



**SITAA VOICE**  
**Seshasayee Institute of Technology Alumni Association (SITAA) Regn.No. 202/2013**  
S.I.T. Campus, Ariyamangalam,  
Tiruchirappalli-620010  
Website: [www.sitalumni.in](http://www.sitalumni.in)



Banyan11 Prop Root.2

Dt 30<sup>TH</sup> September 2024



**“Let Noble thoughts come to us from every side”**  
***Season’s Greetings to you and your family***

President	Balasubramanian.P.A.
Vice President	Rajendren. G. M.
Secretary	Palanisamy.A.
Joint Secretary	Raju.N
Joint Secretary	Devarajulu.G.
Ex Officio Member	Dr.Ravindhren.V.G. Principal I/C, SIT

## **SITAA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*From the President's Desk:*

Dear SITians,

I wish one and all of SIT Family, the best of health, happiness, cheer. I would like to share the progress of the construction work of our OPEN – AIR Auditorium. The structure is complete in all respects and gives a majestic appearance. The cost of construction of the Auditorium was partly met with contribution from our Alumni, allocation of funds from SITAA and from the management of SIT, i.e. Seshasayee Educational Society (SES).

With subsequent financial assistance from SITAA, we have completed the remaining portion of the AUDITORIUM FLOOR with paver blocks and provided a road with paver blocks connecting the main building and the newly built Auditorium.

The works that are to be done to make the entire Auditorium fully functional include construction of side walls, providing doors, windows, providing electrical items and other finishing works. All these works may cost around Rs.35 Lakhs.

I once again appeal TO OUR EVER-GENEROUS ALUMNI to contribute so that all the related works can be completed, and the fully finished Auditorium can be handed over to the management of SIT. Since the balance of works in Auditorium construction is to be completed in a very short time, I request our Alumni to send their contributions at the earliest in the form of cheque in the name of 'SESHASAYEE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY – SES {BUILDING FUND} and may be sent to the 'SECRETARY, SIT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION-SITAA. C/O SIT TRICHY,ARIYAMANGALAM, TRICHY 620010 along with a covering letter giving details of your batch, branch, year of Passing, YOUR PAN NUMBER, mobile number and your present address to enable SIT to send the official receipt to you. You can also send the above details by mail also to the mail id of the SECRETARY, SITAA MAIL ID: palanisampwd5gmail.com.

I feel happy to note the numerous positive responses against my previous appeals, from several alumni and I wish to thank each one of them. The details of the events and other activities during this quarter are presented in the subsequent pages of this issue. The Academic work goes on well, with due care taken by the Secretary, (SES), Dr.V.G. Ravindhren, Principal i/c, Mrs. V. VIJAYA LAKSHMI, Vice Principal and their team.

I request each one of the students in SIT to utilize the best facilities available in our Institution and shape themselves as promising professionals and leaders in their chosen fields.

Wishing you all the best,

P.A.Balasubramanian,

President SITAA,

Former Faculty Member & Alumnus 1963 civil.

## **SIT HONORARY SECRETARY MESSAGE**

Dear SITians,

### **Greetings from SIT and SITAA!**

This quarter (July to Sep 2024) , we celebrated the Founder's Day of our esteemed institution, commemorating the legacy of Sri. V. Seshasayee on August 14, 2024. A comprehensive report, complete with photographs, is included in this issue.

On August 18, 2024, we had the pleasure of hosting a reunion for the 1996-1999 batch of Instrumentation and Control Engineering Alumni. It was a heartwarming occasion filled with nostalgia and camaraderie.

We are delighted to share that Mr. Sahayaraj, a proud alumnus of SIT who completed his PTC course in 1974, has been recognized and featured as one of the 100 great IITians in the book "100 Great IITians," authored by Cdr. V.K. Jaitly and published by Excel India Publishers. An excerpt from the book is included in this issue. This is a testament to SIT's enduring impact on its alumni, even decades after graduation.

