



Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi

Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) as a part of its mandate imparts training to Officers of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) as well as expands its international outreach by training the foreign diplomats.

Behind its success as an institution, SSIFS acknowledges the role of Visiting Faculty Members, and the value they bring to this Institution through their expertise and experience. Over the years, they have played an instrumental role in equipping the career diplomats with necessary skills and training to inculcate behavioural, functional and domain competencies. These very competencies align strongly with the Karmayogi Competency Model (KCM) as laid down by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), Government of India .

Karmayogi Competency Model

Behavioural competencies

Key behavioural traits that Government of India Officials should display to perform effectively in a range of jobs

5 Cs

Confidence
Commitment
Communication
Collaboration
Compassion

Functional Competencies

The knowledge or skills required to perform effectively in a specific role or group of jobs which are common across most Ministries/ Departments/ Organisations in the Government of India (eg. Project Management)

5Ps

Process Expertise
Protocol Sensitivity
Progressive Learning
Purposeful Leadership
Problem Solving

Domain Competencies

These Competencies are shared by family of related jobs that have common functions and form a logical career path. These are defined for a specific department or business unit and typically categorised by knowledge areas that a role holder needs to carry out activities of specific domain such as agriculture, economy, health etc.

5Ds

Diplomacy- Political
Diplomacy- Economic
Diplomacy- Public and Cultural
Diplomacy- Multilateral
Diplomacy- Defence and Security

Visiting Faculty Members

Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), New Delhi, curates its Visiting Faculty composition based on the priorities of diplomatic training in the 21st Century. Each of our visiting faculty members contributes to one or more competency-based training modules. Their professional expertise, subject mastery, and diverse backgrounds form the foundation for their classification within the Institute's training framework.

Behavioural competencies

Mind Trainers,
Experts on
Emotional
Intelligence, and
Leadership coach

Functional Competencies

Diplomats,
bureaucrats and
Policy experts

Domain Competencies

Academics,
researchers,
practitioner-
trainers

A significant share of the Institute's training programme is conducted by serving officers from the Ministry of External Affairs and other ministries of the Government of India. Due to their assignments and roles being dynamic, the current list does not include these in-service officers. SSIFS deeply values their contributions and holds them in the highest regard.



Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, a distinguished Indian diplomat of the 1987 batch of the Indian Foreign Service, has served in key roles over an illustrious 37-year career. She made history as India's first woman Permanent Representative to the United Nations (2022–2024), also becoming the first Indian woman to preside over the UN Security Council. She also served in Bhutan, South Africa, and was Ambassador/Permanent Representative to UNESCO. She facilitated landmark UNESCO recognitions for Indian heritage sites. She is an alumna of Delhi University, and has inspired generations of diplomats through her advocacy for gender equality in diplomacy.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador Dr. Mohan Kumar is a distinguished Indian diplomat with an exceptional 36-year career in the Indian Foreign Service. He served as India's Ambassador to France (2015–2017), strengthening bilateral ties in diverse sectors such as defense, nuclear energy, and space, and playing a pivotal role in the Paris Climate Accord negotiations. Previously, he was Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain during the Arab Spring. He was India's lead negotiator at both GATT and the WTO, and oversaw India's relations with key neighbors as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. An MBA from the University of Delhi and a PhD from Sciences Po, Paris, Ambassador Kumar now mentors future diplomats as Dean and Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador Ajay Bisaria is a seasoned Indian diplomat of the 1987 batch, with distinguished 35-year career. He served as India's High Commissioner to Canada (2020–2022) and Pakistan (2017–2020), and was Ambassador to Poland and Lithuania (2015–2017). Bisaria previously held senior roles in the Prime Minister's Office as a key aide to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1999–2004), and represented India at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. A specialist in Eurasia, he has shaped India's relationships across Russia, Ukraine, and Central Asia. He is an alumnus of St. Stephen's College, IIM Calcutta, and Princeton University.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador Sanjay Bhattacharya, an Indian Foreign Service officer (1987 batch), brings over three decades of distinguished diplomatic experience. He has served as India's Ambassador to Switzerland, Turkey, and Egypt, advancing key partnerships in technology, defense, and economic relations. As Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (2020–22), he shaped India's outreach to the Arab region and Israel, coordinated major Covid-19 evacuations, and strengthened consular and diaspora engagement. He was India's BRICS Sherpa and played pivotal roles in formulating the Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific dialogue. An alumnus of St. Stephen's College, Delhi School of Economics, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Ambassador Bhattacharya is currently Professor of Diplomatic Practice at O.P. Jindal Global University.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador Arun K. Singh is a highly accomplished Indian diplomat, whose distinguished 37-year career in the Indian Foreign Service began in 1979. He served as India's Ambassador to the United States (2015–2016), France (2013–2015), and Israel (2005–2008), playing a strategic role in strengthening India's bilateral relations during pivotal global moments. Ambassador Singh also contributed significantly to India's ties with Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran in the post-9/11 era. An alumnus of Delhi University with a master's in economics, he currently teaches foreign policy at Ashoka University and is affiliated with leading think tanks.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador Gurjit Singh is a distinguished Indian Foreign Service officer (1980 batch) with 37 years of diplomatic experience. He has served as India's Ambassador to Germany, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Timor-Leste, Djibouti, ASEAN, and the African Union, and held key postings in Japan, Sri Lanka, Kenya, and Italy. A graduate of Mayo College and St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, he earned a master's in International Studies from JNU, New Delhi. Renowned for his expertise in economic diplomacy and sustainable development, Amb. Singh has authored five books on India's relations with Africa, Germany, Japan, Indonesia, and Ethiopia. He is also an Honorary Professor at IIT Indore.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador Rengaraj Viswanathan is a veteran Indian diplomat celebrated as India's foremost expert on Latin America. An Indian Foreign Service officer from the 1977 batch, he served as Ambassador to Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Venezuela, and was the first Consul General in São Paulo, Brazil. Fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, Ambassador Viswanathan headed the Latin America Division at India's Ministry of External Affairs and led the Investment and Trade Promotion Division. He is a prolific writer and speaker on India–Latin America relations, authoring several books and numerous articles.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador Ashok K. Kantha is a distinguished Indian diplomat with a career spanning over 38 years in the Indian Foreign Service (1977 batch). He served as India's Ambassador to China from 2014 to 2016, following key roles such as Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Malaysia, and Consul General in Hong Kong. He is renowned for his expertise in Asian and China affairs, he holds an advanced certificate in Chinese language from the National University of Singapore. Post-retirement, he served as Director and now Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi, and as Distinguished Fellow at the Vivekananda International Foundation.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador D. Bala Venkatesh Varma is a distinguished Indian Foreign Service officer (1988 batch) with an exemplary career spanning over three decades. He served as India's Ambassador to Russia (2019–2021), Spain, and the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Ambassador Varma played a pivotal role in negotiations for the India–US Civil Nuclear Agreement and has extensive expertise in security, defence, non-proliferation, and disarmament. An alumnus of Hyderabad Public School and Nizam College, he holds an M.Phil. in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. He is a recipient of the prestigious S. K. Singh Award for Excellence in the Indian Foreign Service.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



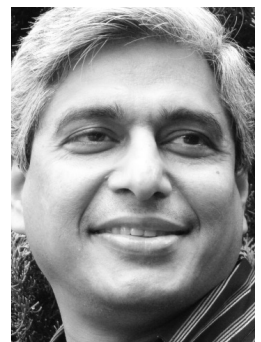
Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri is a distinguished retired Indian Foreign Service officer who served for 36 years, culminating in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India. He was India's Ambassador to Nepal, the European Union, Belgium, and Luxembourg, and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations during India's 2011–2012 Security Council term. Ambassador Puri played key roles in multilateral institutions, steering major negotiations on sustainable development, climate change, and migration, including as India's lead negotiator at the UN SDGs and COP climate conferences. He holds a BA (Honours) in Economics from St. Stephen's College and an MBA from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan is a veteran Indian Foreign Service officer (1982 batch) with a distinguished career focused on South Asia and diplomatic history. He served as India's High Commissioner to Pakistan (2013–2015) and Singapore (2009–2013), and as Deputy High Commissioner in Islamabad (2003–2007), with earlier postings in the UK, Bhutan, and Kuwait. An alumnus of St. Stephen's College and Jawaharlal Nehru University, he holds a PhD in history. Dr. Raghavan is an acclaimed author of several books, including "Attendant Lords," "The People Next Door," "History Men," and "Circles of Freedom." He was Director-General of the Indian Council of World Affairs (2018–2021).

