

## National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli



# CONVOCATION 26th July 2025 2025



## **Director's Report**

Prof. G. Aghila **NIT Trichy** 



### 21st CONVOCATION ADDRESS

26th July 2025

Dr. G. AGHILA
DIRECTOR



## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY TIRUCHIRAPPALLI – 620 015 TAMIL NADU, INDIA



#### **DIRECTOR'S CONVOCATION ADDRESS**

Good Afternoon and Warm Greetings!

Respected Chief Guest, **Dr. V. Narayanan, Distinguished Scientist, Secretary to Gol, Department of Space & Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization;** Members of the Board of Governors; Members of the Senate; Registrar; Esteemed Faculty and Staff; Graduating Students; Proud Parents; Invited Guests; and Members of the Press; Ladies and Gentlemen – I extend a warm welcome to each one of you to the 21st Convocation of the National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli.

This moment marks not just the culmination of years of rigorous academic pursuit but also the beginning of a new chapter for our graduating students – one that we hope will be guided by the ideals of knowledge, integrity, innovation, and public service. It is my profound honour and privilege to welcome our Chief Guest, **Dr. V. Narayanan**, a visionary leader with over four decades of stellar service, who is responsible for steering India's space programme into a new era of innovation and global recognition. As India reaches for the stars, we at NIT Tiruchirappalli are deeply committed to addressing the pressing challenges here on Earth: water security, sustainability, and inclusive development.

NIT Tiruchirappalli takes this opportunity to extend our best wishes to Dr. Narayanan and the ISRO team for the upcoming launch of the Indo-US joint satellite NISAR – an advanced Earth observation satellite scheduled for lift-off on July 30<sup>th</sup> from Sriharikota. We are confident that this mission will be yet another feather in our nation's space mission cap, reinforcing India's enduring commitment to advancing space science in service of planetary sustainability.

At NIT Tiruchirappalli, we take pride in nurturing not just bright minds, but thoughtful citizens and trailblazers. Today, as we celebrate the accomplishments of our students and the collective progress of our institution, we also renew our commitment to academic excellence, cutting-edge research, social responsibility, and nation-building. This year, our institution steps into its 62<sup>nd</sup> year – a legacy that continues to evolve and inspire. From its inception as a Regional Engineering College to its emergence as an Institution of National Importance, NIT Tiruchirappalli has consistently stood at the forefront of engineering and technological education in India.



#### Rankings, Recognition, and the NEP Roadmap

Our commitment to excellence continues to be validated at both national and international levels. In the NIRF 2024 rankings, NIT Tiruchirappalli proudly retained its place among the top 10 engineering institutions in India, standing at 9th among Engineering colleges and 31st among all Higher Education Institutions. Our Architecture department ranked 8th in the country, and Management Studies was placed at 51st – testaments to the multidisciplinary strength of our academic ecosystem.

Internationally, in our performance in the QS World University Rankings 2026, our institution is placed in the 731–740 band. In subject rankings for 2025, Material Sciences stands out in the 401–550 range, while Mechanical Engineering (501-575), Electrical and Electronics Engineering (501-550), and Computer Science and Information Systems (751-850) are also featured prominently in their respective bands.

In alignment with the National Education Policy 2020, NIT Tiruchirappalli has taken bold strides in reimagining its academic framework to meet the evolving needs of a dynamic knowledge society. We have adopted a flexible curriculum with multiple entry and exit options across undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, supported by the integration of the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) system. NIT Tiruchirappalli has successfully integrated the APAAR (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry) system into our academic processes, with 9,986 APAAR IDs generated till date. Our students now benefit from interdisciplinary learning, with expanded elective offerings that transcend departmental boundaries, as well as value-added and skillbased courses in collaboration with industry. Our students have actively embraced online learning opportunities, with 160 NPTEL courses completed this year. This has resulted in the transfer of 9,933 credits to NIT Tiruchirappalli through the Academic Bank of Credits, reflecting both their academic initiative and the successful integration of digital learning into our credit framework. NIT Tiruchirappalli's NEP Credit transfer initiatives were recognized by Swayam NPTEL with a rating of AAA, which is granted only to the 20 top performing institutes.

NIT-Tiruchirappalli has started implementing the NEP-mandated requirement of 25% curriculum delivery by industry experts, ensuring that students gain practical insights. Furthermore, we provide our students with global exposure to cutting-edge scientific advancements through interactions with renowned international resource persons.



A strong emphasis has been placed on Indian Knowledge Systems, multilingual learning, credit-bearing internships, and the promotion of sustainable development goals (SDGs) within the curriculum. Mentorship structures have been formalised for holistic student development, while undergraduate research is now actively encouraged and credited. Capstone projects with community relevance, recognition of co-curricular achievements, and the introduction of Minor and Honours specialisations further reflect our commitment to student-centric, future-ready education.

