Sona College of Technology (Autonomous), Salem: TNEA 2026 Institutional Profile

1. Institutional Identity & Admission Framework

Strategic verification is a prerequisite for navigating the TNEA 2026 admission cycle. For families and candidates, identifying the specific TNEA code and autonomy status is the critical first step in determining an institution's administrative agility and its standing within the Single Window System. These parameters define the logistical and regulatory boundaries of the 2026 intake.

Category	Details
Full Name	Sona College of Technology (Autonomous)
Short Name	Sona Tech
TNEA Code	2618
Institution Type	Self-Financing Autonomous
City	Salem
Year Established	1997 (15 July 1997)
Affiliated University	Anna University

Admission Route	TNEA 65% Govt Quota / 35% Management
Gender Profile	Co-educational

These foundational data points provide the benchmark for assessing the institution's historical growth and maturity.

2. Founding Heritage and Institutional Milestones

Academic maturity is often a function of institutional longevity and the stability of the managing trust. For parents, the established track record of the Chockalingam Trust serves as a reliable indicator of the institution's ability to maintain high-value infrastructure and weather the fluctuations of the higher education landscape.

Founding Facts:

- **Founders:** Sri Karumuttu Thiagarajan and Sri M.S. Chockalingam
- **Trust Name:** Chockalingam Trust

Institutional Milestones:

- **1997:** Founded on 15 July 1997.
- **2009:** 36 Advanced Research Centres inaugurated by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- **2010:** Adoption of Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and attainment of Autonomy status.
- **2023:** Delivery of critical hardware for the Chandrayaan-3 mission.

A historical review of these milestones confirms a transition toward research-heavy technical education, leading to the college's current regulatory standing.

3. Regulatory Approvals & NAAC Accreditation

Securing current regulatory approvals is an essential audit step to ensure degree validity and institutional quality for the 2025-26 academic year. Strategic selection requires confirmation that these certifications remain active and highly rated by national bodies.

The institution holds AICTE Approval for the 2025-26 academic year (File No. Southern/1-44641479146/2025/EOA), issued on **10.04.2025**, with a validity period extending through 2025–2028.

Furthermore, the college maintains NAAC Accreditation with a Grade of **A++** and a CGPA of **3.65/4.00** (Cycle 3). This accreditation is valid until May 2029, signaling a level of institutional quality that often correlates with superior program-specific technical validations.

4. NBA Accredited Programs

While NAAC evaluates the institution overall, National Board of Accreditation (NBA) status is a program-level marker of excellence. Graduating from an NBA-accredited program is a strategic advantage for students targeting global mobility and enrollment in premier international graduate schools.

Program Name	Branch Code	Accreditation Validity
Electrical and Electronics Engineering	EE	June 2028

This accreditation serves as an objective technical benchmark, which is further reflected in the institution's standing in national performance frameworks.

5. National and Professional Rankings

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings provide a standardized metric to evaluate institutional competitiveness. For the 2026 cycle, families should prioritize institutions that demonstrate consistency in these metrics.

- **NIRF 2025 Engineering Rank:** Band 151–200. (The rank has remained stable in this band since 2024, offering a high degree of predictability for the 2026 cycle).
- **IE(I) Engineering Education Excellence Award:** Gold (2023).

Standardized rankings provide a macro-level assessment, leading to a necessary examination of the specific branch offerings for the upcoming TNEA intake.

6. Undergraduate (UG) Program Portfolio for TNEA 2026

Selecting a branch involves weighing traditional engineering fundamentals against emerging technologies. Candidates must carefully distinguish between long-standing departments and the newer specialized branches awaiting final administrative clearances.

Branch Name	Code	Approved Intake
Artificial Intelligence and Data Science	AD	120
Biomedical Engineering	BM	60
Civil Engineering	CE	60
Computer Science and Design	CD	60
Computer Science and Engineering	CS	180
Electrical and Electronics Engineering	EE	120
Electronics and Communication Engineering	EC	180
Fashion Technology	FT	60
Information Technology	IT	120
Mechanical Engineering	ME	150
Mechatronics Engineering	MZ	90
Computer Science and Engineering (AI and ML)	AM	90

Computer Science and Business Systems	CB	60
Safety and Fire Engineering	SF	30
Computer Science and Engineering (Cyber Security)	SC	60
Electronics Engineering (VLSI Design and Technology)	EL	60

New-age Branches (Started 2018 or later):

- Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (AD)
- Biomedical Engineering (BM)
- Computer Science and Design (CD)
- Mechatronics Engineering (MZ)
- Computer Science and Engineering (AI and ML) (AM)
- Pending Branches: CB, SF, SC, and EL.

