



VIDESH SEWA

SUSHMA SWARAJ INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN SERVICE

The 5th Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Program (13-31 January 2025) fellows called on External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar on 30 January & interacted over 60 minutes on diverse themes of current relevance in diplomacy & security.



Dr. S. Jaishankar @Dr... · 1h

Good to interact with MEA's 5th Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellows today in Delhi.

The international security situation is undergoing rapid and radical changes. This necessitates new approaches to finding solutions. Confident that this exercise promoted an understanding of India's thinking

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In the second month of the Induction Training Program, IFS Officer Trainees (OTs) of the 2024 Batch had sessions with Secretary(West) & Secretary(CPV & OIA) on 16 January 2025.



Sushma Swara... · 16.01.2025. ...

Secretary(West) Amb.

@Tanmaya_Lal addressed IFS Officer Trainees of 2024 Batch and 2 Bhutanese Diplomats on 16 January 2025 at SSIFS.

Reflecting upon the past 3 decades of global diplomacy, he highlighted India's increasing strategic relevance and the role of future diplomats.



Sushma Swara... · 16.01.2025. ...

Secretary(CPV & OIA) Amb. Arun Chatterjee addressed IFS Officer Trainees of 2024 Batch & 2 Bhutanese diplomats on 16 January 2025. Underscoring the importance of actively engaging with the diaspora, he elaborated on various schemes & measures taken by MEA in this regard.



FROM DEAN'S DESK

Dear Readers, Dear Friends,

January of each year, for Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, brings our most awaited flagship program for foreign diplomats - The Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Program, the 5th edition of which was held between 13-31 January 2025, with participation of 34 diplomats from 33 countries. The countries (6 from Africa, 12 from Asia, 8 from Latin America, 4 from Europe, USA, Australia & Solomon Islands) represented this year showed the importance of this program. This year we designed the program in such a manner that it had a good mix of knowledge sessions with both Indian & International experts, visits to important security linked institutions both in Delhi and outside in other cities, and also the opportunity to understand India's diversity by including in the program visits to Taj Mahal, Lotus Temple, Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and the live session of Republic Day parade. In 24 knowledge sessions we included six diverse security dimensions of international importance - Nuclear, Space, Maritime, Technology, Environment, & Health.

IFS Officer Trainees of 2024 batch along with two diplomats from Bhutan continued their second month of Induction Training Program which focused on Diplomatic processes relating to the functional aspects in both missions abroad as well as in the Ministry. Communication skills and digital toolkit were further sharpened during January. Last week of January was devoted to States Attachment in which OTs in five groups of seven each, visited Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu. In each of these states, program included the capital city and another cultural heritage city with focus on four Ts of Talent, Technology, Tourism, & Trade, which are the key pillars of Diplomacy for Development, particularly focusing on international engagements of States, promoting opportunities connected with these four Ts. The Cultural & Academic Committees of OTs organized professional events celebrating rich cultural diversity of Indian festivals.

The Institute also hosted Orientation Sessions for the participants of the 81st Know India Programme, conducted by MEA's Diaspora Engagement Division.

Our calendar for year 2025 is already looking very complete and rich with diversity of programs both thematically as well as geographically. Our attempts to move towards paperless training are also showing results in enhancing training efficiency & effectiveness. More exciting and rewarding times are ahead for sure. With best wishes from SSIFS Family.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Raj Kumar Srivastava".

[Raj Kumar Srivastava]

New Delhi

31 January 2025

Training Programs for Foreign Diplomats

5th Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Program

The Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) organised the 5th Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship at New Delhi from 13-31 January 2025. The Fellowship is an annual flagship programme and is organised in collaboration with the Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The Fellowship aims at equipping participants with knowledge and perspectives on issues related to contemporary disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control, international security affairs, and familiarising them with India & India's foreign policy.

The initiatives fulfil 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'.

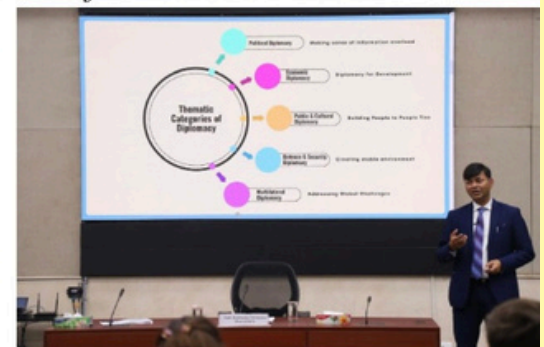
The 5th Annual D&ISA Fellowship was inaugurated on 13 January by Amb Raj Kumar Srivastava, Dean (SSIFS). Eminent speakers, both international and domestic, on the subject of disarmament and international security, addressed the participants.

