



सत्यमेव जयते

Curriculum Compendium

Training Programme for Indian Foreign Service Officer Trainees
ITP 2025-26

Six-Month Training at SSIFS

- Orientation Module
- Academic Module
- Functional Module
- Defence & Security Module
- Desk Attachment
- Multilateral & Bilateral Module
- Economic, Science & Tech Module
- Public, Media & Cultural Module

Three-Month On-Job Training at MEA

- Division Immersion
- Protocol & Event Management
- Policy Drafting & Negotiation



Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service

Ministry of External Affairs • Government of India



Dr S. Jaishankar ✓

2 Dec · 🌐

Delighted to interact with Indian Foreign Service Officer Trainees of the 2025 batch and two Bhutanese diplomats.

Shared my diplomatic experiences and encouraged them to develop the skills and aptitude for their calling.

Extended my good wishes as they begin their careers in service of their nation.



Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service ✓

1 Dec · 🌐

Induction Training Program for 2025 Batch of IFS OTs & 2 Bhutanese Diplomats commenced today, on 1st December, 2025 at SSIFS.

Amb. Raj Kumar Srivastava, Dean(SSIFS) inaugurated the program & extended warm welcome to all the participants.

The 52 strong batch is largest in the history of Service, increasing capacity to contribute towards the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'.



Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service ✓

1 Dec · 🌐

IFS Officer Trainees of 2025 Batch and 2 Bhutanese Diplomats called on Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri today, on 1 December 2025, the first day of their Induction Training Program at SSIFS. FS stressed upon the need for Officer Trainees to inculcate the qualities of pride, integrity, courage and humility in their professional life. He highlighted the importance of Technology as the new determinant of comprehensive national power and need for OTs to develop deep understanding of the emerging technologies. He welcomed the new batch to the enter the service with positive mindset to contribute with clarity and courage despite the uncertainties of current times.

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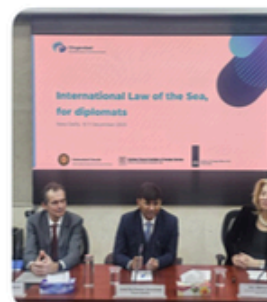


Beginning of IFS OTs' Training Program in the Social Media of SSIFS



Sushma Swa... · 10.12.2025. ⌵ ...

Marking the 1st institutional cooperation between SSIFS & [@Clingendaelorg](#), & with the support of Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a 3-day SSIFS-Clingendael module on the Law of the Sea kicked off on 9th Dec, 2025.



9 Months long Induction Training Program for IFS Officer Trainees of 2025 Batch & Two Trainee Diplomats from Bhutan began on 1st December 2025

The Induction Training Programme for Indian Foreign Service Officer Trainees (2025 Batch) is structured to provide a comprehensive intellectual and professional foundation for diplomatic service through a phased and integrated approach. The first module combines academic rigour with applied skill development, enabling officer trainees to engage effectively with complex international legal, political, and strategic challenges. The first week of the programme focused on academic orientation and foundational capacity building. Officer trainees were introduced to the objectives, structure, and expected outcomes of the ITP curriculum, along with administrative procedures and an overview of the professional life of a diplomat during the first overseas posting. Sessions on leadership, motivation, and mentorship strengthen professional readiness. Dr. Vikrant Singh Tomar delivered an inspiring and energising session on motivation, discipline, and public service, offering officer trainees clearer direction as they prepare for responsibilities of national and global significance. His interaction further addressed anxiety, emotional intelligence, and the collective mental profile of the batch, while outlining practical methods to navigate personal and professional challenges. In addition, Dr. Preet Deep Singh highlighted simplified and practical approaches to the use of artificial intelligence, demonstrating accessible tools and workflows to enhance learning and research. Exposure to AI in education and diplomacy, combined with heritage walk to Qila Rai Pithora highlighted the diplomatic practice within India’s civilisational and cultural context.



9 Months long Induction Training Program for IFS Officer Trainees of 2025 Batch & Two Trainee Diploma from Bhutan began on 1st December 2025

The second week focussed on International Law for diplomacy, with particular emphasis on the governance of the global commons. A key component is the academic attachment with the Clingendael Academy, which provided specialised instruction on the legal dimensions of maritime governance. Under the guidance of Professor Alex Oude, officer trainees engage in in-depth study of the Law of the Seas, maritime domain awareness, and evolving legal challenges related to oceans and global commons. Complementing this, focused sessions on professional presentation and communication skills conducted by Sebastian Olislagers strengthened trainees’ ability to articulate legal and policy arguments effectively. The week concluded with a structured Communication Skills Assessment to evaluate analytical clarity, articulation, and professional presentation.

The third week advanced into International Relations theory and strategic studies, integrating classical and contemporary theoretical frameworks with indigenous strategic thought, including lessons from the Arthashastra. The officer Trainees assessed the current geopolitical scenarios in the Kautilyan framework. The module addressed key global and regional issues such as the Indo-Pacific, cyber regulation, space diplomacy, nuclear order, global disorder, and India-China relations. Expert lectures, group discussions, tabletop exercises, and a formal report submission reinforced analytical depth and policy-oriented thinking.

Overall, the academic module bridges theory and practice, strengthening legal reasoning, strategic analysis, and communication capabilities essential for effective diplomatic engagement.



Diplomats have to become good Story Tellers

A day to test Communication Skills and a Heritage Walk to know the Story

As the IFS OTs of 2025 batch settle down with their program at SSIFS, they got a chance to test their communication skills in front of camera. They would get to compare their performance over the coming nine months to understand how much they progressed. Story telling is an integral part of Diplomacy. Its an essential competency on which we devote considerable time and effort to ensure our young diplomats master the art.

The OTs also got a chance to do a heritage walk in the historic surroundings of SSIFS to develop an understanding of history through experiential learning.



Second Month of the 9-month-long Induction Training Program for IFS Officer Trainees of 2025 Batch & Two Trainee Diplomats from Bhutan

The month of January constituted a pivotal phase in the professional training of the IFS Officer Trainees (2025 Batch). The calendar was structured to transition trainees from conceptual understanding of the Ministry of External Affairs to applied exposure through functional modules, assessments, institutional attachments, and experiential learning. The programme reflected a careful balance between administrative orientation, diplomatic skill-building, ethical grounding, and field exposure, thereby reinforcing readiness for overseas postings and headquarters responsibilities.

The first week of January focused on the functional aspects of working in Missions abroad, offering Officer Trainees a comprehensive overview of MEA's institutional architecture. Sessions addressed the role and responsibilities of MEA at Headquarters and abroad, cadre management, promotion rules, first postings, and compulsory foreign language (CFL) policies.

A dedicated Consular, Passport and Visa (CPV) module provided exposure to the full spectrum of consular diplomacy. Topics included official and diplomatic passports, visa and OCI services, extradition, MLATs, and consular grievance handling, supplemented by a role-play exercise to simulate real-world consular challenges. Cultural enrichment was integrated through a lecture on India's textile heritage, underscoring the role of soft power in diplomacy.

