THE SUPERSTAR STATE:
NIRF NEEDLE IS ON TAMIL NADU
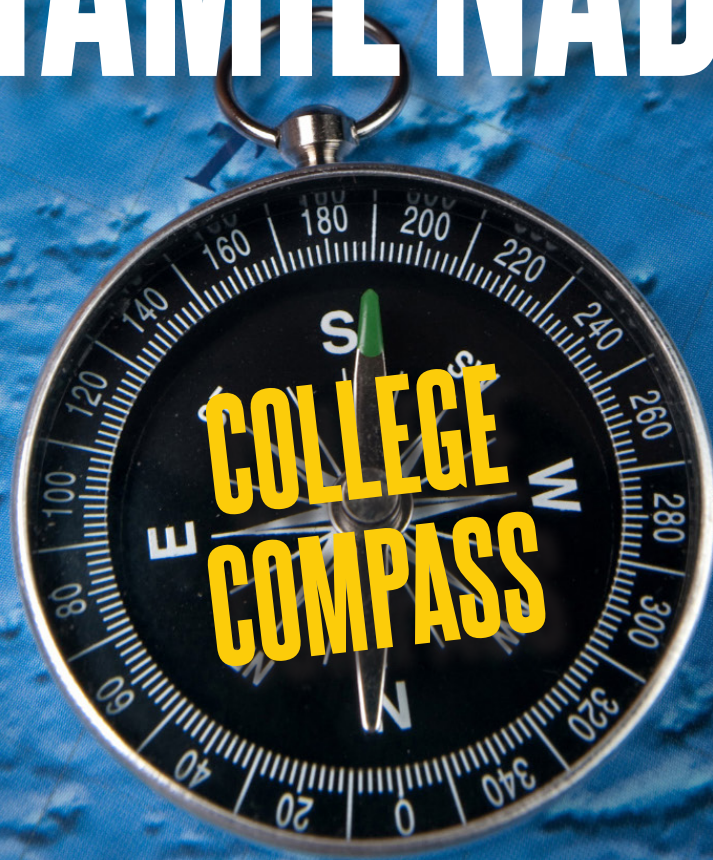
COLLEGE COMPASS

Take a map of India and start shading states according to their higher-education muscle. By the time you finish, you will find that one state dominates the canvas. That state is Tamil Nadu, the southern tip of India. From Chennai to Coimbatore, from Tiruchirappalli to Vellore, It rocks. The admissions queue outside Loyola or PSG gives you a visual clue. And now, the NIRF 2025 ranking confirms what most people have intuitively known.

The numbers hit at you like a thunderclap. Pause for a moment, sip some coffee, and look at them. In the Colleges category, 33 from Tamil Nadu make the national 100. It's more than any other state. In the Overall category, 17 make the cut, and across the 17 categories of NIRF, Tamil Nadu has the strongest presence in 11. It is like running away with the Olympic medals.

Mark it: this is not about leaning on one superstar institute and riding high on its piggy tail. It is about depth and density. It's about a system that produces top performers across the spectrum – medicine, management, law, research, and beyond. As though, everyone and his uncle has worked towards making the state an education super star.

All of this matters because NIRF is no longer just an annual scoreboard. It is now the currency for credibility. Parents turn to it before buying an admission form for their children. Students look into it before boarding a train for the interview. And it's what faculty members look at before signing their work contract.

To lead in this space is, boy, aspirational. In 2025, Tamil Nadu did just that. And that makes it jump out of the list.

By...

Dr. Anbuthambi Bhojarajan

Educationist, Author and Public Speaker. Head of Strategy & Incubation at L&T EduTech. Formerly President of ICT Academy, a successful public–private partnership. He fosters deep collaborations among industry, academia, and government.

CA V. Pattabhi Ram

Author, public speaker, and teacher; he has taught over 76,000 CA students. His writing spans novels, biographies, non-fiction, and text books.

In 2024, Rotary International conferred on him the Lifetime Achievement Award.

ONE IN EVERY FIVE

Rankings are never about numbers. They are always about signals. They show where talent, in terms of teachers or students, will gravitate. For Tamil Nadu, dominating NIRF 2025 is not just a scoreboard success. It is the validation of a system that took decades to build.

The story began with Kamaraj's midday meal scheme. Children came for the food but stayed for learning. Successive governments carried this forward. The DMK linked education to social justice, and the AIADMK expanded it through welfare and broader access. Together, they gave the system depth and density. Ultimately, education became a consensus in Tamil Nadu

When we first read the list, we kept circling Tamil Nadu repeatedly. It felt unfair! Look at the sheer scale. In the Overall category, 33 of the top 200 institutions are from Tamil Nadu. In Engineering, it is 58 out of 300. In Universities, 30/200. Put differently: every fifth engineering college ranked in India is from this state. And in Colleges, a staggering 109 out of 300. That's one in three. No other state comes even close.

