

IIT-B India's 3rd best institute, Mum Univ drops in rankings

Strangely, TIFR Missing From National List

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IIT-Bombay retains its position as the country's third best institute of higher education, bettered only by IIT-Madras and Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. On the list released by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) on Tuesday, IIT-B is also India's second-best engineering institute. Unsurprisingly, Mumbai University is not among the country's top 100 universities. Its rank dropped from the 101-150 band to 151-200.

NIRF, backed by the Union HRD ministry, had nine categories this year (see graphic). IIT-B participated in the management category as well and was ranked fifth, above sought-after institutes from Mumbai like NMIMS and SP Jain. This, experts

Pune country's 9th best univ, state's 1st

Pune University has improved its rank from last year's 10 to nine this year in the university category. It is also the best university in the state. In the overall category, the university is ranked 16th nationally. Fergusson College is the best college in the state, at rank 19. TNN

say, is controversial, like some other aspects of the rankings. For example, the premier Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) is missing from the rankings, though it is among four institutions finding "special mention" in NIRF. "We are not sure why we were placed in the special category," said a TIFR official. The Centre's higher education secretary R Subrahmanyam said TIFR is a specialist institution and not multi-disciplinary.

Then, medical colleges were ranked for the first time by NIRF, but not many from Mumbai or the state participated as they were "not informed", said Pravin Shingare from the Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DMER).

On Mumbai University's poor performance, academicians said it was due to a lack of research, consultancy and poor placements. A professor said the university has been reduced to conducting exams and announcing re-

HOW MUMBAI HAS FARED NATIONALLY

NIRF RANKINGS

NIRF | National Institutional Ranking Framework. Launched in 2015. Only national ranking framework for India's higher education institutes

Edition | 3rd. Previous were in 2017 and 2016

Parameters | Teaching, learning and resources, research, graduation outcomes, outreach and perception

Purpose | Nothing currently. Centre plans to eventually link it to funding

Categories | 9 this year: overall, university, college, engineering, medical, management, pharmacy, architecture, law. Medical, architecture, law introduced this year. 2016 had four categories: University, engineering, management, pharmacy. In 2017, overall & college were added

Participation | Has increased this year, including from Maharashtra and Mumbai. Thus, some institutes have been ranked for the first time this year

2018

2017

2016

ICT: Institute of Chemical Technology. HBNI: Homi Bhabha National Institute. NMIMS, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies. NIIE: National Institute of Industrial Engineering. SPPU: Savitribai Phule Pune University. SPIT: Sardar Patel Institute of Technology. SPCE: Sardar Patel College of Engineering. **Numbers are ranks**

OVERALL

All institutions irrespective of discipline, specialization, graduation level taken into account

IIT-B

3 | 3

ICT

30 | 41

HBNI

41 | 35

TISS

49 | 49

NMIMS

82

NIIE

151-200

UNIVERSITY

SPPU

9 | 10

ICT

19 | 25 | 2

HBNI

26 | 21 | 17

TISS

32 | 31

NMIMS

55 | 98 | 72

Mum Univ

151-200 | 101-150

COLLEGE

St Xavier's

74 | 40

Mithibai

151-200

ENGINEERING

IIT-B

2 | 2 | 2

ICT

10 | 14

NIIE

44 | 36

VJTI

95 | 101-150 | 84

SPIT

101-150 | 101-150

NMIMS

101-150

KJ Somaiya

151-200

RAIT

151-200

SPCE

151-200 | 101-150

MANAGEMENT

IIT-B

5

NIIE

14 | 12

SP Jain

19 | 18 | 16

NMIMS

24 | 34

KJ Somaiya

51-75 | 41

Welingkar

51-75 | 46

VES

76-100 | NA

RANKING CONTROVERSIES, CRITICISM

Institutions raised objections in the past over methodology. They said:

- The process lacks transparency
- Parameters considered are not comparable in different types of institutions
- Rankings of certain institutions go against the grain of their perceived reputations
- Government institutions get preferential treatment
- Ranking agencies usually are independent the world over. But NIRF is backed by the Union ministry of human resource development

WHY IS TIFR MISSING?

TIFR is missing from the rankings, though it finds "special mention" in NIRF on the grounds that it did not fit into the categorization scheme. A TIFR official said he isn't sure why it has been placed in the special category

sults. A statement by deputy registrar Leeladhar Bansod said the administration will work to improve performance for the next ranking cycle.

In the overall category, only six institutions from Mumbai could make it to the top 200. Institute of Chemical Technology, Matunga,

ranked 41 last year, is up at 30. Homi Bhabha National Institute's rank has dropped six places to 41, while TISS has maintained its rank at 49.

Among colleges, St Xavier's is the only one from the city to figure in the country's top 100 in the category, though its rank dropped from 40 to 74. Principal Agne-

lo Menezes said, "We haven't fared well in research and government scholarships. We will work to set up more endowment scholarships." A professor said many colleges from Delhi participated in NIRF for the first time and took over the higher ranks; 54 of the top 100 colleges in the country are from Delhi.