The second week marked a transition to reflective learning. Fireside chats with senior officers and diplomats such as Shri Tilak Devasher, Amb. Ajay Bisaria, and Amb. Vijay Gokhale offered Officer Trainees rare first-hand insights into strategic decision-making, crisis management, and diplomatic negotiation.

The Book Club initiative fostered analytical thinking and articulation skills, while sessions on conduct rules, preventive vigilance, and gender sensitisation reinforced ethical standards and institutional accountability. A workshop on self-mastery and emotional intelligence emphasised the importance of personal resilience and professional comportment in diplomatic service.



Innovative modules such as Diplomacy Through Food and Textiles of India highlighted cultural diplomacy as an emerging domain, while bridge sessions introduced trainees to strategic thinking and etiquette in informal diplomatic settings.

The third week of January was dedicated to State and Aspirational District Attachments, providing Officer Trainees exposure to grassroots governance, development challenges, and Centre-State coordination. This attachment was instrumental in contextualising foreign policy within domestic socio-economic realities.

The final week constituted about institutional learning. The PSP attachment and sessions on financial management in Government of India and MEA introduced trainees to budgeting, audit mechanisms, GFRs, and DFPRs. The field visit to RPO Delhi and its Passport Seva Kendras provided practical insight into one of India's largest passport jurisdictions, serving over 20 districts and nearly 3.5 crore people. PSKs operate as citizen-facing centres using a three-stage system for application capture, verification, and decision-making. The RPO Main Office functions as the statutory authority, overseeing PSKs, coordinating with police and district authorities, and deciding complex or adverse cases. Key functions such as printing, dispatch, and grievance redressal are centralised at the RPO.



A Workplace Emotional Well-being session was conducted at SSIFS in collaboration with Amaha, MEAs mental health partner. The session encouraged participants to move beyond habitual responses to questions of well-being, fostering greater emotional self-awareness, and introduced the spectrum of emotional health from illness and languishing to flourishing. Key themes included mindfulness as a practice of anchoring attention in the present moment to manage anxiety, which often arises from concerns about the past or future, along with practical stress-management and emotional regulation strategies relevant to professional environments.

Bridge Training Sessions at SSIFS to develop Skills to Open New Doors



Overall, the January training calendar was comprehensive, intensive, and strategically sequenced. It successfully integrated administrative training, diplomatic exposure, ethical instruction, cultural sensitivity, and field experience. The month played a crucial role in shaping Officer Trainees into disciplined, informed, and reflective diplomats capable of handling complex responsibilities at home and abroad. The structured progression from classroom learning to field attachment and assessment reflects the robustness of the IFS training framework and its emphasis on holistic capacity-building.

States Attachment for the IFS OTs of 2025 Batch To Understand States' Expectations from Diplomacy & Diplomats

The State Attachments of Officer Trainees of 2025 batch across nine states collectively offered a panoramic view of how India's external engagement is deeply rooted in the capacities, cultures, and confidence of its states. Together, these visits underscored a central insight: foreign policy is no longer projected solely from the national capital but is increasingly shaped by sub-national governance, economic ecosystems, and cultural narratives. The experiences highlighted how states function as laboratories of diplomacy—translating domestic delivery into international credibility.

Rajasthan: Soft Power Anchored in Governance

Rajasthan demonstrated how heritage and governance together shape diplomatic credibility. Its globally recognised tourism ecosystem, living traditions, and cultural industries position the state as a natural soft-power hub, while sectors such as renewable energy, stone, and handicrafts underline its economic diplomacy potential. Advanced digital infrastructure, particularly the Bhamashah State Data Centre, illustrated Rajasthan's contribution to India's digital public infrastructure. District engagements in Karauli and Dausa reaffirmed that aspirational development & grassroots administration are critical to translating national priorities into local outcomes.



Madhya Pradesh: Quiet Confidence at Heart of India

Madhya Pradesh emerged as a bridge between tradition and modernity. Civilisational sites such as Sanchi, Ujjain, and Mandu, alongside wildlife reserves, reinforced its role in cultural and spiritual diplomacy. Simultaneously, industrial hubs like Pithampur and pharmaceutical units highlighted growing integration into global value chains. Digital governance initiatives and the Global Skill Park showcased a strategic emphasis on transparency, efficiency, and human capital, positioning the state as a steady and credible contributor to India's external outreach.



Bihar: Reframing Perception through Institutions

Bihar presented a nuanced picture of transformation anchored in institutional effort and civilisational depth. Its association with Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and ancient centres of learning positions it as a powerful asset for spiritual diplomacy. Governance institutions such as JEEViKA and BIPARD reflected a focus on inclusive development and women-led empowerment. Infrastructure improvements and cultural assets pointed to underutilised soft-power potential, while the persistent gap between perception and reality highlighted the importance of narrative correction and strategic branding.



Gujarat: Ambition with Rootedness

Gujarat illustrated how strong institutions and economic confidence translate into diplomatic relevance. Leadership development institutions such as SPIPA and IIM Ahmedabad highlighted long-term investments in human capital. GIFT City and investment facilitation mechanisms demonstrated the growing role of states in interfacing with global financial systems. Visits to Kutch, Smriti Van, and the Khavda Renewable Energy Park brought into focus resilience, memory, and climate leadership, reinforcing Gujarat’s role in energy and climate diplomacy grounded in cultural identity.



Assam: India’s Gateway to the East

Assam’s strategic geography placed it at the centre of India’s Act East vision. Engagements revealed how traditional livelihoods—tea, silk, bamboo, and handicrafts—are being aligned with forward-looking industrial initiatives, including the semiconductor facility at Jagiroad. Cultural institutions linked to Srimanta Sankardeva and Naamghars highlighted Assam’s pluralistic ethos, while Kaziranga National Park illustrated conservation governance with global relevance. Skill development initiatives pointed to Assam’s emerging role in talent mobility and safe migration frameworks.



Odisha: Quiet Competence and Resilience

Odisha stood out for harmonising civilisational heritage with contemporary governance. Traditions associated with Jagannath, Konark, and Puri reinforced its role in spiritual diplomacy, while globally recognised disaster management practices demonstrated how resilience builds international credibility. Sports infrastructure and international events showcased sports as a tool of youth-centric soft power. Tribal livelihoods, GI-tagged products, and eco-tourism initiatives highlighted inclusive economic models aligned with sustainability and global markets.



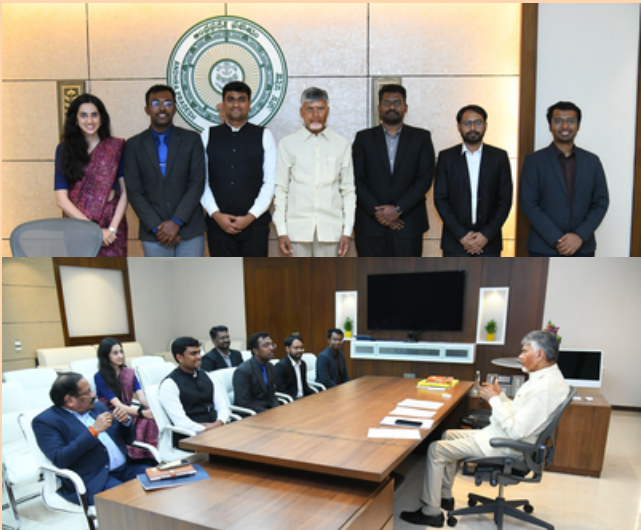
Uttar Pradesh: Scale as Diplomatic Strength

Uttar Pradesh offered a layered understanding of how scale, civilisation, and administration intersect. Institutions in Lucknow showcased efforts to convert vast human capital into globally mobile talent through skilling and investment facilitation. Ayodhya and Varanasi illustrated how faith-led urban transformation can balance devotion, law, and infrastructure, while Sarnath reinforced Buddhist and ethical traditions as instruments of cultural diplomacy. ODOP products, crafts, and cuisine highlighted the interface between culture and commerce.



