

Mohamed Sathak A.J. Academy of Architecture: A Comprehensive Institutional Profile for TNEA 2026

1. Institutional Identity and Admission Framework

For families evaluating options for the TNEA 2026 cycle, it is vital to distinguish between multi-disciplinary engineering colleges and specialized design academies. Mohamed Sathak A.J. Academy of Architecture (MSAJAA) occupies a unique position as a stand-alone architecture institution. Strategically, parents should note that MSAJAA is listed separately within the TNEA Architecture counseling portal, distinct from the general engineering counseling streams. This specialization ensures that the entire campus environment is tailored to the rigorous demands of design education.

Field	Details
Full Name	Mohamed Sathak A.J. Academy of Architecture
Short Name	MSAJAA
TNEA Code	1400
Institution Type	Self-Financing (Architecture-only)
Minority Status	Religious Minority (Muslim)
City/District	Inside SIPCOT IT Park, Egattur, Chengalpattu (OMR)
Year Established	2010
Affiliated University	Anna University, Chennai
Regulatory Body	Council of Architecture (CoA) & AICTE
Admission Route	TNEA (65% Govt / 35% Mgmt for B.Des; B.Arch via NATA & TNEA Arch Counselling)
Gender Profile	Co-educational

The institution's location inside the SIPCOT IT Park on the Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR) offers a secure, corporate-adjacent environment. This positioning on Chennai's "intellectual corridor" provides students with immediate proximity to urban development hubs and professional firms, effectively serving as a real-world extension of the classroom.

This modern academic infrastructure is built upon a half-century legacy of educational service.

2. Institutional Heritage and Founding Mission

In the landscape of Tamil Nadu's private education, the stability provided by established educational trusts is a primary indicator of institutional reliability. The Mohamed Sathak Trust brings over 50 years of heritage to the TNEA system, having evolved into a pillar of technical and professional education in the region.

The trust's founding and institutional milestones include:

- **Founder:** The Mohamed Sathak Family of Kilakarai.
- **Trust Name:** Mohamed Sathak Trust (Established October 26, 1973).
- **Mission Statement:** "To promote Technical education and train the students to cope with the technical needs of the day."
- **Guiding Philosophy:** "God will not change the condition of a people until they try to change themselves."
- **Pioneering Milestone:** The Mohamed Sathak Trust is credited with establishing the first self-financing engineering college in the country in 1984, setting the precedent for private technical education in India.

Today, the trust manages a diverse portfolio of 18 institutions, spanning:

- Engineering and Technology
- Architecture and Design
- Arts and Science
- Pharmacy and Nursing
- Physiotherapy and Medical Sciences

The establishment of the Academy of Architecture in 2010 represented a strategic move by the trust to provide a dedicated, high-tier focus on the architectural discipline.

3. Regulatory Compliance and Approval Status

As a Senior Analyst, I must emphasize that regulatory standing is the non-negotiable baseline for any 2026 applicant. For a specialized institution like MSAJAA, the Council of Architecture (CoA) serves as the primary regulator for curriculum standards, working in tandem with the AICTE.

Quality Credentials: The institution is officially **ACCREDITED** by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a **Grade B (CGPA: 2.80 out of 4.00)**, providing a verified national benchmark of its academic and administrative quality.

The AICTE approval status for the 2025-26 academic year is officially **"APPROVED."**

The approved undergraduate intake for the current cycle is:

- **B.Arch (Architecture):** 80 seats
- **B.Des (Bachelor of Design):** 30 seats

While the focus remains on undergraduate excellence, the institution's academic depth is further evidenced by its postgraduate offering, the **M.Arch (Conservation)**. It is critical for TNEA candidates to remember that MSAJAA does not offer B.E. or B.Tech engineering programs, maintaining a strict focus on the design vertical.

4. Undergraduate Programs and Seat Matrix (TNEA 2026)

The current professional environment requires a clear distinction between traditional built-environment architecture and design-led curricula. MSAJAA addresses both through the TNEA portal, allowing students to choose a path that best aligns with their career aspirations in the creative industry.

The structured undergraduate program matrix includes:

- **B.Arch (Architecture):** TNEA Branch Code **AR**. This is the flagship 5-year program established in 2010, with an intake of 80 seats.
- **B.Des (Design in Architecture):** TNEA Branch Code **DA**. Established recently in 2024, this program offers an intake of 30 seats.