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



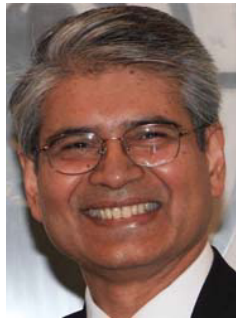
Ambassador Vikas Swarup is a retired Indian diplomat known for his distinguished 35-year career in the Indian Foreign Service, starting in 1986. His international postings, included Turkey, the United States, Ethiopia, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Japan, and Canada, where he was the High Commissioner from 2017 to 2019. In New Delhi, he held key roles such as the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (2015–2017) and Secretary (West), managing relations with Europe, Central Asia, and the UN system until his retirement in 2021. Apart from diplomacy, Ambassador Swarup is the author of the internationally acclaimed novel Q & A, which inspired the Oscar-winning film Slumdog Millionaire. He has also written Six Suspects and The Accidental Apprentice.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador Nalin Surie is a distinguished former Indian diplomat with a career in the Indian Foreign Service spanning from 1973 to 2011. An alumnus of the Delhi School of Economics, he has held several prominent positions, including High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Ambassador to China and Poland, and Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in New York. Ambassador Surie has also served in Indian missions in Hong Kong, Brussels, Dar-es-Salaam, and Thimphu. At MEA, he was Secretary (West), leading India's engagement with the EU, Canada, Africa, and Latin America. Following his retirement, he was Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador Asoke Kumar Mukerji is a distinguished former Indian diplomat, best known for his tenure as India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York (2013–2015). A 1978 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, he served for over 37 years, holding pivotal roles in London, Moscow, Washington DC, Geneva, Dubai, and Astana. Ambassador Mukerji led India's negotiations on Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and was instrumental in establishing the International Day of Yoga at the UN. He played key roles in India's counter-terrorism and cyber dialogues globally. He is an alumnus of St. Stephen's College, Delhi.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador Dr. V.S. Seshadri is a retired Indian Foreign Service officer having served as India's first resident Ambassador to Slovenia (2007–2010) and later as Ambassador to Myanmar during a pivotal transition (2010–2013). Dr. Seshadri holds a PhD in Applied Mathematics from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. His diplomatic service included important roles such as Joint Secretary for WTO affairs in the Ministry of Commerce and postings in Nairobi, Tehran, Brussels, Bangkok, and Washington D.C.. After his diplomatic career, he contributed as Vice Chairman at RIS and as Senior Fellow for Economic Security at the Delhi Policy Group.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador Anil Trigunayat (IFS Retd) is a distinguished former Indian diplomat with over three decades of service. He served as India's Ambassador to Jordan, Libya, and Malta (2012–2016), and held key assignments in Indian missions across Cote d'Ivoire, Bangladesh, Mongolia, USA, Russia, Sweden, and Nigeria. In the Ministry of External Affairs, he worked in economic and regional divisions, later rising to Director General/Joint Secretary for Gulf & Haj affairs. Ambassador Trigunayat holds a post-graduate degree in Physics and undertook research at Oxford University. Currently, he is a Distinguished Fellow at the Vivekananda International Foundation, President of MIIICCIA Chamber of Commerce.

Detailed Profile- [\[Web link\]](#)



Ambassador Talmiz Ahmad is a distinguished Indian diplomat and acclaimed author, recognized for his expertise in West Asian affairs, political Islam, and energy security. Joining the Indian Foreign Service in 1974, he served as India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia (twice: 2000–03, 2010–11), Oman (2003–04), and the UAE (2007–10). He also held key posts as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs. Post-retirement, he has been an energy consultant and academic, holding the Ram Sathe Chair at Symbiosis International University, and he is Winner of the King Abdul Aziz Medal First Class.

Detailed Profile- [\[Web link\]](#)



Pavan Kapoor, an accomplished Indian Foreign Service officer from the 1990 batch, is currently the Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA) of India, a position he assumed in July 2024. He previously served as Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs and as India's Ambassador to Russia, Israel, the UAE, and Mozambique. Kapoor has also worked in the Prime Minister's Office and as an international civil servant at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. With postgraduate degrees from IIM Ahmedabad and the London School of Economics, he is recognized for his extensive diplomatic experience, particularly in strengthening India's relations in West Asia, Africa, and Europe. Kapoor's expertise now contributes to India's national security leadership.

Detailed Profile- [\[Web link\]](#)



Ambassador Sujata Mehta is a retired Indian Foreign Service officer from the 1980 batch. Her diplomatic career featured key postings, including Third Secretary at India's Embassy in Moscow (1982-1984), missions in Dhaka and the UN in New York and Gaza, and Ambassador to Spain (2007-2011). She also served as India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva (2011), India's BRICS Sherpa, and in roles at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Prime Minister's Office. At MEA, she was Additional Secretary, Special Secretary (Economic Relations), and Secretary (West) from 2013-2017. Post-retirement, she was a Union Public Service Commission member (2017-2023).

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador J.S. Mukul is an accomplished Indian diplomat and academic, currently Professor Emeritus and Director of International Relations at Sushant University. A Gold Medallist in Political Science from Bangalore University, he joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1981, serving in key positions across Damascus, Abu Dhabi, Kandy, Colombo, Geneva, Riyadh, Munich, Muscat, and the Ministry of External Affairs. He was India's Ambassador to the Netherlands and Oman, Consul General in Munich. His expertise lies in economic policy, development cooperation, G20, and the Arab world, particularly the Gulf region.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador Rakesh Sood is a distinguished Indian nuclear expert and former diplomat with over 38 years of experience in foreign affairs, economic diplomacy, and international security. He holds postgraduate degrees in Physics, Economics, and Defence Studies. He established and headed the Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division in India's Ministry of External Affairs and served as India's first Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Ambassador Sood was Special Envoy of the Prime Minister for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation and has been India's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Nepal, and France.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



»»—————<<< Amitabh Kant is a distinguished Indian bureaucrat and retired IAS officer, recognized for his transformative role in public policy and governance reform. As CEO of NITI Aayog (2016–2022), he drove landmark initiatives such as Make in India, Startup India, the Aspirational Districts Programme, and the Atal Innovation Mission, shaping India's economic and innovation landscape. Kant most recently served as India's G20 Sherpa, guiding global economic policy discussions during India's presidency (2022–2025).

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



»»—————<<< Bharat Lal is the Secretary General and CEO of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India, bringing over 35 years of public service to the role. A 1988 batch Indian Forest Service officer, he is renowned for transformative leadership in water and sanitation, notably as the founder Mission Director of the Jal Jeevan Mission. He has held senior positions including Secretary, Lokpal of India, and Director General of the National Centre for Good Governance. Bharat Lal's career reflects a strong commitment to policy innovation, human rights, water security, environmental protection, and public health. He has also contributed to NHRC's extensive scholarly output, and is the author of "Hidden Treasures: India's Heritage in Tiger Reserves" (2024), underscoring his passion for conservation and sustainable development.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



»»—————<<< Dr. S.P. Yadav is the Director General of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), known for his extensive contributions to the conservation of big cats, particularly tigers and cheetahs, in India. He is a seasoned Indian Forest Service officer from the 1989 batch with over 35 years of experience in wildlife management. He also was Additional Director General of Forests (Project Tiger & Elephant), Member Secretary of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, and Director of the Wildlife Institute of India. He led the pioneering wild-to-wild translocation of cheetahs from Africa to India and has been honored with the National Award for Wildlife Conservation and the Global Leadership Award in Conservation.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]





Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, is a renowned development scholar, public policy advocate, and leadership educator with over four decades of grassroots experience. He serves as Member (Human Resource) of the Capacity Building Commission, Government of India, leading civil service training reforms under Mission Karmayogi. A physician by training with an MPhil in Hospital Administration (BITS Pilani) and a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School, Dr. Balu founded the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM) and GRAAM, shaping public policy and sustainable development in India. He was a Frank T. Rhodes Professor at Cornell University.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Shri Chaitanya Prasad is the Head of Communication and Outreach, Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India, and also led the G20 Education Working Group at MoE. With over three decades as a senior civil servant, he specializes in government communication, policy planning, and advocacy for flagship schemes. He has extensive expertise in media management, branding, cinema, and strategic government outreach, with significant roles in public broadcasting as former Additional Director General, Doordarshan News, and Directorate of Film Festivals. He has published widely on media management, geostrategic communication, and cinema's influence on policy and soft power.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Vikas Katheria is an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the 2009 batch, serving in the Nagaland cadre. He currently holds the position of Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) in Nagaland Police and has also been appointed as Inspector General (IG) in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Ministry of Home Affairs. Katheria is experienced in law enforcement, criminal investigations, and national security matters. He has contributed to modern policing initiatives, including digital case asset management and crime analysis using machine learning. His work supports improved police efficiency and security operations in challenging environments.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Manish Bhardwaj is an accomplished Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the 1997 batch of the Gujarat cadre, currently serving as Deputy Director General (DDG) at UIDAI since September 2023. He leads the Authentication & Verification and Enforcement divisions, contributing to the operational success of Aadhaar and policy implementation for India's digital identity ecosystem. Manish brings extensive administrative experience from prior roles, including Principal Secretary for Water Resources and Agriculture in Gujarat, Municipal Commissioner of Vadodara, and founding Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat Technological University.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Vidushi Chaturvedi is a senior officer from the 1998 batch of the Indian Post & Telecommunication Accounts and Finance Service (IP&TA&FS), currently serving as Deputy Director General (DDG) at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Appointed in October 2021, she holds this key position on deputation, tasked with important responsibilities in the Finance & Accounts and Legal Division of UIDAI. Vidushi's leadership and extensive experience in public administration and financial management contribute significantly to Aadhaar's operational efficiency and legal compliance.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. G Satheesh Reddy is a prominent Indian aerospace and defence scientist with a career spanning nearly four decades, and renowned for his pivotal role in advancing India's missile and strategic systems. Born in 1963 in Andhra Pradesh, he holds degrees in Electronics and Communication Engineering, M.S., and Ph.D. from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University. As Chairman of DRDO and Secretary, Department of Defence R&D (from 2018 to 2022), Dr. Reddy oversaw landmark projects like the Ballistic Missile Defence Programme, Mission Shakti (Anti-Satellite missile), and the ATAGS gun.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Cdr. Sujeet Samaddar, NM (Retd.), is a distinguished naval officer, policy expert, and thought leader in defence, maritime, and circular economy sectors. An alumnus of IIT Roorkee, National Institute of Defense Studies (Tokyo), and University of Madras, he served in the Indian Navy from 1980, commanding four warships and retiring in 2009 as Principal Director Naval Plans at Naval Headquarters. He is the founder of the Society for Aerospace Maritime and Defence Studies (SAMDeS) and has held senior advisory roles with NITI Aayog, TATA, ShinMaywa, and multiple think tanks. Decorated with the Nau Sena Medal, Cdr.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Major General (Dr.) Bipin Bakshi, AVSM, VSM (Retd.), is a distinguished Indian Army veteran from the Corps of Engineers, renowned as a leading expert on cyberwarfare, information operations, and national security. A Sword of Honour recipient at the Indian Military Academy, he commanded key formations along Northern and Western borders, led the Information Warfare division at Northern Command in J&K—countering hybrid threats—and managed logistics across Jammu & Kashmir. Bakshi pioneered the Limca Book-recorded Brahmaputra Sailing Expedition (2019) as ADG NCC Northeast and authored the graphic novel Niranjan – The Bomb Buster on the Pathankot NSG hero.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Commodore Himadri Bose is a second-generation Naval officer commissioned on 01 Jul 1996. As a Gunnery specialist, he has served on frontline destroyers. He has commanded INS Karmuk and INS Kochi. He has had various staff tenures at NHQ and Command. He has also served as Defence Attaché at the Embassy of India, Tokyo, and Fleet Operations Officer, Western Fleet. He presently tenants the billet of Cmde (Naval Plans) at NHQ. He is a graduate of the U.S Naval War College (USNWC), Newport, Rhode Island, Naval War College (NWC), Goa and National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi. He is a recipient of the CNS trophy at Dronacharya, the Joseph E. Strasser Distinguished Leadership Award at USNWC, CNS Gold medal at NWC Goa, and the Col Pvarala Lal, Gold medal at the NDC. He was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal in Jan 2024.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Ajey Lele is a retired Group Captain of the Indian Air Force and currently serves as the Deputy Director General at the MP-IDSA in New Delhi. He holds a Master's degree in Physics from Pune University, as well as Master's and MPhil degrees in Defence and Strategic Studies from Madras University. Dr. Lele earned his PhD in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His research focuses on Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), strategic technologies, space security, and military strategy. He has authored several books, including "Mission Mars: India's Quest for the Red Planet" and "Asian Space Race: Rhetoric or Reality?" Dr. Lele has received the K. Subrahmanyam Award for his outstanding contributions to strategic and security studies.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Vice Admiral Surinder Pal Singh Cheema, PVSM, AVSM, NM, is a distinguished former Flag Officer of the Indian Navy with nearly four decades of service (1977–2016). An alumnus of NDA Khadakwasla and DSSC Wellington, he specialized in missile and gunnery operations and commanded key warships such as INS Nishank, INS Trishul, and the aircraft carrier INS Viraat. He held prominent leadership roles as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of both the Western and Southern Naval Commands, Commander-in-Chief of the Strategic Forces Command, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, and Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Brigadier Jaideep Chanda is a distinguished Indian Army Infantry Officer and strategic thinker, with three decades of exemplary service in command, staff, and international peacekeeping roles. Brigadier Chanda has led operational transformations in sensitive geographies, coordinated multinational UN missions, and received multiple Army Commander commendations. He is the author of *Irrawaddy Imperatives: Reviewing India's Myanmar Strategy* (Pentagon Press, 2021), that addresses India's strategic relationship with Myanmar and policy "blind spots" in Indian academia and decision-making.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Major General BK Sharma, AVSM, SM** (Retd), is a distinguished Indian Army infantry veteran with extensive operational experience in hybrid warfare, counter-insurgency, and counter-terrorism. He is the former Director General of the United Service Institution of India (USI), India's oldest think tank founded in 1870. He is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Higher Command, and National Defence College. Sharma represented India as a UN Military Observer in Central America and as Defence Attaché in Central Asia. He earned three presidential awards for distinguished service and courage, plus a 2017 national award for nation-building.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Lt. Gen. Dr. Ravindra Singh Panwar (Retd), AVSM, SM, VSM, is a distinguished third-generation Indian Army officer from the Corps of Signals with over 40 years of service until his retirement in April 2016. He served as Commandant of the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow, and 57th Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Signals, overseeing communications, electronic warfare, signal intelligence, and logistics across operational theaters like Jammu & Kashmir, deserts, and North East India. Awards include Sena Medal (2013), Vishisht Seva Medal, and commendations for J&K operations. Post-retirement, he contributes as a Distinguished Fellow at the United Services Institution of India.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Captain (Retd.) Anurag Bisen is a veteran Indian Navy submariner renowned for commanding the Sindhughosh (Kilo) Class missile submarine during his 35+ years of service. He spent eight years at India's National Security Council Secretariat as a Senior Defence Specialist, shaping policies on maritime security and polar regions, including key contributions to India's Arctic Policy launched in March 2022. Post-retirement in December 2023, he serves as Senior Fellow at Vivekananda International Foundation, Honorary Adjunct Faculty at National Maritime Foundation.

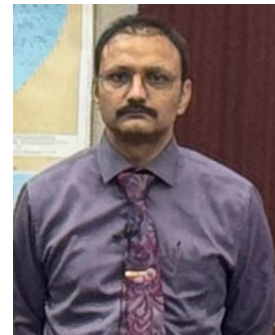
Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



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Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd) is a highly decorated retired Indian Army General with a distinguished 40-year career. He has served in diverse and challenging environments including Jammu & Kashmir, Sri Lanka, Siachen, and United Nations peacekeeping missions in Mozambique and Rwanda. He commanded critical formations such as the 15 Corps in Srinagar and 21 Corps, and served as the Military Secretary of the Indian Army. An alumnus of St. Stephen's College Delhi, King's College London. He is known for the "Hearts Doctrine" in Kashmir, focusing on people-centric counterinsurgency. Post-retirement, he is Chancellor of the Central University of Kashmir and a member of the National Disaster Management Authority.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



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Lt. Col. Sanjeev Kumar Shahi is the Joint Advisor (Operations) at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India. He plays a crucial role in strengthening disaster preparedness and response mechanisms across various regions. His work involves coordination with state and district disaster management authorities to enhance early warning systems, emergency operations, and capacity building for disaster resilience. Lt. Col. Shahi has actively contributed to developing and reviewing national guidelines for Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) to ensure coordinated disaster response from the national to local levels.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



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Commodore (Dr.) Arun Pratap Golaya, VSM (Retd.), is a distinguished Indian Navy veteran, innovation evangelist, and accomplished scholar. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, he has served in several critical roles, including as Officer-in-Charge of the Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC) and leadership posts in the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO). Dr. Golaya holds a PhD and has been a key contributor at the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS). An active author and lecturer, he regularly delivers talks on innovation, maritime strategy, and defence technology.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]

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»» Lieutenant General Anil Kumar Bhatt (PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM) is a distinguished Indian Army officer who served from 1981 to 2020 in the 9 Gorkha Rifles regiment. He is an alumnus of St. George's College, Mussoorie, the Indian Military Academy, and Staff College, Camberley (UK). Bhatt held several key posts including Director General of Military Operations during the 2017 Doklam crisis and Commander of XV Corps in Kashmir. Known for operational excellence, he was awarded the Uttam Yudh Seva Medal in 2019. After retirement, he became the first Director General of the Indian Space Association (ISpA) in 2021, advancing India's private space sector. ««

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



»» Major General RPS Bhadauria, VSM (Retd), is a retired Indian Army officer with 36 years of distinguished service experience. Major General Bhadauria has experience raising two large formations—a Division and a Mountain Corps—and possesses extensive expertise in anti-terrorist operations, policy formulation, and execution. He holds an M.Phil in National Security and Strategic Studies from Madras University and is an alumnus of the National Defence College, New Delhi. Post-retirement, he serves as the Additional Director General at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), New Delhi, and contributes to strategic gaming exercises and research on Indo-Pacific security. ««

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



»» Major Vineet Kumar is a highly accomplished cyber security expert, social entrepreneur, and Indian Army officer renowned for his pioneering work in cyber defence and internet governance. Born in Ranchi, he displayed extraordinary technological aptitude as a child and founded the National Anti-Hacking Group at just 14. He went on to serve as Chief Technology Officer for Jharkhand Police, where he established the Cyber Defense Research Centre. A Chevening Scholar and alumnus of Cranfield and Cambridge Universities, Major Kumar is best known as the Founder and President of CyberPeace Foundation, one of the world's first cybersecurity NGOs. ««

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]

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Dr. Subi Chaturvedi is the Global SVP and Chief Corporate Affairs & Public Policy Officer at InMobi, India's first Unicorn. She holds a PhD in Communication and Media Studies from IIT Delhi. With over two decades of experience, she excels in public policy, advocacy, corporate affairs, communications, and government relations across digital economy, telecom, banking, startups, and sustainability sectors. Notable roles include Co-Chair of the US-India AI Task Force (USIBC), Chair of FICCI's Women in Technology, Policy & Leadership Committee, former Board Member of UKIBC and IGFS, and UN IGF MAG member. Dr. Chaturvedi received the LMA Outstanding Woman Achiever Award 2023.