Andhra Pradesh: Data-Driven Governance with Cultural Roots

Andhra Pradesh demonstrated a deliberate alignment of tradition and technology. Cultural assets such as Kuchipudi, Kondapalli toys, and Mangalagiri sarees reflected living heritage, while tourism initiatives moved towards eco-sensitive, experience-based models. Technology-enabled governance—through RTGS, state data systems, and AI-driven decision-making—showcased ambitions for responsive administration. Investment facilitation, export orientation, and skill ecosystems highlighted a proactive economic strategy focused on global talent relevance.



Tamil Nadu: High Capacity, Global Articulation

Tamil Nadu exemplified how administrative maturity and economic depth translate into sustained international relevance. Manufacturing ecosystems in automobiles, electronics, and semiconductors reflected deep global integration. Cultural density—from temples to Keeladi archaeology—reinforced evidence-based civilisational diplomacy. Social infrastructure, including nutrition schemes, women’s hostels, and refugee rehabilitation, emerged as long-term investments in human capital and humanitarian credibility. Coastal and ecological engagements highlighted climate resilience as an integral diplomatic dimension.



Conclusion: States as Pillars of Diplomacy

Across all nine states, a common thread emerged: Cultural heritage, economic ecosystems, digital governance, social infrastructure, and environmental stewardship together form the foundations of India’s international engagement. Effective foreign policy is not abstract—it is built daily in districts, institutions, industries, and communities across the country.

IFS Officer Trainees of 2025 batch called on Hon’ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at MoD on 25 February 2026. RM discussed the role of defence diplomacy in building an Atmanirbhar, Shashakt, and Surakshit Bharat



Third Month of the 9-month-long Induction Training Program for IFS Officer Trainees of 2025 Batch & Two Trainee Diplomats from Bhutan

The February calendar for the IFS Officer Trainees (2025 Batch) was structured around the overarching theme of Defence & Security Diplomacy, integrating strategic theory, operational exposure, summit protocol, and defence institutional attachments. The month reflected a calibrated progression from conceptual learning to applied diplomatic practice.

The program commenced with a Table Top Exercise on Geoeconomics led by Shri Akshay Mathur (Asia Society Policy Institute), highlighting the strategic interface between trade, technology, and power projection. This was followed by a three-day Air Force Attachment at Bareilly, providing first-hand exposure to operational preparedness, command structures, and the role of air power in national security. The week also included a visit to Jindal Global University and a high-level interaction with H.E. Ms Aishath Azeema, High Commissioner of the Maldives to India, offering perspectives on neighbourhood diplomacy and India’s maritime partnerships.

The second Week of February focused intensively on cybersecurity, multidomain warfare, and strategic leadership. Sessions on “Understanding NeoPolitics” and “Diplomacy in the Age of NeoPolitics” by Dr Subi Chaturvedi contextualised digital governance and cyber diplomacy within evolving global power structures. Major General B.K. Sharma (Retd.) examined multidomain warfare, while strategic simulations such as “System Shock” and the Diplomatic Practice Lab enhanced crisis-response and decision-making skills. Senior diplomats and defence experts—including Amb. Hemant Krishan Singh, Amb. Biren Nanda, Amb. R. Viswanathan, Amb. Ruchira Kamboj, Amb. Sujan Chinoy and others delivered lectures on India-US relations, Act East policy, Africa outreach, maritime strategy, economic security, and defence diplomacy. Sessions on drone warfare, maritime security in the Indo-Pacific, and India’s security reforms underscored contemporary operational realities.

From 15–21 February, trainees were attached to the Protocol Division for duties connected with the AI Impact Summit. This immersion provided practical exposure to summit management, diplomatic protocol, coordination with foreign delegations, and real-time event logistics—bridging substantive policy understanding with representational responsibilities. This practical immersion also reinforced the procedural and representational dimensions of diplomacy, particularly in the context of emerging technology governance.



The final week transitioned into institutional and defence-industrial exposure. Activities included attachment at SSIFS with the Defence Industry Promotion wing of the Ministry of Defence, interaction with the Raksha Mantri, a visit to a Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU), a study visit to IFC-IOR ending with a communication Skill assessment of the IFS OTs. These engagements deepened understanding of India's defence production ecosystem, maritime cooperation frameworks, and the fiscal dimensions of national security. Overall, February's calendar was strategically curated to build domain expertise in cyber and defence diplomacy while ensuring field-level exposure to military establishments, summit protocol, and defence industry institutions. The blend of theory, simulation, high-level interaction, and attachment-based learning strengthened the trainees' preparedness for contemporary diplomatic challenges across security, technology, and geoeconomic domains.



Induction Training Program of IFS OTs of 2025 batch

Army Attachment of IFS OTs as captured by Camera
(02-08 March 2026)



Table Top Exercise on Strategic Analysis and Critical Thinking **curated by Amb Pankaj Saran and NATSRAT Team**

NATSRAT, conducted a two-day Table Top Exercise (TTX) on 9–10 March 2026, to provide IFS Officer Trainees (OTs) of 2025 batch, an experiential learning opportunity in strategic analysis, critical thinking, and diplomatic decision-making through crisis simulation. Curated under the guidance of Amb Pankaj Saran and mentored by Amb Gaddam Dharmendra and Amb TCA Raghavan, the exercise integrated theoretical frameworks with immersive role-play for OTs and reinforced SSIFS' emphasis on experiential and practice-oriented learning.

The TTX followed a multi-layered simulation model involving the division of the OTs cohort into groups engaging in distinct strategic scenarios. Each simulation progressed through three iterative rounds—baseline articulation, triggered escalation, and strategic response—allowing participants to continuously recalibrate their positions in response to evolving developments.

The scenarios were designed to reflect complex, high-stakes geopolitical environments, requiring OTs to navigate competing priorities such as national security, economic stability, international law, and multilateral engagement. Across rounds, the simulations evolved in intensity, introducing layered challenges including escalation risks, information asymmetries, and institutional constraints.

Participants were required to:

- Formulate coherent national positions grounded in strategic interests
- Engage in persuasive diplomatic communication and signalling
- Respond to emerging crises through calibrated policy options
- Balance unilateral actions with multilateral diplomacy & normative frameworks

The iterative design ensured that initial positions were stress-tested through successive developments, encouraging adaptive thinking and strategic foresight.

