



VIDESH SEWA

SUSHMA SWARAJ INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN SERVICE

EAM Dr S. Jaishankar interacted with the participants of the 4th GSYDF on 24 February 2026. He discussed the stakes of the Global South in AI and the importance of promoting awareness and understanding.



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



FROM DEAN'S DESK

Dear Readers, Dear Friends,

AI Impact Summit became the theme of the month for SSIFS too, with IFS Officer Trainees of the 2025 batch getting hands-on experience as protocol officers for the Summit under the MEA's protocol team, and 4th Global South Young Diplomats Forum (GSYDF) participants visiting the two venues of AI Impact Summit on 18 February 2026, attending four sessions relevant to the Global South. Technology as a growing pillar of comprehensive national power was the key focus during Feb.



The 4th GSYDF was held at SSIFS between 16-27 February 2026, to enable the 41 participants from 40 Global South countries to attend the Summit and feel the momentum and transformation taking place in India in AI, and also the importance of coming together as Global South to ensure Digital divide of past decade doesn't reappear as AI divide on the current decade which would be detrimental to future growth prospects in Global South. Human Centric Approach to AI Development, highlighted in the AI Impact Summit, was discussed in detail in the 4th GSYDF as well.

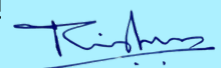
The participants of the 4th GSYDF had an immersive visit to Ujjain and Indore on 22-23 February where they saw India of spirituality at the Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain, showcasing timeless civilisational heritage, visited the 200 years old Rajwada Palace showing the progress and prosperity of Medieval India, and the 100 years old Lalbagh Palace which showcased the rich influence of European renaissance architecture and design.

The call on the External Affairs Minister by GSYDF participants was insightful and inspiring as always. The visit to the Indian Diplomacy TV program as protagonist of the next episode was experiential learning for participants in the area of Public Diplomacy. The visits to PM Sangrahalaya and Anubhooti Kendra were again aimed at learning beyond classrooms.

The month of February for IFS OTs was focused on Defence and Security Diplomacy, in which they had knowledge and experiential learning sessions with multiple knowledge partners of SSIFS, including Delhi Policy Group, IDSA, Ministry of Defence, and IFC-IOR. The OTs also did their Air Force and Army Attachments as part of this month-long module. The call on the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri at MoD was inspiring and empowering for the OTs.

A novel initiative of the States Division of the MEA and SSIFS brought together 30 state officers from 16 states of India for a four-day-long program for "Enhancing Synergy between States and MEA" in which we covered four broad themes - Whole of Nation Approach to promote Brand India, Citizen Centric Services to enhance & streamline Mobility, Synergising Storytelling with Ground Reality, and Understanding Experiences and Expectations of key Stakeholders. The program created awareness and a network for the state officers for addressing future challenges and harnessing opportunities towards our common aim of realising the Viksit Bharat vision.

We look forward to two special programs for Foreign Diplomats in the month of March - one, for the Cambodian and Timor Leste Diplomats, and the other, for the Central & West African countries' Diplomats. A productive month comes to an end, giving way to the new, which holds equal promise if not more. Best wishes from the SSIFS Family!



Raj Kumar Srivastava
New Delhi

28 February 2026

Training Program for Foreign Diplomats

Special Course on Functional Competencies for Smarter Diplomacy for Diplomats and Officers from South Sudan (02-07 February 2026)

A Special Course on Functional Competencies for Smarter Diplomacy for 25 diplomats and officers from South Sudan was conducted at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service from 02-07 February 2026. The 6-day-long special course was designed in line with the Government of India's continued cooperation with South Sudan and was curated to equip the participants with the 5 Ps in diplomacy, namely, political, protocol, public diplomacy, processes in diplomacy and progressive learning.



Knowledge Sessions and Institutional Visits

The six day long program encompassed 12 knowledge sessions on functional competencies conducted by various experts from other government departments, prominent think-tanks and serving officers of MEA. To gain a deeper insight into Indian democracy, the participants visited the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, a public museum that documents the contributions of India's successive Prime Ministers since independence. The delegation was highly impressed by the museum's innovative and immersive experience.