In response to recent syllabus revisions by the Department of Technical Education (DOTE), SIT, as an autonomous institution, has also updated its curriculum and syllabus. These changes have led to the introduction of various student activity-based events designed to enhance the learning experience.

Please find a detailed report of the activities that took place from July 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024, in this issue.

**Sincerely,**

Hon. Secretary, SIT

## Happenings AT S.I.T

### First year Induction Program

Student induction program (SIP) for the students joined in the first year diploma program was conducted for One week from 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024 to 5<sup>th</sup> July,2024. Students were exposed to various aspects of higher education and Students learn about the institution's policies, processes, practices, culture, and values. They also learn about academic expectations, support services, and campus life.

Students are exposed to a sense of larger purpose and are helped to adjust to the new environment. They are also provided with a comfortable environment to approach faculty with academic, financial, and psychological problems.

Following are activities that were part of the student induction program

- Socializing
- Visit to the facilities, laboratories and workshop
- Physical activity
- Mentoring
- Literary activity
- Lectures by eminent people
- Visits to local area
- Extra-curricular activities such as NSS, NCC and Rotaract
- Autonomous Examination system

As a part of the Induction program , all the first year students visited Anna Science Center Planetarium , Pudukkottai Road (Near Airport), Tiruchirappalli - 620 007. on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The faculty of first year accompanied the students.



### Autonomous Examination Cell -New Members Induction

Dr. R. Usharani assumed office as Controller of Examinations on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024. Dr. Murugan Lecturer/Mechanical Engineering and G.Mohammed Ashif Lecturer/ ICE are the cell officers.



Dr.R.Usharani Lecturer(SG)/ICE	Dr.S.Murugan Lecturer/Mechanical	G.Mohammed Ashif Lecturer/ ICE
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**Student Lead Activities (03/07/2024):**

As per the new Syllabus – Regulation 2023 ( G Scheme) various club activities, Integrated Learning Experience and Student led activities are to be conducted. The Second year computer Students conducted Quiz program as an activity. Students of 2<sup>nd</sup> year and 3<sup>rd</sup> Computer Engineering participated.



**Industrial Visit**

Final year civil Engineering students visited Water treatment plant at Kambarasampettai, Trichy on 23.7.24



Industrial visit by Final year civil Engineering students to sewage treatment plant, Periyar University, Thanjavur on 31.7.24.



**Industrial Visit by Mechanical Engineering department to Southern Railway – Golden Rock Workshop, Ponmalai, Trichy.**

Mechanical Engineering Department organized three days industrial visit for the second year students to Southern Railway, Golden Rock Workshop, Ponmalai, Trichy on 27.8.2024, 28.8.2024 and 30.8.24. 61 students visited with the four faculties



### **Guest Lecture**

Mechanical Engineering Department organized Guest Lecture program on “Road Safety Awareness” in Audio visual Hall for the Third year mechanical Engineering Students on 13-09-2024.

Resource Persons :

1. Mr.Ramesh, Ass.Comissioner of Police
2. Mr.Govindarajan, Road safety Counsellor
3. Shiva Sankaran, President TN Consumer Federation, District Road safety Member, CAG Member TRAI, Non official visitor central prison Member



### **Screening of Movie by Tamil Nadu Govt. (23/07/2024)**

A movie titled "Sathanai manavargal" from Tamilnadu government film division , was Screened for the students. A total of 567 students viewed the movie.



Mr. R.Goplakrishnamani , Mrs. B.Senthamilselvi , Mr. G.Mohammed Ashif and Mr. Pradeep coordinated the students and event.

### **Eye camp**

An Eye camp was organized by Bank of India, Ariyamangalam Branch and NSS units of SIT for the benefit of staff and students on 24/7/2024. Dr. S.Murugan and Mrs Thiruselvi & NSS officers coordinated the event.

Overall 300 students and 10 faculty members got benefited by this camp.



## Student Activities

Department of Computer Engineering has conducted the following intra department events on 25.07.2024 which was organised by the II year students in the following topics.

