



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



SEA EXPLORERS' INSTITUTE



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Who are we?

Sea Explorers' Institute (SEI) is a unique centre for riverine and maritime training, research and exploration. Registered in 1984 as a not-for-profit organization, SEI grew under the able leadership of Dr. Sheuli Chatterjee, who followed the vision of her husband Dr. Pinaki Ranjan Chatterjee. Sea Explorers' Institute thus regards both Dr. Pinaki and Dr. Sheuli as its founders. Sea Explorers' Institute completes 41 glorious years in 2025. Though small and humble, the organization has created a niche space for itself as the only NGO in India to have undertaken 28 long expeditions and more than 804 voyages. Further, it is the only centre that trains the Disaster Response Forces from 16 NDRF battalions, 16 SDRFs, Police and Fire Services in Deep Sea Diving and Under Water Rescue and Salvage. More than 8100 men from the forces have been trained on aquatic disaster management from SEI.

SEI has also succeeded in training the youth in other courses like marine awareness, seamanship and scuba diving. Several of them have undertaken these courses to make themselves employable. Additionally, in its endeavour to act on climate change, it trains youth to become environment analysts and undertake research towards building a more conscious society. The institution has been conducting a laboratory oriented course of environmental analysis under the West Bengal Technical Education Department. 496 students have completed this course and all those interested have been placed.

The organization hosts a unique endurance race across five kinds of adventure sports to save rivers by connecting the youth called: "SEI Pentathlon".

'Ananda'- a baotshow to rediscover the Ganga is yet another flagship event of SEI in which ethnic boats of Bengal parade alongside more sophisticated vessels like speedboats, warships, barges, survey vessels, and dredgers to increase awareness among students.

Furthermore, the organization has a cultural wing called "Tryst with the River" that encourages artists, poets, musicians, dancers and singers to associate with the river.



Today, we continue as an energetic team of very passionate sea and river explorers, divers, environmentalists and adventure lovers who strongly believe in giving back to society and in equipping the nation to overcome challenges faced with regard to marine and riverine resources that have exacerbated with climate change and ruthless use.

Registered under the Societies Act 1961

Compliant under CSR1, 80G and 12A

Our Vision

To create a nation where people become keenly interested in marine and riverine resources and value them as a crucial part of our environment and living.

Our Mission

To explore, research and train youth on marine and riverine resources.



Impact

SEI has evolved to be a niche organisation in the area of aquatic adventure on one hand and in preparing India for disaster response on the other.

Lets talk **numbers...**

28 long maritime/riverine rowing and sailing expeditions undertaken, from **300 to 6000 km** in distance

500 environmental analysts created, and company placements

800+ voyages undertaken

8100+ paramilitary men trained in disaster response

28 research publications on various topics

7000+ students made more aware about marine and riverine resources

600+ of youth skilled in seamanship and navigation

The first ever **525 km** endurance race: "SEI Pentathlon" Including trekking, rafting, kayaking, rowing and sailing, conceptualized and organized

30+ types of boats paraded for the first time together in the waters, to raise awareness and curiosity of young minds, through the "Ananda" Boat Show

Sustainability

Development Goals

The areas in which we, SEI, contribute towards SDGs are...





From the Secretary General's desk . . .

As I browse through the files of the Sea Explorers' Institute that have been sincerely documented over the years, the growth story of the organisation comes alive. But along with that I can see the story of constant struggle of a small not for profit organisation working in a lesser explored domain. However, SEI has successfully sailed through amidst peaks and troughs. In the last 5 years, SEI faced 3 storms that deserve mention. First, was the demise of its founder and leader Dr Sheuli Chatterjee, second, was COVID 19 and third was the sudden demise of its leader Col Ananda Shankar Chatterjee. Times have been extremely difficult, but SEI progressed with its indomitable spirit and unwavering dedication.

I feel extremely privileged and honoured to lead SEI that has earned itself tremendous goodwill through hard work and sacrifice over 4 decades that rebounds in the corridors of esteemed organisations all over the country.

In the financial year 2024-25, we kept ourselves busy with a variety of activities in collaboration with other reputed organisations. In terms of financial merit we did not do too well. But in terms of organisational growth we continued on the growth trajectory set by Ananda.

I thank all our supporters and well wishers and wish to let them know that we will rise higher in times to come.

Thank You!