The TTX exercise exemplified SSIFS' pedagogical approach of applied diplomacy through simulation, enabling Officer Trainees to internalise key competencies:

- Decision-making under uncertainty and time pressure
- Negotiation, persuasion, and consensus-building
- Understanding of escalation dynamics and crisis management frameworks
- Integration of political, economic, and security considerations in policy responses



Defence & Security Module of Phase I of IFS OTs' Induction Training Program focussed on pathways to our journey towards Sashakt Bharat

IFS Officer Trainees of 2025 batch in Phase I of their training spent four weeks on Defence & Security Diplomacy. The final assignment was on their ideas for a Sashakt Bharat - a Strong India based on their learnings of the month. One of the creative submissions we received was by Murugesan D, in which he shared Kautilyan perspective with excellent infographics.

SASHAKT BHARAT: A Modern Treatise by Chanakya

Integrating Hard Power, Defence Diplomacy, and Experiential Statecraft for a Secure Republic

“The stability of a nation rests upon the strength of its arms, the wisdom of its counsel, the unity of its people, and the foresight of its leaders.” — Chanakya



Pillar I: Bodh Shakti (The Power of Awareness)

Security begins long before the first shot is fired. The new wars are fought in digital shadows.

Notes from the Field
Observations from the Langate surveillance room: The doctrine of ‘bleed India with 1000 cuts’ has morphed into ‘bleed India with 1000 tweets’.

Strategic Imperatives:
The need to counter deepfakes (as seen during Op Sindoor) and the establishment of dedicated Strategic Communications Units.



Pillar III: Vigyan Shakti (The Power of Innovation)

“He who wields another’s sword is a servant in his own land.”



Success Metrics

- FY 24-25 domestic production hit a record \$18 Billion (174% rise since 2014).
- Defence exports crossed \$2.8 Billion.
- Successes: Tejas Mk1A, Vikrant, and BrahMos.



Critical Vulnerability

The failed Kaveri jet engine program. India's frontline Tejas flies on American GE-404 engines, leaving self-reliance in combat aviation structurally incomplete.

Pillar V: Jan Shakti (The Power of the People)

A strong republic rests on the shoulders of a prepared populace. A civilian's belief can often shield more than a bulletproof vest.



Experiential Evidence (Kashmir Notes)

- The visceral realization of the human cost when donning a bulletproof jacket at a Choubey forward post.
- Witnessing ‘development-centric security’ at the Mohit Sharma Army Goodwill School in Kupwara.
- Initiatives like Radio Chinar, Sadbhavana, and Super 50 actively countering radicalization and building grassroots trust.

The Panchashakti Sutra: Five Pillars of Power



Pillar II: Raksha Shakti (The Power of Defence)

Indian Army	Indian Navy	Indian Air Force (Critical Alert Status)
1.4M personnel	INS Vikrant operational	29 of 42 mandated combat squadrons active
50,000+ redeployed to LAC	Arihant/Arighaat SSBNs active	Lowest since 1965
Note: Rapid border infrastructure acceleration post-Galwan.	Note: Commissioning 1 warship every 40 days.	Note: MRFA tender delayed. Su-30MKI remains the backbone.

Strategic Stance: Overwhelming conventional superiority over Pakistan (Op Sindoor) vs. structural gaps against China.

Pillar IV: Varta Shakti (The Power of Diplomacy)

Influence is the art of shaping without touching. Defence diplomacy has evolved from ceremonial postings to strategic influence.

Strategic Vectors

- Transitioning to a “Net Security Provider” in the Indo-Pacific.
- Leveraging enabling agreements (LEMOA, COMCASA).
- Multilateral balancing through QUAD, SCO, and ASEAN.

Diplomat's Mandate

Modern diplomats must master cartography, military tech, and export negotiations (e.g., Akash/BrahMos systems).



Conclusion: The Path to Viksit & Sashakt Bharat

To be truly Sashakt, Bharat must anticipate, adapt, and act with civilizational confidence. It requires sustained procurement reform, double-digit budget growth, and technological sovereignty.

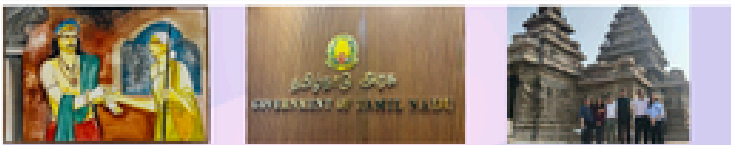
“A truly Sashakt Bharat will not conquer the world—it will stabilize it.”



In the happiness of the people lies the happiness of the king; in their welfare, his welfare. — Kautilya, Arthashastra

States Attachment in January 2026 - Creative writing Assignment

IFS Officer Trainees of 2025 batch in Phase I of their training spent a week in different states in order to understand their expectations from Indian Diplomacy especially in the areas of Traditions, Trade, Technology, Tourism, and Talent - 5 Ts promotion abroad. A creative writing assignment was given to OTs, one excellent submission was by Gee Gee on Tamilnadu.



A TREASURE HUNT IN TAMILNADU: MANIFESTATIONS & MAGNIFICENCE

By Gee Gee IFS

With a sense of wonder and purpose, I embarked on a treasure hunt across Tamil Nadu, guided by six enigmatic clues inspired by Thirukkural IFL. From concrete roads to sandy shores, the journey sparked rich reflections on diplomacy and statecraft—on how the Centre and states engage today, how they could evolve, and how they ought to work in true synergy for realising the fruits of diplomacy.

CLUE 1 "Karkka"- to learn

The aim of the treasure is to attain fitness at 5 levels.

- Professional Fitness:** I learned that diplomatic proactiveness can yield multidimensional dividends. Tamil Nadu's success in engaging Taiwan, notably attributed to the efforts of **Vijay Sakthale Sir**, illustrates how timely strategic facilitation matters. Leveraging cultural affinities—such as Tamil Nadu's **K-Pop** enthusiasm and Korea's admiration for **Rajinikanth**—alongside proposals like **Universal Studios** in Tamil Nadu, further highlights diplomacy's role in boosting tourism and soft power.
- Intellectual Fitness:** Developing deep domain expertise is indispensable for a contemporary diplomat. Knowledge in critical sectors such as semiconductors, wellness and medical tourism, cultural specificities, diaspora institutions like the **Non-Resident Tamil Board** together form the bedrock of intellectual preparedness.
- Spiritual Fitness:** Tamil Nadu's spiritual landscape—Mamallapuram, the temple city of Madurai, Rameshwaram, Venkateswari, and Nagore—offers more than architectural splendor. These sacred spaces foster spiritual unity, introspection, and a deeper realization of self, elevating the state's global cultural standing.
- Physical Fitness:** Long walks through Secretariat corridors and the shores of Mamallapuram culminated in the grandeur of the world's largest symmetrical corridor at Rameshwaram. Initiatives such as **Kasturba Uthuvu Thittam**, **Anna Cyril's Race**, and **MMAA** actively promote physical fitness from school levels.
- Financial Fitness:** Tamil Nadu's dedicated **MSME Department**—contributing 30% to GDP against the national average of 20%—focuses on Mentorship, Money, and Marketing to advance its \$1 trillion economy vision. Nearly **60% women's participation** in economic activity significantly strengthens the state's GDP.