Think of what this means. A student from say Patna looking at the rankings, sees Tamil Nadu not as a far-away state but as the must-go destination. A faculty member weighing offers from institutions is attracted by the density of ranked colleges in Tamil Nadu. Even policymakers in Delhi cannot overlook when one state wins across the spectrum. They begin to see it as a benchmark for others to catch up.

Apart from recognition, rankings shape choices. Students throng higher ranked colleges for admissions. Principals of colleges that climbed the ranking ladder say that the visibility has got them more students from other states. Similarly, recruiters are making changes in their campus lists based on NIRF scores. So, you can't just pooh-pooh the importance of these rankings.

Tamil Nadu leading in 11 of 17 categories, is a matter of prestige for it. More importantly, it is a source of competitive advantage. With so many institutions performing at a national level, the pressure to innovate comes not from a distant state, but from the neighbour who is a railstation away. A medical college in Madurai must rise to the standards set by its peer in Coimbatore. An engineering campus in Chennai must match the research intensity of others a few rail-stations away. Jim Collins would call this the flywheel effect: one college pushes another, and the momentum snowballs the whole system forward.

In short, that is NIRF 2025's biggest contribution to the states.

The story is clear: one in every five engineering colleges, one in every three Arts & Science colleges, and a solid block of universities all carry the Tamil Nadu imprint. Bravo. ▶

NIRF 2025 Front Running States

State	Overall (Top 200)
Tamil Nadu	34
Maharashtra	15
Uttar Pradesh	15
Delhi	13
Karnataka	13

State	Colleges (Top 300)
Tamil Nadu	109
Kerala	74
Delhi	50
Maharashtra	12
Karnataka	9

State	Engineering (Top 300)
Tamil Nadu	58
Telangana	25
Karnataka	24
Maharashtra	24
Andhra Pradesh	23

State	Universities (Top 200)
Tamil Nadu	30
Karnataka	20
Maharashtra	18
Uttar Pradesh	17
Andhra Pradesh	11

State	State Public Universities
Tamil Nadu	11
Uttar Pradesh	10
Maharashtra	8
Andhra Pradesh	7
Karnataka	7

State	Management
Uttar Pradesh	16
Maharashtra	14
Tamil Nadu	13
Delhi	10
Haryana	6

WHY TAMIL NADU STANDS OUT

Tamil Nadu doesn't just teach, it invents. IIT Madras alone clocks more than 200 patents a year. Step inside its Research Park and you'll find 70-plus companies and close to 500 startups rubbing shoulders with professors and students. It's like Silicon Valley.

Let's find out why the state scores so well across the board.

Policy Autonomy

Tamil Nadu's universities enjoy unbelievable academic freedom. Almost 50 years ago, in 1978, the Madras University unleashed the first wave of autonomy. In it, eight colleges broke free from the shackles of university control. They were allowed to draft the syllabus, carry out the entire examination process, and announce the result. The university simply signed the graduation certificate. Today, more than half the state's colleges run on autonomy — 51 per cent, to be precise.

In practice, this means that an autonomous college in Tamil Nadu can launch a fintech course or add AI into commerce without waiting for anyone's okay. That's speed to market. No approvals. No delays. Just done. This is not so in many other states.

Accreditation Density

A second driver is 'accreditation.'

Step into a Tamil Nadu college and ask for a meeting with the principal, and chances are that as you wait in the ante-room, you'll come face to face with framed NAAC or NBA certificates. Certificates first, principal next is how they wear the honour badges!

For several years, the state's institutions have faced accreditation audit and benchmarked themselves against those tough standards. The audit is for sure a grind, but the grind built a habit, and the habit built a culture. In many other states accreditation is seen as a pain; a process to be gone through. "Let's be done with it," is the approach. In Tamil Nadu, it is taken with a whole lot of seriousness. That's why you see a very high number of NAAC A and A+ institutions.

Jim Collins, in *Good to Great*, called this the 'flywheel effect.' It is about how small, disciplined actions, repeated again and again, creates an unstoppable momentum. Every audit pushes institutions closer to excellence, until one day the entire state is unconsciously excelling on it.

Why Tamil Nadu Stands Out

Driver	Key Features
Policy Autonomy	First autonomy in 1978 (Madras University). 335 colleges in the State are now autonomous.
Accreditation Density	High number of NAAC A/A+ institutions. Accreditation treated seriously.
Research Hubs	IIT Madras: 200+ patents/year; Research Park with 70+ companies, 500+ startups; Anna University, VIT, SRM and SASTRA are active.
College Ecosystem	335 autonomous colleges; mix of aided and private; run by community trusts and religious institutions.

Research Hubs

The third winning factor is research. Tamil Nadu doesn't just teach, it invents. IIT Madras alone clocks more than 200 patents a year. Step inside its Research Park and you'll find 70-plus companies and close to 500 startups rubbing shoulders with professors and students. It's like Silicon Valley. Anna University is into it too, and so are private players like SRM, VIT, and SASTRA. The result? Tamil Nadu is no longer a factory that produces graduates, but a thriving hub that creates knowledge.

