

Concerns raised over unclear evaluation, negative marking for research

NIT-T holds 9th, IIM-T climbs to 16th in NIRF; few Trichy colleges slip

TOP 100 INSTITUTIONS FROM TRICHY IN EACH CATEGORY IN NIRF 2025

Category	Institutions in top 100 ranks	Change
Arts and Science Colleges	4	-1
Management	3	Nil
Research	1	-1
Engineering	1	Nil

Institute	NIRF 2023	NIRF 2024	NIRF 2025	Change
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TRICHY'S PERFORMANCE IN OVERALL RANKING

NIT Trichy	21	31	30	+1
Bharathidasan University	70	55	61	-6

TRICHY-BASED INSTITUTIONS IN TOP 100 RANKS

ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGES

St Joseph's College	25	25	25	Nil
Bishop Heber College	34	33	46	-13
Holy Cross College	40	41	52	-11
Jamal Mohamed College	56	59	84	-25

MANAGEMENT

IIM Trichy	22	27	16	+11
NIT Trichy	35	51	57	-6
BIM Trichy	86	94	96	-2

ENGINEERING

NIT Trichy	9	9	9	Nil
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NIT-T has retained its 9th position among engineering institutions. IIM-T has climbed to 16th in management, and four arts and science colleges have secured places in the top 100, according to this year's NIRF rankings released by the Union education ministry on Thursday. While several institutions remained in the top 100, some slipped compared to last year.

The rankings are based on five parameters: Teaching, Learning and Resources (TLR), Research and Professional Practice (RP), Graduation Outcomes (GO), Outreach and Inclusivity (OI), and Peer Perception (PP).

At the overall level, NIT-T improved to 30th from 31st last year. Bharathidasan University (BDU) slipped from 55th to 61st, though it remained 31st in the universities category. "We are happy that the position has been retained. There is no clarity as to why we came down in the overall and research categories, but gaps will be identified to ensure we go up next year," said Rajesh Kannan, a member of the BDU VC committee. Last year, BDU was ranked among the top 50 in research but did not feature in that list this time.

NIT-T continues to stand out as the only non-IIT in the top 10 engineering institutions, holding the 9th spot for ten consecutive years and ranking first among 31 NITs nationwide. This year, it also ranked 9th in architecture and 33rd in research, compared to 8th and 31st last year.

In management, IIM-T rose from 27th to 16th, while NIT-T and BIM slipped. In arts and science, the number of ranked institutions from Trichy dropped to four from five. St Joseph's College retained 25th place, while Jamal Mohamed College slid from 59th to 84th. "Most institutions in the top list are aided, but we are both aided and self-financing. It's unfair to compare apples and oranges. Even if there are penalties for research retractions, they shouldn't make such a difference. There is no clarity in evaluation, and no physical verification," said Jamal Mohamed College principal George Amalarethinam.

National College, which featured in the top 100 last year, dropped out. "We need more time to assess it. The newly introduced negative marking for retracted research papers could be a factor," said principal Dr K Kumar. This year, NIRF introduced negative marks for retracted papers to make assessments more authentic.

Tamil Nadu National Law University and other Trichy institutions also failed to feature in the new SDG category rankings.

Institutions in South TN slip in India rankings

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Universities and colleges in Madurai and South Tamil Nadu, barring a few, saw a decline in the 2025 NIRF rankings released on Thursday, despite some recording better scores. Academicians attributed the slide to lower visibility compared to premier institutions in the state and persistent financial and staffing issues in government universities.

Madurai Kamaraj University (MKU) failed to enter the top 100 overall for the second consecutive year and slipped from 63rd to 85th in the universities category. Manonmaniam Sundaranar University (MSU), Tirunelveli, did not figure in the top 100 in either category, though it placed 33rd among state public universities. Alagappa University, Karaikudi, registered a mar-

ginal improvement, while Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education, Srivilliputhur, continued to perform strongly among private institutions.

"State public universities like MKU are yet to recover from financial crises, and the government has not taken corrective steps. MKU still lacks a vice chancellor; many faculty positions remain vacant, and teachers continue on consolidated pay. Without proper syndicate meetings and governance, how can universities expect to improve?" said AT Senthamarai Kannan, general secretary of the MUTA.

Among colleges, Thiagarajar College of Arts and The American College in Madurai slipped in rankings, even as their scores improved. VO Chidambaram College, Tuticorin, was the exception, rising from 28th to 22nd.

Institution	Rank 2024	Score 2024	Rank 2025	Score 2025
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OVERALL RANKINGS

Alagappa University	76	51.07	73	52.27
Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education	50	54.02	48	55.68
MKU	Dropped out of top 100	NA	Dropped out of top 100	NA

UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

Alagappa University	47	53.84	44	54.45
MKU	63	49.72	85	49.07
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	93	46.34	Dropped out of top 100	NA
Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education	30	56.71	28	58.37

Source: The Times of India

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