Special Course on Functional Competencies for Smarter Diplomacy for Diplomats and Officers from South Sudan (02-07 February 2026)

Special Sessions on Yoga and Hospitality

A special session on Yoga was conducted for the participants by a trained yoga instructor who taught them about the well-being arising from yoga and taught them some postures for improving flexibility, enhancing strength and de-stressing. Participants committed to continuing with yoga for holistic wellness of the mind and body. Experts from India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) conducted a special session explaining practical aspects of fine dining such as food service for multi-course cuisines, table etiquettes, seating plan at formal banquets through practical demonstrations.



Understanding India through visits to places of cultural & historical significance

The delegation visited significant cultural and historical landmarks in Delhi to understand the rich cultural heritage of India. Among these was the visit to Qutb Complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site constructed in the early thirteenth century, which reflects the architectural and historical legacy of the period. A visit was also organized to the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, where participants were introduced to the life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, gaining insight into his ethical principles, ideals, and the values that continue to guide India's civic vision. In addition to a visit to Dilli Haat, the cultural hub of textiles and handicrafts from across India, the delegation visited 'The Kunj', an initiative of the Ministry of Textiles that showcases the diverse traditions of Indian handicrafts and textiles, thereby highlighting the country's vibrant artisanal heritage.

At the conclusion of the six day long special course, the participants received a certificate of participation. The participants conveyed deep appreciation to the Government of India for this specially curated module which has equipped them with several key skills that will help them navigate challenging tasks in their work.



Training Program for Foreign Diplomats

Fourth Global South Young Diplomats Forum (GSYDF) (16-27 February 2026)

The 4th edition of Global South Young Diplomats Forum (GSYDF) was inaugurated by Amb (Dr) Neena Malhotra, Secretary (South) at SSIFS, New Delhi on 16 February 2026, where 42 diplomats representing 41 countries from diverse geographies (Africa, Asia, South America & Caribbean, Europe & Oceania) participated. In her inaugural remarks, Amb Malhotra spoke about the inception of the Voice of Global South Summit, the priorities of the Global South and encouraged close collaboration among the Global South for its growth & development. Dean SSIFS, Amb Raj Srivastava, spoke on the theme 'Bridging Civilisations, Shaping Futures' in the context of the Global South. He also explained the Guiding Principles of India's Foreign Policy and how they resonate with the human centric & environmentally sensitive development initiatives. Later that evening the Dean hosted the participants along with some experts for a welcome dinner.



Some Glimpses from the Knowledge Sessions

The Forum was designed to equip young diplomats from 41 Global South countries with knowledge and experiential learning in various aspects of diplomacy. As India was hosting the 4th AI Impact Summit during this period, particular focus was on Tech Diplomacy for the Global South countries. Eminent speakers, retired and serving officers of MEA and domain experts were invited to deliver lectures and conduct table top exercises. Glimpses from knowledge sessions are as below :



Visit to Bharat Mandapam and Sushma Swaraj Bhawan to attend sessions at AI Impact Summit on 18 February

The 4th GSYDF cohort visited Bharat Mandapam on 18 Feb to attend two sessions focused on Global South - AI for the SDGs and Data for Development: Building AI in the Global South. The delegation also went around the AI Expo. Thereafter they attended one session at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan on Advancing Multilingual AI: Global South Governance of Non-English Model Development and Deployment.



Cultural Diplomacy Session for the 4th GSYDF (20 February 2026)

An eminent Odissi Dance exponent and author, Dr. Reela Hota gave a presentation on the Therapeutic, Aesthetic and Metaphysical aspects of Odissi dance to the 4th GSYDF cohort. She gave several examples where the students learning the Odissi dance embodies various forms of yoga and spiritual practices as a pathway to healing and well being. She also demonstrated a fusion dance between Indian Classical dance, Odissi and Western Classical dance through a lecture cum demonstration.



Public Diplomacy Session for the 4th GSYDF (25 February 2026)

The 4th GSYDF cohort participated in the National TV Show 'Indian Diplomacy: Rise of the Global South' anchored by Prof Sreeram Chaulia, where they shared their opinion on a wide array of issues and shared their views on their participation at the AI Impact Summit, role of new and emerging technologies in shaping the Global South narrative, and their experiences of visiting India.

The show can be watched at the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urduBR8im8I>



Visit to Indore & Ujjain on 22 February 2026

The 42 participants of the 4th GSYDF started their Indore visit with two iconic Palaces - **Rajwada Palace** completed 200 years ago and **Lalbagh Palace** finished 100 years back. Both of Holkar Empire, but of different generations show the global influence of their times. While Rajwada Palace has Rajputana, Maratha, Mughal & French designs in architecture & decor, Lalbagh is truly European & Baroque with only one small part influenced from Rajasthan. Amazing showcase of cultural exchanges & influences. Diplomats enjoyed a nice weather day in historical surroundings representing connectivity of thoughts!