CLUE 2 "Kasadara"- without errors

Myths and prejudices about paradiplomacy that got debunked in our state visit.

- Diplomacy's scope is limited:** This was decisively dispelled through our interaction with the HQ, Guidance Cell. He commended our seniors for enabling Taiwanese investments in the state by delivering precise, timely intelligence.
- States are dormant actors:** In a globalized order, every tier of governance now shapes international engagement. States have emerged as proactive agents of commerce and economic diplomacy, as evidenced by platforms such as **Vibrant Gujarat** and **ThiGNet**.
- All over the world, it is the same:** From Sir Paul's assertive city diplomacy to Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg's structured paradiplomacy, sub-national entities actively court global capital. Learning of Tamil Nadu's commercial engagement proposals with Bavaria was particularly striking.
- Focus only on investments:** Institutions like Tamil Nadu's **NET Board** advance India's Diaspora Connect vision, while sister-city partnerships from Chennai-Ulster to Trappan-Silvassa redefine urban cooperation.
- Refugee management is the Union's forte:** Our visit to the Sri Lanka Refugee Camp revealed stark fiscal constraints, visa overstay challenges, underscoring the indispensable role of states in humanitarian governance.

CLUE 3 "Karpaval"- lessons learnt

Framed within the 4Ts—Trade, Talent, Technology, and Tourism and anchored by a fifth T, **Tamil Nadu**, my engagement with the state yielded a rich tapestry of reflections and aspirations, presented here as a personal manifesto of a diplomat in the making.

Trade 	I am driven to amplify our and any state's international footprint. Chennai and Spencerbundur host Taiwanese giants such as Wistron , Pegatron and Foxconn , reflecting global supply-chain integration. I am committed to facilitating structured state trade missions, state-specific commercial desks abroad, and deeper engagement with markets in Europe , ASIAN , and Latin America to unlock new export corridors.
Talent 	In Talent , the state supplies skilled professionals globally and hosts GOEs of Pfizer , AstraZeneca , Standard Chartered . By nurturing diasporal investment platforms and global ruling partnerships, I aim to make TN and other states a preferred destination for international talent and investment alike.
Technology 	In Technology , Tamil Nadu's ecosystem—anchored by TIDEL Park , the IT Madras Research Park , and emerging deep-tech hubs like catalysed global R&D. With Polysaron's vital 15,000 crore investment and growing semiconductor interest, I aim to advance international research collaborations, attract global chip-design firms, and strengthen innovation.

	Images with policy think tanks worldwide.
Tourism 	In Tourism , Tamil Nadu's UNESCO heritage, temple circuits, and coastal corridors have growing global appeal. Agro-tourism is emerging. Participating in forums such as ITB Asia and MCOs with foreign tourism boards demonstrate momentum. I will work to expand cultural tourism partnerships with operators in France, Korea, and the UK and promote handicrafts and performing arts. (Kolagiri , Kallidasa Thittam for artisans)

CLUE 4 "Kattru pin"- after learning

A set of geographical clues.



CLUE 5 "Niruka"- abide by

Through the Profit, People, Planet, Prosperity lens of India's Aspirational District Programme, we visited Tamil Nadu's **Rameshwaram**, gaining firsthand insights into development challenges and initiatives at the district level.

Profit	People	Planet	Prosperity
I believe diplomacy can channel global investments and export corridors. Coastal commerce can flourish like fish, inspired by Portugal's Algarve, where sustainable seafood and tourism warm local livelihoods.	Communities are the compass of progress. Learning from Japan's regional RIT initiatives, I can steer youth engagement, skill-building, and educational enrichment in innovative ways.	Nature is the anchor. Costa Rica's mangrove guardianship shows how ecosystem stewardship safeguards livelihoods. I aim to anchor climate-resilient, eco-conscious practices.	Growth is the lighthouse guiding collective aspiration. By weaving global best practices into Tamil Nadu's initiatives, I can help illuminate pathways to inclusive, sustainable, and enduring success for Rameshwaram and other aspirational districts.

CLUE 6 "Adharku thaga"- live by lessons

The poem below summarises my resolve to **inform-perform-transform**.

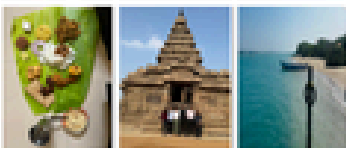


DISCOVERING THE TREASURE

As I pieced together the final clue, the treasure revealed itself not as an external reward, but as **my own evolving self**—ready to contribute to the larger vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**. This journey shaped me as a diplomat in the making, transforming observation into purpose. The wisdom of Thirukkural IFL guides my resolve:

"Karka kasadara karpaval katrapin
nirka adharkuth thaga"

I commit to learning without error and living by those lessons. In the unfolding **Amit Kaal**, I recognise that partnering with states is indispensable. Greater participation will lead to greater productivity—and together, to a **greater tomorrow. (1994 words)**



Analysing Digital Presence of Various Indian and Foreign Missions and Recommending Ways to Improve Digital Outreach

IFS Officer Trainees of 2025 batch in Phase I of their training spent two weeks on two separate assignments connected with digital presence and outreach of Indian Missions and Posts abroad as well as some of the foreign Missions in New Delhi. They were given broad parameters and rubric for this assignment in which they worked both individually as well as in groups . One of the top submissions we received was by Jacob J Puthenveetil. The recommendations part of that report are presented below for our readers.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INDIAN MISSIONS

IMMEDIATE 0-3 Months	SHORT-TERM 3-6 Months	MEDIUM-TERM 6-12 Months	LONG-TERM 12-18 Months
High Bandwidth Crisis Traps	Chief/Consul Embassy Influencers	Brand/Chief Global Reach	DOPE/ARPI Integration

01

AMBASSADOR MICRO-BRANDING MODEL

IMMEDIATE 0-3 Months

STRATEGIC IMPACT

Mission and Ambassador personally promote institutional presence, fostering business and career growth. Indian Missions that follow such guidelines will be able to achieve better digital outreach and more personal goodwill with host nation public.

EXECUTION ARCHITECTURE

- Mandate creation and active creation of personal handles for ALL Ambassadors/High Commissioners.
- DOPE to implement a 2-tier "Digital Persona Protocol" at induction — covering personal brand guidelines, content calendar (3x weekly), cultural immersion formats, and a crisis communication style guide.
- SPD to provide a ghostwriting/photography support (budget: ₹ 1PL/mission/year) and quarterly content audits.
- Benchmark: The "Garcia Model" — Ambassador Garcia's first-quarter Rank proves the effectiveness of the official Embassy handle. Ambassador Xu Fubang's 117K following demonstrates the principle in the present context.

DIPLOMATIC ROI

Estimated 200-400% organic reach increase within 12 months. Improves institutional algorithmic suppression. Builds high-trust personal goodwill with host nation public.

02

"DIPLOMACY AS A SERVICE" (DaaS) CONSULAR ARCHITECTURE

IMMEDIATE 0-3 Months

STRATEGIC IMPACT

Mission acts as a service of state, showcasing expertise and providing support, while digital channels are operational as state PR, photographs that serve as public utility.