Dr Sudeshna Chatterjee

12th September, 2025

1. Adventure Training Programs

i. Seamanship & Navigation Training

This training course is the first requisite for students who would like to undertake river and sea expedition. It aims at training the youth in practical seamanship, basic chart work, and handling of boats under sail and oars in river and sea.

12 candidates were trained in Seamanship and Navigation. This was the 66th Batch to complete this training.

Voyages: Voyages are part and parcel of training. This is a practical training where the trainees are taken out into the river. The trainees of Batch No.66 of Seamanship Training course completed two voyages. The voyages are detailed below.

13th Aug
2024



SEI to Akra
and back



1 Day

11th to 13th Sept
2024



SEI to
Uluberia and
back



3 Days



Pictured to the left: Batch 66
leaving for Uluberia

ii. Sea/Marine Awareness Training

The objective of the course is to generate awareness about the sea and water-borne activities, among the school, college & university students. The students learn about the various aspects of Marine Environment, Marine Geography, Sub-Sea world. Students also get practical exposure to Rowing/ Sailing/ Kayaking, Life-Saving techniques in water. Additionally, basic application of First Aid is also demonstrated.

Course held during period under report:
5th to 8th may- **Batch 276**; 10 students from Green
Park Siksha Sadan High school (NCC)



***Pictured above:** Life saving lessons
Pictured to the left: Kayak control and
floating training*

2. Environmental Analyst Course

This course has been approved by the Technical Education Department, Govt. of West Bengal.

The course has a duration of 6 months, and in this year, two batches had undergone the Environmental Analyst course.

Batch No.	No, of Students	Course Duration
48	18	Feb 2024- Aug 2024
49	11	Started Jan 2025

STUDENTS INDUCTED INTO VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS 2024-2025

Name of Organization	No. of Students Employed
R.V Briggs	4
Mitra SK Pvt. Ltd.	1
Sisco	1
Vishvaraj Environment Pvt. Ltd.	1



Pictured above: Water sample collection



Pictured above: Chemical Analysis of water samples taken

Pictured to the right: Batch 47 of the Environmental Analyst Class



3. Workshops

i. Community Interaction on Coastal Security

SEI Conducted a community interaction program on coastal security in Pathar Pratima Block, Sundarban with the Indian Navy on 18th August, 2024.



ii. Audio Visual Presentation

An audio-visual presentation on 'Andaman Abhijan 2013' was held at Ghola Uchha Vidyalaya (HS), Dist.- South 24 Parganas on 10th September, 2024.



iii. Ghat Cleaning and Awareness Camp

SEI organized a one day Ganga Ghat cleaning and awareness camp on 6th December, 2024 with the students from Deshabndhu College for Girls.



iv. Migration of Tigers

Dr. Sangita Mitra, Director of World Wildlife Fund (WWF), West Bengal helped educate students on the various reasons for tiger migration. Schools that participated included Modern High School for Girls, and Vivekananda Mission High School. Through interdisciplinary understanding, the connection between nature, ecosystems and fauna was made more distinct.

The workshop was held on Wednesday 12th March 2025, at SEI, Outram Ghat In association with World Wildlife Fund



v. Mangrove Propagation along the Hooghly

SEI has demonstrated mangrove plantation along the Sundari Ghat area, along the Hooghly. Accordingly, A network of scholars undertaking action research on Successful Methods of Mangrove Propagation along the Hooghly brainstormed on its merits and demerits.

Dr Punarbasu Chowdhury and others embarked on this experiment from Sundari Ghat of Sea Explorers' Institute to Chandannagar Govt. College.

Mr Uma Shankar Mondal of Purbasha, the leader of this experiment of anthropogenic dispersing of Mangrove seeds along the coast, felt confident that despite the rains on the 18th of August, 2024 nature would have its way of regeneration if other factors of germination were found to be suitable.



4. Disaster Management Training

i. Underwater Diving Course on Life Saving & Salvage

Life Saving and Salvage in Underwater is a 6 week for fresher and 3 week for Re-fresher training course. The main purpose of the training is to enable an underwater diver to work safely and competently to the depth of at least 33 ft. using Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA) for the purpose of salvage and rescue operation.