In case you want a management label for this, Michael Porter has ready: clusters. His theory is that industries, universities, and startups grow faster when they sit side by side and feed off each other. Walk through the IIT Madras Research Park and you'll see that theory alive, buzzing, and noisy with energy.

College Ecosystem

Finally, the backbone of Tamil Nadu's higher education is its college system. For decades, community trusts and religious institutions continue to run many of them. These march alongside private autonomous colleges, and together complement each other. If you don't have the means, your kids can study in an aided college at an affordable fee. If you can afford it, you can send your children to a campus that looks and feels global. With over 335 autonomous colleges from the Indian universe of 1410, the college eco system is immensely decentralised. Also, the gap between the top and the median one is more balanced in the state.

In a different context, Jim Collins put it bluntly: "First who, then what." Tamil Nadu got the 'who' right viz., trusts with a mission, community leaders with commitment, and educators who cared. The 'what' namely curriculum and growth automatically followed suit. ◗

Tamil Nadu's Higher-Ed Playbook: The STRIPS Grid

S – Skills for the Future
Naan Mudhalvan equips lakhs with industry-ready skills, career guidance, and entrepreneurial exposure.

T – Teachers Who Learn
Faculty are nudged to upgrade, colleges fund higher studies, and young academics are groomed as leaders.

R – Research + Startups
IIT Madras Research Park anchors a buzzing startup ecosystem; smaller universities foster ventures.

I – Industry at the Table
Industry co-designs curriculum, mentors students, and drives internships and real-world projects.

P – Policy + Partnerships
Progressive government funding, forward-looking policies, and strong industry bodies (CII, NASSCOM, FICCI).

S – School to College Pipeline
Strong school system ensures a steady pipeline to colleges; early literacy investments pay dividends.

CONTRASTING PICTURE

Tamil Nadu may shine in the NIRF 2025 tables, but other states add their own strokes to the canvas. Each has a story to tell -- of progress made and challenges faced. Each has a chance to burst ahead.

Maharashtra: Balanced Spread

If Tamil Nadu is about density, Maharashtra is about spread. The state doesn't dominate in any single category, but it makes its presence felt everywhere—engineering, management, universities, and research. Mumbai, Pune, and Nagpur form a three-city axis, with IIT Bombay, TISS, and the Pune university cluster giving it weight. In portfolio terms, Maharashtra is diversified: steady returns, but no runaway leader.

Uttar Pradesh: Management Push

Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, draws strength from the size and reach of its state universities and its growing base of management schools. Institutions like Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow and A P J Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) give it visibility. In recent years, the government has added new universities and colleges with the clear aim of making it to the NIRF tables. UP shows sparks in management and state universities but has miles to travel in research. Nurtured carefully, it can become a frontrunner.

Kerala and Delhi: College Powerhouses

If Tamil Nadu dominates by scale, Kerala and Delhi challenge it by depth. Nowhere is this fight sharper than in the Colleges list. Delhi's St. Stephen's, Hindu, and Lady Shri Ram are icons, shaping generations with their liberal arts and social science culture. Kerala's church-run colleges, too, have built reputations of excellence. For Tamil Nadu, the Kerala–Delhi story reminds the power of a few stars. If the State can marry scale with a few more marquee names, it would be unstoppable.

Eastern States: Missing in Action

Making up the rear are the absentees. The eastern belt—Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, the North-East—remain marginal players in the NIRF rankings. The reasons perhaps are: weaker school pipelines, limited private investment, and policy inertia. Yet, even here, IIT Kharagpur and NIT Rourkela prove what is possible when institutions get the right kind of leadership.

If Tamil Nadu wants to stay ahead, it must diversify like Maharashtra, be ambitious like UP, and nurture its colleges with the care Kerala and Delhi have shown. For a state that has a long history of being a citadel of education, these are doable. ◗

The Other States

State/Region	Key Strengths	Principal Challenges
Maharashtra	Diversified presence across engineering, management, research.	No runaway leader.
Uttar Pradesh	Big universities, management schools (IIM Lucknow, AKTU). Ambitious expansion.	Weak in research.
Kerala & Delhi	College powerhouses (St. Stephen's, LSR, Kerala church-run colleges).	Lack of scale; reliant on marquee names.
Eastern States	Few bright spots (IIT KGP, NIT Rourkela).	Weak pipeline, limited private investment, policy inertia.

CHALLENGES WITHIN

For all its presence on the NIRF tables, Tamil Nadu's higher-education system faces challenges. Let's identify a few so that the rough edges can be ironed out.

Scale–Quality Tension

Scale has been Tamil Nadu's strength. But it can also be a trap. With 335 autonomous colleges and hundreds more affiliated, the pressure to maintain quality is huge. Not every autonomous college lives up to it initial promise. The danger is clear: when volume outpaces vigilance, reputation suffers.