As part of our ongoing faculty development efforts, a Workshop on Innovation and Entrepreneurship was conducted led by Prof. Krishnan Balasubramanian of IIT Madras, with 95 faculty members participating to explore pathways for research with scientific and commercial impact.

#### Research, Innovation, and the Knowledge Frontier

At NIT Tiruchirappalli, research is not merely a metric – it is a calling. The calendar year 2024 saw the publication of 1,381 research papers, with nearly 48.4% appearing in Q1 and 28.4% in Q2 journals as per CiteScore metrics. Our total citation count stands at an impressive 44,667. We were granted 23 patents and published 18 more in 2024 alone. Our faculty secured research projects worth ₹17.29 crores and consultancy assignments amounting to ₹5.21 crores. These numbers speak of more than financial value – they reflect the trust placed in our institution by industry, government, and society. We conducted 47 training programmes and workshops under various schemes including ANRF, NRIDA, GIAN, BIS, DST, ATAL, and SPARC. These engagements are not mere events – they are catalysts for professional growth and national capacity-building.

#### **Entrepreneurship, Industry Partnerships and Innovation Ecosystems**

We launched the NIT Tiruchirappalli Research and Innovation Hub (NITTRIH) an ecosystem designed to nurture creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Comprising five pillars – Educate, Ideate, Innovate, Incubate, and Accelerate – NITTRIH brings together existing facilities with new infrastructure to support a thriving start-up and research environment, to mark an impact on the societal needs.

NIT Tiruchirappalli takes pride in hosting the ISRO Space Technology Incubation Centre (S-TIC), which continues to serve as a dynamic hub for collaborative research and innovation in space technologies. Through this platform, faculty and student teams are actively engaged in mission-driven projects sanctioned by ISRO across domains



such as electronics, communication, chemical engineering, and aerospace. These projects foster interdisciplinary collaboration which actively involves students from NIT and neighbouring institutions, fulfilling the S-TIC vision of nurturing a robust, inclusive ecosystem for space research and innovation.

This year, we also forged several impactful partnerships: with Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, National Chung Cheng University (Taiwan), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd., and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), among others. A tri-institutional partnership between NIT Tiruchirappalli, IIITDM Kancheepuram, and IIM Tiruchirappalli has been initiated under the Capacity Building on Design and Entrepreneurship (CBDE) programme of the Ministry of Education, with the aim of cultivating design thinking, innovation, and entrepreneurship in higher education.

#### **Building World-Class Infrastructure**

Over the past academic year, our Planning and Development department has undertaken a series of transformative infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing both functionality and aesthetics across our campus. Annex buildings for multiple departments — including Production, Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics, Instrumentation, and Civil Engineering — will be inaugurated shortly. Our new football turf with G2 grass has added another feather to our sporting cap, promoting athletic excellence and wellness on campus. In support of our Diamond Jubilee celebrations, significant upgrades were made to formal gathering spaces. These and other ongoing projects reflect our steadfast commitment to creating a vibrant, inclusive and future-ready learning environment.

#### Students Who Shine, On and Off the Field

Our students continue to make us proud with their exceptional achievements. **Ms. Roshnipriya Chinnayan**, a final-year student from the Department of Production Engineering, was named one of the top 10 winners of the Ernst & Young Scholarship Program 2024. **Ms. Vaishnavi Maheshwari**, a final-year student from Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, received the prestigious Palantir Global Future Scholarship, valued at \$7,000, in recognition of her outstanding potential. These honours are a resounding endorsement of their talent, dedication, and promise. The Civil and Mechanical Engineering teams of Force Hyperloop, NIT Tiruchirappalli, brought laurels to the institute by securing Third and Fourth Places, respectively, at



the European Hyperloop Week held in the Netherlands this month. Their entries were recognised in the categories of Socio-Economic Aspects and Technical Aspects of Hyperloop Systems, reflecting the depth and diversity of their research. We take great pride in celebrating these remarkable achievements on the international stage.

At IInvenTiv 2025, the R&D fair hosted at IIT Madras, five of our research exhibits were shortlisted. Our Ph.D. scholar Mr. Saravanan Gurusamy received the Best Poster Award at the PMRF Symposium at IIT Hyderabad for his work on landfill mining – a timely and crucial area of environmental research.

In a significant recognition of research excellence, Dr. Vishnunarayanan Namboothiri V. P., a former PMRF scholar from the Department of Chemistry under the mentorship of Prof. A. Sreekanth, was selected as one of the *Top 10 PMRF Scholars in the country*. In recognition of his outstanding research contributions under the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship scheme, Dr. Namboothiri was invited to a special interaction with the Hon'ble Minister of Education and the Secretary (Higher Education) on 9th July 2025 – a testament to both his scholarly excellence and the nurturing academic environment at NIT Tiruchirappalli.