The Diplomats participating in GSYDF also paid a visit to the **Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain** on 22nd February, 2026. The visit offered a glimpse of the rich civilizational heritage, spiritual traditions, and intellectual depth of Indian philosophies, deepening mutual understanding, and respect for cultural diversities.



A Study Trip to Smart & Cleanest City Indore and IIM Indore on 23 February

As population increases, so does the challenge of waste management. As the Global South is poised to be the next engine of growth for the global economy, the diplomats spent the forenoon in Indore, the cleanest city of India, engaging with the Officials of Municipal Corporation and visiting BioCNG plants.



At IIM Indore, the Global South Young Diplomats Forum participants from 40 countries spent three hours of afternoon. In his special video message, our Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai welcomed the delegates and spoke about IIM Indore's role in shaping socially responsible, globally engaged leaders and our contributions through public policy, digital transformation, sustainability, and Swachh Bharat-aligned practices reflected in the green campus. He shared various initiatives that reflected how management education can meaningfully serve society and strengthen India's development partnerships across the Global South. In an insightful session on the "Working Model of the Cleanest City – Indore", Additional Commissioner, Shri Prakhar Singh, explained Indore's clean-city model, detailing scientific waste segregation, bin-based collection, processing, and disposal systems, and how the IMC transforms waste into wealth through advanced facilities and citizen participation. Prof. Bhavani Shankar, Faculty, IIM Indore, shared insights on the institute's contribution to the Govt. of India's "One District One Product" initiative, highlighting the importance of promoting indigenous enterprise and fostering inclusive, region-led growth. The delegates' visit was marked by vibrant discussions, thoughtful exchanges, and deep appreciation for the institute's academic ecosystem and sustainability-driven initiatives.



Final Day of 4th GSYDF- A Quiz and The Valedictory

Dean SSIFS conducted a Quiz for the participants of the 4th GSYDF to reinforce their understanding of AI and Technology related knowledge sessions and awarded books to the top three achievers. Amb Raj Srivastava, Dean(SSIFS) commended their efforts & conferred Valedictory certificates to the diplomats for successfully completing their training at the Institute.



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.



Special Program for States Officers on Enhancing Synergy between States and MEA

Driven by the Hon'ble PM's call for the 'whole of nation approach' and de-siloization, SSIFS conducted the 4-day Training Program for the State Govt Officers on 24-27 February 2026. Inauguration of the program, followed by the keynote speech, was done by Shri Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (Economic Relations), MEA. Subsequently, Dean(SSIFS) delivered the introductory remarks. Overall, 30 officers from 16 states benefited from the program, in which four themes were curated - Whole of Nation Approach to promote Brand India, Citizen Centric Services to enhance & streamline Mobility, Synergising Storytelling with Ground Reality, and Understanding Experiences and Expectations of key Stakeholders. The speakers in the program were invited from ICCR, NDMA, Invest India, ITDC, FICCI, APEDA, and various divisions of MEA, such as protocol, passport, diaspora, and rapid response cell.

A panel discussion with a few Ambassadors was moderated by the Dean to provide the participants Embassies' experiences & expectations from the states.



87th Edition of Know India Program

SSIFS conducted a half day orientation program for 37 young PIOs from 15 countries participating in the 87th edition of the Know India Program(KIP) on 9 February. Dean(SSIFS) made an insightful presentation on “Ancient Bharat: Land of Knowledge” giving the young PIOs a glimpse of their ancestral linkages & antiquity of their "motherland", the foundation of Vedic Civilisation, energy of "Bharat" powered by the wisdom of Vedas & Upanishads, Natya Shasta, Principles of Yoga, Ayurveda & Ayurgenomics. Dean SSIFS also explained that the Indian governance model is rooted in the human-centric and environment-sensitive development, which emanates from ancient wisdom and spoke about the Grand Vedic Universities, ancient temple architecture and Sanskrit.

The second presentation was made by Dr. Subi Chaturvedi, Global SVP-InMobi on “Understanding Vision for Viksit Bharat using DPI and Responsible AI for All”. She explained the Viksit Bharat emphasis on People, Processes & Technology to bring economic prosperity, social equity, world-class infrastructure, human capital & global leadership by creating platforms like Digital Public Infrastructure that serve nations not just customers.