Below are the successfully completed courses for 2024-2025

Batch No.	Duration (6 Weeks)	Unit	No. of Heads
242	01.04.2024 to 11.05.2024	NDRF	30
243	01.07.2024 to 10.08.2024	West Bengal Police	21
244	01.07.2024 to 10.08.2024	West Bengal Police	19
245	22.07.2024 to 31.08.2024	ITBP	25
246	21.10.2024 to 30.11.2024	Tripura Police	11

ii. **Refresher** Underwater Diving Course on Life Saving & Salvage

Refresher Batch No.	Duration (3 Weeks)	Unit	No. Of Heads
42	19.09.2024 to 09.10.2024	ODRAF	20
43	21.10.2024 to 09.11.2024	ODRAF	20

Total No. of Disaster Management Trainees: 146

***Pictured to the right:** Diving training*

***Pictured below:** Emergency response victim transfer training*



5. Nodir Shawnge Dekha

NODIR SHAWNGE DEKHA (NSD), or, **“Tryst with the River”**, the cultural wing of SEI, is a window to the diverse cultural aspects associated with the river and its resources.

The thought leaders of NSD took the initiative of reviving the cultural activities by inviting artists to a painting workshop and to deliver the first Sheuli Chatterjee Memorial Lecture, that was held on 18th December, 2024, at Sundari Ghat.

The Lecture was delivered by literateur Sadhan Chattopadhyay, and the workshop itself brought in 12 acclaimed artists. Furthermore, poets of Nandimukh and Bhatiali singer Romen Saha presented their own works during the programme.



6. “Ananda” The Boat Show on Hooghly

“Ananda” is a unique Boat Show to rediscover our very own river and its vessels. It is symbolic of love, camaraderie and inclusion in our waters. Boatmen, fishermen and Baichh with their Talai, Dinghi, Khile, Chhip and Gol alongside Jet Skies, Whalers, Geminis, Speedboats, Barges, Survey vessels and the amphibious dredger from the Indian Navy, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, the Indian Army, Inland Waterways Association of India and the River Traffic Police, paraded in the same waters with equal dignity and grace.

The purpose of the boatshow, held on 20th and 21st December, 2024, was to raise awareness among the youth, especially school and college students along with that of city dwellers. Schools like Bila High School, Modern High School, Mahadevi Bila World Academy, BSS School, and many others were in attendance.

The mantle of the founders of SEI was carried forward by their son and Chief Operating Officer Col Ananda Shankar Chatterjee with unnerving courage and skill. The organisation dedicated this show to him.

There were nearly 30 exhibits in the Boat Show.



Pictured above: Different types of vessels on show

Pictured below: Antique vessel stand, displaying historic seafaring boats



7. Rowing and Sailing Expedition

Sea Explorers' Institute flagged off its 28th expedition from Sundari Ghat on 10th February, 2024. To instill the spirit of adventure and foster it has been the mainstay of our work. Thus, the team of 7 who undertook the expedition comprised of some veteran seamen like Tenzing Norgay Awardee Tapas Chowdhury, skipper Aseem Mondal, Puspen Samanta and somewhat experienced like Momin Ali Mondal and Biswajit Mondal to first timers like Partha Mondal and Jotinmoy Mishra.

The expedition was undertaken in a 27 foot long whaler boat called the "Abhinandan", named after Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman of Surgical Strike of India in Uri sector, gifted to Sea Explorers' Institute by the Indian Navy.

A total distance of 320 kms of the expedition was covered in 11 days.



The commander of 2nd Bn NDRF, Shri Gurminder Singh flagged off the expedition and encouraged the boys to undertake a successful journey on the 10th of February.

Cmde Caesar Basu, Group Commander, NCC Group (Naval) was present at the closing ceremony and encourage these participants with such skills in the arena of adventure sports on 20th February, 2025.



8. River Pollution

Abatement Demonstration

Sea Explorers' Institute along with World Wildlife Fund and National Cadet Corps, West Bengal collaborated on International Water Day (22nd March) to demonstrate a simple mechanism of surface cleaning of the Hooghly. Local boatmen, fishermen and river ambassadors were involved in the cleaning. It is stark to note that 162 Kgs of waste was collected in just 24 hours along a width of 100ft cross-section of the river in the Kolkata front. The waste collected comprised mainly of plastic bottles, torn plastic sheets, styrofoam, rubber slippers, disposable containers and party drugs. Dead fish and prawn that have died due to chemical residues in the river were also evident.

Dr Kalyan Rudra, Chairman of West Bengal Pollution Control Board was the Chief Guest who reminded everyone that our river is our lifeline and be it industry, agriculture or services, our dependency on the river is too much. Thus, it is time we cared for the river. Dr Sangita Mitra, Director WWF brought to light the importance of stopping plastic use and how even in the rains we find microplastics.



