



TNEA 2026

Complete Reference Guide

Rank Formula • Community Reservation
• 7.5% Govt. School Quota
Counselling Rounds • Fees &
Scholarships • 25 Critical Rules

Content sourced from the official TNEA 2025 Information Booklet, tneonline.org and dte.tn.gov.in. This document is for guidance only — always refer to the official TNEA website for final confirmation.

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TNEA 2026 Complete Reference Guide

Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions — Everything You Need to Know

By Engineering Serunga — Season 1 | Verified from tneaonline.org & DoTE | Last updated: April 2026

This single page covers all 15 topics of the Engineering Serunga guide in summary form.

Each section links to the full dedicated guide for that topic.

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1. What Is TNEA?

Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions (TNEA) is the single-window online admission system for B.E., B.Tech., and B.Arch. degree courses across Tamil Nadu. It is conducted by the Directorate of Technical Education (DoTE), Chennai, under the Tamil Nadu Higher Education Department.

The most important fact: Tamil Nadu does NOT hold a separate engineering entrance exam. Admission is based entirely on Class 12 board marks — making TNEA unique among all major Indian engineering admissions.

Official Portals

Portal	Purpose
tneasonline.org	Primary portal — registration, rank list, choice filling, allotment
dte.tn.gov.in	DoTE official site — GOs, brochures, schedules
suppl.tneasonline.org	Supplementary counselling portal (after Round 3)

TNEA 2026 at a Glance

Metric	TNEA 2025 (Previous Cycle)	TNEA 2026 (Current Cycle)
Total Registrations	3,01,026	Expected ~3.1+ lakh
Available Seats (Govt Quota)	1,72,388	Expected ~1.80–2.02 lakh
Overall Fill Rate	80.29% — decade high	TBC after counselling
Participating Colleges	423	Expected ~430+
Students benefited from Upward Movement	14,837	TBC

Registration opens 2nd week of May 2026. Monitor tneasonline.org from May 1.

2. Year-Wise Statistics: 2022–2025

TNEA has grown dramatically — registrations rose 43% from 2.11 lakh (2022) to 3.01 lakh (2025).

Year	Registrations	Available Seats	Seats Filled	Fill Rate	Notable
2022	2,11,115	1,48,811	~83,000–86,000	~59.9%	4 rounds due to NEET delay
2023	2,28,122	~1,44,630	~1,15,347 (all quotas)	~72.36%	First early-July counselling
2024	2,49,918	~1,79,950	~1,31,028	~72.81%	Anna Univ. + 30+ colleges 100% fill
2025	3,01,026	1,72,388 (Govt Academic)	1,38,573	80.29%	Decade high; 57 colleges at 100% fill

Fill rate improved from ~59.9% (2022) to 80.3% (2025) — driven by increased demand for CS/AI/ML branches.

3. College Types & Seat Categories

Institution Type	TNEA (Govt) Quota	Management Quota
Government Engineering Colleges	100% of all seats	None
Government Aided Colleges	100% of aided seats	None
Anna University campuses (CEG, MIT, ACT, BIT)	100%	None
Non-Minority Self-Financing Colleges	65% surrendered to TNEA	35% direct
Minority Self-Financing Colleges	50% surrendered to TNEA	50% direct

Common misconception corrected: The "50% government quota" applies ONLY to minority SF colleges. Non-minority SF colleges must surrender 65% to TNEA.

Programmes Covered

- B.E. / B.Tech. — 4 years (all branches)
- B.E. Sandwich (Mechanical, EEE, Production) — 5 years at PSG College of Technology only
- M.Tech. CSE Integrated — 5 years at select institutions
- B.Arch. — 5 years (separate brochure and mark calculation)

4. Eligibility Rules

Who Can Apply? (8 Nativity Categories)

- Category 1: TN natives who studied Classes 8–12 entirely in TN — no nativity certificate needed
- Category 2: TN natives who studied any class (8–12) outside TN — digitally signed e-Nativity Certificate required
- Category 3: Children of Central Govt. employees serving continuously in TN for 5+ years — eligible under OC
- Category 4: Children of Public Sector employees in TN for 5+ years
- Category 5: Sons/daughters of All India Service (TN cadre) officers
- Category 6: Candidates from other states who studied Classes 8–12 in TN
- Category 7: Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees who studied in TN
- Category 8: OCI/PIO cardholders who are TN natives (not applicable to those born abroad after 04.03.2021)

Minimum Academic Eligibility (Class 12 PCM Average)

Community	Minimum % in PCM
OC (General)	45.00%
BC, BCM, MBC & DNC	40.00%
SC, SCA, ST	40.00%

Minimum eligibility uses RAW marks only — NOT normalised marks. Improvement exam marks are NOT considered under any circumstances (G.O. No. 184, 2005).