Research Beyond the Few

Research is another double-edged sword. IIT Madras, Anna University, VIT and Sastra shine in patents and publications. But scratch below the surface, and a long list of institutions struggle. For many colleges, "research" still means mandatory paper submissions. Unless research broadens, Tamil Nadu risks creating islands of excellence in an ocean of mediocrity.

Faculty Renewal

The best students are increasingly opting for industry over academia. Many faculty positions remain vacant; others are filled with underpaid, temporary staff. In too many colleges, PowerPoint slides from a decade ago are still in circulation. Without a conscious investment in faculty renewal, the state's institutional advantage could erode.

Employability vs. Employment

Placements are strong in metro institutions. But travel beyond, and the story is uneven. Employers complain that graduates lack soft skills, practical exposure, and adaptability. Employability does not match employment. People argue that this is what is said of every generation. But this time the crisis is real. In a world that has slowly begun to date AI, green energy, and advanced manufacturing, Tamil Nadu must ensure its graduates are globally competitive.

Autonomy vs. Accountability

Finally, autonomy itself is not all summer and sunshine. The freedom that allows a college to innovate can also allow it to stagnate if leadership is complacent. Visionary principals and committed management boards lead some of the autonomous colleges. Others are led like family fiefdoms. The challenge for the state is to preserve the spirit of autonomy while tightening systems of accountability.

As Shakespeare reminds us in Henry IV, "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." Tamil Nadu wears that crown today. The shine is real, but so is the weight. Scale without consistent quality, research without depth, and autonomy without accountability can weaken the state's edge. ▶

Hidden Faultlines

Challenge	Explanation
Scale–Quality Tension	335 autonomous colleges; risk of uneven quality.
Research Beyond the Few	IITM, Anna University, VIT, Sastra strong, but many lag.
Faculty Quality & Renewal	Vacancies, underpaid staff, outdated pedagogy.
Employability vs. Jobs	Skills mismatch outside metro institutions.
Autonomy vs. Accountability	Freedom sometimes leads to stagnation.

TALENT HOUSE
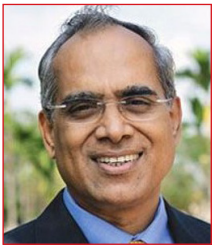
The fact that Southern states have greater literacy, higher GER and excellent institutions is well known. But it is not well publicised that Tamil Nadu is ahead in all categories, until the recent NIRF rankings. Focus on education by the people of the state, freedom from controls by the administration, the spirit of shared knowledge by educationists and the support for good governance of educational institutions have paved the way for a stand out performance.

With the highest GER in the country, Tamil Nadu has become the talent supplier for this country. The aspiration has to move towards being the knowledge creators and innovators for the country, through stepped up investment, collaborative research with neighbouring states and spreading a spirit of liberating education as a sector.

We have answers to all the questions we have asked. We need students and teachers who will dare ask the questions that have never been asked before. This can happen only through higher education and research.

While TN may stand out now, we have to keep setting the bar higher and higher, to make the country a great intellectual force.

N Lakshmi Narayanan
Emeritus Vice Chairman, Cognizant,
Chancellor, Krea University

GLOBAL MODEL

We are proud to be a torchbearer of Tamil Nadu's excellence in higher education. Our achievements in the NIRF 2025 rankings -- 23rd Overall, 2nd in Dental,11th in Medical, 13th in Research, 19th in Law, 45th in Engineering, 63rd in Management -- is proof that world-class education and innovation can flourish in India. This is due to visionary leadership, outcome-based education, and global collaborations.

With more than 36 universities and thousands of colleges, the state possesses a rich academic eco-

system. The State's strengths in terms of international partnerships, translational research, and digital learning platforms are key in continuing its legacy of inclusivity.

I firmly believe Tamil Nadu has the potential to be a global model where knowledge, innovation, and human values converge.

Dr. N. M. Veeraiyan
Chancellor, Saveetha University

MAGNIFICIENT SHOW

At PSGR Krishnammal College, our consistent leadership in the NIRF rankings is the result of a holistic and sustained pursuit of excellence. Our strength lies in a multi-dimensional approach – rigorous academics, high-impact research, innovation and entrepreneurship, strong industry partnerships, and a culture that empowers women. Faculty development, international collaborations, digital integration, and a strong alumni network have played a crucial role in ensuring that our education remains contemporary, inclusive, and globally relevant.

Tamil Nadu's remarkable performance in the NIRF rankings is due to the synergy between progressive government policies, dynamic institutions, and a culture that values both tradition and innovation. The state has created an enabling ecosystem where excellence thrives across disciplines. Looking ahead, Tamil Nadu can further strengthen its position by expanding interdisciplinary research hubs, fostering AI-driven and digital pedagogy, deepening industry–academia linkages, and building stronger international collaborations. These steps will make Tamil Nadu a magnet for students across India and the world.

We at PSGR Krishnammal College are proud to be part of this transformative journey and remain committed to advancing a vision for inclusive, innovative, and globally benchmarked higher education.

