



# VIDESH SEWA

---

## SUSHMA SWARAJ INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN SERVICE

**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**



## FROM DEAN'S DESK

**Dear Readers, Dear Friends,**

The busiest month of the year for SSIFS is August by design. Multiple programs happen simultaneously, seamlessly coordinated with continuously improving quality. We concluded the nine-month-long Induction Training Program of IFS Officer Trainees of the 2025 batch on 28 August with the valedictory, with the External Affairs Minister as Chief Guest. His address to OTs could be termed as the final masterclass for them in this training program, as they step into their first assignment abroad in a few days.



EAM encouraged them to grasp contemporary challenges, cultivate a service-oriented approach, immerse in specialisations and be passionate about their profession. EAM's Gold medal was awarded to Ms. Hunar Kular for being the best overall performer in the whole training program at SSIFS.

Earlier during the week, OTs called on the Honourable President and the Prime Minister, where they received pearls of wisdom for developing the Viksit Bharat mindset. Before this last ceremonial week, OTs presented and defended their dissertations in front of panels of experts, based on which the best project was selected for the prestigious Bimal Sanyal Award, which was given for the first time to IFS OTs of the 2002 batch. Tanishque Gedam received the award from EAM for his dissertation "Narrative Warfare: Construction & Feedback".

The Mid Career Training Program - III for IFS Officers of 2002 & 2003 batches was conducted from 17-28 August at SSIFS. The 10-day program was designed to give the senior diplomats of India an opportunity to brainstorm on issues of critical importance in our journey towards Viksit Bharat. They called on EAM and the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and met with the Foreign Secretary, Secretary (Economic Relations), and Deputy National Security Adviser. They participated in five different tabletop exercises focused on Strategic Analysis and Critical Thinking, Geoeconomics, Tech Diplomacy, Artificial Intelligence, and Leadership. The final day of the program, 28 August, was spent at Bharat Mandapam, curated very professionally by Chairman ITPO, Amb Jawed Ashraf. It gave the officers a deep dive into the 3Ts of Trade, Technology, and Tourism with top businesses and institutions represented in four different panels. The two-week-long program was experiential and thought-provoking with the aim of developing short-term pathways towards the larger objective of Viksit Bharat.

On the Foreign Diplomats Training front, we organised a special program for 30 diplomats from Tanzania and 20 from Kenya, focusing on Multilateral, Economic and Tech Diplomacy. Further details are inside this newsletter.

Next month, we are launching the first video lectures made at our recently built Digital Laboratory, creating a new vertical of virtual training in SSIFS. We would be hosting 40 foreign diplomats in the 73<sup>rd</sup> edition of PCFD in the second half of September. With best wishes from the SSIFS Family!

Raj Kumar Srivastava  
New Delhi  
31 August 2026

## Training Program for Foreign Diplomats

### Special Course for Diplomats from Kenya & Tanzania (05 - 14 August 2026)



A Special Course for Diplomats from Kenya and Tanzania was conducted at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) from 05–14 August 2026. The 10-day program was attended by 20 diplomats from Kenya and 30 diplomats from Tanzania. The course was inaugurated by the Dean, SSIFS, Amb. Raj Kumar Srivastava.

In his inaugural address, Amb. Srivastava highlighted the growing depth and breadth of India's engagement with Africa and noted that the program was designed to provide participants with a deeper understanding of contemporary global challenges. The course covered a range of issues, including evolving geopolitical dynamics, economic resilience, the global landscape of nuclear diplomacy, climate action, energy security, critical minerals and sustainable development.



## Knowledge Sessions and Institutional Visits

The ten-day program featured 24 knowledge sessions covering international and regional issues such as the evolution and advancement of India-Africa's dynamic partnerships, Indo-African regional frameworks for maritime security, India's humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations during times of crises, India's technological advancements, the organisation and management of multilateral events, artificial intelligence, public diplomacy and communication skills, blue economy, ocean governance and the global initiatives for conservation of wildlife, primarily the seven big cats.