Detailed Profile- [\[Web link\]](#)



Develeena Bhattacharjee is the Founder and Chief Operating Officer of ClimaCrew, a pioneering seaweed technology firm based in Mumbai. With over 15 years of experience as a data scientist, she has worked across the US, Europe, and India, tackling real-world business challenges. At ClimaCrew, she leads efforts to scale eco-friendly seaweed production using advanced data, technology, and social sciences—aiming to make India a global seaweed leader and enhance marine resilience. Previously, she founded Numer8 Analytics and served as Chairperson of FICCI's Fishtech Sub-committee. Develeena was recognized by Forbes-W-Power 2022 for her impactful leadership in the blue economy sector.

Detailed Profile- [\[Web link\]](#)



Mugdha Sinha, IAS (1999 Rajasthan cadre), serves as Managing Director of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) since April 2025. A senior bureaucrat with over 26 years in governance, she previously held roles as Director General (Tourism), Ministry of Tourism, and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture. She pioneered Astro Night Sky Tourism at Jawahar Kala Kendra, contributing to Hanle, Ladakh's designation as India's first Dark Sky Reserve. Earlier, her previous assignment focused on industrial development, food affairs, and science. At ITDC, Sinha emphasizes modernization, digital integration, AI chatbots, and heritage tourism innovation for global competitiveness.

Detailed Profile- [\[Web link\]](#)



Abhijit Halder serves as Director General of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), coordinating India's global Buddhist outreach. A retired Indian diplomat with 38 years of service, he ended his government career in January 2022 after forging ties with international Buddhist communities, including a pioneering 1989 visit to Soviet-era Russian Buddhist republics. Halder has led major events like the 2023 Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi, as well as the SCO Summit on shared Buddhist heritage among member nations.

Detailed Profile- [\[Web link\]](#)



Nirupama Y. Modwel serves as Principal Director of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Division at INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) in New Delhi. She has contributed to cultural preservation efforts, speaking on India's endangered living heritage, including threats and community-driven conservation strategies. Her work focuses on safeguarding traditional knowledge, arts, and practices amid modernization challenges. Modwel is also engaged in academic forums and collaborates with experts on heritage documentation and policy. With a background in cultural studies, she advocates for inclusive approaches to intangible heritage, emphasizing regional narratives and sustainability in India.

Detailed Profile- [\[Web link\]](#)



Sachchidanand Joshi is the Member Secretary and the Executive and Academic Head of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi. He is a distinguished scholar of history and mass communication, as well as a writer, poet, and actor. Joshi has served as the founder Vice Chancellor of Kushabhau Thakre University of Journalism and Mass Communication and as the founder Registrar and Dean (Academics) at Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication.

Detailed Profile- [\[Web link\]](#)



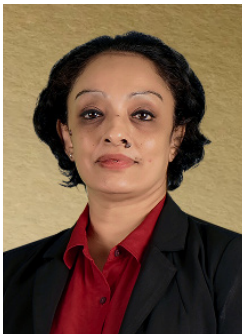
Rakesh Maheshwari is a retired senior government officer with over 35 years at India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), where he served as Senior Director and Group Coordinator for Cyber Law and Data Governance until taking voluntary retirement in March 2023. He holds a B.Tech in Electronics and Communications from Delhi College of Engineering (1981-1985). During his tenure, he managed key areas like the IT Act, cyber security policies, social media regulations, the Personal Data Protection Bill, CERT-In, UIDAI. Previously, he spent 28 years at Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate, focusing on software process improvement, quality management, and information security as a certified trainer and auditor.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Preet Deep Singh is an accomplished leader in artificial intelligence, public policy, and innovation, currently serving as Vice President and Head of Public Policy at Apna.co. Previously, he led key national initiatives at Invest India under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, such as Startup India and the One District One Product programme, driving government commitments from ₹68 lakh to over ₹5,000 crore. A PhD gold medallist from IIM Ahmedabad, Dr. Singh is widely recognized among the Top 100 global leaders in AI. He has taught at IIT Kanpur, IIT Bombay, and IIM Sambalpur, and has trained over 10,000 government officers in AI adoption.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Aishwarya Pillai leads the Learning Initiatives at the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), to advance resilient infrastructure globally. With over two decades in communications, learning, and stakeholder engagement, she anchors CDRI's Fellowship Programme and spearheads DRI Connect, a digital platform for capacity building, peer learning, and multi-stakeholder collaboration on disaster risk reduction. Pillai fosters Communities of Practice to drive knowledge exchange across member countries, supporting resilient infrastructure programming amid climate challenges.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Professor Amitabh Mattoo is a distinguished academic, public intellectual, and strategic thinker, currently Dean of the School of International Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. A Padma Shri awardee, he has shaped national and international policy through pioneering work in international relations, security studies, and diplomacy. Prof. Mattoo has served as Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, founding Director of the Australia India Institute, and Advisor with cabinet rank to the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. Globally respected, he is an Honorary Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne and has contributed to major international forums.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Archana Negi is an Associate Professor at the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. With over 15 years of teaching experience at JNU, she specializes in international organization, law, diplomacy, international negotiations, and world politics. Dr. Negi holds advanced degrees in Political Science and International Law from Delhi University and JNU. Renowned for mentoring young scholars, she supervises research at multiple levels and has published extensively on contemporary issues in international relations.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Shamika Ravi is a prominent Indian economist, public policy researcher, and currently a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister with the rank of Secretary to the Government of India. Her academic and policy work focuses on development economics, encompassing finance, healthcare, urbanization, gender equality, and welfare. Dr. Ravi has held leadership roles at Brookings India and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and is a visiting professor at premier business schools like the Indian School of Business and BITS School of Management. A graduate of Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi School of Economics, and New York University (PhD), Dr. Ravi is a frequent commentator in leading media.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Happymon Jacob is an Associate Professor of Diplomacy and Disarmament Studies at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He specializes in arms control, India's foreign policy, and South Asian security. Dr. Jacob is the founder and honorary director of the Council for Strategic and Defence Research, New Delhi. Prior to joining JNU, he held academic positions at the University of Jammu and Jamia Millia Islamia, and research roles at leading think tanks. He is the author of acclaimed works on India-Pakistan relations and a regular columnist for national media.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Sreeram Sundar Chaulia is Professor and Dean at the Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University, and Director General of the Jindal India Institute. With a PhD in International Relations from Syracuse University, an MSc from the London School of Economics, a BA from Oxford, and a BA (Hons.) from St. Stephen's College, Delhi, he is a renowned scholar in diplomacy, international relations, and global security. Dr. Chaulia is widely published, authoring influential books such as *Modi Doctrine* and *Friends: India's Closest Strategic Partners*. He is a prominent media commentator and hosts the "Indian Diplomacy" TV show on Doordarshan.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Hindol Sengupta is a renowned Indian historian, journalist, and award-winning author of thirteen acclaimed books, including the bestsellers "Being Hindu," "The Man Who Saved India," and "Sing, Dance and Pray." He is Professor of International Relations at the Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University, and Director of the Jindal India Institute. A Chevening Scholar, Dr. Sengupta holds degrees from Oxford, Columbia, Jamia Millia Islamia, and a PhD from the Geneva School of Diplomacy. Recognized with the Wilbur Award, Valley of Words Prize, and the Kalinga Literature Festival Prize, Dr. Sengupta's work bridges history, policy, and diplomacy, shaping contemporary conversations on India's global role.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Professor V. G. Hegde is Chairperson and Professor at the Centre for International Legal Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. A leading authority in international law, trade law, and intellectual property, Prof. Hegde has previously served as Senior Legal Officer in the Legal and Treaties Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and contributed to major international and bilateral negotiations. He represents India in several multilateral forums, including the United Nations and WTO, and is an accomplished author in national and international journals.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Stellina Jolly is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University, New Delhi. A Fulbright Scholar and a recipient of the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP), she specializes in international environmental law and private international law. Dr. Jolly is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law and the Asian Development Bank's Network of Environmental Law Champions. Widely published, her books include Climate Refugees in South Asia (Springer) and Private International Law: South Asian States' Practice. She has undertaken research and consultancies with leading organizations like the European Union, IRENA, and Asian Development Bank.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Risham Garg is Professor of Law and Associate Dean at National Law University, Delhi, where he also serves as Executive Director of the Centre for Transnational Commercial Law (CTCL) and the Centre for Innovation, Incubation, and Entrepreneurship. Holding an LL.D. with a specialization in International Commercial Law and Arbitration, Dr. Garg's teaching and research span transnational dispute resolution, corporate insolvency, and business law. He has significantly shaped regulatory and policy discourse as a knowledge consultant to government bodies and industry task forces. Dr. Garg is co-editor of "Uniform Commercial Laws and Ease of Doing Business in India" (2017) .