Ministry of External Affairs

Government of India



2nd Combined Special Course for Diplomats from Cambodia & Timor-Leste 09-18 March 2026

The professional course aims at equipping participants with knowledge and perspectives on issues related to new trends in diplomacy, topical international and regional issues, and familiarising them with India, its culture, history, and its foreign policy.

Taking forward the historical and cultural ties between India and Southeast Asian countries towards a comprehensive strategic partnership, this combined training programme aims to deepen the cooperation between India, Cambodia and Timor-Leste by training diplomats on domain, functional and behavioural competencies which would enable them to represent their country in efficient, effective & enlightened manner.

22 Knowledge Sessions with Experts in International Issues drawn from Diplomacy, International Institutions & Think Tanks

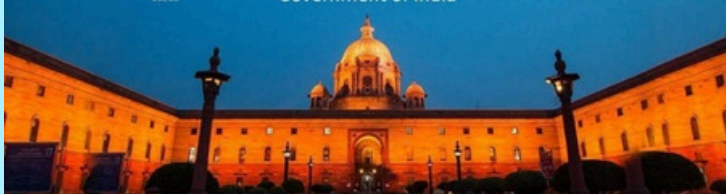
Table Top & Simulation Exercises on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) & Geopolitics of Emerging Tech

Understanding India through visits to heritage sites, enjoying its diverse culture and cuisines



Ministry of External Affairs

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2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Central & West African Countries

[Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Liberia, Mauritania, Republic of Congo, Republic of Guinea, Senegal]

11-20 March 2026

The professional course aims at equipping participants with knowledge and perspectives on issues related to new trends in diplomacy, topical international and regional issues, and familiarising them with India, its culture, history, and its foreign policy.

In keeping with India's spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' that "the world is one family", India has been at the forefront to provide capacity-building and training to diplomats from Africa. In line with this thought, this training module has been curated to include domain, functional, and behavioural competencies which would enable the participants to represent their country in efficient, effective & enlightened manner.

25 Knowledge Sessions with Experts in International Issues drawn from Diplomacy, International Institutions & Think Tanks

Table Top & Simulation Exercises on WTO Negotiations, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) & Geopolitics of Emerging Tech

Understanding India through visits to heritage sites, enjoying its diverse culture and cuisines



2nd Combined Special Course for Diplomats from Cambodia & Timor-Leste (09-18 March 2026)

09 March (Mon)	10 March (Tues)	11 March (Wed)	12 March (Thurs)	13 March (Fri)	14 March (Sat)
Political Diplomacy	Digital & AI Diplomacy	Economic Diplomacy	Protocol in Diplomacy	Cultural Diplomacy	
0930-1100 Welcome Remarks & Group Photograph Guiding Principles of Indian Foreign Policy Amb Raj Kumar Srivastava Dean (SSFS)	India's Digital Public Infrastructure: Stacking Up the Benefits Shri Rajeshwar Jemwar, Scientist F, MeitY (confirmed)	Regional Value Chains and Sustainable Trade Dr. Saon Ray, ICRIER (confirmed)	Organizing a Multilateral Event: Management & Coordination Dr Arman Puri, JS(Gumti)	Yoga and Holistic Wellness	
1115-1245 Look East to Act East: Indian Foreign Policy Initiatives in ASEAN & Indo-Pacific Ms. Subhashini Narayanan (JS/Indo-Pacific)	India's Best Practices in Agriculture and New Agri-tech Measures Dr D K Yadava, DOG, ICAR	Blue Economy and sustainable ocean governance Dr Parthiv Gaur, RIS (confirmed)	Media Management and Strategic Communication Director (XPD)	Intangible Cultural Heritage: Preservation and way forward Ms Nrupama Modwet, Principal Director, INTACH (confirmed)	DIIR Darshan (Visit to Qutub Complex and DIIR Haat, a marketplace with craft stalls and food place)
1330-1500 Sustainable Maritime Security in the Indo-Pacific region. Cmde Sujet Samadder, RIS (confirmed)	AI for Diplomacy: Responsible AI for All Cmde Dr. Arun Pratap Gollaya, Indian Navy (Retd) VSM (confirmed)	Visit to Anubhuti Kendra, Gatishakti Lab	Diplomatic Protocol: Role of Liaison Officer	Cultural Diplomacy for Global South Ms Manisha Swami, DOG, ICCR	
1515-1645 Global Development Compact for South-South Cooperation Shri Atul Kaushik, RIS Dean's Dinner from 1900 hrs			Visit to Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya	Lec-Dem by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)	