- 1) Emerging technology
- 2) Club activity



## Blood Donation camp

A Blood Donation camp was jointly Organised by NCC, NSS and ROTARACT UNITS OF S.I.T. in association with Mahathma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital, Trichy on 26.07.2024.



Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India  
BIT Main Block, Kamaraj Nagar, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu 620010, India  
Lat: 9.005649  
Long: 78.727231°  
26/07/24 11:47 AM GMT +06:30

### **Student Scholarship - benevolence of Sri Ayyappa Sangam , Trichy**

Sri Ayyappa Seva Sangam, Trichy donated Rs. 2,64,000/- towards Scholarship for 35 students education. Mr. K.Saravanan , HOD/EEE and Mr.JR.Karthikeyan, Lecturer / Mathematics collected the cheque for Rs.2,64,000/-.



### **Sri. Iyappa Sangam Scholarship Beneficiaries**

#### **I YEAR**

<b>S.NO</b>	<b>REG.NO</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>BRANCH</b>	<b>MARK scored in 10<sup>th</sup> std</b>
1	241345	SRI SANJAY R	MECHANICAL	461
2	241413	HARSHAVARTHAN V	COMPUTER	457
3	241243	SUDHAN V	EEE	455
4	241348	SWAMINATHAN M	MECHANICAL	454
5	241322	KATHIRVEL G	MECHANICAL	452
6	241415	IKSHANA	COMPUTER	445

7	241401	ACKSHAYA R	COMPUTER	440
8	241133	PRIYADHARSHINI J	CIVIL	429
9	241625	SALMA BEE A	ICE	422
10	241321	KARTHI RAJESH P	MECHANICAL	400
11	241203	AMIRTHAVARSHINI A	EEE	413
12	241104	ABHISHEK R	CIVIL	409
13	241403	ALWIN JERRIC J	COMPUTER	405
14	241408	BEENA R	COMPUTER	404
15	241139	SRIMADHI N	CIVIL	354
16	241325	KISHORE P	MECHANICAL	341

**II Year**

S.NO	REG.NO	NAME	BRANCH	I TERM	II TERM	AVERAGE
1	231443	SUDHIN.S.D	COMPUTER	67	78	72.5
2	231324	PRAVEEN. R	MECHANICAL	58	74	66
3	231319	NIRMAL. S	MECHANICAL	68	80	74
4	231401	AABITHA BEGAM .A	COMPUTER	66	79	72.5
5	231530	VIDHYA.N	DPT	53	76	64.5
6	231601	ABIRAMI.S	ICE	66	78	72
7	231218	MATHIYARASU .S	EEE	67	79	73
8	231326	RAHUL.R	MECHANICAL	64	76	70
9	231414	HARIKUMAR . T	COMPUTER	65	77	71
10	231329	SAKTHIVEL. A	MECHANICAL	59	63	61
11	231407	BASHEER AHAMED.A	COMPUTER	65	72	68.5
12	231103	ANIS FATHIMA . E	CIVIL	66	78	72
13	231523	ROSHON.S	DPT	64	78	71

### III Year

S.NO	REG.NO	NAME	BRANCH	I TERM	II TERM	AVERAGE
1	221211	DHARSHINI .T	EEE	88.57	80.88	84.73
2	221105	HARIKRISHNAN.S	CIVIL	91.57	87.63	89.6
3	221218	KEERTHIKA K	EEE	82	90.5	86.28
4	221433	SALIHA SIDDIQA	COMPUTER	93.49	83.13	88.25
5	221301	ABDUL KAREEM R	MECHANICAL	76.86	80	78.43
6	221321	KISHORE KANNA S	MECHANICAL	86.71	91.88	89.3

#### Student Competitions -

In the photographic competition the following photos won the prizes. The event was conducted in 2 categories: Category 1.Architecture and Category 2: Objects and shadows



#### Aadhaar camp

Aadhaar camp was conducted for the benefits of our students for 3 days on 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August in association with Indian Postal department.



#### FACULTY RETIREMENT.

The following teaching faculty have retired from service on 31<sup>st</sup> July,2024.