Dr. Nandini Rangaswamy
Chairperson, PSGR Krishnammal
College of Arts and Science

LEARNING LEAD

Tamil Nadu has always been ahead of times in higher education policy making. There is a good mix of specialised and multidisciplinary HEIs. This has ensured Tamil Nadu's leadership in most of the NIRF ranking categories.

The presence of all types of HEIs - multidisciplinary INIs, Deemed Universities, SPUs, Autonomous Colleges – has created coherent synergy in maximising outcomes in graduation, research, IP, and infrastructure.

SASTRA's focus on a balanced approach towards rankings without compromising on quality has ensured sustained consistent performance without diluting its core competencies. We intend to carry this forward.

As long as there is healthy competition amongst HEIs, the role of Tamil Nadu in the larger education landscape will only keep continue to grow.

Dr.S.Vaidhyasubramaniam
Vice-Chancellor, SASTRA Deemed University

ONWARD & UPWARD

This year Ethiraj College for Women moved up by 30 places in two academic years to secure the 64th Rank in the NIRF Rankings list. Specifically we have done well in key parameters such as Perception, Graduation Outcome and Teaching, Learning and Resources.

'Perception and Graduation Outcome' capture the success of our graduates. NIRF measured these through direct surveys with employers, professionals from reputed organisations, and academics – which confirmed our strong reputation in the community, Teaching, Learning and Resources are the direct effort of the excellent faculty that ensure the knowledge dissemination is of the highest level.

Staying on top and improving is an ongoing process. Technology disruptions have made it abundantly clear that education should gear up for transformation. The workplaces of the future will demand graduates with tech proficiency, critical thinking, and lifelong learning skills. Upskilling our teachers is a top priority. They must be provided with the tools and knowledge to effectively deliver a modern curriculum . They should also be trained to customize instruction based on student needs. This includes incorporating AI-driven learning analytics.

Tamil Nadu has always been a pioneer in education, and it has the potential to lead the nation into the future. At this stage, education must embrace digital transformation, inclusivity, industry collaboration, and lifelong learning so that our students are adaptable and globally competitive.

This vision for education will position Tamil Nadu as a global knowledge hub and pave the way for a more equitable and innovative society.

VM Muralidharan
Chairman, Ethiraj College for Women

ROBUST ECOSYSTEM

Tamil Nadu has emerged as a national leader in higher education, consistently churning a strong performance in the NIRF rankings. It has one of the highest concentrations of top-ranked institutions in India.

One core reason behind this success is the robust Training & Placement ecosystem. Our Training & Placement Officers (TPO) play a critical role in strengthening the link between industry and academia, ensuring that students are not only academically strong but also employable, innovative, and competitive.

Going forward, foreign collaborations will be a game-changer. International admissions, global internships, joint research, and faculty/student exchanges will further strengthen our NIRF performance.

TNATPO will empower every placement officer in the state with the right frameworks, best practices, and industry networks so that together we can push our institutions into the top tiers. With collective effort, the state can continue to set benchmarks in employability, skilling, and higher education excellence.

Dr. Ganesh Krish
Director – CDC & IR, BSA Crescent University
Founder & President – TNATPO

Diagnostic Checklist

Tamil Nadu's higher education system is a paradox — it leads in scale, autonomy, and research, yet faces uneven quality and a fragile edge. Let's present these at a glance, for a quick reading.

What Works Today

Let's start with a foundation of strengths. Tamil Nadu's institutions are numerous and they are empowered, accredited, and connected to industry. Its something that few states can match. Look at this.

- 51% of colleges are autonomous, giving freedom to innovate faster than peers.
- High density of NAAC A and A+ institutions — accreditation here is culture, not ritual.
- IIT Madras anchors a Research Park with 70+ companies and 500 startups.
- A diverse ecosystem of aided, private, and trust-run colleges widens access.
- Strong IT and manufacturing linkages keep curricula tied to jobs.

Where Cracks Show

The very abundance that powers Tamil Nadu's dominance creates vulnerabilities, where scale without consistency becomes a liability.

- 335 autonomous colleges, but quality remains patchy
- Research culture concentrated in a few hubs; elsewhere it is compliance-driven.
- Faculty shortages and reliance on temporary, underpaid staff.
- Employability gaps persist
- Autonomy is wasted when leadership is complacent

What's Next

The horizon is wide open. If Tamil Nadu steps out of its comfort zone, it can step into global recognition as well.

- Move beyond NIRF to QS/THE global rankings through partnerships and research.
- Recast curricula for Industry 4.0/5.0.
- Expand scholarships, strengthen rural colleges, and raise women's participation.
- Spread research culture beyond top hubs with new funding models.
- Encourage industry-backed research across a wider institutional base.

What Can Undermine the Edge

But leadership is never permanent. Other states are catching up, and policy frictions could easily blunt Tamil Nadu's edge.

