Volume 01 - January 2026

VIDESH SEWA

SUSHMA SWARAJ INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN SERVICE

The 6th Disarmament & International Security Fellowship Program was conducted at SSIFS with the participation of 40 diplomats from 38 countries between 12-30 January 2026



On 16 January 2026, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar met the 6th Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellows



FROM DEAN'S DESK



Dear Readers, Dear Friends,

The New Year has marked a phase of renewed institutional purpose at SSIFS, reinforcing our commitment to continuous improvement, evidence-based refinement, and innovation in pedagogy and institutional processes. The month of January has been particularly instructive in consolidating learning from past practices while strategically integrating new approaches. In this context, the Institute has articulated a clear roadmap for SSIFS Upgrade 2.0 in 2026, building upon the gains of Upgrade 1.0 in 2025. Our niche programmes are being progressively strengthened—both in ambition and design—through the judicious use of emerging technologies and a sharper alignment with the evolving expectations of our partner institutions.

In January, we did a novel experiment by doing an online program for three days for our friends in Uzbekistan on the theme of Cyber and AI Diplomacy. We are happy to receive a letter of deep appreciation from the Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Uzbekistan for the quality content and depth of experience of our guest faculty. This online medium and the theme thus become a new offer of SSIFS to our partners.

We conducted the sixth edition of our flagship Fellowship Program on Disarmament and International Security Affairs on 12-30 January with the largest group so far of 40 diplomats from 38 countries. The program this time had a larger component of 6 days visit to Mumbai and Bengaluru to give the participants a greater experiential learning opportunity. The program at SSIFS too had multiple sessions of tabletop exercises, simulations, quizzes and so on to make the learning more enjoyable. Call on EAM and attending the Republic Day Parade were highlights of the 6th edition of the Fellowship.

We had two special visiting delegations at SSIFS in January. First was the 10 Research Fellows of the Inaugural Motwani Jadeja Fellowship Program for American Scholars to visit India for four weeks. We had a working lunch for them at SSIFS on 13 January. The other was the 85th and 86th Know India Program participants (78 young PIOs from 20 countries) who visited SSIFS on 20 January for a half-day orientation program.

The Program for Officer Trainees of the 2025 batch continued into the second month in January, with functional competencies being the main themes, such as Administration, Finance, Protocol, and Consular Services. They also visited the nine states of India in smaller groups of 6 OTs each to understand their role as diplomats in the developmental priorities of the states. In terms of experiential learning, OTs had their first Book Club day with three fireside chats with the authors. They conducted a few activities under their IMPACT (Ideas, Maintenance, Public Diplomacy, Academic, Cultural, & Technology) committees as well, to take leadership in organising events and managing affairs of the institute. Some of the OTs got their first opportunities to be on the job as liaison officers to the visiting Foreign Ministers of the League of Arab States (LAS) on 30-31 January.

On the occasion of the first LAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting hosted by EAM at Bharat Mandapam on 31 January, SSIFS signed its 107th MoU on Diplomatic Training and Sharing of Best Practices with Secrtariat of LAS.

The first month of the Year couldn't have been busier, and February would be no exception for us. Best wishes from the SSIFS Family!

Raj Kumar Srivastava
New Delhi
31 January 2026

Training Program for Foreign Diplomats

Sixth Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship (12-30 January 2026)

The 6th edition of the annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs (D&ISA) Fellowship Program was conducted at SSIFS from 12-30 January 2026 in collaboration with the Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division of the Ministry of External Affairs. 40 diplomats from 38 countries (including both Global North & Global South) participated in the 21-day-long flagship program of the Institute.

The D&ISA Fellowship is a reflection of the role India has acquired in the multilateral world, particularly in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and wider strategic issues. The initiative fulfils the mandate of UNGA Resolution ‘United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education’ and is in line with the focus on ‘Disarmament Education’ in UN Secretary General’s Agenda for Disarmament- ‘Securing our Common Future’.

This fellowship program aims at equipping participants with knowledge and perspectives on issues related to contemporary disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and international security affairs, and familiarising them with India and India’s foreign policy.

Dean (SSIFS), Amb Raj Kumar Srivastava inaugurated the course. In his inaugural address, Amb Srivastava gave a brief overview of the Institute, its competency based training programs, theories of International Relations, elaborated on the guiding principles of the Indian Foreign Policy, idea of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', core dimensions of India’s resilience in past decade, India's National Transformation & Strategic Horizon going forward, and Global South Human Centric & Environment Sensitive Growth Model. He also spoke about 4Ts (trade, technology, tourism, talent) of the 'Diplomacy for Development', India Stack & Digital Public Infrastructure, upcoming AI Impact Summit, India's Climate Diplomacy, Ayurveda & Yoga, and covered Govt of India's initiatives (ISA, CDRI, IBCA, GBA).









