



25 Key Milestones and Way Ahead for SIMS

Our journey began in August 2002 by opening of Samundra Institute of Maritime Studies (SIMS), Mumbai as an in-house Post Sea Training Commitment of ESM, an important milestone in the Company's Evolution. SIMS ensured the training of floating staff not only to the STCW or DGS requirements but far beyond the expectations of the customers. Later in October 2004, SIMS Lonavala Campus began taking shape (foundation stone laid by the then Director General of Shipping, Shri GS Sahni). Soon it was to become a beacon by giving a world-class facility for young Indians to pursue their dreams of becoming a well-rounded Maritime Professional for working on ESM managed ships.

SIMS, by its innovative teaching methodology succeeded in creating interest amongst the seafarers and has achieved the highest level of training effectiveness. It has developed into one of the best maritime Training Institute in the world, made possible by its world class infrastructure, committed trainers and staff.

Read on to find out more about SIMS journey:

1. **Aug 2002** : SIMS Mumbai was established formally.
2. **Sept 2002** : SIMS Mumbai officially opened its door from 02nd September, Monday. With training courses for chemical, oil and gas tankers.
3. **Mar 2003** : Successfully commissioned a down sized stainless steel tank of a chemical tanker fully equipped with FRAMO cargo pumping system.
4. **Aug 2003** : DG Approval for SIMS Courses: Our young in-house training institute successfully underwent an extensive inspection on 21st July 2003, by Director General of Shipping surveyors as a pre-requisite for granting approval for various IMO courses on Specialised Training for tankers-particularly Chemical tankers and Oil tankers.
5. **Jan 2004** : Installation of a 240 degree Full Mission Bridge Simulator capable of rotation to 360 degree, at SIMS, Mumbai. The simulator is equipped to simulate different geographical locations of the world (weather & traffic), being navigated by different types of ships.
6. **Jan 2004** : SIMS receives ISO 9001 Certification for training seafarers of merchant marine, by DNV, Singapore in order to maintain highest standard in Maritime Education & Training. (maintained till date)



7. **March 2004** : Mr. Bob Malone, Chief Executive of BP Shipping formally inaugurated the institute officially on 17th March 2004.
8. **Apr 2004** : Automation Laboratory established: Started with Hazarea Courses
9. **May 2004** : Engine Room Simulator Commissioned at SIMS, Mumbai and approval obtained from DG Shipping for Operational & Management level courses.
10. **Jun 2004** : Successfully installed Inert Gas Simulator at SIMS, Mumbai.
11. **Jul 2004** : Commissioned Main Engine Manoeuvring System and MIURA Boiler Simulator successfully at SIMS, Mumbai.
12. **Aug 2005** : First batch of DNS Course under the aegis of IGNOU commenced. A step towards ensuring a steady stream of talented officers groomed and trained in house to serve on ESM managed ships.
13. **Nov 2005** : Customised and unique Ice Navigation Simulator Installed to train navigators of ESM and BPMS to deal with the challenges of navigation in icy waters of Baltic Sea and other such locations.
14. **Nov 2005** : First batch of GME Course commenced in SIMS, Lonavala just three months after the commencement of the DNS programme. SIMS, Lonavla becomes fully equipped to train future officers in both Engine and deck departments.
15. **May 2006** : A two day Simulator based Turkish straits course is launched to equip ship's officers with the necessary skills required for ship handling and safe transit especially in a difficult place like the Turkish Straits. Another First from SIMS!
16. **Nov 2007** : SIMS, Lonavala Campus inaugurated by Mr John Ridgway, , Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer of BP Shipping. Mr. John Ridgway presented to the world – in his words –“a truly world class maritime institute, unparalleled in terms of infrastructure and training facilities, destined to become a benchmark for the maritime fraternity in the years to follow”.



17. **Nov 2007** : The unique Ship-in-Campus, an engineering marvel realised by focused efforts of our in-house marine engineers and experts, inaugurated by Mr Ajoy Chatterjee, Chief Surveyor to the Govt. of India, DG Shipping. A giant leap for SIMS in terms of imparting quality on-the-job shipboard training in a shore establishment!
18. **Oct 2008** : SIMS, Lonavala conferred the prestigious award for Excellence in Architecture for Best Public Building by Indian Institute of Architects.
19. **Dec 2008** : Approval provided by DNV Sea Skill for the conduct of Free Fall Life Boat and Fast Rescue Boat Courses. SIMS became the first ever training facility in India to commence Free Fall Life Boat course.
20. **Oct 2009** : The year witnessed SIMS adding a few more feathers to its overflowing cap by bagging the following outstanding awards,
 - J.K. Cement-Architect of the Year Awards, Best Educational Institute Award Institute of Steel Development & Growth (INSDAG), Runner's up for Best Steel Structure in India
 - Archi Design Excellence Award, Architect of the Year Award
 - World Architecture Festival Award, Barcelona, Category: Education – Finalist
21. **Oct 2009** : SIMS received authorization by The Swedish Club to run the Maritime Resource Management (MRM) course to address and minimise the risk of incidents by encouraging safe and responsible behaviours. It aims to foster positive attitudes favouring good communication, teamwork, excellence in leadership skills and compliance with standard operating procedures.
22. **Dec 2009** : Commissioned LPG Cargo & Ballast Handling Simulator, one of its kinds at SIMS, Lonavala and obtained approval from DNV, Norway.
23. **Jan 2010** : SIMS awarded with the highest grade "Grade – I - OUTSTANDING" by ICRA Limited (a part of the worldwide Moody Group)
24. **Jun 2010** : SIMS introduced the revolutionary Blended Learning system in its training programme for teaching Navigation to DNS cadets
25. **Aug 2010** : First semester of the 4 year B tech (Marine engineering) course commenced at SIMS, Lonavala. This engineering course, approved by DGS and affiliated to Indian Maritime University, is another addition to the existing Pre-sea training programmes which include the GME and the DNS.