Special Branch Requirements

- Marine Engineering: Min. 60% PCM, IMU-CET qualified, max age 25, min height 157 cm, normal colour vision
- Mining Engineering: Female candidates subject to restrictions under the Mines Act, 1952

5. Rank Calculation Formula

The Core Formula

TNEA Score (out of 200) = Mathematics (out of 100) + [Physics / 2] (out of 50) + [Chemistry / 2] (out of 50)

Example: Maths 90, Physics 98, Chemistry 87 → TNEA Score = 90 + 49 + 43.5 = 182.5 / 200

Maths is double-weighted — it is the single most important subject for your TNEA rank.

Normalisation Across Boards

Normalised Mark = (Your Raw Mark / Highest Mark in Your Board) x Highest Mark in TN State Board

Board	Reference
TN State Board	No normalisation — is the reference itself
CBSE	Highest mark at national level
ICSE	Highest mark at national level
Other recognised boards	Highest mark in that board among TN students

Tie-Breaking Rules (Applied in Sequence)

- Higher % in Mathematics
- Higher % in Physics
- Higher % in Optional Subject (Chemistry/Vocational)
- Higher % in total Class 12 marks (all subjects)
- Date of Birth — older candidate gets priority
- TNEA Random Number — computer-generated 10-digit tiebreaker

2025 Marks vs Rank Reference

TNEA Score (out of 200)	Approx. General Rank	Round
200.000	1 – 141	Round 1
195.000 – 199.667	142 – 5,251	Round 1
180.000 – 194.810	5,252 – 36,665	Round 1
179.000 – 179.980	36,666 – 39,145	Round 1 (tail)
143.085 – 178.965	39,146 – 1,37,710	Round 2
77.500 – 143.000	1,37,711 – 2,39,299	Round 3

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6. Community Reservation System

Category	Abbr.	%	Who
Open Competition	OC	31.00%	ALL candidates, any community
Backward Class	BC	26.50%	181+ listed BC communities
Backward Class Muslim	BCM	3.50%	Muslim communities under BC
Most Backward Class & DNC	MBC & DNC	20.00%	Vanniakula Kshatriya, etc.
Scheduled Caste	SC	15.00%	Notified SCs (excl. SCA)
Scheduled Caste Arunthathiyars	SCA	3.00%	Arunthathiyar sub-caste
Scheduled Tribes	ST	1.00%	Notified Scheduled Tribes
Total		100%	

SC + SCA together = 18% total. Unfilled SCA seats convert to SC after all rounds.

Critical Cross-Category Rule

Any reserved-category candidate can also get an OC seat if their general rank is high enough. They appear in BOTH the general rank list AND their community rank list simultaneously.

Community Certificate Requirements

Category	Issuing Authority
SC / SCA	Tahsildar of native taluk
ST	Revenue Divisional Officer / Sub-Collector
BC / BCM / MBC & DNC	HQ Deputy Tahsildar / Zonal Deputy Tahsildar

Only permanent card or digitally signed e-Certificate accepted. Certificates from other states are NOT recognised for TNEA reservation.

7. 7.5% Government School Quota

Introduced by G.O. (Ms) No. 167, Higher Education (J2) Dept., dated 31.08.2021 — gives students who studied Class 6–12 in TN Government Schools a separate, less-competitive seat pool.

Which Schools Qualify?

- Government Schools (TN State Government)
- Corporation Schools (Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai corporations, etc.)
- Municipal Schools
- Adi Dravida and Tribal Welfare Schools (ADW Dept.)
- Kallar Reclamation Schools
- Forest Department Schools
- Schools managed by any state government department

Aided private schools, unaided private schools, CBSE private schools, and Matriculation schools do NOT qualify — even if they receive government grants.

How It Works (Horizontal Reservation)

7.5% is carved out of each community category proportionally. Government school students compete only among themselves — significantly lower competition.

Example: 60-seat branch → OC seats = ~18 → 7.5% of 18 = ~1–2 seats. Only OC government-school students compete for those 1–2 seats.

Full Fee Waiver (G.O. Ms. No. 221, dated 15.11.2021)

Fee Type	Covered?
Counselling (registration) fee	YES
Tuition fee	YES — paid by state govt. to college
Hostel fee	YES
Development fee	YES

This waiver is NOT means-tested — applies to every 7.5% quota admit regardless of family income.