Some glimpses from the knowledge sessions

The first week of the D&ISA Fellowship Program centred around sessions on the concept of 'security'-climate, nuclear, tech, space & disaster resilience and counter terrorism. Discussions revolved around pertinent topics such as International Nuclear Order, Global Climate Security, Information Warfare, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, AI Ethics, Digital Literacy & Regulatory Frameworks, Indian Space Sector Reforms & Space Policy, Space Law & Militarisation, Biological Weapons Convention, Geopolitics & Nuclear Deterrence, Outer Space & Arms Control, Maritime Security, Global Disarmament & Non-Proliferation Architecture along with several table top and simulation exercises.

The highlight of the week, however, was the Call on Hon'ble EAM, Dr S. Jaishankar on 16 January, 2026 in which the Minister exchanged views with the young diplomats on the diverse security challenges facing the world today, underlining the importance and use of pragmatic and creative diplomacy to address them.

This year, international speakers included Amb. Carlos Mario Foradori, Permanent Representative of Argentina to UN Office, Geneva and Ms. Carolyne-Melanie Regimbal, Chief of Service of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, Geneva, who spoke about outer space and global disarmament, respectively.



Experiential Learning through Visits

Apart from the classroom session at SSIFS; the diplomats also visited the Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya, a public museum chronicling the contributions of India's Prime Ministers since independence and were impressed by the advanced experiential displays. The participants also visited the grand Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple in New Delhi. Hailed as an eternal place of devotion, purity and peace, this beautiful & timeless architectural structure is a house of worship, and a spiritual and cultural campus dedicated to devotion, learning and harmony.





Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path

The participants of the D&ISA program also had a chance to witness the 77th Republic Day celebrations organised around the central theme "150 Years of Vande Mataram". They witnessed the colourful parades, 30 tableaux presenting the States, Union Territories, and Central Ministries. They were enthralled by the participation of around 2500 artists in the cultural presentation at Kartavya Path.








A Blissful Yoga Session

A special session on Yoga was conducted for the participants by a trained yoga instructor who taught them about the need to have sound mental and physical health. The trainer also taught them postures for improving flexibility, enhancing strength and de-stressing.




Mumbai

The second week of the training took the diplomats on a study tour to the financial capital of India, Mumbai (Maharashtra) and the Silicon Valley of India, Bengaluru(Karnataka). Mumbai was the first leg of their visit that involved official engagements at the Western Naval Command, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Mumbai.






As part of the cultural immersion program, the diplomats visited the CSMVS Museum and Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre. The participants also got a chance to soak in the colourful cultural performance of local artists and tasted authentic 'Maharashtrian cuisines' in the Sahyadri State Guest House at the Malabar Hills later that evening.











Bengaluru

The next destination for the D&ISA fellows was Bengaluru where the diplomats got an opportunity to visit the ISRO Headquarters, ISRO-ISTRAC, Infosys and Biocon.



Quiz on International Security Affairs using Digital Tools

The diplomats participated in an interesting quiz on disarmament and international affairs conducted by Dean(SSIFS) Amb Raj Kumar Srivastava. The questions centred on themes such as nuclear disarmament, emerging technologies & non-proliferation, maritime security, outer space, and the role of AI. The diplomats participated enthusiastically, and prizes were also awarded to the best performers.



Final Day of the Programme: Thematic Presentations, Feedback & Valedictory

The visiting diplomats, divided into 06 groups, made informative presentations on crucial & relevant issues such as nuclear disarmament, emerging technologies & non-proliferation, maritime security, outer space, the role of AI and critical infrastructure. On behalf of the group, 03 diplomats shared their valuable feedback and thanked the Government of India for the program. Dean(SSIFS) addressed the diplomats and handed over certificates of completion. He encouraged them to foster ties between India and their respective countries.



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.



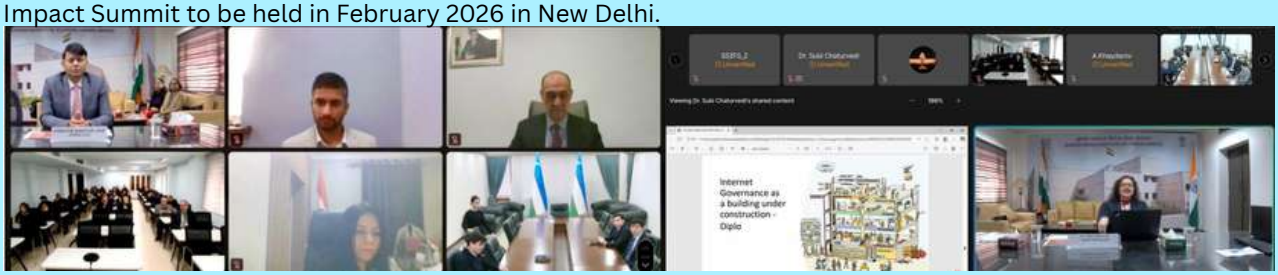


Conclusion: States as Pillars of Diplomacy

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.

