

NIRF ranking: NITK performance drops

Mangaluru: The National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK) Surathkal, which was in the top position in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), has performed poorly in its rankings.

According to details available on the NIRF website, the premier technical institute has been lacking in three out of five NIRF parameters. In 2023, NITK Surathkal was ranked 12th in the engineering category and 38th overall. This year, in the engineering category, it has slipped to 17th, and overall, it has dropped to 46th, an 8-rank difference. However, the institute has been in the top 50 in the country for engineering for four years in a row.

When NIRF was introduced in 2016, it ranked 22 in the engineering college section. The same rank continued for the next year, and overall, it was 65. In 2018, the overall ranking was 57, and it was 21 in the engineering college category, marking a significant improvement. In 2019, the engineering college rank was the same as in 2018, but overall, it moved to the 53rd rank. In 2020, the institution made a significant improvement in the overall rank category, moving up to 33. The engineering rank improved to 13 from the previous year's 21 rank.

The institute ranked as a top 10 engineering college in 2021 in the country, and the

overall rank was 32. The 2021 engineering category rank was maintained in 2022, and the overall rank moved to 27, a five-rank improvement from the previous year. From 2023, the institution started seeing a slight decline in its NIRF ranking, where the overall rank went to 38 and the engineering rank to 12th position with a score of 65.2, and in 2024, the score is 64.2.

The NIRF takes five parameters for ranking—teaching, learning and resources, research and professional practice, outreach and inclusivity, graduation outcomes, and perception. Except for the last two parameters, NITK's performance in the first three is not up to the mark. Adding to it, NITK does have a lot of patents, but it is not technology transferred, resulting in no revenue generation. The student-to-teaching faculty ratio is not appropriate. PhD enrolment and research publications have dropped. When contacted, B Ravi, director of NITK, maintained that he is analysing the data to know where the institute is lacking.

The other top-ranked institutions from the coastal district are Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Nitte (Deemed to be university), Yenepoya (Deemed to be university), St. Aloysius (Deemed to be university), and T A Pai Management Institute, Manipal. TNN