2025 Round-wise Marks Range (7.5% Quota)

Round	Marks Range	Govt. General Rank Range
Round 1	200.000 – 179.000	1 – 2,662
Round 2	178.965 – 143.085	2,663 – 18,921
Round 3	143.000 – 77.500	18,922 – 46,848

8. Registration Process & Documents

2026 Expected Timeline

Event	2025 Actual	2026 Expected
Notification + Registration Opens	May 7, 2025	2nd week of May 2026
Last Date for Registration	June 6, 2025	1st week of June 2026
Document Upload Deadline	June 9, 2025	~June 10, 2026
Random Number Assignment	June 11, 2025	~2nd week of June 2026
Rank List Published	June 27, 2025	Late June / 1st week July 2026

Registration Fee

Category	Fee
OC / BC / BCM / MBC & DNC	Rs. 500/-
SC / SCA / ST	Rs. 250/-

Payment: Credit Card, Debit Card, Net Banking, UPI, or Demand Draft.

Mandatory Documents to Upload

Document	Required For
10th (SSLC) Mark Sheet	All candidates
HSC +1 and +2 Mark Sheets	All candidates
Transfer Certificate (TC)	All candidates
Community Certificate (permanent card / e-Certificate)	Reserved category candidates
Nativity Certificate (e-Certificate only)	Category 2 candidates
First Graduate e-Certificate + Joint Declaration	First Graduate concession seekers
Government School Proof (6th–12th)	7.5% quota applicants

All certificates must be uploaded before the application deadline. Physical/handwritten certificates are NOT accepted — only digitally signed e-Certificates.

9. TNEA Facilitation Centres (TFCs)

TFCs serve three functions:

1. Certificate verification — staff verify uploaded documents
2. Fee payment — for candidates who choose "Accept and Upward"
3. Upward Movement processing — staff assist with the upward process

In TNEA 2025, there were 110 TFCs across all Tamil Nadu districts.

TFC Count in Key Districts (2025)

District	TFCs
Chennai	8
Coimbatore	5
Madurai	5
Tirunelveli	3
Salem	3
Krishnagiri	4
Dharmapuri	4

The complete official TFC list is published as "7_List_of_TFCs.pdf" on tneaonline.org at the start of each cycle.

10. The 3-Round Counselling Process

Three streams run simultaneously: General Academic (92.5%), 7.5% Govt. School Quota, and Vocational (2%, separate seat matrix).

2025 Exact Schedule

Stage	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Marks Range	200.000 – 179.000	178.965 – 143.085	143.000 – 77.500
General Rank Range	1 – 39,145	39,146 – 1,37,710	1,37,711 – 2,39,299
Choice Filling Opens	July 14, 10 AM	July 26, 10 AM	August 7, 10 AM
Choice Filling Closes	July 16, 5 PM	July 28, 5 PM	August 9, 5 PM
Tentative Allotment	July 17	July 29	August 10
Confirmation Window	July 17–18	July 29–30	August 10–11
College/TFC Reporting	July 19–23	July 31 – Aug 4	August 12–17
Upward Movement Result	July 26	August 7	August 20

The 4 Stages of Every Round

Stage 1 — Choice Filling (3 days)

Login to tneaonline.org. Enter all college-branch preferences in priority order. No limit on number of choices. Order is CRITICAL — Choice 1 = highest preference. Once the window closes, choices cannot be changed.

Stage 2 — Tentative Allotment

The computer processes candidates in strict rank order. For each candidate, it checks choices in order and allots the first available seat matching community eligibility.

Stage 3 — Confirmation Window (2 days — CRITICAL)

Each candidate MUST choose one of 6 options within 2 days. Not choosing = automatic loss of seat + exclusion from all further rounds. No exceptions.

Option	Meaning	Risk Level
Accept and Join	Happy with allotment; joining permanently	None
Accept and Upward	Satisfied but want a better choice	Zero risk — original seat protected
Decline and Upward	Reject current allotment; try for better	Medium — lose current seat if no upgrade
Decline and Move to Next Round	Reject; participate in next round	Medium
Decline and Quit	Exit TNEA entirely	Permanent — IRREVERSIBLE
Upward or Move to Next Round	(Only when no seat allotted)	—

Stage 4 — Reporting Window (5 days)

- "Accept and Join" → Report directly to allotted college; pay fees
- "Accept and Upward" → Report to TFC; pay counselling fee (Rs. 5,000 for OC/BC/MBC; Rs. 1,000 for SC/SCA/ST)
- Other options → No reporting needed

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11. Upward Movement & Supplementary Counselling

What Is Upward Movement?