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Professor Abhijit Das is a leading authority on international trade and WTO matters, renowned for his extensive experience as former Head of the Centre for WTO Studies at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi. Over a career spanning more than 25 years, he has contributed significantly to India's trade policy, directly participating in global trade negotiations, including WTO Doha Round and OECD Steel Subsidy talks. Dr. Das has also led critical trade capacity-building initiatives with UNCTAD and India's Ministry of Commerce, and has authored influential works including "Strategies in GATT and WTO Negotiations" (OUP, 2025).

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Shweta Singh is Associate Professor of International Relations at South Asian University, New Delhi. An alumna of Jawaharlal Nehru University, she is renowned for her scholarship in feminist international relations, critical peace and conflict studies, and the politics of post-colonial South Asia. Her research addresses the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, gender and populism, and contemporary issues in Afghanistan, Kashmir, and Sri Lanka. Dr. Singh has served as an expert for UN Women and UNESCO. She sits on editorial boards of leading journals and designs innovative curricula in critical pedagogy.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



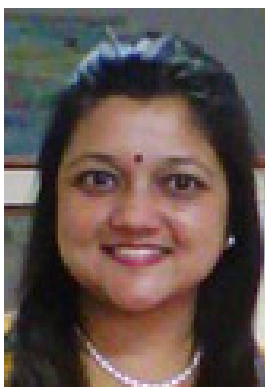
Dr. Kajari Kamal is an Associate Professor at the Takshashila Institution, Bangalore, and an expert on Indian strategic culture. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Hyderabad, with her research focusing on Kautilya's Arthashastra and its enduring influence on India's statecraft and foreign policy. Dr. Kamal is the author of the acclaimed book Kautilya's Arthashastra: Strategic Cultural Roots of India's Contemporary Statecraft (Routledge, 2022), which explores the foundational role of ancient Indian ideas in shaping modern Indian diplomacy.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Manpreet Sethi is a Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS), New Delhi, where she leads the programme on nuclear issues. With a Ph.D. from Jawaharlal Nehru University (1997), she has over 25 years of expertise in nuclear energy, strategy, non-proliferation, disarmament, arms control, and ballistic missile defense. She has authored and co-authored multiple books and over 130 papers, including "Nuclear Strategy: India's March towards Credible Deterrence." Dr. Sethi has participated in key nuclear policy conferences internationally and is a member of several prestigious groups such as the Prime Minister's Informal Group on Disarmament and the Executive Board of the Indian Pugwash Society. She has received accolades including the K Subrahmanyam Award..

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Medha Bisht is an Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations, South Asian University, New Delhi. She holds a Ph.D. in Diplomatic Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University and is recognized for her expertise in South Asian geopolitics, water diplomacy, transnational governance, and strategic thought. Dr. Bisht has previously been an Associate Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, and has consulted for organizations such as UNIFEM, UNDP, IUCN, and OXFAM. She has published the acclaimed book "Kautilya's Arthashastra: Philosophy of Strategy"

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Dhruvajyoti Bhattacharjee is a Senior Research Fellow at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi, with expertise in politics, policy analysis, and South Asian studies. He earned his PhD in South Asian Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University and has nearly a decade of experience as Assistant Professor at the University of North Bengal. Since 2015, Dr. Bhattacharjee has contributed to research and policy discussions at ICWA, focusing on international relations and regional studies. He is fluent in English, Hindi, Bengali, and conversational French.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Daniel J. is the Senior Advisor for UN Studies at the United Service Institution of India (USI), Centre for UN Studies. A distinguished academic with a PhD from the United Nations Treaty Organization University for Peace, he specializes in security governance concerning sub-state actors. Dr. Daniel's early banking career saw him manage a \$1.5 billion SME liability and trade portfolio from 2011 to 2019. He has been a proactive advocate for the Millennium Development Goals and later championed awareness for the Sustainable Development Goals. From 2020 to 2023, he served as an Honorary Senior Project Advisor to the UN Treaty Organization University for Peace in Africa, advancing peace initiatives in the Horn of Africa.

Detailed Profile- [\[Web link\]](#)



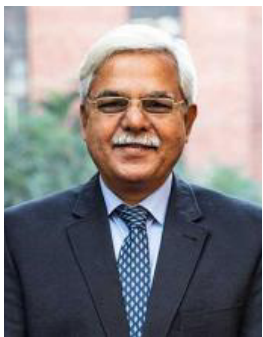
Dr. Deepika Saraswat is an Associate Fellow at the West Asia Centre, MP-IDSA, New Delhi. Specializing in Iran's geopolitics in the Middle East and Eurasia, she brings valuable insight into the interplay of religion and politics in postcolonial contexts. Dr. Saraswat is the author of the book *Between Survival and Status: The Counter-Hegemonic Geopolitics of Iran* (Indian Council of World Affairs & Macmillan Education, 2022), which critically examines Iran's geopolitical posture. Her current research focuses on Iran's Asian orientation and quest for status and regional cooperation.

Detailed Profile- [\[Web link\]](#)



Dr. Rajorshi Roy is an Associate Fellow at the Eurasia Centre of the MP-IDSA, New Delhi. He holds a PhD from the Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, focusing on Russia and the Central Asian republics' foreign, security, and domestic policies. Dr. Roy is a regular commentator on Eurasian geopolitics and contributes to contemporary strategic discourse. His current research explores subjects like Russia's military modernization and regional security.

Detailed Profile- [\[Web link\]](#)



R R Rashmi is a Distinguished Fellow at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, and a former Indian Administrative Service officer of the 1983 batch. He played a pivotal role as India's chief negotiator in global climate change negotiations, notably during the Paris Agreement era. Mr. Rashmi has held senior positions as Special Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Chief Secretary of Manipur. He is a recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration (2008) for his work in public finance. At TERI, he guides research on climate change mitigation, adaptation strategies, and sustainable development.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Ajay Mathur, a PhD from the University of Illinois, is Professor of Practice at the School of Public Policy, IIT Delhi, and a globally recognized expert in energy, environment, and climate change. He previously led the International Solar Alliance and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Dr. Mathur headed India's Bureau of Energy Efficiency and was instrumental in flagship initiatives like the Star Labeling program, Energy Conservation Building Code, and Perform, Achieve & Trade for industry. As a lead negotiator for India at the Paris climate talks, he shaped global climate policy.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Joshua Wycliffe is the Director (A&C), Global Biofuels Alliance. He was previously Chief Operating Officer of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). With a background that includes serving as Permanent Secretary for Fiji's Ministry of Environment and early leadership roles in the New Zealand Civil Service, Wycliffe has driven transformative, nature-based solutions around the globe. His strategic vision has impacted sustainable infrastructure and renewable energy capacity-building in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and beyond. At ISA, he spearheads cross-border solar initiatives, championing innovative projects such as solar-driven STAR-Centres and finance facilities for resilient energy access.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Atul Kaushik is a Fellow at the Global Development Centre at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). He has had a distinguished career spanning over 35 years in the Government of India, working extensively on export promotion, trade policy, climate change, and justice reforms. Kaushik served as Additional Secretary in the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Internationally, he represented India in trade negotiations and disputes at the World Trade Organization in Geneva. Post-retirement, he leads key programs like the India-U.S. Triangular Development Partnership and heads DAKSHIN, the Global South Centre of Excellence at RIS.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Saon Ray is a prominent Indian economist specializing in international trade, industrial economics, and global value chains. Currently a Professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) since 2021, she has previously held faculty roles at TERI School of Advanced Studies. Her research covers technological upgrading, energy economics, climate adaptation, and applied econometrics, with projects on RCEP impacts, insurance liberalization, and financial inclusion funded by India's government and UK DFID. Ray led studies like India's GVC participation and US investment effects.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Pankhuri Gaur is an Assistant Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. She specializes in international trade, focusing on multilateralism, regionalism, and various forms of trade agreements including bilateral, regional, and mega-regional agreements like RCEP. Her research also extends to the Blue Economy, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and maritime issues. Dr. Gaur has contributed to policy-making, notably as a member of the Indian team for the India-Mauritius CECPA Joint Study Group. She obtained her PhD from the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Atul Mishra is Associate Professor and Head of the Department of International Relations and Governance Studies at Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR. He earned his Ph.D. from Jawaharlal Nehru University and is renowned for his research on international theory, modern Indian international thought, and Indian foreign policy. Mishra authored the influential book "The Sovereign Lives of India and Pakistan" (OUP, 2021), exploring key questions in South Asian politics. With numerous scholarly publications, he actively shapes academic and public debates on international affairs, including non-Western perspectives.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Constantino Xavier is a Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy and Security Studies at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), New Delhi, where he leads the Sambandh Initiative on regional connectivity. A visiting faculty member at Ashoka University and a non-resident fellow with the Brookings Institution, Washington DC, Dr. Xavier's expertise centers on India's role as a regional power, focusing on security, connectivity, and democracy across South Asia and the Indian Ocean. He holds a PhD from Johns Hopkins University and has contributed to major policy books, including the Oxford Handbook of Indian Foreign Policy. He has co-edited influential CSEP reports such as "Connectivity and Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal Region" and "China in South Asia: Themes, Partners and Tools."

