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INDIA, UNIVERSITIES AND THE NEW GEOGRAPHY OF RESEARCH

Evidence Thomson Reuters

INDIA'S UNIVERSITIES IN THE GLOBAL TOP LEAGUE

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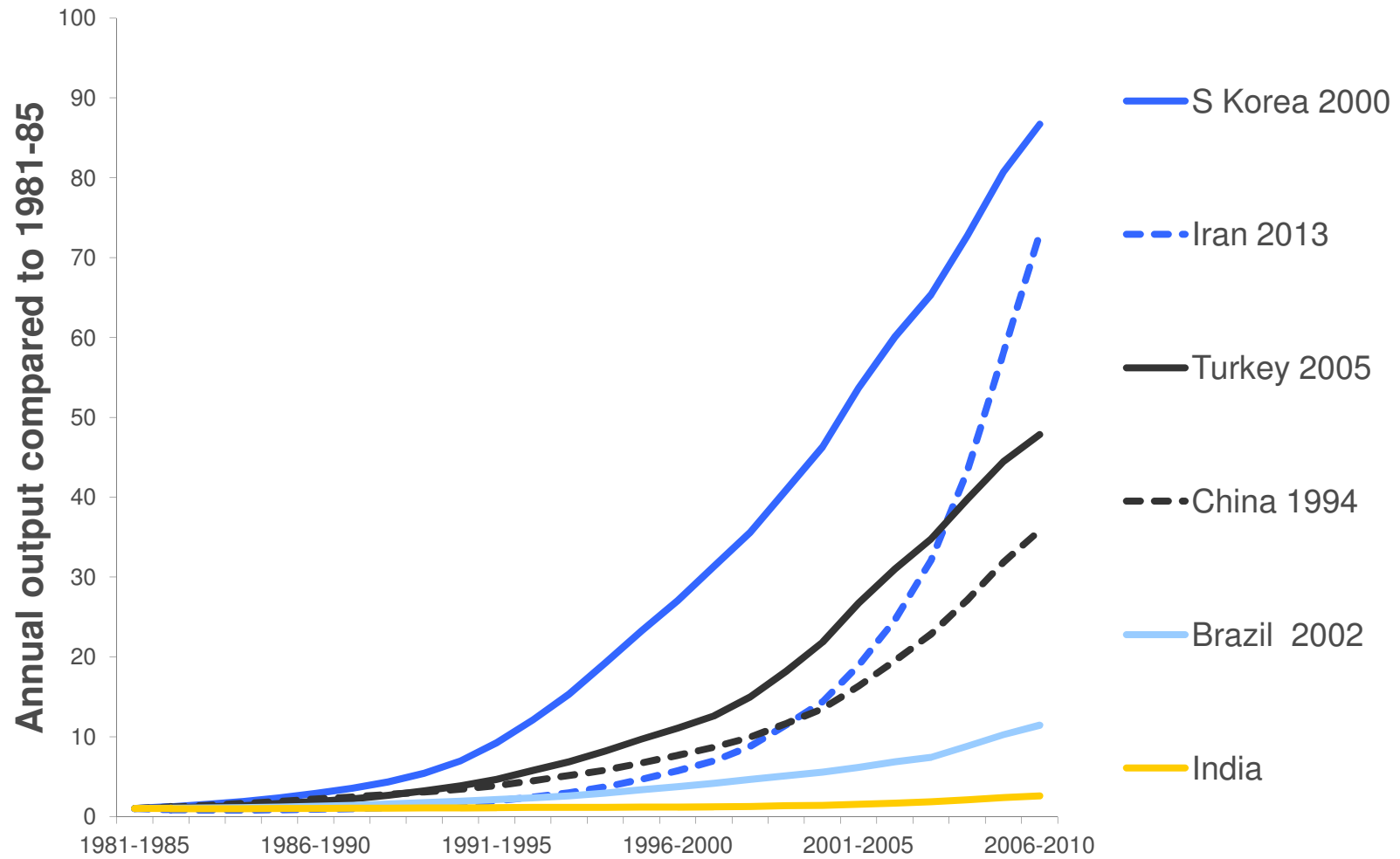
WHERE DOES INDIA STAND?

- India has a reputation for outstanding academic qualities
- In the early 1980s it stood as a scientific power in Asia
- It was strongly linked to the primary 'Atlantic' research axis
- Indian scholars were frequently recruited to other countries