Upward Movement runs between the confirmation deadline and the next round's choice filling. It scans for better choices for "Accept-Upward" and "Decline-Upward" candidates.

Key guarantee: Upward movement can only IMPROVE or MAINTAIN a candidate's allotment — it can NEVER downgrade. In TNEA 2025, 14,837 students were upgraded.

Supplementary Counselling

After Round 3, open to: candidates not allotted in Rounds 1–3, students who passed HSC supplementary exams (August), and students unsatisfied with Round 3 allotment.

Event	2025 Dates
Registration & Choice Filling Opens	August 21, 2025
Tentative Allotment	August 22, 2025
Confirmation & Fee Payment	August 22–23, 2025
Reporting to College	By August 26, 2025

Portal: suppl.tneaonline.org

12. Seat Matrix & Allotment Logic

How the Algorithm Works

- Eligible candidates list published based on rank ranges
- System processes candidates in strict rank order — best rank first
- Scans each candidate's choices from Choice 1 onward
- Checks: (a) remaining capacity in community cell AND (b) candidate's community eligibility
- First matching available seat is allotted
- "No Allotment" if no choices could be fulfilled

A lower-ranked (better) candidate at Choice 5 gets priority over a higher-ranked (worse) candidate at Choice 1. Rank always comes first.

Seat Matrix for a Typical 60-Seat Branch

Category	%	~Seats	7.5% Govt School Seats
OC	31%	18–19	~1–2
BC	26.5%	15–16	~1
BCM	3.5%	~2	<1
MBC & DNC	20%	~12	~1
SC	15%	~9	<1
SCA	3%	~2	<1
ST	1%	~1	<1
Total	100%	60	~4–5

Seat Matrix Updates Between Rounds

- "Accept and Join" seats → permanently allotted; removed from future matrix
- Seats of students who did NOT confirm → released back as vacant
- A fresh residual seat matrix PDF is published before each round — always download it

13. SCA to SC Counselling

After all 3 rounds + supplementary, vacant SCA (Arunthathiyar) seats are converted to SC seats in a final "SCA to SC Counselling" round.

Event	2025 Dates
SCA to SC Counselling	August 25–26, 2025
End of ALL TNEA Counselling	August 26, 2025

After official SCA-to-SC counselling concludes, colleges CANNOT independently fill vacant seats — they must wait for written DoTE authorisation.

14. Complete TNEA 2026 Timeline

Phase	Process Step	Expected 2026
Pre-Counselling	Notification + Registration Opens	2nd week May 2026
Pre-Counselling	Last Date for Registration	1st week June 2026
Pre-Counselling	Document Upload Deadline	~June 10, 2026
Pre-Counselling	Random Number Assignment	~June 12–14, 2026
Pre-Counselling	Rank List Published	Late June / July 1st week
Pre-Counselling	Grievance Redressal	~3–5 days after rank list
Round 1	Choice Filling	~3rd–4th week July 2026
Round 1	Confirmation Window	~2 days after allotment
Round 1	College / TFC Reporting	~5 days after confirmation
Round 2	Choice Filling	~August 1st week 2026
Round 3	Choice Filling	~August 2nd week 2026
Post-Round	Supplementary Counselling	~August 3rd week 2026
Post-Round	SCA to SC Counselling	~August 4th week 2026
End	TNEA 2026 Officially Closes	~August 26–31, 2026

Official 2026 dates not yet announced (as of April 2026). Monitor tneaonline.org from May 1, 2026.

15. Fees, Scholarships & Concessions

Scheme	For Whom	What Is Covered	Condition
7.5% Govt. School Full Fee Waiver	All 7.5% quota admits	Counselling fee + Tuition + Hostel + Development fees	Studied Class 6–12 in TN Govt. school; NOT means-tested
First Generation Graduate Concession	First graduate in family	Tuition fee concession	Digital e-Certificate + Joint Declaration
AICTE Tuition Fee Waiver (TFW)	Up to 5% of seats in SF colleges	Tuition fee only	Family income < Rs. 8 lakhs; B.E./B.Tech. only
Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS)	SC/SCA/ST candidates	Tuition fees	Family income < Rs. 2,50,000
Prime Minister's Scholarship (PMSS)	Children of Central Govt. employees	Monthly scholarship + fee coverage	Per PMSS eligibility criteria