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Rudra Chaudhuri is the Director of Carnegie India, the New Delhi center of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and a leading scholar on South Asian international relations and strategic affairs. Under his leadership, Carnegie India has been recognized for its nonpartisan policy research and influential Track 1.5 dialogues. Dr. Chaudhuri has played a pivotal role in fostering India-US technology and strategic partnerships, advising government, academia, and industry on emerging challenges. He is a sought-after commentator in global fora, has taught at King's College London, and holds a PhD in War Studies.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Shivani Ghildiyal is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Dravyaguna (Herbal Medicine) at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi. She holds an MD and a PhD in the field of Dravyaguna and has specialized in pharmacognostical and pharmacological studies of classical Ayurvedic drugs. Ghildiyal has worked extensively in natural product research, molecular pharmacology, and drug development, contributing over 200 scientific publications. She has received several awards for her research and excellence in Ayurvedic medicine.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Namrata Pathak holds a PhD from the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She is a researcher at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), specializing in traditional knowledge, traditional medicine, biodiversity, and health. Dr. Pathak serves as the Member Secretary of the Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM) and is actively involved in research and policy advocacy related to Indian traditional medicine systems. She also contributes as an editor to the Traditional Medicine Review Journal.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Sarin N. S. is a medical graduate in Ayurveda and a public-health specialist currently serving as a Consultant at the Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM) hosted by the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. He has nearly a decade of experience as a health-systems and policy researcher, with a focus on strengthening and mainstreaming AYUSH systems within India's healthcare architecture. At RIS-FITM, he leads and supports major projects for the Ministry of Ayush, including a pan-India Ayush service-sector study and work on rationalizing costs of Ayurvedic treatments under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Atanu Basu is a distinguished scientist and Deputy Director at the Indian Council of Medical Research–National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV), Pune. He heads the Electron Microscopy and Pathology Group and has been instrumental in setting up India's first dedicated virus electron microscopy and cryo-electron microscopy facilities, enhancing rapid virus diagnosis and imaging. His pioneering work was crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic for virus characterization and vaccine development. Dr. Basu is a recipient of the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the Electron Microscopy Society of India and holds a PhD from the University of Calcutta.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Malavika Dadlani is a renowned seed scientist and former Joint Director (Research) at the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi. With a distinguished career spanning over four decades, she has made pioneering contributions in seed science and technology, plant variety protection, and seed systems. An IARI alumna with a PhD and postdoctoral research at IRRI, Philippines, she has served as Head of the Division of Seed Science & Technology and Nodal Officer (Seed) at IARI. Dr. Dadlani is a Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and past President of the Indian Society of Seed Technology.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ranjeet Goswami is the Global Head of Corporate Affairs at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), based in Delhi, India. He brings over 25 years of diverse experience spanning defense, homeland security, e-governance, and public policy. Before joining TCS, he served in the Indian Army as a Major, undertaking strategic and operational roles, including being a Military Aide to a Governor. At TCS, Ranjeet manages government relations and policy matters globally, contributing to strategic initiatives and corporate affairs. Ranjeet is a graduate in Psychology from Maharaja's College, Jaipur, and holds a Business Management credential from the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. He is also an alumnus of the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]

Shri Akshay Magadum is a Senior Specialist at Invest India, engaged in development through collaborative governance. He has prior experience working with the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), NITI Aayog, and the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Based in New Delhi, he combines his expertise in governance and technology with a focus on sustainable development and innovation. Besides his professional career, he is also known as a marathoner, reflecting a dynamic and energetic persona dedicated to both personal and professional growth.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Nitin A. Gokhale is a renowned strategic analyst, media entrepreneur, and author with over 40 years of experience in conflict reporting and defence analysis. He began his career in 1983, extensively covering insurgencies in India's North-east, the 1999 Kargil War, and Sri Lanka's Eelam War IV. Gokhale founded the defence-focused digital platforms BharatShakti.in and StratNewsGlobal.com, providing in-depth analysis on military, strategic affairs, and foreign policy. He is a popular lecturer at premier Indian defence institutions and has authored over a dozen books on military history, insurgencies, and wars.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Prof. Ashok Gulati is a distinguished Indian agricultural economist and Padma Shri awardee, born on May 11, 1954. He is currently a Distinguished Professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Renowned for shaping India's agricultural policy, he served as Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) from 2011 to 2014, where he advised on pricing policies for 23 agri-commodities and promoted transparent price reforms. Gulati has also worked as Director at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and has authored or co-authored over 15 books and numerous policy reports on Indian and Asian agriculture.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Nivedita Raghunath Bhide is an eminent social leader and educationist, best known for her role as Vice President of Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari. With decades of experience in promoting value-based education and rural development, she has been instrumental in empowering youth and communities across India. Mrs. Bhide was honored with the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian awards, in recognition of her dedicated service to society. She is a prolific speaker and has represented India on various national and international platforms, advocating for holistic education and nation-building. Her life and work exemplify a deep commitment to service, leadership, and the ideals of Swami Vivekananda.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Vikrant Singh Tomar is a renowned leadership and mind trainer, academician, and management consultant. As Director of UMS INDIA and Global Convenor of United Consciousness Global, he has conducted training for over 270,000 participants—including government, corporate, and academic leaders—across India and abroad. An internationally certified NLP practitioner, Dr. Tomar integrates ancient Indian wisdom with modern management practices, specializing in leadership development, self-mastery, and holistic well-being.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Dr. Rajeshwar Upadhyaya is an acclaimed leadership educator, executive coach, and Dean of the Academy of Applied Emotional Intelligence (AAEI). With over 28 years of experience, he has mentored more than 48,000 professionals from government, public, and private sectors across India, Southeast Asia, Europe, and the USA. He serves as visiting faculty for executive education at institutions including Mahindra University, ISB, KAIST (South Korea), and LBSNAA, and has taught at Thunderbird (USA) and Oxford Brookes (UK). Renowned for his expertise in emotional intelligence, leadership, and change management, Dr. Upadhyaya is also Editor-in-Chief of The Leadership Review. An MBA from Thunderbird, he inspires global leaders through innovative programs that blend literature, psychology, and business.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]

Partner Institutions

Training and Capacity Building are continuous and collaborative endeavors. This imperative gains even greater significance as India aspires to become a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047, marking 100 years of its independence. The Government of India firmly believes that institutions will play a pivotal role in achieving this vision. Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) holds in high esteem the many institutions it partners with to design and conduct thematic panels, tabletop exercises, strategic gaming, and simulation exercises aimed at training diplomats.



Central Training Institutes (CTIs)

SSIFS also shares its knowledge and expertise with several Central Training Institutes (CTIs) of the Government of India. Through attachments of varying durations, the programme trains officers outside the diplomatic corps in modules on foreign policy, defence and security, energy and environment, Indian Knowledge Systems, and more. CTIs having institutional partnership with SSIFS are enlisted here as a separate sub-category.



The Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) is India's leading think tank focused on defence, security, and international relations, established in New Delhi in 1965. It is an autonomous, non-partisan institution providing policy-relevant research and consultancy to the Indian government and military. The current Director General of MP-IDSA is Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy (IFS), who provides strategic leadership to the institute.

Online Portal- [[Web Link](#)]



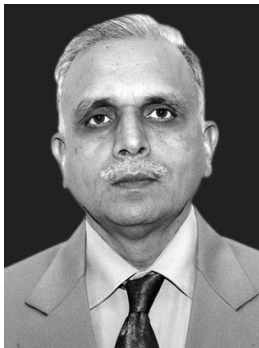
Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy is Director General of the MP-IDSA, New Delhi, since 2019. A distinguished diplomat (IFS 1981–2018), he served as India's Ambassador to Japan and Mexico, and Consul General in Shanghai and Sydney. An expert on China, East Asia, and security affairs, he led India's negotiations on confidence-building measures with China and held senior roles in the National Security Council Secretariat. Amb. Chinoy chaired the Think20 engagement group for India's G20 Presidency. Fluent in several languages, including Mandarin, French, and Spanish, he is well known for his expertise in international relations, trade, and strategic policy

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



The Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) is an independent public policy think tank based in New Delhi, India, established in 2009. It focuses on research and analysis in areas such as national security, foreign policy, governance, and economic issues, bringing together experts from the armed forces, academia, civil services, and the strategic community.

Online Portal- [[Web Link](#)]



Dr. Arvind Gupta is the Director of the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi, and an accomplished former Indian Foreign Service officer. He has served as India's Deputy National Security Adviser (2014–2017) and Director General of the MP-IDSA. Dr. Gupta holds honorary academic positions and regularly advises on national security issues. He has authored and edited numerous significant works, including *How India Manages Its National Security* (Penguin, 2018), and *India's Nuclear Energy Programme: Challenges, Prospects and Public Concerns* (Pentagon Press, 2014)).