Name & Designation	Department	Date of Birth	Date of joining	Date of retirement
Mr.S.Suresh Lecturer(SG)/ Physics	Physics	01/07/1964	21/08/1989	31/07/2024
Mr.K.Saravanan HOD	EEE	17/02/1971	30/06/1995	31/07/2024



**NAAN MUDHALVAN SCHEME BY TAMILNADU GOVERNMENT**

Students who got training under Naan Mudhalvan Scheme, received offer letters from Hon. Minister for Sports and Youth Development at a function arranged by the District collectors office at Kalaiarangam Auditorium, Trichy . Our Civil Engineering Faculty Mr. Pradeep coordinated the students to attend the Program



### **Paper day celebration**

The Dept. of Paper Technology commemorated Paper Day with a special event. Mr. Swapan Kumar Paul, Deputy General Manager/ Management System at Seshasayee Paper and Boards Ltd., Erode graced the occasion as Chief guest.

The event was organized by faculty of the Paper Technology department. Mr. Paul delivered an insightful presentation that delved into the rich history of paper and its significance in today's world. Students of Paper Technology department and nearby Government school enthusiastically participated in the celebration.



### **Eye checkup Camp by Eye Foundation Hospital, Trichy**

NSS and YRC units of SIT, in association with Eye Foundation Hospital, Trichy, conducted eye check up camp for our faculties and students. Around 300 students and 2 faculty have benefited from this camp on 6th August, 2024.



### FIRE SAFETY AWARENESS

Fire dousing demonstration was conducted for all the 2nd year students on 08.08.2024. Mr. K.Karthik of Mechanical Engineering department coordinated the event.





Selvan K,Srivasudevan of II year EEE department has won 3rd prize in Open Karate Tournament held at Srimad Andavan college , Srirangam Trichy on 11.08.2024.

### **Founder's day Celebration**

The 134th Founder's Day function was held today August 14<sup>th</sup> morning at SIT – GS-ANC auditorium, Trichy. Honorary Secretary G.M. Rajendran presided over the function. Dr. Kuppan Chetty, an alumnus of the college and Professor of Mechatronics Department, Thanjavur Shastra Nirvana University, was the Chief Guest. He said, “Students should learn clearly and subtly while studying. The acquired education should be useful for oneself, family and country. Only disciplined students can become leaders of tomorrow”.

Sri.V.Sundarraman, an alumnus and ex-Managing Director of SPIC, was conferred with the 'SIT Ratna' award. Alumni Association President Sri.PA. Balasubramanian delivered the felicitation address. In the event, certificates were awarded to students who won in the various competitions. Principal i/c. Dr.VG Ravindhren welcomed and Vice Principal Mrs.V. Vijayalakshmi proposed vote of thanks respectively.





### **Independence day Celebration**

78th Independence Day of India was celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2024. The event commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag, with a gathering of NCC cadets, students, and faculty members.

Dr. VG Ravindhren, Principal i/c. hoisted the flag and addressed the gathering.. Mrs. V. Vijayalakshmi, Vice-Principal, Dr. R. Usharani, and Dr. J. Charles Franklin participated and delivered addresses.

The event featured inspiring addresses by the participants, who spoke about the significance of Independence Day, the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters and the importance of upholding our nation's values. Their words instilled a sense of Patriotism and Pride.



### Silver Jubilee Alumni Re – Union Meet

A silver jubilee reunion of the Instrumentation and Control Engineering alumni of the 1996-99 batch was held on Sunday, August 16th, 2024 at the SIT Campus. Seventeen alumni of the batch participated, along with the Principal i/c, Vice Principal, and faculty members of the ICE department. Thiru N. Raju, Former Vice - Principal and present Joint Secretary/ SITAA briefed the audience regarding the activities of SIT Alumni Association. The alumni attended the meet reminisced about their student days and expressed their gratitude to their teachers for their guidance and knowledge