To deepen their understanding of India's democratic and developmental journey, participants visited the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, which showcases the contributions of India's Prime Ministers since independence.

To enable participants to witness the rich cultural heritage of India, a visit to the National Crafts Museum and Hastkala Academy was organised. The National Crafts Museum is a cultural institution dedicated to preserving, documenting, and promoting India's traditional crafts and folk arts. In addition to this, they also explored marketplaces such as Dilli Haat and The Kunj.



## Fostering Cultural Diplomacy during Special Course for Diplomats from Kenya & Tanzania

To promote cultural diplomacy and strengthen people-to-people ties between India and the two participating countries, the program incorporated enriching field visits. A highlight was the celebration of Africa Day on the inaugural day of the program. The delegation took part in the Africa Day celebrations at the Hotel Ashok wherein they saw cultural performances of different African nations performed by artists from Africa in collaboration with ICCR. The Chief Guest of this occasion, the Honourable External Affairs Minister of India, Dr S. Jaishankar, met with the participants and encouraged them to further the ties between India and Africa. He underscored the importance of fostering sustained dialogue, cultural exchange, and collaborative partnerships to strengthen regional solidarity between India, Kenya and Tanzania.



### Valedictory and Feedback

Dean, SSIFS, highlighted the key outcomes of the training program, noting its contribution to enhancing participants' understanding of contemporary policy challenges and opportunities. The program also facilitated the exchange of perspectives on shared developmental concerns, strengthened professional networks, and promoted diplomatic engagement between India, Kenya and Tanzania. At the conclusion of the program, certificates of participation were awarded to all participants. Diplomats appreciated the program for providing valuable insights into contemporary issues relating to governance, development and international cooperation.



## Protocol & VIP Management Training Program for Police Officials from Antigua & Barbuda



SSIFS conducted a one-day training module on Mon, 10 Aug 2026 for 30 Police Officials from Antigua & Barbuda. The delegation was headed by Ms. Sherese George, Chief of Protocol & Mr. Everton Silston, Senior Liaison Officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Immigration, along with a delegation of 29 police officers from the Royal Police Force of Antigua & Barbuda. The training program was part of a two-day joint MEA attachment coordinated by SSIFS and the Summits Division. The program provided officers with practical insights on hosting the upcoming CHOGM Summit in Antigua & Barbuda in November 2026.

### 88th Know India Program (KIP) at SSIFS



The Orientation Program for the 88th Know India Program (KIP) was conducted at SSIFS on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, with 25 young participants from 23 countries. The KIP is a flagship MEA program designed to engage with the young Indian Diaspora to provide a civilizational connection to their ancestral roots. The half-day Orientation Program at SSIFS commenced with an inaugural session titled “Bharat: The Land of Knowledge,” by Amb. Raj Kumar Srivastava, Dean (SSIFS). He connected with the young participants by invoking the ancient spirit and wisdom of Bharat while celebrating the harmony of the country’s diversity.

## High Level Engagement for MCTP-III Participants

A key highlight of the MCTP-III program was the opportunity for IFS Officers from the 2002 & 2003 batches to engage with some of India's foremost diplomatic and strategic leaders. The program commenced with a call-on to the Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri on 17 August, followed by an interaction with External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar later the same day. Drawing upon his experience as both a career diplomat and political leader, the Minister shared perspectives on India's foreign policy priorities, strategic partnerships, and the evolving demands of diplomacy in a rapidly changing global order.

The engagement series continued on 25 August with an insightful interaction with the Deputy NSA Shri Pavan Kapoor, who highlighted the growing convergence of diplomacy, national security, technology, and strategic planning in advancing India's interests. Participants subsequently interacted with Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and a distinguished former diplomat, who spoke on India's energy security, energy diplomacy, and the country's expanding role in shaping the global energy landscape.