Pictured above: Setting up surface skimming net

Pictured to the right: Surface net catching waste along the river



9. **River** Ambassadors Program

11 local men from various ghats were trained to act as First Responders in case of emergency and prevent deaths from drowning. This was done in collaboration with Kult X.



***Pictured above:** Life saving techniques demonstration
Pictured below: Surface cleaning technique demonstration*



10. Service to Other Organizations

During the year under report, the Institute rendered voluntary services to the following organizations:

i. Kolkata Police

Life savers (5) kept vigil till midnight over the ghats of the river Ganga on rescue boats on the occasion of Durga Puja festival, Immersion duty, between 13th and 15th of October, 2024.



Pictured: SEI vessel on watch with life savers, during Durga Puja immersions



ii. **Support** to Kumartuli Bag Devi Tarun Sangha



SEI provided a motorized boat, kayaks etc. to Kumartuli Bag Devi Tarun Sangha for their 10km long distance swimming competition from Uttar Para to Dol Tala Ghat on 15th December, 2024

iii. **Support** to Calcutta Rowing Club

Sea Explorers' Institute extended support by guiding the rowers of Calcutta Rowing Club during their Barrackpore rigatta, on 5th January, 2025.



iv. **Support** to River Festival of KultX

Life saving support was provided to KultX for their River Festival at Nather Bagan Ghat on 27th and 28th December, 2024

11. Visitors to SEI



On the 24th April, 2024 a team from Odisha Fire and Emergency Services visited SEI, to inspect our infrastructure for underwater disaster response training

On the 10th of February, 2025, SEI engaged in a brainstorming session with NDRF representatives, to understand the changes in operational demands. Shri Gurminder Singh of 2nd Battalion NDRF led this discussion.

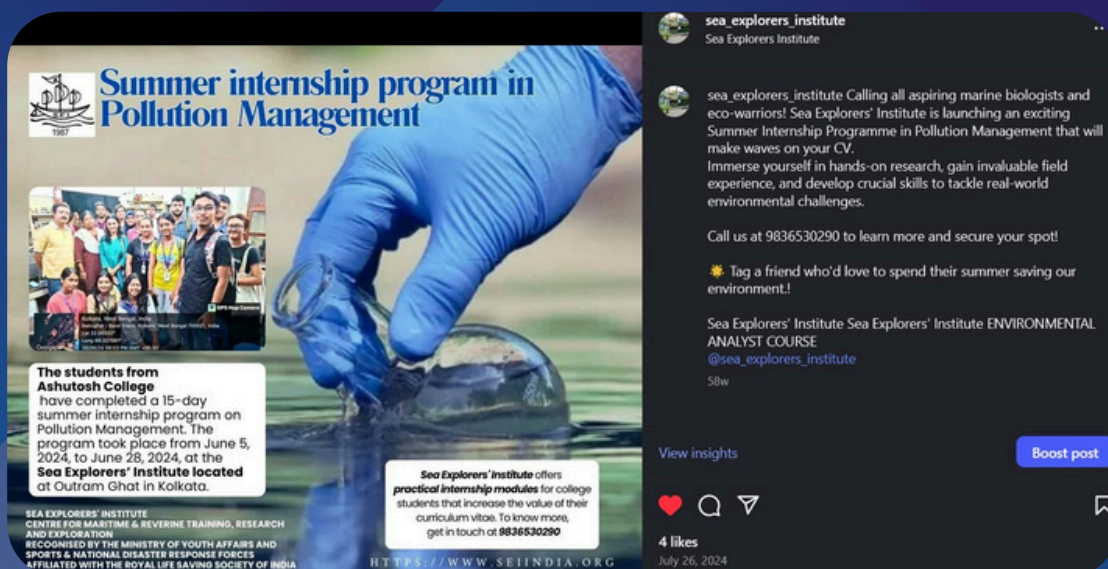
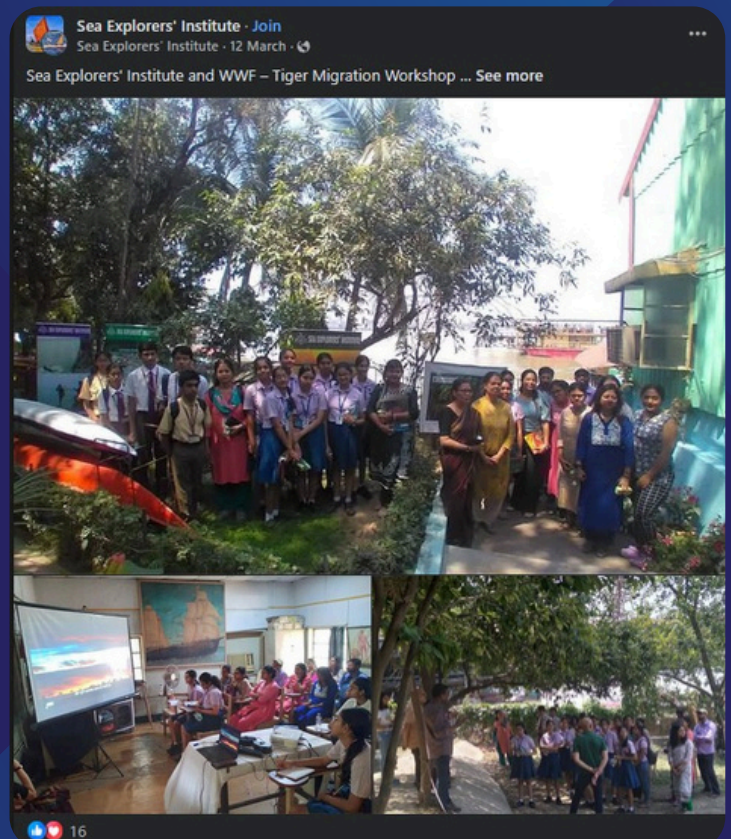