The alumni expressed their thanks to their teachers for their guidance and the SIT Alumni Association for keeping everyone connected. Special thanks were also given to the Chairman, Thiru V.K. Seshasayee, and the Honorable Secretary Mr. G.M. Rajendran, for their leadership. The alumni generously contributed Rs 1,00,001 towards the corpus fund and donated Rs 1,00,000 worth of equipment to the laboratory. M/S ASP ALLOYS CASTINGS, Vijayawada, Andhrapradesh, where our

alumnus Mr. Vijayakumar is working now ,donated Rs 50,000 for supporting education. The event ended with a renewed commitment to stay united and support their beloved institute.



### **Drug awareness Program**

Webinar on awareness on drugs and alcohol organized on 12.08.2024 by our NCC unit . Mr.S.G.Kathiravan. HOD/EEE was the resource person. The presentation was well appreciated by Officer Commanding of 3 CTC NCC.



### Filtered Drinking water System

A three-stage filtered drinking water facility has been installed for the students near NAV Hall with a capacity of 200 LPH in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August 2024.

### Lecture on Space awareness

World space week 2024 , Lecture on Space awareness held at SIT on 5<sup>th</sup> September. The resource person for the program was Dr.R.Kalimuthu, Group Director, ISRO, Mahendragiri. The program was organized by ISTE student chapter and First year Faculty



## **Seminar on Stress Management**

A seminar on Stress Management and Holistic Well being was conducted on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 for the II year students. Program was organized by NSS unit of SIT. The resource persons are the MSW students of Government arts college, Perambalur

## **Sensitization program to Girl students**

The Internal Compliance committee arranged a Sensitization program on 11.09.2024 to create awareness among the girl students on sexual harassment and how to face and report such events. Mrs.V.Vijayalakshmi Vice principal is the Head of the Committee with the following members:(Mrs/Mr)

1. S.Senthamarai, Lecturer/ICE
- 2.K.Annamalai, Lecturer/ICE
3. KM.Kanchana, Lecturer/Civil
4. Vadivukkarasi, Lecturer/Chemistry
5. K.Deepalakshmi, Lecturer/Comp
- 6 Akilandeswari, Lecturer/Civil
7. V.Vijayan ,Lecturer/Mech
8. Adaikala Celine , Basic Engg
9. Mrs Savithri, Lecturer/EEE



## Birth Anniversary of Sri. ANC

Birth Anniversary Former Principal Sri. ANC was celebrated on 12th September. The faculty and staff of SIT and 1981 batch Alumni participated in the event. The bust of Sr.ANC and SR. GS were garlanded.



1

## Achievement in Sports & Games (IPAA)

In the Inter polytechnic Athletic Association – Division Meet conducted for both Boys and Girls our students have excelled in various events. The Physical Director Mr.K.Karthi

### MEN'S TEAM

Sl.No	Event	Position	Venue	Date
1.	Table Tennis	Winner	SIT	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Sep-2024
2.	Carrom	Runner		
3.	Chess	5 <sup>th</sup> place		
4.	Badminton	3 <sup>rd</sup> place		
5.	Hockey	Runner	Kongunadu polytechnic college	14 <sup>th</sup> Sep-2024
6.	Basket ball	Runner		21 <sup>st</sup> Sep-2024
7.	CM Trophy (Carrom doubles)	Winner	St. James Hr. Sec School, Trichy	17 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2024
8.		Runner		
9.		CM Trophy (Carrom Singles)		

## WOMEN'S TEAM

Sl.No	Event	Position	Venue	Date
1.	Table Tennis	Winner	SIT	19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> Sep-2024 14 <sup>th</sup> Sep-2024
2.	Ball Badminton	Winner		
3.	Chess	Winner		
4.	Carrom	Winner		
5.	Volley Ball	Runner		
6.	CM Trophy (Carrom doubles)	Winner	St. James Hr. Sec School, Trichy	19 <sup>th</sup> Sep-2024



### Creating Awareness on Voting

The Election Commission of India has instructed the schools and colleges to create awareness among students about the importance of voting. In this regard competitions were conducted and the winners are evaluated. The event was coordinated by Mrs.M.Vadivukkarasi, Lecturer/Chemistry, Mr.JR.Karthikeyan, Lecturer/Maths and Mr.P.Kalaivanan Lecturer/ Physics.