The three-weeks long Fellowship included 24 Knowledge Sessions with experts in Security issues drawn from Diplomacy, International Institutions & Think Tanks, visits to 5 Institutions in 4 cities to understand Space, Nuclear, Maritime, Emerging Technology & Non-Traditional Security.

This year, 34 young diplomats representing 33 different countries, cutting across geographies participated in the Fellowship. To have a deeper understanding of India, the diplomats also visited heritage sites & attended the Republic Day celebrations, sessions on Yoga & Ayurveda besides enjoying diverse cuisines.



Welcome & Inaugural Session for D&ISA Fellows



5th Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Program (13-31 January 2025) - Some Glimpses from Social Media



Sushma Swara... · 13.01.2025. ...
The 5th Edition of D&ISA Fellowship commenced today at @SSIFS_MEA for 34 diplomats from 33 countries. Dean SSIFS, Amb Raj Kumar Srivastava @rajks73 inaugurated the 3-week long Program and welcomed the participants to the SSIFS's 1st Foreign Diplomats' Course in 2025.



Sushma Swara... · 13.01.2025. ...
Dean SSIFS made a presentation on the 'Guiding Principles of India's Foreign Policy' emphasizing on the "One Earth One Family" mindset; Human-centric approach; Pro-planet people initiatives; Technology in the service of mankind; & Strengthening Multipolarity.



Sushma Swaraj... · 13.01.2025. ...
JS (D&ISA), Ms Muanpuii Saiawi spoke at the D&ISA Fellowship on India's position and perspective in the various multilateral disarmament fora, along with the recent scientific achievements of India in the nuclear and space arena.



Sushma Swara... · 13.01.2025. ...
Amb Sheel Kant Sharma addressed the D&ISA Fellowship participants on 'Nuclear Power & Climate Change' and shared perspectives on use of nuclear power as energy source, related safeguards & transitioning to Solar Energy.



Sushma Swara... · 14.01.2025. ...
Amb. Rakesh Sood @rakeshnms delivered a talk to the D&ISA Fellows on Current International Nuclear Order: Trends & Prospects where he highlighted the origin and evolution of the global nuclear order through the three nuclear ages since 1945.



Sushma Swaraj... · 14.01.2025. ...
In a comprehensive presentation to D&ISA Fellows, Gp. Capt. (Dr.) Ajey Lele (Retd), DDG, MP-IDSA, highlighted the importance of space and it's emergence as one of the Global Commons. He also explained the challenges posed by Space debris.



Sushma Swaraj... · 15.01.2025. ...
Amb György Molnár @GMolnar1957, Head of Secretariat for Wassenaar Arrangement addressed the participants of the ongoing D&ISA Fellowship at SSIFS on the key features of the Wassenaar Arrangement and its role in Non-Proliferation.



Sushma Swara... · 15.01.2025. ...
Ms. Sarah Roberts, Chair of Australia Group also addressed the D&ISA Fellows today at SSIFS on Non-Proliferation of Chemical & Biological Weapons & the Role of Australia Group.



Sushma Swara... · 17.01.2025. ...
Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, USG & High Representative for Disarmament Affairs gave a comprehensive presentation to the D&ISA Fellows on multilateral frameworks for Disarmament today at SSIFS.



5th Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Program (13-31 January 2025) - Some Glimpses from Knowledge Sessions



5th Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Program (13-31 January 2025) - Some Glimpses from Mumbai & Bengaluru



STUDY VISITS IN DELHI, BENGALURU & MUMBAI



5th Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Program



**Valedictory Day Presentations by Participants on diverse International Security Affairs
Themes covered in the Fellowship Program**

**Five Themes- Nuclear Disarmament, Maritime Security, Emerging Technologies, Climate
Change, & Disaster Risk Reduction**





Sixty minutes with External Affairs Minister

Master Class in Diplomacy, Global Security Challenges, & Indian Perspective towards building Bilateral & Regional Partnerships



5th Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Program (13-31 Jan 2025)

30 January 2025 1645-1745 hrs
Committee Room, JNB

Multipolarity-Global Order



The number of states have quadrupled in past 8 decades, so naturally power has been redistributed regionally, but multipolarity at the UN level could only be effective if the bigger powers are ready to give space to smaller ones. Unfortunately that hasn't been the experience, as a result, global regimes have given way to regional & plurilateral arrangements. In past decade, India itself has been part of some 40 such arrangements. Like minded countries coming together is the way forward till we reach ideal multipolarity.

Big States - Small States



Pursuing national interests could be challenging for smaller states vis a vis bigger states, but the former have the advantage of remaining focused and consistent on fewer important areas whereas latter have bigger basket of issues, missing focussed approach. Bigger states try to reshape the global order, smaller ones try to find a comfortable space in that emerging order.