On the 20th of February, 2025, Cmde Caesar Basu of NCC Naval Wing inspected SEI's infrastructure for SCUBA training for future training of NCC cadets.

12. Social Media Presence

SEI has released a weekly saturday newsletter, entailing the works and activities of the organization, as well as visits and events. This initiative has been running for 46 out of the 52 weeks of the last year.

Furthermore, as of 2025, SEI has also created and has began expanding its LinkedIn profile.





- The river cleaning demonstration
- Nodir Shawnge Dekha workshop
- Ananda Boat show
- Expedition to Susni Island
- River Ambassadors program
- Disaster Response training

Times of India 23-03-2025

2 hours of clean-up net
162 kg waste from Ganga

- > **Waste items found**
Plastic bottles, torn plastic sheets, polystyrene, rubber slippers, disposable containers, party drugs
- > **Notable findings** | Dead fish and prawns affected by chemical residues
- > **Future plans** | Expansion to 20 ghats in Kolkata, seeking CSR funding for sustainability

The event's chief guest, Kalyan Rudra, chairman of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board said, "This is

Sangita Mitra, director of WWF, said, "Plastic waste disintegrates into microplastics, which enter our food chain and have even been found in mother's milk. We must prevent plastics from reaching the river at all costs," she urged.

Addressing this crisis requires a multi-pronged approach — preventing waste disposal at source, continuous surface cleaning, and community engagement.

নন্দ-নন্দা নিয়ে সচেতনতা বাড়াতে আশুবন
 অনুষ্ঠানের আয়োজন সি এক্সপ্লোরার্স
 ইনস্টিটিউটের। তাদের 'আনন্দ' অনুষ্ঠানে
 নৌকা নিয়ে খোগ দেন অনেকে। নন্দীমাতৃক
 বাংলার সঙ্গে জড়িয়ে রয়েছে মাঝি, জেলে,
 ডিঙি, ছিপ ইত্যাদি শব্দ। এই সংস্থা ৪০ বছর
 ধরে নদী, সমুদ্র ও মহাসাগরে বিভিন্ন অভিযান
 করে থাকে। এদিন পরিবেশ সম্পর্কে সচেতনতা
 বাড়াতেই উদ্যোগ নিয়েছিল তারা। সহায়তায়
 ভারতীয় নৌবাহিনী, গার্ডেনরিচ শিপ বিল্ডার্স
 অ্যান্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স, ভারতীয় সেনা, ইনল্যান্ড
 ওয়াটারগেয়েজ অ্যাসোসিয়েশন অফ ইন্ডিয়া।
 ছিল কলকাতা পুলিশের রিভার ট্রাফিকও।



14. Maintenance

Several repair and maintenance works were undertaken. Some significant ones include:

- Vessels** "Indira" and "Shona Saudagar" were sent to GRSE for thorough repair
- Approach ramp to "Anmeshwa" our boat based classroom was made
- A bathing platform for diving trainees constructed
- Painting of Classroom No 3 and outdoor walls and garden area
- Minor electrical and plumbing works undertaken



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