16. Key Variables That Determine Your Outcome

Variable	Importance	What It Determines	Can You Control?
TNEA Score (out of 200)	CRITICAL	General Rank — single most important factor	YES — Class 12 performance
General Rank	CRITICAL	Which Round; allotment priority	Indirect (via TNEA score)
Community Category	HIGH	Which reserved seats you compete for	NO — fixed by birth
7.5% Govt. School Eligibility	HIGH	Access to less-competitive pool + full fee waiver	NO — fixed by school history
Choice Order	CRITICAL	Exact preferences determine allotment outcome	YES — strategic planning
Upward Movement Decision	HIGH	Can significantly improve final college	YES — student decision
Confirmation Timeliness	CRITICAL	Missing 2-day window = seat loss + exclusion	YES — active monitoring
Reporting Timeliness	CRITICAL	Missing 5-day joining window = allotment cancelled	YES — active monitoring

17. 25 Critical Rules & Common Mistakes

- Any reserved-category candidate CAN get an OC seat if their general rank is high enough.
- No community certificate = automatically OC. OC minimum eligibility (45% PCM) then applies.
- "Decline and Move to Next Round" does NOT end eligibility — only "Decline and Quit" does that permanently.
- Not confirming within 2 days = automatic seat loss + exclusion from ALL further rounds. No grace period.
- Online confirmation alone is NOT enough for "Accept and Join." Physical college reporting within 5 days is mandatory.
- Upward movement CANNOT downgrade your allotment. "Accept-Upward" is always zero-risk.
- 7.5% quota is a separate, less-competitive pool. A 155/200 govt-school student does not compete with the general pool for 7.5% seats.
- The 7.5% fee waiver has NO income condition. Every 7.5% admit gets it regardless of family income.
- Improvement exam marks are NOT considered under any circumstances. Only original first-attempt marks count.
- Management quota = 35% for non-minority SF colleges, NOT 50%. Minority SF colleges have 50% management quota.
- CBSE normalisation uses national highest marks, not TN state highest.
- The self-financing college govt. quota split is 65-35, not 50-50 (for non-minority colleges).
- A student can participate in a later round even after getting allotted by choosing "Decline and Move to Next Round."
- Community rank and general rank are both checked simultaneously in each allotment run.
- Choice filling order is fixed once the window closes. Plan carefully before submitting.
- Supplementary counselling is also open to students unsatisfied with Round 3 allotment.
- Vacant SCA seats do NOT disappear — they become SC seats in the SCA-to-SC counselling.
- Always use the updated residual seat matrix for each round — the initial matrix is not valid for Round 2 or 3.
- First Graduate Certificate must be a digital e-Certificate. Physical/handwritten copies not accepted.
- Nativity Certificate must also be a digitally signed e-Certificate. Physical copies not accepted.
- Check tneonline.org EVERY DAY during the counselling period. Windows are very tight.
- College + Branch = one choice. Same college with a different branch is counted as a separate choice.
- 7.5% quota students still need to complete all counselling stages — choice filling, confirmation, and college reporting.
- Students can list the same college under both OC and community category choices. The system handles it correctly.
- After all TNEA rounds end, colleges CANNOT independently fill vacant seats without written DoTE authorisation.

18. Quick Reference: Important Dates 2026

Event	Expected 2026 Date	Action Required
TNEA Notification + Registration Opens	2nd week of May 2026	Register immediately; prepare all documents
Last Date for Registration	1st week of June 2026	Complete registration + pay fee
Last Date for Document Upload	~June 10, 2026	Upload all required documents
Random Number Assignment	~June 12–14, 2026	Check your random number on portal
Rank List Published	Late June / July 1st week 2026	Check rank; determine which round you fall in
Round 1 Choice Filling	~3rd–4th week July 2026	Fill choices in order of preference; submit before deadline
Round 1 Confirmation Window	~2 days after allotment	Select one of 6 options WITHIN 2 DAYS — no extension
Round 1 College/TFC Reporting	~5 days after confirmation	Report physically; pay fees if required
Round 2	~August 1st week 2026	Same process as Round 1
Round 3	~August 2nd week 2026	Same process as Round 1
Supplementary Counselling	~August 3rd week 2026	If unallotted after R3 or passed supplementary exams
SCA to SC Counselling	~August 4th week 2026	SC candidates for converted SCA seats
End of TNEA 2026	~August 26–31, 2026	All admissions finalised

TNEA 2026 official dates have NOT yet been published (as of April 2026). Monitor tneaonline.org from May 1, 2026.

About This Guide

This page is part of Engineering Serunga — Season 1, Tamil Nadu's most complete TNEA 2026 counselling guide.

- Verified from: tneaonline.org, dte.tn.gov.in, and official G.O. documents
- Covers: General Academic Counselling (3 rounds) + 7.5% Government School Quota
- Does NOT cover: Special reservations (DA, Ex-Servicemen, Sports), NRI quota, Management quota
- Last reviewed: April 2026

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