Research performance in India during the 2016–2020 window

Previously in these pages, Prathap[1–6] has reported using data from a web application[7–10] on the performance of universities, and research-focused institutions in India in major subject areas. Bibliometric data was sourced from Scopus and collected for the SCImago Institutions Ranking[11]. During 2011–15, 120 unique institutions in India[6] had published more than 500 papers in at least one major subject area. Altogether there were 353 Units of Assessment (UoA), reflecting that many institutions had exceeded this threshold in multiple subject areas. The latest data covering scientific articles published during the window 2016–20 shows a very healthy increase to 181 institutions and 701 UoAs.

The cutoff is strict – institutions had to publish at least 500 articles, reviews and conference papers in each category within the five-year window. Table 1 shows the state-wise dispersion of institutions and UoA in the latest Excellence mapping exercise.

In the previous five-year window (2011–15), nine institutions had a pan-India presence. These are the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Defence Research and Development Organisation, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Indian Council of Medical Research, Indian Space Research Organisation, Indian Statistical Institute, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research and the Public Health Foundation of India. The Homi Bhabha National Institute is the new entrant.

As was seen in earlier versions[1–6], independent rankings like the National Institutional Ranking Framework, Tamil Nadu, with 32 institutions and 140 UoAs, dominates the research performance list. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu have entered the list in the latest rankings. Some states or union territories still do not have a single institution of this class.

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Table 1. State-wise dispersion of institutions and units of assessment in the latest Excellence mapping exercise 2016–2020

State/Union Territory	Institutions	Units of assessments
Andhra Pradesh	7	21
Assam	3	14
Bihar	1	4
Chandigarh	3	5
Chhattisgarh	1	2
Gujarat	4	6
Haryana	3	7
Himachal Pradesh	1	2
Pan-India	10	68
Jammu	1	1
Jharkhand	2	14
Karnataka	14	36
Kerala	7	13
Madhya Pradesh	5	10
Maharashtra	15	56
New Delhi	15	64
Odisha	7	27
Puducherry	3	7
Punjab	11	33
Rajasthan	3	14
Tamil Nadu	32	140
Telangana	8	24
Uttar Pradesh	12	62
Uttarakhand	2	15
West Bengal	11	56
Total	181	701

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