Together, these interactions offered the participants a valuable opportunity to reflect on contemporary foreign policy challenges, emerging strategic realities, and the leadership responsibilities that accompany senior diplomatic assignments.



## Diplomacy in an Era of Strategic Transformation: MCTPIII



The MCTP-III program offered participants a rich blend of sessions that examined the strategic, technological, economic, and geopolitical dimensions of contemporary diplomacy. Discussions ranged from national security and statecraft, India's neighbourhood and developments in West Asia, to emerging themes such as cyber diplomacy, science and technology partnerships, global finance, energy security, and the role of multilateral initiatives including the International Solar Alliance, CDRI, and the Global Biofuel Alliance. Participants also engaged with experts on innovation, cultural diplomacy, economic statecraft, and the application of artificial intelligence, reflecting the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of diplomatic practice.

### **Experiential Learning : Simulations and Tabletop Exercises**

A distinctive feature of the program was its emphasis on experiential learning through simulation-based exercises and field engagement. Participants took part in a series of Table Top Exercises (TTXs), including discussions on geotechnology, geopolitical risks for global business curated by Shri Akshay Mathur and colleagues, and a full-day geopolitical simulation conducted by Team NATSTRAT under the guidance of Amb. Pankaj Saran & Amb DB Varma. These exercises challenged participants to navigate complex strategic scenarios, test decision-making frameworks, and appreciate the interplay between diplomacy, security, technology, and economics. The program also included a day-long immersion at Bharat Mandapam with Amb. Jawed Ashraf and the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), where participants explored contemporary approaches to trade and economic diplomacy, investment promotion, global supply chains, innovation ecosystems, and the role of Indian Missions in advancing India's commercial interests abroad.





**A Full Day Schedule at ITPO, Bharat Mandapam focused on 3Ts**

### **Charting Pathways to Viksit Bharat**

An important feature of the program was the series of participant-led presentations and discussions, which encouraged officers to reflect on the strategic, economic, and cultural dimensions of India's journey towards Viksit Bharat under the guidance of Amb TCA Raghavan and Dr. Arvind Gupta. Drawing on their diverse professional experiences, participants examined issues ranging from national and economic security, supply-chain resilience, defence diplomacy, and technological self-reliance to diaspora engagement, cultural diplomacy, and India's global narrative. The discussions were marked by thoughtful debate, practical policy recommendations, and a shared focus on translating vision into implementation. The sessions also provided a valuable platform for peer learning, allowing participants to exchange perspectives on the challenges and opportunities that will shape India's foreign policy and development trajectory in the pursuit of Viksit Bharat.



## 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.



## 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.



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



### Call on the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India (24 August 2026)

As part of the concluding phase of their induction training, the IFS 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 2026)

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.**



## Digital Learning Lab: Advancing Knowledge Through Technology

The Digital Learning Lab, established under the Capacity Building Commission initiative, has emerged as a key enabler of technology-driven learning at SSIFS. Dedicated to creating high-quality digital training resources, the Lab records expert-led sessions and curates them into a growing repository of knowledge that can be accessed by learners across programs. It also conducts hands-on training for SSIFS faculty members, consultants and officials from various sections, building institutional capacity in digital content creation and recording techniques. The recorded sessions are professionally edited and transformed into structured learning modules, ensuring their continued relevance and wider dissemination. Distinguished contributors featured in the Lab's recordings include Amb. Mohan Kumar, Amb. Manjeev Singh Puri, Amb. Vikas Swarup, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe and Amb. Asoke Mukerji, whose insights enrich the Institute's expanding digital learning ecosystem.