- Maharashtra, UP, Kerala, and Delhi are in hot pursuit.
- Brain drain of faculty and students to global universities is a distinct possibility.
- Policy divergence with NEP/UGC could cause friction.
- If quality and employability gaps widen, Tamil Nadu's lead could erode quickly.

If Tamil Nadu wants to stay ahead, it must diversify like Maharashtra, be ambitious like UP, and nurture its colleges with the care Kerala and Delhi have shown.

WHAT LIES AHEAD

However, challenge is also an opportunity. Here's how Tamil Nadu can hold and evolve. Let us remember for leadership is a moving target.

From Quantity to Distinction
The first pivot is to move from quantity to distinction. The state has mastered scale; now it must differentiate. Its institutions must begin to ask: what is our signature? Is it research in AI and green tech? Is it applied engineering for industry? Or is it world-class liberal arts? This soul-searching cannot be postponed anymore.

Research for All
IIT Madras and a few others carry the research badge. But if Tamil Nadu wants to be a global research hub, the research spirit must catch fire. This means investing in doctoral programmes, incentivising collaborations with industry, and pushing for international publications beyond the usual journals. The challenge is to move from a few shining lighthouses to an entire sea that glows.

Faculty as Change-Makers
A new generation of teachers, who are globally trained and locally committed, must be nurtured. The state should not just attract top talent but also keep them from drifting to industry. Pay the faculty better, give them more research freedom, and provide holistic development. Run exchange programs with global universities, offer sabbaticals, and handout startup-style innovation grants. These can make teaching careers attractive again.

Digital and Global Orientation

The next frontiers are digital and global. Hybrid classrooms, international collaborations, and student mobility are the new mantras. Tamil Nadu must ride this wave early—partnering with Asian, European, and US universities to co-create degrees, bringing international students in large number to the state, and enabling its own students to study abroad.

Industry 4.0 … and 5.0

The state's industrial corridors are a natural advantage. But with the arrival of Industry 4.0—AI, robotics, additive manufacturing—the skills set is shifting. A placement-driven model that stops at employability is dated. What is needed is a model that prepares graduates not just for today's jobs but for tomorrow's industries. That is hard, but leadership means doing hard things.

Balancing Access and Excellence

Tamil Nadu must keep its moral contract intact: access for the all. Expanding scholarships, strengthening rural colleges, and ensuring women's participation in the workforce are not marginal notes; they are central to success and must not be forgotten. A higher-education system that loses inclusivity will also lose legitimacy. ◗

A LEADERSHIP MOMENT

Tamil Nadu has mastered the NIRF tables. The next goal is 'global leap.' In an interconnected world, reputation is no longer built only in Chennai or Delhi, in Mumbai or Lucknow. It is built in Shanghai, London, Vancouver, and New York.

Rankings like QS set the global bar. In this Indian institutions lag. IIT Madras, Anna University, and a few private deemed universities have started appearing, but the state's presence is thin. Leadership in 2025 cannot be measured by NIRF alone. There is more to be done.

The real prize is global recognition: collaborations with top universities, attract world-class, and do a gold rush towards patents and publications. Tamil Nadu's task is to be seen in the world. Leadership moments last only as long as they are seized. Tamil Nadu now stands at such a moment: it can either consolidate its advantage and leap into the global arc, or rest on its domestic dominance and watch others catch up. The choice is its.

But one thing is sure. If higher education is India's next sunrise sector, Tamil Nadu today stands at dawn. ◗

REF: 01092025

NIRF-RANKED COLLEGES IN TAMIL NADU

Name	Rank
OVERALL CATEGORY	
Indian Institute of Technology Madras	1
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	17
Vellore Institute of Technology	21
S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology	22
Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences	23
Anna University	29
National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli	30
Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education	48
Shanmugha Arts Science Technology & Research Academy	51
Bharathidasan University	61
University of Madras	68
Alagappa University	73
Bharathiar University	76
Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering	82
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	88
Bharath Institute of Higher Education & Research	90
Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology	93
Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research	101-150
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli	101-150
Madurai Kamaraj University	101-150
Central University of Tamil Nadu	101-150
Chettinad Academy of Research and Education	101-150
PSG College of Technology	101-150
Madras Medical College & Government General Hospital	101-150
Vel Tech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala R & D Inst of Sci and Tech	151-200
Vels Institute of Science Technology and Advanced Studies	151-200
Periyar University	151-200
Dr. M. G. R. Educational and Research Institute	151-200
Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research	151-200
Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences	151-200
Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science (HITS)	151-200
KPR Institute of Engineering and Technology	151-200
Chennai Institute of Technology	151-200
Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science & H E for Women	151-200