In sports, NIT Tiruchirappalli made a clean sweep at the All India Inter-NIT Tournament 2025, winning all four divisions in Kabaddi and Badminton (Men and Women). At the Inter-NIT Volleyball, Handball (Men and Women) Tournament hosted by NIT Warangal, our Men's Volleyball team secured the silver medal with a second-place finish, while the Women's Volleyball team earned the bronze medal, finishing third. Our Women's Handball team also brought laurels to the institute by clinching the silver medal in the same tournament. The Men's Kho-Kho team secured third place at the All-India Inter-NIT Kho-Kho and Hockey Championship held at NIT Calicut. The NIT Tiruchirappalli girls' volleyball team clinched the top spot at the NIFTEM Thanjavur Inter-Collegiate Tournament.

Festember, our flagship cultural festival, celebrated its 50th edition with the theme *Deccan Odyssey*, attracting over 10,000 participants. *Pragyan*, our techno-managerial fest, continued its tradition of social engagement through initiatives like "Bag of Delight." The 32nd edition of *NITTFEST* featured more than 80 events, showcasing the artistic and cultural talents of our student community.

#### **Institute Governance and Achievements**

The accomplishments we celebrate today are a testament to the remarkable efforts of our departments and faculty members. At NIT Tiruchirappalli, we foster a culture of



constructive competition and academic excellence, encouraging our departments to continually strive for higher benchmarks. Each year, departments are evaluated based on parameters aligned with the NIRF framework, creating a transparent and motivating environment for growth.

I am pleased to share that in the AY 2024-25, the Department of Civil Engineering and the Department of Physics received top honours in our annual Institute Day celebrations. Furthermore, 8 of our faculty members, 13 of our emerging scholars and one non-teaching staff member was felicitated for their achievements.

We are also proud to share that Dr. S. Velmathi, Professor, Department of Chemistry, has been awarded the prestigious A. V. Rama Rao Prize for Women by the Chemical Research Society of India (CRSI) as part of their 2026 honours. This recognition, which includes a cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000 and a citation, is a testament to her outstanding research contributions in the field of Chemical Sciences.

At this 21st Convocation, we take great pride in conferring degrees upon 2,045 graduating students — a remarkable group of young achievers poised to make meaningful contributions to society and the world beyond. Despite challenging global socio-economic conditions affecting campus placements, the Institute managed to weather the year with minimal impact securing 1322 jobs by casting the net wider across different industry sectors, as a result of which over 286 Organizations participated in the campus placement process of the Institute. The overall placement for UG and PG stands at 87% as on date and efforts are on still to secure further jobs. I thank the Ministry of Education for the sanction of 212 faculty posts to enhance the academic workforce.

#### **Alumni Engagement and Institutional Support**

Our alumni continue to be one of our greatest strengths. The 2024 Distinguished Alumni Awards honoured 12 individuals for their excellence in academia, industry, public service, and entrepreneurship. The Global Alumni Meet in January 2025 saw over 1,300 participants and featured eminent guests including Shri. N. Chandrasekaran (Tata Group), Dr. Palanivel Thiagarajan (Tamil Nadu Government), and Mr. Gopi Kallayil (Google). Our Alumni contributions towards mentorship, Infrastructure support, Knowledge sharing, inculcation of Entrepreneurship & Start-up culture in the campus is greatly appreciated.

#### **Expanding Inclusion and Impact**



In addition to our core academic and research functions, NIT Tiruchirappalli continues to contribute actively to national-level initiatives in education. This year, we were entrusted with hosting two centres for the NEET (UG) 2025 examination.

Funded by the DST-ANRF's Start-up Research Grant, our Computer Science and Engineering department developed an innovative "Bully Ind" app, a gamified app to combat cyberbullying among schoolchildren, and make meaningful change in digital education and child safety. NIT Tiruchirappalli was also honoured with the "Rajbhasha Ratna" title and the Rajbhasha Shield for our leadership in implementing the Official Language Policy as a member of the Town Official Language Implementation Committee, Tiruchirappalli.

As we gather here on this proud occasion, I am filled with hope, gratitude, and confidence in our collective journey. We are navigating times of immense change – technologically, socially, and environmentally. But with every challenge comes opportunity, and with every disruption comes the potential for reinvention.

To the graduating class of 2025: you leave today not just with a degree, but with a responsibility – to innovate, to question, to build, and to lead. Wherever you go, carry with you the values of empathy, integrity, and excellence that NIT Tiruchirappalli stands for. As India sets its sights on becoming a knowledge and innovation powerhouse, you are our brightest torchbearers.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Education, Gol, the Board of Governors (BoG), Members of the Senate, Alumni, and Industry Partners for their continued support to NIT Tiruchirappalli.

To our deans, faculty and staff, thank you for your tireless commitment and unwavering belief in the potential of education to transform lives. And to our partners, donors, and well-wishers – your support powers our progress.

Let us continue to dream boldly, think deeply and act decisively.

Jai Hind!

Dr. G. Aghila

Director

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