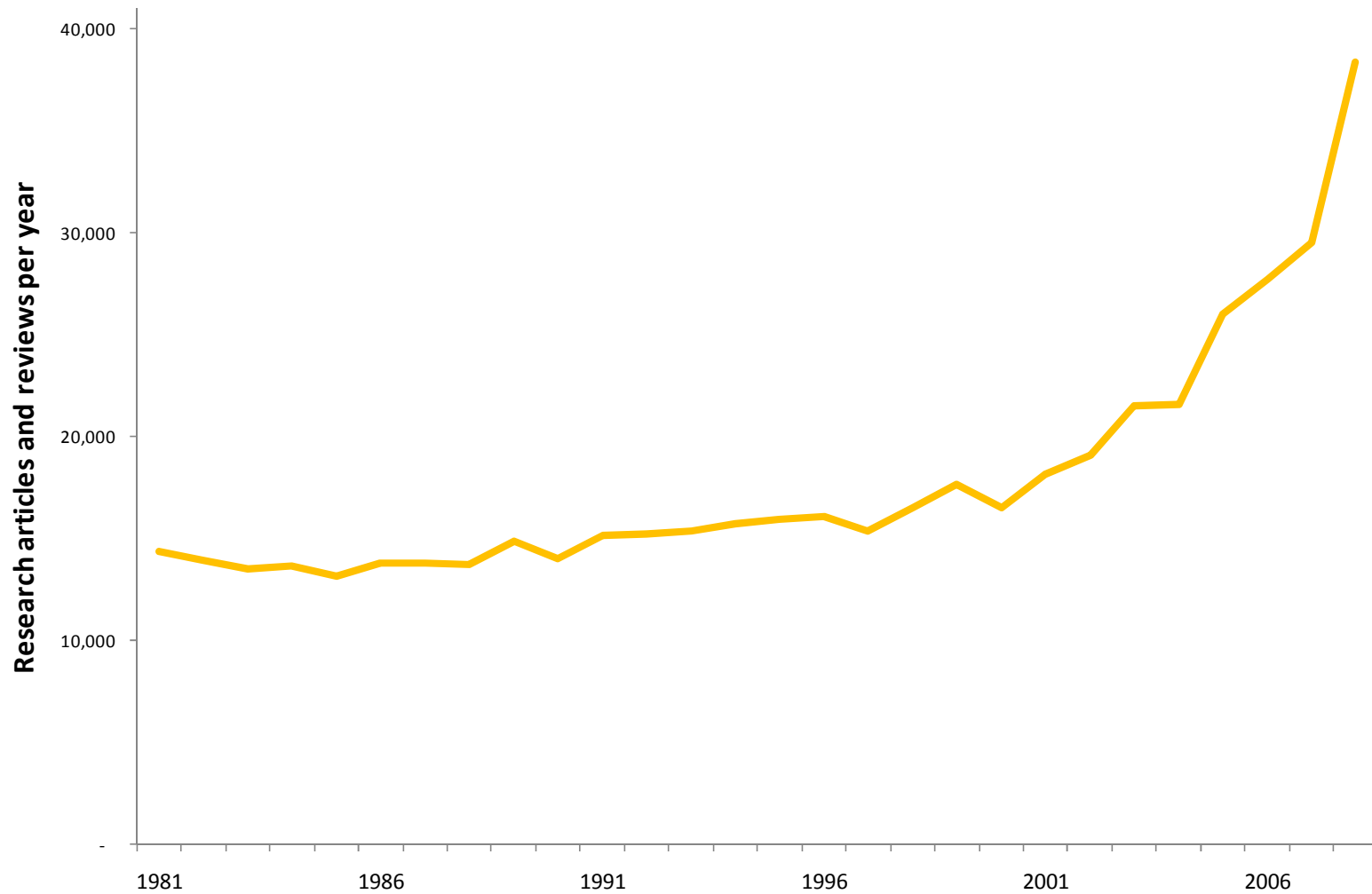
- But for 15 years it became a sleeping giant
- And other countries invested in their research base



A NEW GEOGRAPHY HAS EMERGED



INDIA'S RESEARCH OUTPUT HAS RECENTLY SHOWN STRONG GROWTH



IT NEEDS TO GROW: THE CHALLENGE IS HUGE

	India	UK
Population	1.2 billion, 2nd in world	65m, 22nd
GDP (PPP adjusted)	\$4Tn, 5th	\$2.2Tn, 8th
Challenges addressable by research	Endless	Luxury
Papers	3.5% of world	7.8%
Citation impact	0.68	1.38
Cited >4x world	2.6%	8%



THE CHALLENGE REQUIRES NOT ONLY QUANTITY BUT A REVALUATION OF QUALITY

- Research in leading economies is highly concentrated
- Per unit spend, university-led research systems produce more effective outcomes than institute-led systems
- UK research was in decline before the introduction of the RAE; 25 years of research assessment have led to
 - Increased concentration of resources - just 11 UK universities capture 50% of national funding
 - UK overtaking the US in average citation impact
 - 12 UK universities in Times Higher Education's top 100 'World University Ranking'
- So –
 - Are UK universities 'better' than Indian universities?
 - Should India's universities focus on their 'global ranking'?



REJECT THE BUBBLE 'REPUTATION'

- There is no global top league
- Universities are complex organizations not reducible to a single index
 - Main missions around both teaching and research
 - Diversity of faculties and subject cultures
 - Contrast and divergence in strategic focus
- We need a more reflective, expert assessment
 - Multiple indicators, relevant to the challenge to be faced
 - Appropriate benchmarks, like-for-like comparisons
- Well-structured peer review supplemented and challenged by appropriate indicators with transparent visual presentation
- Well-founded strategies that secure real growth and development, not false targets