Name of the Student	Department	Event	Position
M.Swaminathan	Mechanical	Wall Magazine	First
V.Rohith	Mechanical	Wall Magazine	Second
S.Arundhathi	Civil	Wall Magazine	Third
M.Afrin Begam	Civil	Tamil Essay	First
M.Mohith Kiruba	Mechanical	Tamil Essay	Second
E.Anis Fathima	Civil	Tamil Essay	Third
M.Swaminathan	Mechanical	English Essay	First
V.Rohith	Mechanical	English Essay	Second
S.Arundhathi	Civil	English Essay	Third



### Anti Drug Committee

The committee convened on September 12, 2024, to deliberate on strategies for raising awareness about drug abuse. The committee was constituted with the following members

Sl.No	Name (Mr./Dr.)	Designation	Role
1	R.Goaplakrishmani	HOD ic – I Year	Head Committee
2	T.Muthamilselvam	HOD ic / Computer	Member
3.	SG.Kadiravan	HOD ic /EEE	Member
4.	B.Sinthanaiselvan	Lecturer/Paper Tech.	SPOC
5	R.Krishnan	JDO/Civil	Member

6.	Mohammed Ashif	Lecturer /ICE	Member
7.	S.Jai Krishnan	Lecturer /Mechanical	Member



"

The primary motive of an anti-drug abuse committee is to **prevent and reduce drug use and its harmful consequences** within a specific community or population. This can involve various activities such as:

- **Education and Awareness:**
- **Prevention Programs:**
- **Treatment and Rehabilitation**
- **Advocacy and Policy Development**
- **Community Engagement:**

Write up on Mr. Sahayaraj , Passed out PTC course in 1974

*Those who refused to be lured by the West  
and contributed significantly to India's growth.*

# 100 Great IITians

**Dedicated to the Service of the Nation**

**Edited by Commander V.K. Jaitly**

Pleased to be  
featured



Sahaya Raj



IIT Guwahati



IIT Roorkee



IIT BHU



IIT Dhanbad



IIT Kharagpur



IIT Bombay



IIT Madras



IIT Kanpur



IIT Delhi

*Those who refused to be lured by the West  
and contributed significantly to India's growth.*

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*Edited by*

**Commander V.K. Jaitly**

66.	Ajay Mathur .....	262
67.	Bhadresh Shah .....	266
68.	Lt Gen Vishwanbhar Singh .....	270
69.	Mangu Singh .....	274
70.	Nandan Nilekani.....	278
71.	Prabhakar Singh.....	282
72.	Prabhat Ranjan.....	286
73.	Rabi Bastia .....	290
74.	Sahaya Raj.....	294
75.	S.P. Shukla .....	298
76.	Sudhir K. Jain.....	302
77.	Jyotindra Thacker.....	306
78.	Swami Smaranananda/N. Sridhar Reddy.....	310
79.	Vinayak Deshpande .....	314
80.	Vipin Chandra Sharma .....	318
81.	Patanjali (Patu) G. Keswani .....	322
82.	R. Ramanan .....	326
83.	Manoj Chugh.....	330
84.	D. Shivakumar .....	334
85.	Rakesh Khurana .....	338
86.	Anand Deshpande.....	342
87.	Kota Harinarayana .....	346
88.	Emandi Sankara Rao .....	350
89.	Arun Kumar Shukla .....	354
90.	Manindra Agrawal .....	358
91.	Sumant Sinha .....	362
92.	Saugata Gupta.....	366
93.	Aditya Gupta .....	370
94.	Vyankatesh Prabhudesai.....	374
95.	Anil Bhardwaj.....	378
96.	Sujatha Srinivasan.....	382
97.	Gauranga Das.....	386
98.	Balaji Sampath .....	390
99.	AVM Devesh Vatsa.....	394
100.	K. Radhakrishnan .....	398
	About the Editor.....	402