Special Online Module on Cyber Security & Artificial Intelligence for Uzbek diplomats

SSIFS conducted 3-day special online module on Cyber Security & AI for 70 participants including diplomats from Uzbekistan and the Faculty & students of the University of World Economy (UWED), Uzbekistan from 19-21 January 2026. This was first-ever online module conducted at SSiFS which began with an inaugural address by the Dean SSIFS, Amb Raj Kumar Srivastava in the presence of Ambassador of India to Uzbekistan, Mrs. Smita Pant, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to India, Dr Sardar M Rustambaev and Director of Diplomatic Academy, UWED, Mr Abdusamat Khaydarov. The program covered three major themes- Cyber Security & Hygiene; AI for Smart Diplomacy and Diplomacy for AI. A total of 12 sessions by experts in the field of cybersecurity, AI, and technology implementation. The training sessions laid a particular emphasis on the ethical use of AI and its use as a democratic and inclusive tool to serve the larger good of humanity. The program concluded with a session on practical applications of AI and India's preparations for the upcoming AI Impact Summit to be held in February 2026 in New Delhi.



85th & 86th Editions of Know India Program

SSIFS conducted a combined half day orientation program for around 78 young PIOs from 20 countries in the 85th & 86th editions of the Know India Program(KIP) today. Dean(SSIFS), Amb Raj Srivastava, made two insightful presentations- "Ancient Bharat: Land of Knowledge" & "Viksit Bharat: The Vision of Prosperity"

The first presentation gave the young PIOs a glimpse of their ancestral linkages & antiquity of their "motherland", the foundation of Vedic Civilization, energy of "Bharat" powered by the wisdom of Vedas & Upanishads, Natya Shasta, Principles of Yoga, Ayurveda & Ayurgenomics. In the second presentation, Dean described the connection between ancient wisdom of Bharat, the Vedbhoomi, and the guiding principles of Indian Foreign Policy, focus on Global South Human Centric Growth in the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' Chanakya's Arthshastra, 4Ts(trade, technology, tourism & talent) of 'Diplomacy for Development', Govt of India's recent initiatives (ISA, CDRI, IBCA, GBA), Vaccine Maitrey initiative and how India is marching strongly on its path of Viksit Bharat guided by ancient wisdom with human centric, environment sensitive, technologically advanced mindset.





SSIFS hosted Ten Distinguished Research Fellows from the Motwani Jadeja Fellowship Program on 13 January 2026

Ten Distinguished Research Fellows from Motwani Jadeja Fellowship Program led by Amb Mohan Kumar were hosted for a working lunch at SSIFS by Amb Raj Srivastava, Dean, SSIFS as part of their four-week Residency at Jindal Global University to learn about India. The meeting at SSIFS allowed them to understand how the institution is not only contributing as a centre of excellence for diplomatic training for Indian diplomats but also for foreign diplomats from over 100 countries every year.






4th Special Course for Global South Young Diplomats Forum (GSYDF)
16–27 February 2026

GSYDFis aflagship program launched by SSIFSin 2023 (asa result ofthe1 Voiče of the Global South Summit hosted by the Honorable PM of India). 4th edition of the GSYDF this year will continue to affirm the commitment of India to "Unite in Voice and Purpose" in addressing the concerns & priorities of the Global South by building synergies and connections with young diplomats from these countries.

"The strength of the Global South lies in its Unity."

-PM of India
Shri Narendra Modi



"On the strength of this Unity, we will move forward towards a new direction."

-PM of India
Shri Narendra Modi

4th Special Course for Global South Young Diplomats Forum (GSYDF) (16-27 February 2026)