India 🤝 EU



Given increasing strategic perspective from EU towards Asia in general and India in particular, India EU relations would see better times ahead beyond just trade & investments.

India 🤝 Latin America



Just a decade back the two geographies seemed too far to create any business opportunities, but today we have over USD 45 billion worth of bilateral trade with LAC region. Our capacities and ambitions have grown which are further supported by improvements in logistics making business more viable and sustainable.

Dr. Jaishankar spoke about the importance of being thorough in historical facts when pursuing national interests with bigger powers and being sensitive towards perspectives of smaller states while negotiating with them, in order to achieve sustainable outcomes.

Key Global Challenges Ahead

Resilience & Trustworthiness of Supply Chains

Shift in Geoeconomic centre of gravity and it's effects on Geopolitics

Regulatory Framework of Emerging Technology Space

Effectiveness of Multilateralism during times of Crisis

Climate Change, Natural Disasters, & Pandemics



Induction Training Program for 2024 Batch IFS Officer Trainees (OTs) in January 2025

The 2024 Batch IFS Officer Trainees and two Bhutanese diplomats began the 2nd month of their Induction Training Program with sessions on diplomatic processes, with a focus on administrative, establishment & financial processes; Consular & Parliamentary procedures and Diplomatic Communication skills. The OTs attended a one-day module on Critical & Emerging Technologies, designed by Carnegie India. The OTs also got an exposure on Ethical AI frameworks through a one-day program at Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC).

They also had an opportunity to interact with the visiting diplomats from 33 countries for the D&ISA Fellowship Program held at SSIFS. They participated in the session on Disarmament & Multilateralism by Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary General and High Representative for Disarmament at New York and on Nuclear Risk Reduction by Ms. Renata Dwan, Special Advisor to the UNSG's Envoy on Technology & Former Director of UNIDIR.

A week-long attachment organized in five groups of seven OTs each to five states (Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, & Madhya Pradesh) completed the second month of training program for the OTs

The OTs also attended sessions on 'Introduction to Bridge' by a professional Bridge Player from the Delhi Bridge Association.



Diplomatic Communications Skills Session resulted into good outcomes & performance by OTs

Dean SSIFS, Amb. Raj Kumar Srivastava provided a framework for developing communications skills both for public speaking as well as for diplomatic dispatches. The practical exercises by OTs brought out the quick learning curve that OTs demonstrated in this field.



Diplomatic Writing Skills

- 01 Understand the Purpose & Be Clear & Concise**
Diplomatic dispatches are used to communicate important information, analyses, and updates between Embassies and HQs. They often cover sensitive political, economic, and social issues. They should be precise. Avoid unnecessary jargon and ensure clarity.
- 02 Use Formal Language & Provide Context**
Maintain a professional tone and use formal language. Diplomatic dispatches are official documents and should be treated as such. Include relevant background information to ensure that the reader understands the context. This is especially important for complex or evolving situations.
- 03 Organize Information & Focus on Key Points**
Structure your dispatch logically. Use headings and subheadings to organize the content, making it easier for the reader to follow. Highlight the main points and conclusions. Use bullet points or numbered lists to emphasize important information.
- 04 Be Objective & Neutral and Provide Recommendations**
Present the information in an objective and neutral manner. Avoid letting personal biases influence your writing. If applicable, provide clear recommendations or suggested actions based on the information and analysis provided.
- 05 Ensure Accuracy and Review & Edit**
Verify all information and sources to ensure accuracy. Diplomatic dispatches often form the basis for policy decisions, so accuracy is crucial. Proofread dispatch to avoid errors, ensuring clarity & showing professionalism.

Structure

Subject Line - Summary - Background - Analysis - Recommendations - Conclusion

Diplomatic Communications Skills Session by OTs



UNITED NATIONS CYBERCRIME CONVENTION



MILESTONE IN DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

- Legally binding document
- Open for signatures at a formal ceremony in Hanoi
- Shall come into force 90 days after ratification by the 40th signatory.



OBJECTIVES

- Enhance coordination and cooperation among States
- Bring a global criminal justice policy aimed at the protection of society against cybercrime
- Obtain justice for the victims of cybercrimes



KEY FEATURES

- 9 key Chapters
- Mandates States to create domestic legislation.
- Ensure implementation in line with Human rights law
- Mandates cooperation in investigations



OFFENCES

- Illegal access and illegal interception
- Interference with electronic data and ICT systems
- Misuse of devices: forgery, theft, or fraud
- Offences related to online child sexual abuse



CHALLENGES

- Absence of harmonised legal frameworks among member states
- Uneven levels of technological development and institutional capacity
- Framework could be misused by authoritarian regimes to legitimise heightened surveillance and censorship.