EXECUTION ARCHITECTURE

- SPD mandates a "DaaS Protocol" where every Mission must produce and post 3 high-quality YouTube/Instagram explainer (1) a-Visa Guide, (2) OCI Walkthrough, (3) Invest in India Brief, (4) Student Visa Protocol, (5) Tech-Diplomacy Primer.
- SPD to provide a standardized production template, minimum quality spec, and a pre-approved script library.
- Benchmark: US Embassy India's 16.6K YouTube subscriber base for consular tutorials.

DIPLOMATIC ROI

Transforms the Mission's digital footprint into a highly watchable public utility. Enhances consular outreach reach by an estimated 30-40%. YouTube tutorials generate views for years post-publication, which is a compounding return on a one-time production investment.

03

CENTRALIZED AI VERBACULAR CONTENT ENGINE (BHASMA CHAKRA)

IMMEDIATE 0-3 Months

STRATEGIC IMPACT

Indian missions in Africa, LATAM, and the Middle East, just exclusively in English are accelerating the local narrative by digital.

EXECUTION ARCHITECTURE

- Deploy a centralized AI translation + localized graphic-design tool at MEA HQ (powers OpenAI GPT).
- Mission feed approved English content; the platform creates culturally-tuned, platform-optimized posts in Swahili, Arabic, Spanish, French, and Bahasa Indonesia.
- Mandatory HQ human-review layer for policy content.

DIPLOMATIC ROI

Within 18 months, Indian Missions in 30+ non-Anglophone nations will have daily localized content for the first time. Estimated follower penetration increase: 3-5x in target markets.

04

ALGORITHMIC INDEXING & SOVEREIGN CRISIS TRAP

IMMEDIATE 0-3 Months

STRATEGIC IMPACT

The US Embassy's practice of ARPI #Hashtag campaign demonstrates the alternative.

EXECUTION ARCHITECTURE

- SPD to establish a "Digital-Quick Reaction Team" (3-5 officers). Pre-approved "Mark vs. Post" rules-compliance library for 15 emerging crisis scenarios.
- Mandatory 4-hour response protocol from crisis identification to first video post.
- Deploy Official WhatsApp/TikTokgram broadcast channels for Indian Missions to release high-dispatch news (Middle East, Eastern Europe) — increasing #Openness/Transparency architecture.

DIPLOMATIC ROI

Measurable reduction in hostile media narratives, parliamentary questions, and public anger during crisis events.

05

NON-ECONOMIC STATECRAFT VIA LINKEDIN TARGETING

IMMEDIATE 0-3 Months

STRATEGIC IMPACT

DOPE is a for geopolitical signaling. Embassies to share GDP, GDP, and supply-chain messages with investment decisions. Indian missions already deploy directly on LinkedIn strategy. Do not use LinkedIn to share full social media into an ARPI pipeline.

EXECUTION ARCHITECTURE

- Mandate Heads of Mission to allocate 30% of content bandwidth to LinkedIn.
- Define a Mission-specific "TED Target List" containing: 50 host-nation corporate leaders, 10 university deans, 5 Chamber of Commerce contacts — to be actively tagged in posts promoting eGATE/India, FDI schemes, UPI adoption, and sector-specific investment opportunities.
- LinkedIn strategy module in the ARPI curriculum and an ARPI-coupled per-mission "TED Target Contact List."

DIPLOMATIC ROI

Measurable increase in investor India inbound enquiry volumes, confidence in mission to Indian Ambassadors from host-nation business forums, and media coverage of Indian investment opportunities within 12 months.

06

DIPLomatic NETWORK EXPANSION — DIAPORAMA TAGGING

IMMEDIATE 0-3 Months

STRATEGIC IMPACT

Indian missions per "Meeting held" count that reaches and meeting follow-up. Proven strategy: tag Indian abroad media, publications, and university networks — setting and signed every into an ARPI pipeline.

EXECUTION ARCHITECTURE

- Partner with local host-nation travel-tech bloggers for Embassy event coverage. Budget: ₹10-20L/mission/year for 4-6 influencer collaborations.
- Map and tag prominent Indian-origin professionals, students, and academics in host countries — ensuring diaspora members can engage diplomatic brand ambassadors.
- Indian embassy in France is a successful model to emulate as it renews the meetings held paradigm to create a cultural symphony of embassy culture that promotes Bharat.

DIPLOMATIC ROI

Organic influence reach vastly exceeds institutional broadcast. Diaspora tagging creates compounding network effects at zero additional cost.

07

STANDARDIZED "GLOBAL SOUTH" VISUAL ARCHITECTURE

IMMEDIATE 0-3 Months

STRATEGIC IMPACT

India's "Vikas Bharat 2027" national identity narrative could become a powerful global digital brand — but Indian Missions lack the templates, budgets, and content discipline to deploy it consistently.

EXECUTION ARCHITECTURE

- Standardize a visual template across all Indian Missions in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia highlighting "Developmental Partnership" such as roads, hospital constructions, digital infrastructure transfer.
- Deploy under a unified hashtag (#IndiaGlobalSouth or #IndiaSouth25) positioning India as a credible, non-constructive development partner.
- Partner with Bollywood, yoga, cinema, and cricket brands for "India Cultural Rush" — analogous to South Korea's Hallyu (K-wave) model.

DIPLOMATIC ROI

Positions India as a credible, non-constructive development partner vs. Chinese infrastructure narrative. Gains compounding global brand recognition.

08

DOPE INTEGRATION INTO ARPI — KPI DASHBOARD

IMMEDIATE 0-3 Months

STRATEGIC IMPACT

Currently, Mission reports "total followers" to SPD — a vanity metric, easily inflated. There is no institutional accountability mechanism for digital performance quality. The current system rewards scale over engagement.

EXECUTION ARCHITECTURE

- SPD to implement a centralized software dashboard ranking Missions by: Engagement Efficiency (interactions per 1,000 followers), Narrative Penetration (frequency of local media embedding Mission content), and DOPE compliance score.
- The digital performance scores to Annual Performance Appraisal (APAs) to create institutional accountability.
- Quarterly DOPE league tables to be shared across all Missions to create competitive motivation.
- Replace follower-count reporting with standardized DOPE-based metrics.