	16 Feb/Mon	17 Feb/Tue	18 Feb/Wed	19 Feb/Thurs	20 Feb/Fri	21-23 Feb/Sat -Mon
	Understanding Global South	Behavioural & Functional Competencies	AI Diplomacy	Economic Diplomacy	Cultural Diplomacy	
0930-1100	Group Photograph. Welcome remarks by Amb Raj Kumar Srivastava, Dean, SSIFS Inaugural address by Amb Dr. Neena Malhotra, Secretary (South) Bridging Civilisations, Shaping Futures by Amb Raj Kumar Srivastava, Dean (SSIFS)	AI for Diplomacy Dr Preet Deep Singh	India Stack & E-Governance Platforms Shri Rajeshwar Singh Jenwar, MeitY	Oakshin Centre: Advancing South-South Partnerships. Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, RIS	Cultural Diplomacy: Odissi Dance- Therapeutics, Aesthetics & Metaphysics Ms Reela Hota	Visit to Indore & Ujjain in the state of Madhya Pradesh, India *(An educational & recreational tour to the state of MP.)*
1115-1245	Reform of Global Institutions: Perspectives from Global South Amb Asoke Mukerji	Organising Multilateral Events: Coordination & Management Dr Aman Puri, JS (Summits)	Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing and Diplomatic Implications Dr Subi Chaturvedi, Global GVP inMobi	Blue Economy and Sustainable Development Pathways. Dr Pankhuri Gaur, RIS	Lec-Dem on Odissi Dance by Ms Reela Hota, Odissi Performer & Educator	
1330-1500	Tabletop Exercises on Theories of International Relations and Future of Global South: Pathways and Priorities Prof Atul Mishra, Shiv Nadar University	Collaborative Leadership & Emotional Intelligence Dr. Vikrant Singh Tomar	Visit to Bharat Mandapam to attend the AI Impact Summit 2026	Traditional Medicine & Holistic Wellness Dr. Namrata Pathak RIS	Visit to Prime Minister's Museum to understand India's Polity	
1515-1645		*Call on EAM		Connectivity for Economic Empowerment Dr Priyadarshi Dash, RIS		

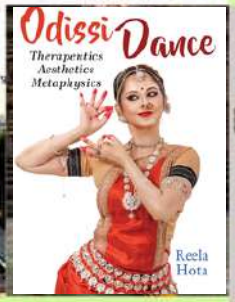
24 Knowledge Sessions with Experts in International issues drawn from Diplomacy, International Institutions & Think Tanks

AI IMPACT SUMMIT भारत 2026 INDIA

05 Table Top & Simulation Exercises conducted by faculties & experts from various Governmental Institutions & Research Organisations

RIS
Research and Information System for Developing Countries
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना





MADHYA PRADESH
The heart of Incredible India



4th Special Course for Global South Young Diplomats Forum (GSYDF) (16-27 February 2026)

	24 Feb/Tue	25 Feb/Wed	26 Feb/Thurs	27 Feb/Fri
	Economic Diplomacy	Global South Institutions & Public Diplomacy	Defence & Security Diplomacy	Experiential Diplomacy
0930-1100	Yoga	International Big Cat Alliance: Cooperation among Global South countries Dr. S. P. Yadav DG, International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)	Role of Technologies in Cognitive Warfare Major General B K Sharma, Strategic Analyst, Former Director General, United Service Institution of India	Panel Discussion on New Age Diplomacy for Global South with Ambassadors of Global South countries in New Delhi- moderated by Dean (SSIFS)
1115-1245	Global South and the Future of Plurilateral Diplomacy Shri Shambhu L. Hakki, JS (MER)	International Solar Alliance & Global South ISA	Maritime Security for Global South: Challenges & Way Forward Cmde Sujeet Samaddar , Visiting Fellow, RIS	Thematic Presentations
1330-1500	Global Disaster Trends & NDMA's role in international relief operations : Tabletop Exercises on Protection of Critical Infrastructure	Public Diplomacy in the age of Social Media & AI Amb Vikas Swarup	Terrorism, Technologies and Global Security Implications Shri Vikas Katheria, IPS, Deputy Inspector General of Police	Feedback & Valedictory
1515-1645	National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)	Session by Dean, SSIFS	Session on Defence Production in India	



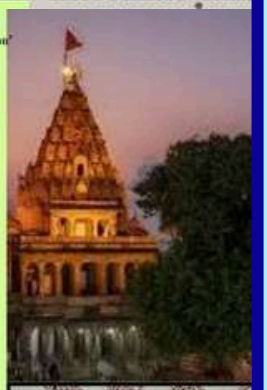
Visit to the State of Madhya Pradesh
'Vibrant blend of Modernity & Tradition'
(21 February -23 February 2026)

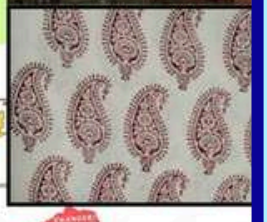
21 February 2026 (Saturday)
- Arrival at Indore(Evening) & stay at selected hotel/venue

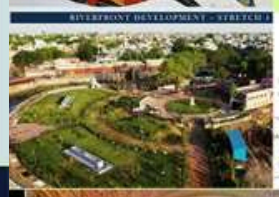
22 February 2026, (Sunday)
[Pre-noon]
- Visit to a site of Cultural Heritage/Rajwada Palace
- Travel from Indore to Ujjain

[Post-noon]
- Visit to Shree Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga Temple, Ujjain
- Travel back from Ujjain to Indore

23 February, 2026 (Monday)
- Visit to IIM Indore
- Visit to Indore Smart City Office.
- Departure from Indore & Arrival at New Delhi









INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE



National Disaster Management Authority





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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.



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