## Preserving the Legacy of Indian Diplomacy: The Diplomatic Heritage Collection

The Diplomatic Heritage Collection at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) serves as a unique repository dedicated to preserving and showcasing the rich legacy of Indian diplomacy. Housed within the Institute's library, the collection brings together foundational treaties, historical documents, diplomatic memoirs, rare publications and ceremonial artifacts that reflect the evolution of India's engagement with the world. Conceived as a resource for Indian Foreign Service officer trainees, serving diplomats, researchers and visiting scholars, the collection anchors contemporary diplomatic training in the historical traditions of Indian statecraft and foreign policy. By connecting the experiences of the past with the challenges of the present, it strengthens institutional memory, promotes continuity in diplomatic practice and offers valuable insights into the ideas, personalities and events that have shaped India's foreign relations over the decades.



## Contribution by Ms Gee Gee, an Officer Trainee of 2025 Batch

Inspired by the Rig Vedic Motto of SSIFS  
and Nine Month long Induction Training Program



# सं चेदं वि च पश्येम : ANTHEM

## ENGLISH VERSION

We see the near and the far with equanimity  
And strive to serve Bharat with sublimity

Let our deliberation and purpose be common  
Gatherin' noble thoughts from anywhere  
Let us move together, speak together, be one  
May friendship flourish in all corners,  
everywhere

We see the near and the far with equanimity  
And seek to serve Bharat with magnanimity

Let us remove prickly thorns with olives  
May dialogue be our garden to bloom  
Let us carve our path towards peace  
From our academy- our room to groom!

We see the near and the far with equanimity  
And aspire to serve Bharat with anonymity

Nations may be distant, hearts need not be  
So, let us be envoys, bridges to the crew  
The world is our workplace, development our  
destiny

May we spread the colors of Bharat, the  
Vishwaguru!

We see the near and the far with equanimity  
And toil to build friendships, remove enmity.

The world is one family, we cherish and love  
May we grow to become officers par  
excellence

With dedication and brilliance, placing nation  
above

We revere the legacy of India with diligence.

We see the near and the far with equanimity  
And strive to serve Bharat with sublimity

## HINDI VERSION

सं चेदं वि च पश्येम - समदृष्टि हो हमारी,  
उत्कृष्ट भारत सेवा, जीवन की तैयारी ।।

समानो मन्त्रः समितिः एक हो विचार,  
आ नो भद्राः क्रतवो यन्तु, जग से शुभ उपहार।  
संगच्छध्वं संवदध्वं: साथ बढ़ें हर बार,  
मैत्री सर्वत्र वर्धताम्: गुँजे जग-संसार।

सं चेदं वि च पश्येम - समदृष्टि हो हमारी,  
भारत-सेवा ही बने सबसे बड़ी उदारी।

कांटों को भी ऐक्यभाव से फूल बना दें हम।  
संवादों के पुष्पों से शान्ति सजा दें हम।।  
कदम बढ़ें उस पथ पर जो सद्भावना बोए,  
यहीं से हमको ज्ञान मिले, यहीं व्यक्तित्व सँवरे।

सं चेदं वि च पश्येम - समदृष्टि हो हमारी,  
भारत-सेवा ही रहे विनम्रता की क्यारी।

दूर रहें राष्ट्र भले ही, हृदय न हों कभी दूर,  
भारत के दूत बनें हम, जोड़ें देश सुदूर।  
विश्व हमारा कर्मक्षेत्र, उन्नति बने प्रारब्ध।  
विश्व गुरु के महिमा फैलाएं, करें सबको उपलब्ध॥

सं चेदं वि च पश्येम - समदृष्टि हो हमारी,  
मैत्री से मिट जाए जग की हर वैर-विचारी ।।

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् - बने सफलता के मंत्र।  
उत्कृष्ट अधिकारी बनें ऐसा हो जीवन तंत्र।।  
राष्ट्र रहे सर्वोपरि, प्रतिभा हो उज्ज्वल प्रकाश,  
भारत की गौरव-परम्परा बढ़े यही हमारे प्रयास।

सं चेदं वि च पश्येम - समदृष्टि हो हमारी,  
उत्कृष्ट भारत सेवा, जीवन की तैयारी ।।

## 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