Karnataka State Government released Karnataka State Universities Rating Framework (KSURF) on 31.03.2017 by Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education
Sri. Basavaraj Rayareddi at Hotel Raddison Blu Atria, Palace Road, Bengaluru.

KSURF rates universities based on their strengths and locally-relevant yet globally-flavored aspects of higher education
#KSURF

Karnataka is the first amongst all the States to undertake a detailed audit & evaluation of all its universities – an effort similar to the Central Government's National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). In line with MHRD's vision of creating world-class universities in India, Government of Karnataka, through KSURF, aims to assess and identify the strengths and weaknesses of the universities in the State, and help them improve on their deficiencies. An annual exercise, the Council will rate universities under regionally-relevant yet globally-flavored parameters such as Research Excellence, Innovation, Teaching Excellence, Employability, Infrastructure and Inclusiveness & Social Impact. The framework consists of 5 broadparameters and 27 indicators.

For an unbiased and accurate assessment, universities are divided into four categories based on their year of inception and type – New University (0-5 years), Young University (5-10 years), Established University (10+ years) and Specialist University (specializes in ONE core discipline suchas Music, Agriculture, Horticulture, Folklore, Kannada Language, etc.)

In the inaugural edition of the ratings, under the Established Universities Category, Manipal University has been rated at the Top for Innovation & Research Quality, Visvesvaraya Technological University for Improvement in Research, Gulbarga University for Research Productivity, Bangalore University for Research Citations & KLE University for Industrial MOU's. In the Young Universities Category, JSS University & NITTE University score high on Teaching Excellence & International Diversity respectively. Amongst the New Universities established in the last 5 years, MS Ramaiah University has been rated very high on Patents, PES University for Domestic Diversity & Reva University on Infrastructure. In the Specialist Universities Category, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore is rated at the top for Inclusiveness &Social Impact whereas Kannada University & University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwadscore highonthe 'Facultywith PhD' Parameter.

At the end of the audit process, universities are awarded Stars for their overall performance and within 5 different parameters, where 5 Star stands for Excellent & Top Rated University, 4 Stars for Very Good University with Potential to Grow Higher, 3 Star for Good Quality University; 2 Stars for Average Quality and 1 Star for universities that needs improvement and immediate interventionbythe Government.

Unlike several indigenous and global rankings that usually provide universities with a single number or score with very little data on performance, KSURF, for the first time, will provide each University a detailed & exhaustive analytical report that senior leaders can use to draw up strategic plans to build on areas of strength and improve weak areas with an aim to achieve excellence regionally, nationally& globally.

There is an ongoing debate in the country that often, the ranking parameters adopted by the global agencies do not suit the Indian context. KSURF is an attempt by the Government to design a framework that takes into account parameters that are more relevant to the State & Country. For example, when assessing a university under Research Excellence and Innovation, aside from the usual and widely used parameters, KSURF also takes into consideration the Improvement in Research Productivity, Patents Filed, Number of Spin-off Companies and Numberof MOUs signedfor Industrial Researchapart from Social Development.

For instance, 'Perception' is an important aspect in all global as well as national rankings. For the first time, KSURF has employed a regional database and focused on respondents who display knowledge of local institutions. Often, institutes suffer bias in existing ranking frameworks as the database employed for the surveys does not constitute participants who mayhave first-handunderstandingof the institutions.

Another aspect that differentiates KSURF from other existing metrics is that it employs a 'rating mechanism' instead of ranking, as rankings are often subject to debate due to the unfair comparison between different types of Universities. Marginal differences by a few decimals causes substantial differences in ranking of institutions. Rating will ensure that institutes are not compared against one another but compared against a pre-set threshold that is reasonable, yet inspirational.

The larger intention of the ICARE Ratings is to serve as a tool that empowers students to make more informed choices about the study options available to them. Besides, it will provide the State Government a valuable tool to promote higher standards and encourage long-term strategies for socialandeconomicdevelopment inthe Indianhighereducationsector.

In a globalised world, it is the need of the hour to bring our higher educational institutes at par with the best in the globe. In a recent speech, Hon'ble President Shri Pranab Mukherjee questioned:"Is it possibletobecomea worldpower withouta singleworldclassuniversity?"

In an interview to CNN News 18 on September 2, 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "10 government and 10 private universities will be freed of all University Grants Commission rules. We will give them money and they must move towards becoming world-class universities. If rules were holdingthemup, we will remove the rules."