DIPLOMATIC ROI

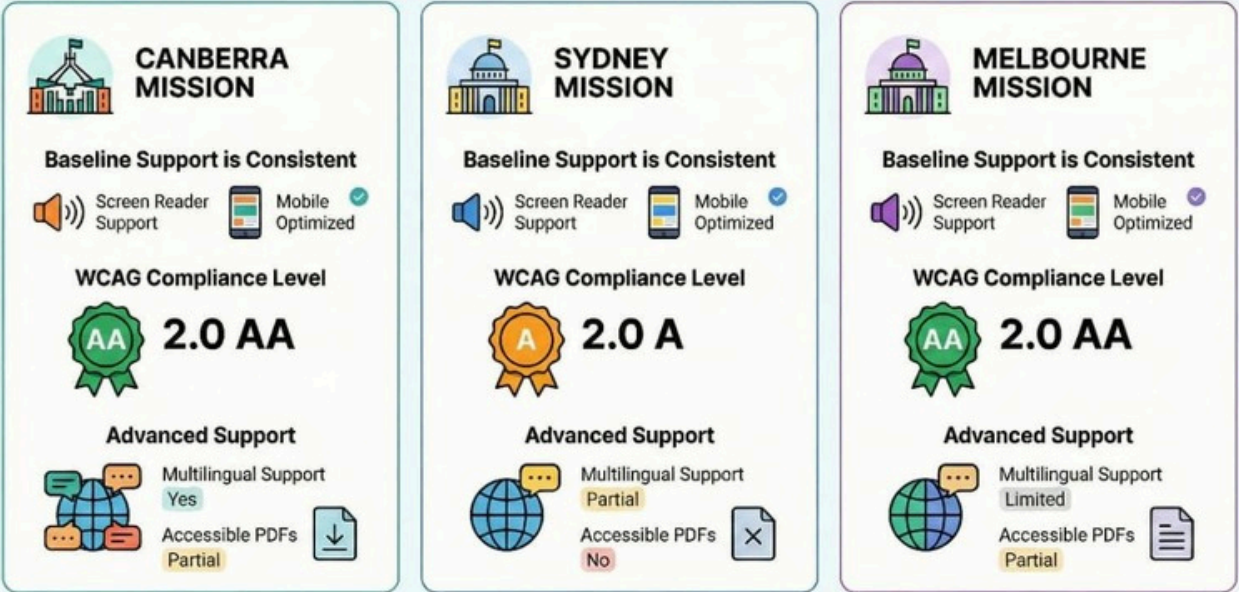
Creates institutional accountability for digital performance. Competitive league tables drive organic improvement. Aligns digital KPIs with diplomatic career progression.

Analysing Digital Presence of Various Indian and Foreign Missions and Recommending Ways to Improve Digital Outreach

Another excellent report by Sai Teja focussed on specific missions. His infographics on digital presence and outreach of our missions and posts in Australia are impressive in capturing the essence in creative manner.



Website Accessibility Comparison: Indian Diplomatic Missions in Australia



Mission Attachment (IFS OTs 2025 Batch) in Pictures



Mission Attachment (IFS OTs 2025 Batch) in Pictures



One Country, Countless Stories: The India Between the Lines

Bharat Darshan offered the Officer Trainees an immersive opportunity to experience India’s remarkable diversity through its landscapes, cultures, histories and people. Traversing from Northern to Southern India, from Eastern to Western India, the journeys underscored a central lesson for future diplomats: understanding India requires engaging not only with its policies and institutions, but also with the lived realities of its citizens. Through interactions with local administrations, community members, tourism stakeholders and security personnel, the trainees witnessed how governance, development, heritage, ecology and strategic considerations intersect across different parts of the country. As Savi Bulkunde reflected, **“A diplomat must know the India that appears in official documents, but must also know the India that lives between those lines.”**

The journeys highlighted the many dimensions of India’s story, from the resilience and aspirations of Kashmir, to the layered cultural inheritances of coastal India, and the strategic significance of the maritime frontier. For many officer trainees, the journey transformed familiar concepts such as connectivity, soft power, security and development into tangible realities. Reflecting on the Andaman, Kerala and Mumbai leg of the program, Hunar Kular aptly observed, **“Bharat Darshan is the diplomat’s sounding line,”** a process of discovering the depth beneath the visible surface. Similarly, Reenu Anna Mathew captured the transformative nature of the experience, writing that ten days across different regions of India could **“quietly rearrange something inside you.”** Together, these journeys reinforced a shared understanding that effective diplomacy begins with a nuanced appreciation of India’s own diversity, dynamism and enduring civilisational depth.



Advancing Economic Diplomacy through Policy, Trade and Strategic Engagement

The 20th week of Phase II of the Induction Training Programme for the 2025 Batch of IFS Officer Trainees was dedicated to Economic Diplomacy, equipping trainees with an in-depth understanding of the economic dimensions of contemporary foreign policy. Designed to bridge theory and practice, the week brought together distinguished diplomats, policymakers, academics and practitioners to examine India's economic engagement with the world through the lenses of trade, connectivity, sustainability and geopolitical strategy.

The week commenced with Amb. Mohan Kumar discussing Multilateral Diplomacy: Trade and Connectivity, providing participants with practical insights into the functioning of multilateral trade institutions and India's negotiating priorities. This was followed by Amb. Manjeev Singh Puri's session on Climate Change and Energy Diplomacy, highlighting the growing intersection of climate action, energy security and international cooperation.

The programme further featured lectures by Amb. Dammu Ravi on Economic Diplomacy, Amb. Sanjay Sudhir on Energy Diplomacy, and Amb. Gopal Baglay on Diplomacy in the Three Ts—Trade, Technology and Talent. Participants also examined the geopolitical implications of the evolving West Asian security environment through an insightful session by Amb. Talmiz Ahmad.

In collaboration with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), trainees explored India's development partnerships through sessions on SDGs to LiFE, Maritime Connectivity and the Blue Economy, Global Development Compact and the Global South, and WTO Negotiations and Agriculture. These discussions reinforced India's leadership role in championing sustainable development and South-South Cooperation.

The week also included an immersive Economic and Trade Diplomacy Simulation Exercise led by the Joint Secretary Shri P.S. Gangadhar of Economic Diplomacy Division, enabling Officer Trainees to apply negotiation, analytical and decision-making skills in realistic diplomatic scenarios.

Dissertation Mentorship sessions with Amb Dammu Ravi, Amb Vikas Swarup,

Amb Sunjay Sudhir, Capt Anurag Bisen & Dr. Atul Mishra

The week concluded with the dedicated dissertation mentoring sessions by senior diplomats and domain experts, further complementing the academic rigour of the programme, ensuring that trainees integrated classroom learning with research and policy analysis. Through a carefully curated blend of lectures, simulations and academic engagement, the Economic Diplomacy Week strengthened the officers' understanding of the economic foundations of foreign policy and prepared them to represent India's interests in an increasingly interconnected global economy.





Officer Trainees Deepen Understanding of Public and Cultural Diplomacy

As part of the 2025 Batch Officer Trainees' Induction Training Programme, the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) organised immersive attachments with the External Publicity and Public Diplomacy (XP) Division of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) from 20–24 July 2026, equipping future diplomats with practical insights into India's public communication and cultural diplomacy.

The three-day attachment with the XP Division (20–22 July) introduced Officer Trainees, along with two Bhutanese diplomats, to the strategic dimensions of public diplomacy, media engagement, digital outreach, and official communications. Sessions covered digital diplomacy, website management, media outreach, management of VVIP visits, and engagement with domestic and international media. An interactive discussion with Shri Randhir Jaiswal, Additional Secretary (XPD) and Official Spokesperson, highlighted the growing importance of strategic communication in advancing India's foreign policy objectives.

