tricentenary Celebrations, programmes based on the life, work and personality of Mata Ahilya Bai Holkar will be organised at various places across the country.
- ❖ Former Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Urban Administration Minister Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya, Water Resources Minister Shri Tulsiram Silawat, Shri Krishna Gopal, Sushri Nivedita Bhide, Sushri Sonal Mansingh, Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Shri Gyananand Ji Tirth, Mahamandaleshwar Kirandas Bapu Maharaj, Mahamandaleshwar Krishnavandan Ji Maharaj were specially present in the inauguration programme.
- ❖ Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that Devi Ahilya Bai's life, personality and work will be included in the educational curriculum.

Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar

- ❖ Ruled Malwa region (central India) 1766-1795.
- ❖ Earned Title "Lokmata" (Mother of the People)
- ❖ Beloved for leadership, administration, and philanthropy.
- ❖ Ascended Throne: Overcame challenges after the deaths of her husband and father-in-law.

IITK and DRDO Launch Joint Center of Excellence in Defense Technologies.

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) has collaborated with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to establish the DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA CoE) on the IITK campus to conduct multidisciplinary research on next-generation defence technology.



Key Points

- ❖ Sanjay Tandon, the previous director of the Institute of Technology Management (ITM) in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, has been appointed director of IITK's centre of excellence.
- ❖ The centre intends to spearhead targeted research in a variety of defence verticals, including advanced nanomaterials, accelerated material design, high-energy materials, and bioengineering.

- ❖ The DRDO will fund projects and build critical technical facilities and contemporary infrastructure to enable and boost research and development (R&D) programs.
- ❖ The DIA CoE at IIT Kanpur was established in 2022 following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Def-Expo-2022 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

DefExpo 2022 was a flagship event of the Ministry of Defence built upon the vision to achieve Atma Nirbharta in defence and reach the USD 5 billion defence exports target by 2024.

About Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

- ❖ It is the Research and Development (R&D) wing of the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- ❖ **Chairman** – Dr. Samir Vankatpati Kamat
- ❖ **Headquarter** – New Delhi, Delhi
- ❖ **Formed** – 1958

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Which of the following statements is/are TRUE about India's First Quantum Diamond Microchip Imager?
- (a) It is a new chip manufacturing technology developed by an Indian company.
 - (b) This innovative technology allows for the inspection of semiconductor chips without causing any damage to them.
 - (c) It uses traditional light microscopy for examining chips.
 - (d) It is solely developed by the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-Bombay).

Answer- (b)

2. Which of the following university is the only Indian institute included among the top 50 and top 100 Asian universities?
- (a) IISC, Bangalore
 - (b) Shoolini University
 - (c) Mahatma Gandhi University (Kerala)
 - (d) IIT Delhi

Answer- (a)



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