The Central University of Tamil Nadu was established by an Act of Parliament (Act No.25 of 2009). The University strives to disseminate and to advance knowledge in humanities, social sciences and, basic and applied sciences.

It aims at promoting innovation in teaching-learning process, interdisciplinary studies and research, and gives special attention to the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the people and also their academic, intellectual and cultural development. The academic programmes of the University are periodically updated and revised.

The University was inaugurated on 30th September 2009. The foundation stone was laid by Shri. Kapil Sibal, Honourable Union Minister of Human Resources Development, in the presence of Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The University is located at Thiruvarur, the headquarters of Thiruvarur District, in the heart of the Cauvery Delta.

The Preliminary work was identifying the required extent of 500 acres of land for the University in two revenue villages (Neelakudi and Nagakudi) near Thiruvarur.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has made available, on a rent-free basis a multi-storied building measuring about 55,000 square feet for a temporary campus to enable launch of the academic programmes. Central Public Works Department (CPWD) is entrusted to carry out the basic civil and electrical works to adapt the building for academic needs.

About 500 Students, 8 Regular and 27 Contract Teaching Staff & 40 non-teaching staff (Regular and Contractual) are engaged in the academic and administrative aspects of the University at present.