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



S. Gurumurthy is Chairman of the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi, and a leading economic and political analyst. A chartered accountant by profession, Gurumurthy has made significant contributions as a columnist, investigative journalist, and editor of the Tamil news weekly *Thuglak*. He serves as an Independent Director on the Board of the Reserve Bank of India and is a visiting faculty member at IIT Bombay. He is a prolific author of books including *Constitutional India's Conflict Resolution Efforts* (2023), *India's Time Has Come* (2008), *Aatmanirbhar Bharat: A Vibrant and Strong India* (2021), and *India and the Changing World Order*.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]

The Delhi Policy Group (DPG) is one of India's oldest independent think tanks, established in 1994 in New Delhi. It is dedicated to policy research and analysis on international, strategic, and security issues of critical national interest. Its core mission is to promote relevant, reliable, and realist policy perspectives that can advance India's national power, security, and global role.

Online Portal- [[Web Link](#)]



Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh is a distinguished former Indian diplomat with a career spanning over 36 years in the Indian Foreign Service (1974–2010). An alumnus of St. Stephen's College, Delhi, he holds an M.A. from the University of Delhi. He played pivotal roles as India's Ambassador to Japan (2006–2010), Indonesia and Timor Leste (2003–2006), and Colombia, Ecuador, and Costa Rica. Ambassador Singh contributed significantly to India's bilateral partnerships, especially with Japan, ASEAN, and Latin America, and was instrumental in shaping India's Act East Policy. He has served as Director General of the Delhi Policy Group since 2016.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador Biren Nanda is a distinguished former Indian diplomat with an illustrious career in the Indian Foreign Service (1978–2015). He held key positions as India's High Commissioner to Australia (2012–2015), Ambassador to Indonesia, Timor Leste, and ASEAN (2008–2012), and Deputy Chief of Mission in Tokyo, as well as Consul General in Shanghai. Ambassador Nanda's extensive diplomatic service included assignments in Beijing, Washington DC, and Singapore, with a specialization in East Asian affairs. An economics postgraduate from Delhi School of Economics, he currently serves as Senior Fellow for Act East Diplomacy at the Delhi Policy Group.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Brigadier Rumel Dahiya (Retd) is a retired Indian Army officer and currently serves as a Deputy Director General at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi. He holds the Sena Medal (SM) for his distinguished service. With over three decades of military experience, Brig. Dahiya has developed expertise in strategic studies, national security, and defence policy. At IDSA, he contributes to research and policy discussions on a range of security issues including air power, cyber security, and geo-political challenges in South Asia. He is known for his involvement in strategic gaming exercises and defence think tank activities, providing valuable insights on India's security environment and regional stability.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Commodore Lalit Kapur (Retd.) is a Senior Fellow for Maritime Strategy at the Delhi Policy Group (DPG), a leading Indian think tank focused on strategic and international issues. An alumnus of The Doon School and the National Defence Academy, he served over 35 years in the Indian Navy with diverse operational and diplomatic roles, including Defence Attaché in Muscat. He has advanced academic credentials with a B.Sc. from Jawaharlal Nehru University, two Master's degrees—with distinction in Defence Studies and Management—and an M.Phil. from Mumbai University. His naval career encompassed strategic communications, defence intelligence, and maritime operations.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



RIS

Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

The Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is an autonomous policy research institute based in New Delhi, India, founded in 1984. It specializes in international economic development, trade, investment, technology, and South-South Cooperation, working to enhance policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing nations. RIS engages in regional and multilateral processes, supports development partnerships, and contributes to global discussions on sustainable development goals and economic integration. The current Director General is Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma.

Online Portal- [[Web Link](#)]



Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma brings over two decades of expertise in international trade, development cooperation, and multilateral and regional negotiations. He was formerly a Professor at the Centre for WTO Studies (CWS) at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi. Through knowledge sharing, critical inputs on proposals, and capacity-building initiatives, he also coordinated with key members of the G-33 to develop and advocate common negotiating positions among high-level policymakers of developing countries and LDCs. As an integral member of the Indian delegation, he played a crucial role in negotiations at the last five WTO Ministerial Conferences. He has conducted numerous training programmes on trade issues to strengthen South-South cooperation and collaborated with leading organisations, think tanks, and UN agencies.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



The United Service Institution of India (USI), founded in 1870 in Shimla, is India's oldest and premier think tank specializing in national security and defence services. It aims at the "furtherance of interest and knowledge in the art, science, and literature of the Defence Services." Post-independence, it relocated to New Delhi and has played a significant role in promoting strategic culture among policymakers and the strategic community of India. It is being currently led by Major General B.K. Sharma (Retd.), who is Director General.

Online Portal- [[Web Link](#)]



Major General B K Sharma, AVSM, SM & Bar (Retd), is the Director General of the United Service Institution of India (USI), the country's oldest national security and defence think tank. An Infantry veteran, he was commissioned in 1976 and has held prestigious commands, including a mountain division on the China border. He has served as India's Defence Attaché in Central Asia and as a UN Military Observer in Central America. Renowned for his expertise in strategic net assessment, scenario building, and military gaming, Maj Gen Sharma regularly participates in international conferences and Track 2 dialogues. An editor of prominent defence publications and recipient of several national awards, he contributes to advancing India's strategic thought and defence scholarship.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, is a central university established in 2009 and conferred in 2020 an Institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It specializes in national and internal security, cyber security, digital forensics, and counter-terrorism. RRU offers undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral, and diploma programs focusing on defense and security education through its TREE model (Training, Research, Education, Extension). It aims to produce skilled security professionals and advance research and policy in national security domains, supporting India's strategic and security infrastructure.

Online Portal- [[Web Link](#)]



Professor (Dr.) Bimal N. Patel is an eminent international law jurist and academic, currently serving as Vice Chancellor of Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), India's pioneering security and police university. A two-time PhD in International Law (Leiden University, Netherlands, and Jaipur National University), Dr. Patel is also a member of the UN International Law Commission (2023–2027) and the National Security Advisory Board of India. Formerly Director of Gujarat National Law University, he has shaped policy as a member of the Law Commission of India and has advised India at the UN Security Council. Dr. Patel's global expertise spans law, diplomacy, and security sector education, making him a key architect of innovative training for security leaders at RRU.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



OP JINDAL GLOBAL
UNIVERSITY

O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU), established in 2009 in Sonapat, Haryana, is a leading private Indian university renowned for its interdisciplinary approach and global outlook. Ranked India's top private university by QS, it spans fields like law, business, and liberal arts, attracting international faculty and students. Among its expertise in various fields of study, JGU's Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA) excels in diplomacy, offering both undergraduate and postgraduate interdisciplinary courses. JSIA fosters skills like critical thinking and cultural awareness through area studies integrated with regional expertise and global political issues, preparing graduates for international roles via research and partnerships, with strong placements in think tanks, UN bodies, and diplomacy.

Online Portal- [[Web Link](#)]



Prof. (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar, a Rhodes Scholar, is a globally recognized academic leader in legal education. He is the Vice Chancellor of JGU. He holds an LLB from University of Delhi, BCL from Oxford University, LLM from Harvard Law School, and SJD from City University of Hong Kong, where he taught law from 2001-2009, specializing in human rights, constitutional law, and national security. His scholarly contributions include extensive publications on corporate governance, public policy, global higher education, and international law, alongside advisory roles with governments and institutions worldwide. A prolific speaker and consultant, he champions transformative leadership in academia and policy.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), established in 1963 by the Government of India under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is an autonomous 'Deemed to be University' headquartered in New Delhi. Renowned as a premier business school for international trade education, it holds AACSB accreditation and NAAC A+ grade, consistently ranking among India's top 10 B-schools. IIFT offers specialized MBA (International Business) and PhD programs focused on export management, trade policy, logistics, and global economics, training over 40,000 professionals. With campuses in Kolkata, Kakinada, GIFT City, and a new Dubai outpost, it conducts WTO/World Bank-linked research via centers like the Centre for Trade and Investment Law.

Online Portal- [[Web link](#)]



Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Mohan Joshi serves as Vice-Chancellor and Director of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Delhi. Academically distinguished, he holds a PhD in Management from the University of Rajasthan, an Executive Masters in International Trade (Gold Medalist) from IIFT, an MBA from Rajasthan University, and Harvard Business School training. His scholarly achievements include over 1,195 citations on Google Scholar (h-index 12), with key publications like "International Marketing" (Oxford University Press, cited 129 times), "International Business," and articles on globalization, antibiograms, and MOOCs. Previously Dean at IIFT and Director at Indian Institute of Plantation Management, he edited the Foreign Trade Review and won London Business School case study awards.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



The Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) is a leading think tank established in 2014 and headquartered in New York City. It is dedicated to addressing the most pressing policy challenges and opportunities across the Asia-Pacific region. ASPI functions as a "think-and-do" tank, bringing together top experts from Asia to generate innovative policy ideas and working directly with policymakers to integrate and implement these solutions. Its mission focuses on key areas such as security, prosperity, sustainability, and the development of common regional norms and values.