WAY FORWARD

Engage in capacity-building initiatives, and share technical expertise to create secure and resilient digital ecosystems worldwide.

Securing Supply Chain Resilience: Unified Vision and Collaboration

1 SUMMARY

Resilient supply chains ensure economic security and competitiveness. A unified framework and collaboration are critical for addressing vulnerabilities.



2 BACKGROUND

Pandemic disruptions and geopolitical tensions exposed supply chain weaknesses. Policies like the CHIPS Act aim to bolster critical sectors.

3 KEY CHALLENGES

- Misaligned Priorities
- Global Disruptions
- Outdated Infrastructure:
- Limited global cooperation

Supply Chain Resilience



CONCLUSION

Resilient supply chain safeguards national interests, supports economic growth, and ensures global competitiveness.



4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish a common framework.
- Invest in modern infrastructure.
- Foster global partnerships.
- Train a skilled workforce.



Glimpses from IFS OTs' States Attachment Bihar, UP, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, & MP (27-31 January 2025)

Bihar



The visit to Patna Sahib stands as a testament to the truth that the call of the Divine transcends all plans and itineraries. For the IFS trainees, it became a profound, peace-filled encounter, bringing a sense of fulfillment to their visit to **Bihar**.



In front of Wheel at **Konark Sun Temple**. - Wheel is a depiction of cultural diversity and heritage which served as the iconic backdrop at G20 Summit in front of which honourable Prime Minister welcomed G20 leaders.



Immersed in contemplative meditation under the hallowed shade of the **Mahabodhi Tree**.



At **South Asia's largest indoor athletics center** housed in Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, **Odisha**



Call on Shri. Manoj Ahuja, Chief Secretary, Odisha. Discussing Prime Minister's mantra of 3Ts - Trade, Tourism & Technology - Viksit Bharat.

Uttar Pradesh



With a Tibetan monk at Dhamek Stupa, **Sarnath**



Call on Principal Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Govt of UP



Holding **ODOP** gifts at Lok Bhawan (**UP Secretariat**)



Tamil Nadu



Madhya Pradesh

Life at SSIFS in January for OTs - Celebrating Pongal, Organising Debates, Learning Bridge & much more



81st Know India Programme

SSIFS conducted a half-day orientation programme for the participants of the 81st Know India Programme (KIP) on 02 January 2025, in collaboration with the Diaspora Engagement (DE) Division. 30 young Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) from 11 countries took part in the KIP. In his inaugural address, Dean gave a presentation on “Bharat - The Land of Knowledge/Vedabhoomi” explaining linkages between Dharma, Religion & Science and connection between Sanskrit & Chess and elaborated upon the knowledge manifested in Vedas & Upanishads. The orientation programme at SSIFS was aimed at enhancing the understanding for the Younger Indian Diaspora of their “Grand” motherland. The KIP is a flagship initiative for Diaspora engagement that familiarises Indian-origin youth (18-30 years) with their Indian roots and contemporary India through a 25-day orientation programme organised by MEA’s DE Division.



Training Programme for MEA Officials

Accounts & IMAS Training Programme was conducted at SSIFS from 30th December 2024 to 06th January 2025. 32 MEA Officials of the rank of Section Officer/ Private Secretaries and below attended the programme.

Digital Transformation in Training Methods at SSIFS

As part of our drive to use digital technology for efficient & effective training methodology, SSIFS has successfully launched the Learning Management Software (LMS) through which the training of IFS OTs has become entirely paperless where all reference materials, submissions, and exams are conducted on LMS platform making the training efficient, transparent, and smarter. Further the SSIFS website is now updated in realtime in-house without the need of a service provider, bringing “Self Reliance” in our digital transformation.

SSIFS & IIMC Partnership for Sharing Best Practices & Curriculum Development Advisory for new MA Program on Diplomacy & International Relations at IIMC

In line with the Hon'ble PM's call for de-siloization, and in an effort to strengthen cooperation with other CSTIs, Amb. Raj Kumar Srivastava, Dean(SSIFS) addressed the students of the newly commenced MA program at @IIMC_India on the topic 'Art of Diplomacy'. Engaging the students, the Dean talked about evolving and upgrading diplomatic communication skills to suit the demands of the new digital age.



Dean (SSIFS) received Ambassadors of Tunisia & Armenia and discussed future cooperation in the field of diplomatic training and sharing of best practices



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. The Institute is located at Baba Gangnath Marg, Old JNU Campus, New Delhi.

SSIFS is headed by the Dean, a senior Foreign Service Officer in the Ministry of External Affairs. The current Dean is Shri Raj Kumar Srivastava. SSIFS has an extensive pool of guest faculty drawn from experts in the field of academics and research, media, public life, industry and trade, senior serving and retired diplomats and other government officials.



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