26. **Oct 2010** : 'Outstanding contribution award, education and training', was conferred upon SIMS by Shipping, Marine and Ports 2010 in association with CHEMTECH FOUNDATION.
27. **Jan 2011** : Obtained Class NK approvals for – Blended Learning, Ship In Campus in accordance with STCW 95, EPSS (Electronic Performance support system), LPG Tanker Cargo & Ballast Handling Simulator Course and Simulator. SIMS plays a pioneering role in the industry by roping in the most modern technological advancements for enhancing training effectiveness.
28. **Mar 2011** : DGS approval obtained for FFLB Course.
29. **Oct 2011** : Chemical Tanker Manifold Training facility and Fire Fighting Mock Up created in SIMS Lonavala.
30. **Dec 2011** : SIMS released its "Ship Oil Record Tracker Software – SORT", a helping tool to reconcile waste oil quantity on-board.
31. **Nov 2012** :
 - Obtained approval from DNV for ECDIS IMO Model 1.27 Course
 - A full-fledged paint booth fabricated locally and commissioned to start a new course in Sand Blasting and Painting Safety.
32. **Dec 2012** : DGS Approval obtained for ECDIS Course
33. **Feb 2013** : SIMS was awarded "Associate Membership" of INQAAHE - The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), for actively practicing quality assurance in its training programmes.
34. **Jul 2013** : The mock inspection for Comprehensive Inspection Programme (CIP) under the auspices of DGS successfully conducted – SIMS sets a new benchmark for other Maritime training institutes.
35. **Dec 2013** : SIMS installed the most advanced Kongsberg DP Simulator, and started conducting the Basic & Advanced Dynamic Positioning Courses with the approval of "The Nautical Institute, UK" for the DP - 2 vessels in full swing.
36. **Mar 2014** : SIMS awarded "Outstanding" Grading in Comprehensive Inspection Programme by Directorate General of Shipping.



As a leading Maritime Training Institution, SIMS is aware of its responsibilities and proactively looks at the training which may be needed by its stakeholders. It is important for the Officers and Crew to be groomed for the operations and maintenance aspects of a variety of specialized ships such as Offshore Vessels and LNG Tankers. Infrastructure for Off-shore vessels' training has been created in SIMS, Mumbai and course development and required approvals have been obtained from authorities. SIMS will be in step with the industry in catering to the new technology introduced into Merchant Marine.

Enhancing the Capability of Engineers: SIMS is continuing to enhance the capability of marine engineers in electrical maintenance and automation. SIMS has received inputs from ESM to assess the competency gaps and enhance the training facility to have these courses deliver the highest of training to upgrade the quality of marine engineers.

Blended Learning: With the introduction of Blended Learning for pre-sea cadets and after the initial success of this innovative method of teaching, SIMS has continued developing Blended Learning Methodology for all pre-sea subjects in Nautical and Engineering Branches.

Human Element: SIMS recognises the need to analyse human element for all incidents and find possible solutions to noticed gaps in human behaviour. SIMS continues to train the seafarers to minimize the contribution of human element in incidents / accidents and help ESM achieve their goal of Zero accidents.

SIMS favours and advocates progress and improvement, as opposed to wishing to maintain things as they are, especially in professional matters. R & D Activities is one of the strong areas of SIMS to make progress towards better conditions; employing more enlightened ideas or experimental methods. With the success achieved in the past 6 years, SIMS will be embarking on enhancing the R & D Activities to the requirement of Shipping Industry in general and ESM in particular, characterized by such progressive continuous improvement.

The emergence of SIMS as a leading Maritime Training Institute has been made possible only because of strong progressive tendencies on the part of its Promoters, Management, Faculty and the Staff alike. Big cheers for all of them to be a part of this wonderful journey!!!

Authors:

Mr Shirish Kumar

Ms Ambika Poojari