15 March (Sunday) - Rest Day-

16 March (Mon)	17 March (Tues)	18 March (Wed)
Public Diplomacy	Environmental Diplomacy	Socio-Cultural Diplomacy
0930-1100 Public Diplomacy in the age of social media and AI Amb Raj Kumar Srivastava, Dean (SSFS)	Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) Mainstreaming Risk Reduction	Sustainable and Green Tourism Dr. Paramita Suklabaidya, Professor, Tourism, IGNOU (confirmed)
1115-1245 Effective Healthcare and Telemedicine	Climate Change & Energy Diplomacy Shri R.R. Rashmi, TERI (confirmed)	Country Presentations
1330-1500 Visit to All India Institute of Ayurveda	Extended Development Goals 2045 (XDG)-and related tabletop exercises Dr. Daniel J., Senior Advisor, Pan-IT Alumni India (confirmed)	Valedictory Session
1515-1645		



2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Central and West African Countries (C&WA) (11-20 March 2026)

11 March (Wed)	12 March (Thurs)	13 March (Fri)	14 March (Sat)
Political Diplomacy	International Law & Maritime Security	Tech Diplomacy	Cultural Diplomacy
0930-1100 Inaugural Remarks & Group Photograph Guiding Principles of Indian Foreign Policy Amb Raj Kumar Srivastava Dean (SSFS)	Visit to Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya	Cyber Security and Handling Misinformation Major Vineet Kumar USI-CyberPeace Center of Excellence (Confirmed)	
1115-1245 India and C&WA Ties: Strengthening Future Prospects & South-South Cooperation Amb Sevala Naik Mude AS IC&WA Division	Enhancing Maritime Security: India-Africa Regional Frameworks Captain Anurag Bisen (Retd.) VF (Confirmed)		DIIR Darshan (Qutub Complex/ Crafts Museum/ DIIR Haat)
1330-1500 The 'India Stack': Scaling Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Dr. Vidushi Chaturvedi NITI Aayog (Confirmed)	AI and C&WA Cmde Dr. Arun Pratap Gollaya Indian Navy (Retd) VSM	Cultural Diplomacy for Global South Ms. Manisha Swami DOG (ICCR)	
1515-1645 Global Development Compact and Growth for All Mr. Atul Kaushik RIS (Confirmed)	International Law and the Global Commons Prof. (Dr.) Archana Nagi JNU (Confirmed)	Lec-Dem by ICCR	

15 March (Sunday)

- REST DAY -

16 March (Mon)	17 March (Tue)	18 March (Wed)	19 March (Thurs)	20 March (Fri)
Energy and Food Security	Multilateral Diplomacy	Economic Diplomacy	Public Diplomacy	Disaster Resilience
0930-1100 India and UN: Reforms and Road Ahead Amb Asoke Mukherji (Confirmed)	Visit to Research Information System (RIS) (Confirmed)	India-Africa Development Priorities & India-Africa Forum Summit 2026 Sessions on: Diversifying Trade & Industrial Ecosystems Technological & Digital Cooperation Green Energy and Climate Resilience Healthcare & Telemedicine	Public Diplomacy & Communication Skills Amb Raj Kumar Srivastava Dean (SSFS)	Disaster Management and Disaster Relief: India & the World Ms. Mininalini Shrivastava Director, NDMA
1115-1245 Visit to International Solar Alliance (ISA) (Confirmed)	WTO Agreements & Strategies for Developing Countries Prof. (Dr.) Pritam Banerjee Head, Centre for WTO Studies (Confirmed)		Visit to PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI) (1200-1400 hrs)	Thematic Presentations
1330-1500 Food Security through Climate Resilient Technology Dr. Anind Kapur TERI (Confirmed)	Global Political and Economic Landscapes Amb Anil Trishunayat (Confirmed)			Thematic Presentations
1515-1645 Critical Minerals - Challenges & Opportunities JS (Mines) (TBC)	Embassy Visit	Skill Development and Capacity Building Roadmap	Visit to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (Confirmed) (1500-1600 hrs)	Valedictory Ceremony

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 107 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
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