The B.Des program is recognized as a "new-age" branch, reflecting the modernization of technical education frameworks post-2018. Applicants should note that all instruction is in English; there are no Tamil Medium branches. Furthermore, the absence of standard B.E./B.Tech engineering programs ensures that campus resources are never diluted by non-design disciplines.

The delivery of these specialized curricula is overseen by a leadership team with unparalleled ties to the state's premier academic bodies.

5. Faculty Profile and Academic Leadership

In architecture, the faculty's role is to bridge the gap between abstract design thinking and the realities of construction. MSAJAA is notable for its high-caliber leadership, which combines regulatory authority with international academic pedigree.

Dr. Ranees Vedamuthu (Director)

Dr. Vedamuthu is a distinguished figure in Tamil Nadu's architectural landscape, having served as both the Registrar and the Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning at Anna University. She holds a PhD and a Graduate Certificate in World Heritage Conservation from the University of Dublin, Ireland. Her expertise is recognized through a Getty Foundation Fellowship, a DAAD (German Academic Exchange) grant, and the AICTE Career Award for Young Teachers.

Ar. Sheeba

With 11 years of experience, Ar. Sheeba specializes in History and Design Thinking. Her focus on research methodologies ensures that students develop a conceptual depth essential for modern practice.

Ar. Vandana Balakrishnan

An expert in Urban Design with over 20 years of experience in both practice and education. A member of the Institute of Urban Designers India, she brings valuable perspectives from her previous tenure at the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi.

This academic strength is supported by a residential campus environment designed for safety and connectivity.

6. Campus Infrastructure: Hostel and Transport Logistics

For outstation families, the logistical framework of the institution—specifically housing and safety—is a paramount concern. MSAJAA manages residential facilities that cater to the unique studio-culture needs of architecture students.

Residential Facilities

- **Boys Hostel:** Located on-campus with a capacity for 120 students. The facility provides Wi-Fi access and a mess serving both Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian meals.
- **Girls Hostel:** Located off-campus in Sholinganallur, approximately 5 km from the main campus. The facility offers 71 rooms on a triple-sharing basis and includes its own Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian mess.

Transport and Connectivity

- **Institutional Transport:** A fleet of buses serves various areas across Chennai, ensuring a secure commute for day scholars.
- **Railway Connectivity:** The nearest major hub is the Tambaram Railway Station, located approximately 20 km from the institution.

Sports and Athletics

- **Indoor Facilities:** Badminton, Chess, Table Tennis, and Weightlifting.

- **Outdoor Facilities:** Basketball, Football, Cricket, Volleyball, Kabaddi, and Kho-Kho.

While these facilities support student life, the institution also provides a robust framework for financial inclusivity.

7. Scholarships and Financial Access

To ensure that high-quality design education remains accessible, MSAJAA facilitates several government-led and management-sponsored financial aid programs.

Government Schemes

- First Graduate Scholarship (FGG) for first-generation university students.
- Prime Minister's Special Scholarship (PMSS) for students from Jammu & Kashmir.
- SC/ST Tuition Fee Scholarships and BC/MBC/DNC Scholarships (Govt. of Tamil Nadu).
- **Minority Scholarship:** As a Religious (Muslim) Minority institution, the academy facilitates the Government of India Post-Matric Scholarship for minority community students.

Institutional Support

- **MSAJAA Freeships:** The management provides institutional freeships based on a combination of academic merit and verified financial need.

Beyond financial aid, the institution maintains global links to ensure students are prepared for the international professional arena.

8. Research, Innovation, and Global Partnerships

In the modern architectural landscape, global exposure is no longer optional. MSAJAA utilizes dedicated cells and international partnerships to foster innovation and a global design perspective.

- **Institutional Cells:** The academy operates a **Research Cell** and an **Incubation Cell** (as identified by the IQAC) to encourage students to move from classroom design to early-stage professional innovation.
- **International MOUs:** The institution has formal agreements with the following partners for workshops, guest lectures, and student exchange programs:
 - **Taylor's University (Malaysia)**
 - **University of Tours (France)**

These collaborations provide students with critical exposure to international architectural trends and European heritage conservation practices.

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.

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