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Collection of poems by former Dean of RIVER released

The Hindu Bureau
PUDUCHERRY

A new collection of poems by S. Ramkumar, former Dean of Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (RIVER), was released recently at an event organised in the Department of English, Pondicherry University.

'Strandom', a portmanteau of 'stray' and 'random,' features a set of 33 poems and represents the

2025 edition of a series of works the author has been engaging with over the years.

While rooted in the Indian English tradition, the poetry engages in free verse and seeks to transform everyday experiences into moments of reflection.

Clement S. Lourdes, Director, Culture and Cultural Relations handed over the first copy to Binu Zachariah, Head, Department of English.

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Pondicherry University figures in top 500 of QS Asia University 2026 rankings

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Pondicherry University has made it to the top 500 Universities in the QS Asia University Rankings 2026, marking a significant improvement on its previous ranking.

A press note from the University said the institution had secured the 470th position with an overall score of 30.7, among 1,526 institutions from 48 Asian countries.

The University ranked 7th among Central Universities in India and 63rd among Indian Universities while in the Southern Asia region, it advanced from 140 to 121 in the QS Asia University rankings.

The University said the new rankings marked a commendable improvement from its previous position in the 501-520 band in the 2025 rankings in terms of academic excellence, research output, and international engagement.

The advancement in overall score – from 18.8 in 2025 to 30.7 in 2026 – reflected notable improvements across multiple performance indicators.

Demand in job market

Among the various parameters of the QS Asia University Rankings 2026 where the University ramped up its performance were 'Academic Reputation' (from 16.4 to 22.9) to signify a

growing recognition of scholarly excellence and 'Employer Reputation' (from 9.2 to 13.3), reflecting the rising demand for its graduates in the job market.

Marked enhancement

The University also registered a marked enhancement in the Faculty-Student Ratio – from 8.5 to 15.3 – while 'Papers per Faculty' increased from 48.2 to 76.6 and 'Citations per Paper' grew from 16.9 to 19.4, clearly demonstrating greater research productivity and impact.

According to the press note, the University's internationalisation efforts also gained significant momentum, with the 'Internation-

al Faculty Ratio' increasing from 4.6 to 5.1 and the 'International Student Ratio' virtually doubling from 2.0 to 4.0.

Other achievements, include sharp rise in the 'International Research Network' score – from 26.3 to 77.6 – indicating a major expansion in global research collaborations; rise in the percentage of faculty holding PhDs from 74.5% to 97.4% and increased student mobility, the University said.

P. Prakash Babu, Vice-Chancellor, while congratulating the team for the efforts, called for sustaining the enthusiasm and focused commitment to further elevate the varsity's standing in future.