Name	Rank
Shanmugha Arts Science Technology & Research Academy	29
Bharathidasan University	36
University of Madras	38
Alagappa University	44
Bharathiar University	46
Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology	53
Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research	60
Chettinad Academy of Research and Education	61
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	73
Bharath Institute of Higher Education & Research	76
Central University of Tamil Nadu	83
Madurai Kamaraj University	85
Periyar University	94
Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science & H E for Women	99
Vel Tech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala R & D Inst for Sci & Tech	101-150
Vels Institute of Science Technology and Advanced Studies	101-150
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli	101-150
Dr. M. G. R. Educational and Research Institute	101-150
Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research	101-150
Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences	101-150
Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science (HITS)	101-150
Annamalai University	101-150
Karpagam Academy of Higher Education	101-150
Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University	151-200

STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY	
Anna University	2
Bharathiar University	10
Alagappa University	14
Bharathidasan University	16
University of Madras	18
Madurai Kamaraj University	31
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli	33
Annamalai University	34
Periyar University	40
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	42
Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University	51-100

UNIVERSITY	
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	8
S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology	11
Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences	13
Vellore Institute of Technology	14
Anna University	20
Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education	28

ENGINEERING	
Indian Institute of Technology Madras	1
National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli	9
S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology	14
Vellore Institute of Technology	16

Name	Rank
Anna University	20
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	23
Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education	33
Shanmugha Arts Science Technology & Research Academy	40
Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences	45
Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar College of Engineering	47
Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology	67
PSG College of Technology	67
Vel Tech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala R & D Inst for Sci & Tech	87
Sri Krishna College of Engineering and Technology	100
Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences	101-150
Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science (HITS)	101-150
Thiagarajar College of Engineering	101-150
Rajalakshmi Engineering College	101-150
PSG Institute of Technology and Applied Research	101-150
KPR Institute of Engineering and Technology	101-150
Kongu Engineering College	101-150
Easwari Engineering College	101-150
Chennai Institute of Technology	101-150
Coimbatore Institute of Technology	101-150
NIFTEM - Thanjavur	101-150
Vels Institute of Science Technology and Advanced Studies	151-200
Dr. M. G. R. Educational and Research Institute	151-200
B. S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology	151-200
Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College	151-200
Sona College of Technology	151-200
Sri Sai Ram Institute of Technology	151-200
Sri Sairam Engineering College	151-200
R.M.K. Engineering College	151-200
Mepco Schlenk Engineering College	151-200
Kumaraguru College of Technology	151-200
IIIT Design & Manufacturing, Kancheepuram	151-200
Annamalai University	201-300
Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering	201-300
St. Joseph`s Institute of Technology	201-300
St. Josephs College of Engineering	201-300
SNS College of Technology	201-300
Sri Eshwar College of Engineering	201-300
Saveetha Engineering College	201-300
R. M. K. College of Engineering and Technology	201-300
R.M.D Engineering College	201-300
Rajalakshmi Institute of Technology	201-300
Rathinam Technical Campus	201-300
PSNA College of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul	201-300
Prince Shri Venkateshwara Padmavathy Engineering College	201-300

Name	Rank
Panimalar Engineering College	201-300
National Engineering College	201-300
M.Kumarasamy College of Engineering	201-300
K. Ramakrishnan College of Technology	201-300
K. Ramakrishnan College of Engineering	201-300
Kalaignar Karunanidhi Institute of Technology	201-300
Karpagam College of Engineering	201-300
Hindusthan College of Engineering and Technology	201-300
E.G.S. Pillay Engineering College	201-300

MANAGEMENT	
Indian Institute of Technology Madras	13
Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli	16
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	26
Great Lakes Institute of Management	37
Loyola Institute of Business Administration	55
S.R.M. Institute of Science and Technology	56
National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli	57
Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences	63
Thiagarajar School of Management	80
PSG College of Technology	84
Anna University	88
Bharathidasan Institute of Management	96
Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science (HITS)	101-125

COLLEGES	
PSGR Krishnammal College for Women	9
PSG College of Arts and Science	10
Loyola College	14
Presidency College	15
Madras Christian College	16
Thiagarajar College	20
V.O. Chidambaram College	22
St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli	25
Dhanalakshmi Srinivasan College of Arts & Science for Women	40
Stella Maris College for Women	41
Bishop Heber College	46
St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai	48
Sri Krishna Arts and Science College	50
Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli	52
Madras School of Social Work	55
The American College	59
Queen Mary`s College	62
Nesamony Memorial Christian College	63
Ethiraj College for Women	64

