Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2023

The Shanghai Rankings 2023 now covers 55 subjects, the new entry being textile science and engineering. When it first appeared in 2003, only three institutions appeared from India in the top 500. Then, an editorial comment appeared on these pages, stating that 'research output at the best of Indian institutions does not compare well on an international scale'[1].

In 2023 the Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS) covered subjects in five fields – natural sciences, engineering, life sciences, medi-cal sciences and social sciences. Note that the Shanghai Ranking classification keeps natural sciences and life sciences in separate categories, and we shall adopt the same here. In the present exercise, we shall curate the performance of Indian higher educational institutions (HEIs) in GRAS 2023, along the lines of earlier exercises for GRAS 2018 and GRAS 2022 reported in these pages[2,3].

GRAS 2023 was released on Friday, 27 October 2023. The 2023 release has listed about 1900 universities from 104 countries and regions. Universities appear at 19,150 instances (we shall call these units of assessment (UoAs)) across these 55 academic subjects. India appears 154 times, that is, a global share of only 0.8%.

As in our earlier studies[2,3], we have produced a curated list of India's presence in GRAS 2023 (not shown here but available with the author). Table 1 shows the fields and 24 subjects in which the country has no presence in GRAS 2023. India's research base is hugely skewed toward engineering (92 UoAs) (Table 2). Natural sciences come in a distant second with 28 UoAs. In medical sciences and social sciences, there has been some improvement. The situation with life sciences continues as seen in earlier years and needs special attention to improve the rankings in future.

In total, 63 (up from 45 in 2022) unique HEIs have appeared 154 times in GRAS 2023. India's share of HEIs in the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy (SRC) rankings is about 3.3% of the 1900 universities from 104 countries, and its share of appearances is only 0.80% of the 19,150 times that the 1900 universities have appeared in GRAS 2023.

We quickly curated the data from the SRC Subject Rankings 2023. India's research base continues to be dominated by engineering and natural sciences. In medical sciences and social sciences, its performance is poor, and that in life sciences continues to be as dismal as seen before[2,3].

For more information visit: https://www.shanghairanking.com/news/gras/2023 and https://www.shanghairanking.com/

Table 1. Fields and subjects in which Indian universities drew a blank in SRC GRAS 2023

Engineering	Aerospace engineering
Engineering	Marine and ocean engineering
Engineering	Mining and mineral engineering
Engineering	Nanoscience and nanotechnology
Engineering	Remote sensing
Natural sciences	Geography
Natural sciences	Oceanography
Life sciences	Biological sciences
Life sciences	Human biological sciences
Life sciences	Agricultural sciences
Medical sciences	Dentistry and oral sciences
Medical sciences	Nursing
Social sciences	Economics
Social sciences	Statistics
Social sciences	Law
Social sciences	Political sciences
Social sciences	Sociology
Social sciences	Education
Social sciences	Communication
Social sciences	Psychology
Social sciences	Finance
Social sciences	Public administration
Social sciences	Hospitality and tourism management
Social sciences	Library and information science

Table 2. India's presence in the SRC GRAS League Tables over the last six years

Field	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Engineering	125	108	105	98	84	92
Natural sciences	26	22	23	22	30	28
Medical sciences	7	13	12	11	13	20
Life sciences	0	3	4	2	2	1
Social sciences	6	7	10	7	4	13
Total	164	153	154	140	133	154

1. Balaram, P., *Curr. Sci.*, 2004, **86**(10), 1347–1348.
2. Prathap, G., *Curr. Sci.*, 2019, **116**(2), 232–238.
3. Prathap, G., *Curr. Sci.*, 2023, **123**(10), 1195–1198.

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