## **Sahaya Raj**

**79/Naval Arch/B.Tech (Hons)/ IIT Kharagpur**

**Raaj Saab: The Innovative Ship Builder  
of Modern India**



**A**lmost 50 years ago, a very young boy who had not travelled outside his hometown, set foot on the campus of IIT Kharagpur. Little did he know that he was blazing a trail from his agricultural roots in his village of Ponmalaipatti in Tamilnadu to a career in naval architecture at one of India's most illustrious institutes. Sahaya Raj was a brilliant student during his studies at Sacred Heart High School and later at Seshasayee Institute at Trichy, which helped him earn the National Merit Scholarship. This helped him pursue his studies at IIT, without any financial burden on his family.

Today, Sahay Raj is the owner and operator of SHOFT - one of India's finest private Shipyards, at the pinnacle of his success.

IIT Kharagpur being the first institute in India to offer the Naval Architecture course, had the best faculty who with great fervour taught the fundamentals about ship design, hydrodynamics, structural engineering, construction, and associated engineering disciplines. Sahay Raj credits his teachers who instilled his love and understanding of the art and science of naval architecture. To this day, he nurtures those relationships, seeking guidance from his KGP teachers.

Kharagpur changed his life in ways unimaginable. With Ltd fluency in English and no knowledge of Bengali, getting through the first few months was itself quite challenging. Luckily, naval architects are naturally buoyant and stable. The survival instincts he developed during his early life at Kharagpur, navigating challenges in hostel life and academic courses, helped him face many tough situations later on in life with confidence. He cherishes the lifelong friendships he developed with wonderful batchmates and hostel mates, who played a major role in nurturing his skills, character, and confidence.



Upon graduation, when a lot of his peers were moving abroad to pursue higher studies, Sahaya Raj chose to stay back and joined the industry to earn and support his family. He landed in Mumbai—the hub of maritime activities and started his career at N N Shipbuilders in September of 1979.

Life wasn't easy in Mumbai but many life skills were learnt—from living in congested accommodations, commuting long distances across the city in crowded buses and trains, and managing numerous hardships. He later moved to Mangala Shipbuilders where he continued to grow his career. The invaluable experience he gained in these private shipyards exposed him to all aspects of shipbuilding, design, fabrication, outfitting, delivery, and most importantly people and financial management.

In 1987, he started on his own, focusing on design consultancy and marine component manufacturing under the name SHOFT (acronym of SHIP OutFIT). Soon he diversified to contract shipbuilding by forming a team of experienced professionals and skilled workmen. With their unique capability of working at multiple locations, SHOFT soon emerged as competent contractors for executing shipbuilding jobs in various private and public sector shipyards. During the next twenty years, SHOFT played a substantive collaborative role in the construction of ships built by prominent shipyards across the country.

This brought him close to the industry leaders, many of them alumni of IIT Kharagpur, who ignited his passion for shipbuilding greatly. It was only logical that Sahaya Raj moved to the next level. In 2004, with a modest investment, SHOFT acquired waterfront land on the banks of river Narmada in Bharuch, Gujarat, nine nautical miles from the sea. Over the years, he transformed SHOFT into a medium-sized shipyard with excellent infrastructure and resources. Employing nearly 1200 men, SHOFT has built and repaired more than 100 vessels with many of them being the first of their kind in

India. In recognition, SHOFT was issued the license for building warships by the Ministry of Defence, in 2013. In 2014–15 they built INS Astradharini - A61, the first naval Auxiliary vessel with a weapon outfit built by a private shipyard and commissioned in the Indian Navy.