The attachment also featured interactions with leading journalists and strategic affairs experts on foreign policy reporting, social media, and national security coverage, complemented by study visits to Doordarshan and NDTV, offering valuable exposure to India's media ecosystem. A highlight of the programme was the Mock Media Interview Exercise, where trainees assumed the role of MEA spokespersons and received personalised feedback on articulation, messaging, and media handling—essential skills for diplomats in today's information-driven world.

The ICCR attachment (23–24 July) provided an in-depth understanding of India's cultural diplomacy architecture and the role of culture as a pillar of foreign policy. Briefings by ICCR leadership introduced trainees to the organisation's global mandate, while lectures emphasised India's civilisational heritage and its contribution to strengthening people-to-people ties. Visits to the National School of Drama, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Lalit Kala Akademi, the Piprahwa Buddha Relics Exhibition, the India International Centre (SAMHITA Project), and the National Gallery of Modern Art offered first-hand exposure to India's rich artistic and cultural institutions.

The programme concluded with an insightful lecture by Shri Raghvendra Singh, former Secretary, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Textiles, on the evolving role of Indian art and culture in diplomacy.

Together, the XP and ICCR attachments provided Officer Trainees with a comprehensive appreciation of strategic communication, media engagement, public diplomacy, and cultural outreach—reinforcing the critical role of both soft power and effective public engagement in advancing India's foreign policy and enhancing its global presence.

Ideas for Diplomacy: Officer Trainees Showcase Research Excellence

A key highlight of the Induction Training Program was the presentation and evaluation of final dissertations by the 2025 Batch of IFS Officer Trainees. Spread across four thematic tracks - Narrative & Communication, Maritime, Energy & Technology, Geopolitics & International Relations, and Diplomacy & Economic Security-the dissertations reflected the breadth of contemporary diplomatic challenges and the intellectual rigour fostered at SSIFS. The presentations were assessed by distinguished panels comprising senior diplomats, domain experts, and the Dean of SSIFS.

The research topics ranged from strategic communications, cognitive warfare, and diaspora diplomacy to critical minerals, maritime security, economic statecraft, technology governance, and India’s evolving role in a multipolar world. The diversity of themes demonstrated the trainees’ engagement with emerging geopolitical, economic, and technological issues that are shaping contemporary diplomacy.

The Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Medal for Best Dissertation was awarded on the basis of this assessment process and was conferred upon Mr. Tanishque Gedam for his study, “Evaluating Diplomatic Narrative Building: A Case Study of Operation Sindoor and Comparative Analysis of Contemporary Global Conflicts.” His work stood out for its analysis of narrative-building as an instrument of modern diplomacy and strategic communication.

The dissertations not only showcased the analytical capabilities of the Officer Trainees but also reinforced SSIFS’ commitment to nurturing research-driven and policy-oriented diplomats equipped to address the complexities of twenty-first-century international relations.



**IFS Officer Trainees of 2025 Batch called on Hon'ble President
on 27 August 2025**



**IFS Officer Trainees of 2025 Batch called on Hon'ble PM
on 24 August 2025**



Guided by Leadership, Inspired by Wisdom: Lessons for India's Future Diplomats



Call on the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India (24 August 2025)

As part of the concluding phase of their induction training, the IPS Officer Trainees of the 2025 Batch called on the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi at Seva Teerth. Interacting with the young diplomats, the Prime Minister encouraged them to take diplomacy beyond traditional circles by engaging closely with local communities and the Indian diaspora. He highlighted the importance of economic diplomacy, strengthening the digital presence of Indian Missions, and showcasing India's civilisational, cultural, and geographical strengths to the world. The interaction offered valuable insights into the evolving role of Indian diplomats in advancing India's global engagement.



Call on the Hon'ble President of India (27 August 2025)

The Officer Trainees of the 2025 Batch, along with two diplomats from Bhutan, also had the honour of calling on the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President reminded the trainees that they represent not only the Government of India but also the aspirations of over a billion Indians. She underscored the importance of effective communication, strategic thinking, cultural understanding, and adaptability in the conduct of diplomacy. The interaction served as an inspiring reflection on the responsibilities and opportunities that accompany a career in the Indian Foreign Service.

A New Generation of Diplomats Ready for India's Global Journey

Valedictory Ceremony of IFS OTs of 2025 Batch

The Valedictory Ceremony of the Induction Training Program for the 2025 Batch of IFS Officer Trainees, along with two diplomats from Bhutan, was held on 28 August 2026, marking the successful completion of nine months of intensive training at the SSIFS. Welcoming the gathering, Dean Amb. Raj Kumar Srivastava reflected on the significance of the largest-ever batch of 50 IFS Officer Trainees completing the program. He noted that the batch mirrors the aspirations of a transforming Bharat through its diversity, inclusivity, and strong representation of women. He also highlighted SSIFS' continued emphasis on competency-based training, aligned with the vision of Mission Karmayogi, to prepare officers for the evolving demands of diplomacy.

The ceremony was chaired by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, who urged the young diplomats to engage deeply with contemporary global challenges, adopt a service-oriented outlook, develop domain specialisations, and pursue the profession of diplomacy with commitment and passion. The occasion was further enriched by the presence of Amb. Gitesh Sharma, President of the Association of Indian Diplomats (AID), who shared insights on the changing nature of diplomacy and underscored the importance of a human-centric approach in international engagement.

A highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of medals and certificates to Officer Trainees. Ms. Hunar Kular received the EAM's Gold Medal for Best Officer Trainee, Mr. Keshav Raj was awarded the Silver Medal for Esprit de Corps, and Mr. Tanishque Gedam received the prestigious Amb. Bimal Sanyal Memorial Medal for Best Dissertation.

As this distinguished cohort embarks on diplomatic assignments across the world, they carry forward the values, skills, and commitment nurtured at SSIFS, contributing to India's growing global engagement and the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Congratulations and best wishes to all the graduating officers.



About Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service

The 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. SSIFS has diversified its activities to include courses for foreign diplomats in its efforts to build bridges of friendship and cooperation with countries around the world and courses of interest to staff and officers at all levels of the Ministry of External Affairs as well as other Civil Services.

Within Indian Foreign Service, SSIFS conducts training programs annually at four levels - Induction Training Program of nine 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 program which includes three annual flagship programs in the form of - Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Training program for three weeks, Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) for two weeks, and Global South Young Diplomats Forum (GSYDF) Training Program for two weeks. Other months, SSIFS organises country, region, grouping, or themes-specific training programs of a maximum of two weeks, emanating from 110 MoUs that SSIFS has signed in the past three decades.

SSIFS has an extensive and expanding pool of guest faculty drawn from experts in the fields of domain competencies like International Relations, Diplomacy, Economy, Trade, Tourism, Technology, Governance, Media & Journalism, Defence & Security, Culture & Indian Knowledge System, Yoga & Ayurveda, and Behavioural Competencies like Emotional Intelligence, Purposeful & Collaborative Leadership, Communications & Negotiations Skills and Progressive Learning & Problem Solving Attitude.

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



Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service
Ministry of External Affairs, Baba Gangnath Marg, Old JNU Campus, New Delhi - 110067, India
Phone: 26181272, 26181362 | Email: js2.ssifs@mea.gov.in