METHODOLOGY

Pillar	Parameter	Indicator
Knowledge Creation	Research Excellence	Publications per Faculty
		Citations Per Publication
		Improvement in Research Productivity
		H - Index
	Innovation	Patents applied
		Patents granted
		Spin off companies
		Industrial Research MOU
Knowledge Dissemination	Teaching Excellence & Employability	Faculty Student Ratio
		Faculty with PhD
		Accreditation
		International MOU
		Academic Reputation Survey
		Average Faculty Experience
		MOOC's / Online Education Availability
		Student Satisfaction Survey
		Employer Reputation Survey
		Campus Placement
	Infrastructure	Library
		Laboratory, Equipment and Practical Education
		Sports & Extracurricular Activities
Social Inclusion	Inclusiveness & Social Impact	Inclusion of Socially Under Privileged Student
		Inclusion of Socially Under Privileged Faculty
		Social and Development Responsibilities
		Scholarships & Bursaries
		Diversity Domestic
		Diversity International

KARNATAKA UNIVERSITIES SCORECARD

S. No.	UNIVERSITY	OVERALL STARS (Out of 5)	OVERALL SCORES (Out of 1000)	RESEARCH STARS (Out of 5)	INNOVATION STARS (Out of 5)	TEACHING EXCELLENCE & EMPLOYABILITY STARS (Out of 5)	INFRASTRUCTURE STARS (Out of 5)	INCLUSIVENESS & SOCIAL IMPACT STARS (Out of 5)
ESTABLISHED UNIVERSITIES (10 + Years)							
1	Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal	4	737	4	4	4	5	4
2	Gulbarga University, Gulbarga	3	557	4	1	3	4	4
3	K.L.E. Academy of Higher Education and Research, Belagavi	3	535	3	3	4	4	4
4	University of Mysore, Mysore	3	518	3	1	4	3	3
5	Bangalore University, Bangalore	3	493	4	1	2	4	3
6	Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi	3	488	3	1	3	3	4
7	Tumkur University, Tumkur	3	446	3	1	3	1	4
8	Mangalore University, Mangalore	3	428	3	1	3	3	4
YOUNG UNIVERSITIES (5 - 10 Years)							
1	Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreeswara University, Mysore	4	711	4	2	4	4	5
2	Jain University, Bangalore	4	661	4	3	4	4	4
3	Yenepoya University, Mangalore	3	585	3	2	4	4	5
4	NITTE University, Mangalore	3	554	3	1	4	5	5
5	Christ University, Bangalore	3	547	3	3	3	5	5
6	Sri Devraj Urs Academy of Higher Education and Research, Kolar	3	472	2	2	3	5	4
7	BLDE University, Bijapur	3	464	2	1	3	4	4
8	Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Bellary	3	462	3	1	3	3	4
9	Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education, Tumkur	2	374	2	0	3	2	4
10	Rani Channamma University, Belagavi	2	280	3	1	2	2	4
11	Davanagere University, Davangere	2	279	2	1	2	3	4
NEW UNIVERSITIES (Under 5 Years)							
1	PES University, Bangalore	4	617	4	3	3	4	4
2	M.S Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bangalore	4	603	3	5	3	4	3
3	Reva University, Bangalore	3	574	3	2	3	4	4
4	Dayananda Sagar University, Bangalore	3	464	3	1	3	3	3
5	KLE Technological University, Hubballi	3	437	3	3	3	2	3
6	Presidency University, Bangalore	2	322	1	1	3	2	4
7	Rai Technology University, Bangalore	2	305	2	1	2	2	3
SPECIALIST UNIVERSITIES							
1	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	4	779	4	4	5	4	4
2	Karnataka Veterinary, Animal & Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar	4	656	2	1	4	4	5
3	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore	4	634	4	1	3	3	5
4	Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana, Bangalore	3	580	5	0	4	2	4
5	Karnataka State Law University, Hubli	3	473	0	1	3	3	4
6	Karnataka State Women's University, Bijapur	3	460	2	1	3	2	5
7	University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot	3	445	2	2	3	0	4
8	Kannada University, Hampi	3	440	0	0	3	1	5
9	Karnataka State G.H Music & Performing Arts University, Mysore	2	338	0	0	2	1	4
10	Karnataka Samskrit University, Bangalore	2	321	0	0	2	0	4
11	Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru	2	301	2	0	2	1	4
12	Karnataka Folklore University, Gotagodi	2	289	0	1	1	2	5