

NIRF 2025: India's Academic Elite

The launch of National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025 for the fourth time in a row, by the Ministry of Education brought higher education back into focus in our country. But while this latest release of rankings, particularly in the "Overall" category, serves to enlighten students and their families, it also raises questions for those promoting a national conversation about research, funding, and equity.

What is the Basis & Criteria of "Overall" Ranking? The NIRF "Overall" ranking amalgamates various aspects of institutional performance.

To generate these rankings, the institutions are evaluated with respect to five major criteria:

- Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR) – infrastructure, faculty/student ratio, lab facilities, library resources.
 - Research & Professional Practice (RPC) – quantity and quality of research papers published, number of patents filed, collaborations with industry, etc.
- weightings and these are normalized (to a 100 point scale). The weighted average then determines an institute's ranking as the final score.

