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**News:** Free to think Index

## **Free to think Index**

- Free to think Index is an annual report published by the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Academic Freedom Monitoring Project.
- SAR is a network of 665 universities across the globe, including Columbia University, Duke University, and New York University.
- The report has looked extensively at India, Afghanistan, China, Colombia, Germany, Hong Kong, Iran, Israel, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Russia, Turkiye, Sudan, Ukraine, the U.K. and the U.S., while documenting 391 attacks on higher education communities in 51 countries between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.
- The report notes that India's academic freedom slipped from 0.6 points to 0.2 points from 2013 to 2023.

## International Academic Freedom Index (IAFI)

- International Academic Freedom Index (IAFI) is a collaborative effort by FAU (German University), Global Public Policy Institute (Berlin based think-tank), Risk Network (New York based organisation) and Varieties of Democracy Institute (based on University of Gothenburg, Sweden).
- The index relies expert assessments of five measures related to freedom to research and teach, freedom of academic exchange and dissemination, institutional autonomy, campus integrity (defined as the degree to which campuses are free from politically motivated surveillance or security-related infringements), and freedom of academic, cultural and political expression.
- India has scored considerably low in the IAFI with a score of 0.352, which is more or less equal to Saudi Arabia (0.278) and Libya (0.238).
- Countries like Malaysia (0.582), Pakistan (0.554) and Brazil (0.466) have outnumbered India.
- Uruguay and Portugal topped the IAFI with scores of 0.971 each.