Online Portal- [[Web Link](#)]



Akshay Mathur is Senior Director of the Asia Society Policy Institute, New Delhi, where he leads the institute's policy mandate in India across security, economics, and climate. Renowned for his expertise in geoeconomics—including international financial architecture, global trading systems, and digital governance—he brings nearly two decades of leadership in public policy and think tanks. Previously, he headed Gateway House and the Observer Research Foundation Mumbai, and is currently a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, Canada. Mathur holds advanced degrees in public policy (Harvard Kennedy School), business (Boston University), and technology (University of Massachusetts Amherst).

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is an autonomous organization established under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Headquartered in New Delhi with numerous international centres, ICCR actively facilitates international cultural collaborations in arts, music, dance, and academia, serving as India's premier arm for cultural diplomacy.

Online Portal- [[Web link](#)]



Mrs. K. Nandini Singla, an Indian Foreign Service officer (1997 Batch), is the current Director General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). She holds a Master's in Political Science and International Relations from Bombay University and an M.Phil. in Diplomatic Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Before joining ICCR in November 2024, she served as High Commissioner to Mauritius and as Ambassador to Portugal. As DG, she spearheads India's cultural diplomacy worldwide.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]

NatStrat, formally the Centre for Research on Strategic and Security Issues, is an independent think tank based in New Delhi. Founded in 2022-2023, its research focuses on geopolitics, national security, technology, economy, and emerging threats like AI, terrorism, cyber risks, climate change, and regional issues providing an authentic Indian perspective through commentaries, and policy briefs. In particular, NatStrat addresses India's strategic autonomy amid global shifts, and emphasizes holistic national security approaches.

Online Portal- [[Web link](#)]



Ambassador Pankaj Saran is a retired Indian diplomat with over 40 years of experience in the field. After joining Indian Foreign Service in 1982, he has served in Moscow, Washington D.C., Cairo, Dhaka, and Geneva, and as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (2007-2012). Key roles include High Commissioner to Bangladesh (2015, during the Land Boundary Agreement), Ambassador to Russia, Head of MEA's Northern Division (Nepal/Bhutan), and Deputy National Security Adviser for Strategic Affairs (2018-2021) under PM Narendra Modi. He is presently the Convenor of NatStrat.

Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]



Shantanu Mukharji is a retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and security expert serving as Advisor to NatStrat. Joining the police in 1976, he handled complex investigations and law-and-order situations, and served seven years with the elite Special Protection Group (SPG) for VVIP security. Deputed abroad for security assignments, he worked in the Cabinet Secretariat and Ministry of External Affairs' Bureau of Security, earning the Indian Police Medal for Meritorious Service and President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service. Post-retirement, he served as the National Security Advisor (NSA) to the Prime Minister of Mauritius during 2010-2015.

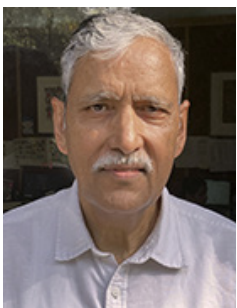
Detailed Profile- [[Web link](#)]

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 in New Delhi. Dedicated to promoting heritage awareness, INTACH is India's largest membership-based heritage conservation body, operating over 220 chapters nationwide. It works on the conservation, protection, and restoration of India's natural, built, and intangible heritage through restoration projects, heritage walks, school clubs, and advocacy. Recognized internationally, INTACH engages with government, international agencies, and communities, pioneering the preservation of monuments, cultural sites, crafts, and intangible traditions.

Online Portal- [[Web link](#)]



»» Shri Ashok Singh Thakur is the Chairman of INTACH. Elected in March 2025, he is a noted coin collector and historian from Chandrapur, recognized for his passionate commitment to heritage conservation. Under his leadership, INTACH continues its mission to preserve and protect India's cultural, natural, and intangible heritage. ««



»» Shri Ravindra Singh, IAS (Retd.), is the Member Secretary of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) for the term 2025-26. As Member Secretary, he plays a key role in the execution of INTACH's mandate to preserve and conserve India's cultural, natural, and intangible heritage. Working alongside the Chairman and other members, Shri Singh supports heritage conservation projects, advocacy, and institutional governance. ««

Institutional Partners- Central Training Institutes

SSIFS has continued its engagement with other Central Training Institutes (CTIs) sharing its resources, attachment programmes conducted by the globally renowned faculty. Relevance and robust training mechanisms closely aligned with the guidelines of the National Standards of Civil Service Training Institutions 2.0 as laid down by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), Government of India.



लाल बहादुर शास्त्री राष्ट्रीय प्रशासन अकादमी
Lal Bahadur Shastri
National Academy of Administration



**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL
FOREST ACADEMY DEHRADUN**
Ministry of Environment, Forest and
Climate Change Government of India



भारतीय जन संचार संस्थान
**Indian Institute of Mass
Communication**
(Deemed to be University)



मनुष्यवती भूमिरर्थः
अरुण जेटली
राष्ट्रीय वित्तीय प्रबन्धन संस्थान
(वित्त मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
Arun Jaitley
National Institute of Financial Management
(Ministry of Finance, Government of India)

National Standards of Civil Service Training Institutions (NSCSTI) 2.0

Capacity Building Commission (CBC) came up with a set of guidelines to create a baseline of existing capacities of Central Training Institutes of Government of India and sought standardisation of training at the national scale by setting out National Standards of Civil Service Training Institutions (NSCSTI) 2.0.



Eight Pillars of Excellence

1. Training needs assessment and Course design
2. Faculty Development
3. Resource and Training Targets
4. Trainee Support
5. Digitalisation and Training Support
6. Collaboration
7. Training evaluation and Quality Assurance
8. Operations and Governance



लाल बहादुर शास्त्री राष्ट्रीय प्रशासन अकादमी
Lal Bahadur Shastri
National Academy of Administration

The Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie is India's premier institution for training civil servants, especially Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers. Established in 1959 and functioning under the Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India, the Academy conducts the foundational and advanced courses for members of the All India Services and Group 'A' central services, including mid-career and in-service training.

Online Portal- [[Web link](#)]



The National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics (NACIN), headquartered at Palasamudram, Andhra Pradesh, is India's apex institution for training officers in customs, GST, central excise, and narcotics administration. Operated under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Ministry of Finance, NACIN conducts professional courses for Indian Revenue Service probationers, mid-career and in-service officers, as well as international trainees through collaborations with the World Customs Organization and United Nations.

Online Portal- [[Web link](#)]



भारतीय जन संचार संस्थान
Indian Institute of Mass
Communication
(Deemed to be University)

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi, is India's premier training and research institution in media and communication. Established in 1965 under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, IIMC offers postgraduate diploma and master's programs in journalism, advertising, public relations, and digital media, serving both aspiring media professionals and government officers. Renowned for its specialized short-term and international courses, IIMC conducts regular training for Indian Information Service officers and practitioners from developing countries.

Online Portal- [[Web link](#)]



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL
FOREST ACADEMY DEHRADUN

Ministry of Environment, Forest and
Climate Change Government of India

Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun, is India's premier institute for training Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers. Located within the Forest Research Institute's New Forest campus, IGNFA conducts professional forestry training for IFS probationers, skill upgradation for State Forest Service officers, and mid-career programs for senior IFS personnel. The Institute have made significant contribution in developing specialized modules, cultivating expertise in forestry, wildlife management, and ecological stewardship.

Online Portal- [[Web link](#)]



The Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM), Faridabad was established in 1993 under the Ministry of Finance, and is India's premier institution for capacity building in public policy, financial management, and governance. AJNIFM provides advanced training, management development programmes, and continuing education for Group 'A' officers of central, state governments, public enterprises, and defence services, with a focus on finance, accounting, and audit. The Institute also conducts research, consultancy, and international courses in partnership with organizations such as World Bank, IMF, and UN.

Online Portal- [[Web link](#)]



The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), located in Hyderabad, Telangana, is India's premier training institution for Indian Police Service (IPS) officers. Established in 1948 and named after the "Iron Man of India," Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Academy provides basic and in-service training for IPS officers selected through the All India Civil Services Examination. The training includes modules on law enforcement, leadership, human rights, forensic science, cybercrime, and public order management, along with physical fitness and tactical skills. SVPNPA also trains officers from other services and police officers from other nations.

Online Portal- [[Web link](#)]



Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi

Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) was established in 1986 by the Government of India primarily to cater to the professional training needs of the Indian Foreign Service and the Ministry of External Affairs. Within Indian Foreign Service, SSIFS conducts training programs annually at four levels - Induction Training Program of six months for IFS Officer Trainees at entry level, and Mid-Career Training Programs of three weeks duration - MCTP I (for 10-11 years in Service), MCTP II (for 15-16 years in Service), & MCTP III (for 24-25 years in Service).

For Foreign Diplomats, SSIFS conducts every month one specific programme which include three annual flagship programmes in the form of - Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Training program for three weeks in January, Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) for two weeks in May, and Global South Young Diplomats Forum (GSYDF) Training Program for two weeks in September.

SSIFS has over 105 MoUs that it signed in the past three decades. Many of the Programmes are attuned to the core objectives of those Agreements.

The Institute is headed by the Dean, a senior Foreign Service Officer in the Ministry of External Affairs. The current Dean is Shri Raj Kumar Srivastava, IFS officer of 1997 batch. The Institute is located at Baba Gangnath Marg, Old JNU Campus, New Delhi.