Name	Rank
Dr. N. G. P. Arts and Science College	66
Government Arts College	67
Government Arts College	71
Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College	72
Sri Ramakrishna College of Arts and Science	76
Alagappa Government Arts College, Karaikudi	76
Rajah Serfoji Government College, Thanjavur	79
Sacred Heart College (Autonomous)	80
Sri Sarada College for Women(Autonomous)	81
Jamal Mohamed College, Tiruchirappalli	84
A.P.C. Mahalaxmi College for Women	88
DG Vaishnav College	91
Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya College of Arts and Science	94
Fatima College	100
Women's Christian College, Nagercoil	101-150
Women`s Christian College	101-150
Virudhunagar Hindu Nadars Senthikumara Nadar College	101-150
Thanthai Periyar Government Arts and Science College (Autonomous)	101-150
Dr. S. N. S. Rajalakshmi College of Arts and Science	101-150
SDNB Vaishnav College	101-150
Scott Christian College, Nagercoil	101-150
Sadakathullah Appa College	101-150
Rathinam College of Arts and Science	101-150
Prince Shri Venkateshwara Arts and Science College	101-150
Nehru Memorial College	101-150
N. G. M. College	101-150
Nehru Arts and Science College	101-150
National College	101-150
MOP Vaishnav College for Women	101-150
Madura College	101-150
Lady Doak College	101-150
Kongunadu Arts & Science College	101-150
Kumaraguru college of Liberal Arts and Science	101-150
Kamaraj College	101-150
Holy Cross College	101-150
Hindusthan College of Arts and Science	101-150
Guru Nanak College	101-150
Government Arts College	101-150
Thiruvalluvar Government Arts College	151-200
Vellalar College for Women	151-200
S.T. Hindu College, Nagercoil	151-200
Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College	151-200
Sri Nehru Maha Vidyalaya College of Arts and Science	151-200
Sri Krishna Adithya College of Arts and Science	151-200
Sir Theagaraya College	151-200

Name	Rank
Rani Anna Government College for Women	151-200
Government Arts College for Women	151-200
Government Arts College, Tiruppur	151-200
Cauvery College for Women	151-200
Bon Secours College for Women	151-200
Bharathi Womens College	151-200
A. V. C. College	151-200
Anna Adarsh College for Women	151-200
Arignar Anna Govt. Arts College, Villupuram	151-200
Kunthavai Naacchiyaar Government Arts College for Women	151-200
Government Arts College	151-200
Vivekanandha college of arts and sciences for women	201-250
Sri Parasakthi College for Women, Tirunelveli	201-250
V.V. Vanniaperumal College for Women	201-250
The New College	201-250
Sarah Tucker College, Perumalpuram, Palayamkottai	201-250
Sri Ramakrishna College of Arts & Science for Women	201-250
St. Joseph College of Arts & Science College (Autonomous)	201-250
Shri Shankarlal Sundarbai Shasun Jain College for Women	201-250
Rathnavel Subramaniam College of Arts and Science	201-250
Nirmala College for Women	201-250
Nilgiri College of Arts And Science, The Nilgiris	201-250
Muthayammal College of Arts & Science	201-250
K. S. Rangasamy College of Arts and Science (Autonomous)	201-250
KPR College of Arts Science and Research	201-250
Kongu Arts & Science College	201-250
Kalai Kaviri College of Fine Arts	201-250
Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College for Women	201-250
Hajee Karutha Rowther Howdia College	201-250
G.T.N. Arts College	201-250
Dr.G.R.Damodaran College of Science	201-250
Government College for Women, Kumbakonam	201-250
Government Arts College, Karur	201-250
Government Arts College, Ariyalur	201-250
Chikkanna Government Arts College	201-250
C. Abdul Hakeem College	201-250
Auxilium College	201-250
Arignar Anna Govt. Arts College, Cheyyar	201-250
M.V.Muthiah Government Arts College for Women	201-250
Malankara Catholic College	201-250
Aditanar College of Arts & Science	201-250
Govt. Arts College Thiruvannamalai	201-250
Government Arts College	201-250
Dr. Ambedkar Government Arts College	201-250
A. A. Government Arts College	201-250

Tamil Nadu Association of Training and Placement Officers (TNATPO)®

TALENT 5.0
INDIA *Shaping Future*

Building a Future-Ready Ecosystem through TPO Leadership, Industry Connect, Government Collaboration, and Student Success

01 TPO – Industry Networking Forum

02 Annual Events & Conferences

03 TPO Insurance Scheme

04 Govt Industry Academia

05 Mega Regional Placement Drives

06 Annual Awards & Recognitions

Tamil Nadu Association of Training & Placement Officers (TNATPO) is a registered professional body formed with the vision of creating a unified platform **for Training & Placement Officers (TPOs)** to collaborate with academia, industry, and government. **TNATPO strives to empower TPOs, strengthen employability ecosystems, and ensure students are well-prepared to meet the evolving demands of the professional world.** Through structured programs, knowledge-sharing, and collaborative initiatives, **TNATPO supports member institutions** in building stronger industry linkages, driving innovation, and expanding career opportunities for students **across Tamil Nadu and beyond.**

Aims & Objectives:

- Establishing an unified platform for effective collaboration between academia, industry, and Govt.
- Enforcing and standardizing Training & Placement practices for better employability outcomes.
- Facilitating placement opportunities, internships, and entrepreneurship exposure for students.
- Addressing common challenges faced by TPOs and providing strategic solutions.
- Promoting networking, professional development, and exchange of best practices among TPOs.
- Recognizing excellence through awards and building credibility for TPOs as vital stakeholders in the talent ecosystem.

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