The success of these curricula is contingent upon the human capital and faculty expertise within the respective departments.

7. Faculty Profile and Academic Expertise

A high density of PhD-qualified faculty is a clinical indicator of potential academic mentorship quality. Research-active faculty are essential for guiding students through advanced projects and industry-relevant curriculum delivery.

- **Total Working Faculty:** 291
- **PhD Holders:** 154 (Approximately 53%)
- **Student-Faculty Ratio:** 19:1

Notable Faculty Profiles:

- **Dr. N. Kannan:** Head of SonaSpeed; transitioned from a career as an ISRO official to lead specialized R&D in electrical machines.
- **Dr. S. Chandrasekar:** Dean – Research; directs the institution's funded research project ecosystem.

- **Dr. J. Akilandeswari:** Dean – Academics; lead for IT and AI&DS academic frameworks.

Academic expertise is supported by a campus designed to meet the logistical and technical requirements of modern engineering students.

8. Campus Infrastructure and Residential Facilities

For students from outside the Salem region, on-campus residency and technical infrastructure are primary considerations. A self-contained campus spread across 17.58 acres with a total infrastructure footprint of **139,294 m²** provides the necessary scale for immersive technical training.

- **Hostel Facilities:** Separate, permanent accommodation for boys and girls with vegetarian mess facilities.
- **Campus Infrastructure:** 1 Gbps internet connectivity, 62 specialized laboratories, and library holdings of 85,451 volumes.
- **Transport Accessibility:** Strategically located approximately 1 km from **Salem Junction** and in close proximity to the **Salem city main bus stand**.

Infrastructure creates the environment for learning, while financial support frameworks ensure broader institutional accessibility.

9. Scholarship Framework and Financial Support

Government and institutional schemes are pivotal in reducing the financial barriers for eligible students, ensuring that merit and socio-economic status are appropriately supported.

Government Scholarships: *Available to eligible students at this institution:*

- BC/MBC Scholarship
- SC/ST Scholarship and Fee Waiver Scheme
- Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship
- Chief Minister Farmers Security Scheme
- Minority Scholarship
- Physically Challenged Scholarship (NHFDC)

Institutional & NGO Scholarships:

- Merit Scholarship (Tuition Fee Waiver)
- Merit cum Means Scholarship
- Sports Scholarship

- Special Scholarship Categories (Physically handicapped, wards of defense/ex-service personnel, and performers in NSS/NCC/YRC)
- **Meenakshi Aachi Scholars Program**
- NGO/Industry: ONGC, NTPC, J.N. Tata Endowment Fund, and The Hindu–Hitachi Scholarship.

Financial accessibility is a pillar of the institution's high-output research and innovation culture.

10. Research, Innovation, and Industry Integration

The integration of an institution's research culture with industry giants like ISRO directly impacts the quality of undergraduate learning. An ecosystem that contributes to national space missions provides an unparalleled practical training ground for students.

- **Research Output:** 51 funded projects (Rs. 613.82 Lakhs), 17 granted patents, and 36 Advanced Research Centres.
- **Strategic Highlight:** The "SonaSpeed" R&D centre designed and delivered the stepper motor for ISRO's **Chandrayaan-3** mission (2023).
- **Key Industry MOUs:** Active partnerships with ISRO, NIOT, and HireMee.

This research-centric approach has resulted in consistent national accolades from regulatory bodies.

11. Notable Institutional Achievements

Objective assessments by third-party bodies validate institutional excellence and provide external verification of the college's industry relevance.

1. **AICTE-CII Best Industry-Linked Institute Award:** Seven-time winner (2013–2019).
2. **Smart India Hackathon:** Three-time national winners (2019, 2022, 2023).
3. **NPTEL Local Chapter:** Ranked No. 1 in Faculty Performance category for five consecutive years (2018–2022).

These achievements contribute to a legacy reflected in the careers of the institution's most prominent alumni.

12. Notable Alumni

An active alumni network provides tangible evidence of career progression and serves as a vital resource for current students entering the professional landscape.

Dr. N. Kannan serves as a primary example of this legacy. Transitioning from his role as a former ISRO official, he returned to the institution to lead the SonaSpeed R&D centre.

Under his leadership, the team successfully engineered critical motor components for the 2023 Chandrayaan-3 mission, demonstrating a complete integration of academic training and strategic industry contribution.

Information sourced from the college's official website, TNEA portal, and government data sources as available at time of preparation. Details may change — verify with official portals and the college website before making admission decisions. Explore more engineering colleges at profsam.com — your trusted guide for 12th to engineering admissions. Article Researched & Curated by profsam.com | Engineering சேருங்க Season 1