

Daily Current Affairs

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QS World University Rankings 2027 Released

- The QS World University Rankings 2027 were released on 18 June 2026. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) ranked first globally for the 15th consecutive year with a perfect overall score of 100 points.
- Imperial College London and Stanford University were tied at second place, while the University of Oxford ranked fourth and Harvard University ranked fifth.
- The QS World University Rankings are annual global university rankings published by Quacquarelli Symonds. The rankings assess higher education institutions across multiple indicators, including academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty-student ratio, research influence, internationalization, employment rate, and sustainability.
- MIT retained the top position in the 2027 edition. Imperial College London and Stanford University shared the second rank, and the University of Oxford and Harvard University occupied the fourth and fifth positions respectively.
- The 2027 edition includes more than 1,500 universities from 106 higher education systems. The United States has 184 entries, the United Kingdom has 93, and Mainland China has 85 entries in the rankings.
- The University of Melbourne ranked 22nd globally in the 2027 list. It also ranked first in Australia for Academic Reputation and Employer Reputation.

1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	USA
2	Imperial College London	United Kingdom
3	Stanford University	USA
4	University of Oxford	United Kingdom
5	Harvard University	USA
6	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom
7	ETH Zurich	Switzerland
8	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Singapore
9	University College London (UCL)	United Kingdom
10	California Institute of Technology (Caltech)	USA



Mishmi Takin Spotted in Sikkim After Three Decades

- A herd of eight Mishmi Takins, scientifically classified as *Budorcas taxicolor*, was filmed in North Sikkim's Tingda Reserve Forest in the Bakuchen area around 17 June 2026.
- The record is the first video footage of Mishmi Takins in Sikkim and the first confirmed visual documentation of the species in the state in nearly three decades.
- The Mishmi Takin is a goat-antelope found in the Eastern Himalayas and adjoining mountain forests. It belongs to the family Bovidae, which includes goats, sheep, antelopes, and cattle. The species is listed as Vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.

- The Mishmi Takin occurs in parts of India, Bhutan, China, and Myanmar within montane forest and alpine habitat zones. Sikkim forms the westernmost edge of its global distribution range, and the species is associated with steep forested slopes and high-altitude vegetation.
- North Sikkim is part of the Eastern Himalayas, a biodiversity-rich mountain region in India. Tingda Reserve Forest and the Bakuchen area are located in a high-altitude landscape used for wildlife patrols and forest monitoring.



15-Million-Year-Old Shark Fossils Found in Odisha

- Fossils dating back nearly 15 million years were discovered near Baripada in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district on 18 June 2026. The findings include shark teeth, shark vertebrae, fish bones, mollusc shells, and microscopic marine organisms from the Baripada Fossil Bed along the Budhabalanga river.
- The fossils belong to the Miocene Epoch, which lasted from about 23 million years ago to 5.3 million years ago. The presence of marine fossils in inland Mayurbhanj district indicates that parts of present-day Odisha were once covered by a shallow sea.
- The Baripada Fossil Bed contains vertebrate and invertebrate remains. Shark teeth and vertebrae are among the most common marine vertebrate fossils found at such sites, while mollusc shells and microfossils are used in palaeoenvironmental studies.
- Preliminary studies show that shark remains form nearly half of the fish fossils recovered from the site. The current Bay of Bengal coastline is about 60

kilometres from Baripada, and the fossil assemblage records a much older marine setting in the region.



France to Get First Traditional Hindu Temple

- France set to witness the historic inauguration of its first traditional Hindu temple, and it is scheduled for the September 2026. This announcement was made by the members of the Indian diaspora in France, and it is as a proud moment for the Hindu community and the symbol of the growing cultural ties between India and France.
- The upcoming temple marks the significant chapter in the history of the Hindu community in France.
- According to members of the Indian diaspora, this temple has been designed and crafted in India before being transported and assembled in France.
- One of the most distinctive features of the temple is the process of construction.
- The stones used for the temple were sourced from India, where skilled artisans carved and it prepared the structure according to the traditional Hindu architectural principles.
- The temple is expected to become an important hub where people can celebrate the festivals, participate in religious activities and strengthen the community bonds.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which institution secured the first position in the QS World University Rankings 2027?

- A) Harvard University
- B) Stanford University
- C) Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- D) University of Oxford

Answer: C) Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

2. For how many consecutive years has MIT remained at the top of the QS World University Rankings 2027?

- A) 10 years
- B) 12 years
- C) 15 years
- D) 18 years

Answer: C) 15 years

3. Which two universities jointly occupied the second position in the QS World University Rankings 2027?

- A) Oxford and Harvard
- B) MIT and Stanford

- C) Imperial College London and Stanford University
- D) Cambridge and Oxford

Answer: C) Imperial College London and Stanford University

4. The QS World University Rankings are published annually by which organization?

- A) Times Higher Education
- B) UNESCO
- C) World Bank
- D) Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)

Answer: D) Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)

5. What is the scientific name of the Mishmi Takin recently sighted in North Sikkim?

- A) *Bos gaurus*
- B) *Budorcas taxicolor*
- C) *Capricornis thar*
- D) *Moschus chrysogaster*

Answer: B) *Budorcas taxicolor*

6. The Mishmi Takin is currently listed under which IUCN category?

- A) Endangered
- B) Critically Endangered
- C) Vulnerable
- D) Near Threatened

Answer: C) Vulnerable

7. The recently discovered shark fossils in Odisha belong to which geological epoch?

- A) Jurassic Epoch
- B) Cretaceous Epoch
- C) Pleistocene Epoch
- D) Miocene Epoch

Answer: D) Miocene Epoch

8. The fossil discoveries were made near Baripada in which district of Odisha?

- A) Kendrapara
- B) Balasore
- C) Mayurbhanj
- D) Khordha

Answer: C) Mayurbhanj

9. France is set to inaugurate its first traditional Hindu temple in which year?

- A) 2025
- B) 2026
- C) 2027
- D) 2028

Answer: B) 2026

10. The stones and architectural components of France's first traditional Hindu temple were primarily prepared in which country?

- A) Nepal
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) India
- D) Bhutan

Answer: C) India