Around this time, the Government of India promoted the initiative 'Public Private Partnership (PPP)' under the 'Make In India' policy. SHOFT was the early beneficiary and commenced collaborative shipbuilding with the leading DPSU shipyard Mazagaon Dock Ltd, for whom they started building Mega Modular Hull Blocks for Destroyers and Frigates under construction by MDL. These blocks, weighing up to 250 tonnes each were fabricated to warship building standards fitted out at the Bharuch yard and transported to MDL, in Mumbai, by a specially-built barge. They were then assembled to form the full hull, saving substantial construction time. This entire process was so successful that MDL assigned the complete construction of a Destroyer hull to be built at the SHOFT shipyard. This was the first time such a large project was outsourced in India and SHOFT completed the 150m long hull and delivered it to MDL, in record time achieving another milestone for a private shipyard.





SHOFT shipyard has taken up many ambitious projects and the latest challenge is building twenty RO-RO passenger ferries for the Assam Government for operation in the Brahmaputra River. Due to the lack of local infrastructure, they were built in sections at the shipyard in Bharuch, transported by trailers across the country, and assembled on the banks of the river. Ten such ferries were delivered in 2021–22 and ten more are to be delivered later this year. In the annals of Indian shipbuilding history, there has never been a comparable innovation.

The shipbuilding industry in India has recognized his achievements which led him to spearhead the Shipyards Association of India (SAI) as its President. He is also on the Board of the Indian Register of Shipping. He warmly acknowledges the support of his colleagues, and staff and remains in close touch with the workmen who have been with him right from his early days. He is fondly addressed by all as Raj Saab and remains a humble, humane, and grounded person. He firmly believes in 'Learn, Earn and Return' and SHOFT contributes to CSR and other social causes regularly.

Sahaya Raj remains a true torch-bearer to his profession. Sahaya Raj's ambition is to see India emerge as one of the leading shipbuilding nations like Japan, South Korea, and China and to bring back the glorious days of maritime supremacy of India.

The story of Sahaya Raj should resonate in the hearts and minds of every aspiring Indian. From very adverse circumstances of birth in rural India, he saw potential in himself and steered his career to success. A strong academic foundation is the quintessential need and all it needs is an enquiring mind. With that torch of curiosity, Sahaya Raj made his way to an IIT and then to the footsteps of a career. Having learnt the tools of the shipbuilding trade, he then chose the difficult path of an entrepreneur, with substantive financial and career risk. Fortune, as they say, favours the brave, and Sahaya Raj has been fortunate because of his courage because of his academic rigour, his hard work ethic, and his trust in people. Sahaya Raj truly epitomizes the spirit of 'Make in India'.

## An appeal

Greetings!

Over the past decade, SIT has undergone significant improvements and advancements, thanks in large part to the unwavering support of our alumni community. SITAA members have been instrumental in enhancing our institution's operations and fostering a vibrant student community through various initiatives, including the modernization of classrooms, laboratories, dining halls, hostels, and canteens. Additionally, your generous financial contributions have enabled us to extend much-needed support to deserving students in the form of tuition fees, hostel fees, examination fees, and medical expenses.

These enhancements have been pivotal in our pursuit of NBA accreditation. We are grateful for the continued contributions of our alumni, who have selflessly given their time and resources to strengthen SIT and fulfill its mission of producing well-rounded individuals equipped with the technical knowledge required to excel in industry.

Your donations to the Seshasayee Educational Society, the governing body of SIT, are eligible for tax exemptions under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act. We kindly request your generous contributions to any of the following funds to support our ongoing efforts:

Name of the account	. Banker's name	Account Number	IFSC
Seshasayee Educational Society-Corpus	Bank of India Ariyamangalam 620010	830010100026104	BKID0008299
Seshasayee Educational Society Building Fund	City Union Bank Cantonment Branch, Trichy620001	500101010269425	CIUB0000153
Seshasayee Educational SocietyGSANCMEF	City Union Bank Cantonment Branch, Trichy620001	153001501292142	CIUB0000153

The details of contributions, may please be informed to Hon. Secretary, Seshasayee Institute of Technology, Ariyamangalam, Trichy-620010 with your contact address, PAN and Aadhar so that we can send you the cash receipt to avail IT exemption.

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