



# VIDESH SEWA

## SUSHMA SWARAJ INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN SERVICE

**Two Special Courses for Foreign Diplomats in one month  
held simultaneously at SSIFS in March 2025**



**Thirty one Diplomats from Myanmar joined SSIFS for the Special Course  
from 17-27 March (above)**

**Thirty one Diplomats from Democratic Republic of Congo joined SSIFS for  
the Special Course from 19-28 March (below)**



## FROM DEAN'S DESK

Dear Readers, Dear Friends,

March 2025 was a special month for SSIFS with two special courses conducted simultaneously for foreign Diplomats from Myanmar and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the second half of the month. While Myanmar intersects two focus areas of Indian Foreign Policy - Neighbourhood First and Act East, DRC represents the Continent of the Future - Africa, another important priority of our Foreign Policy.



The content of two programs had common elements of different behavioural, functional, and domain competencies, those a new age diplomat should develop to become efficient, effective, and enlightened. Special focus was given on the diplomatic initiatives connected with green transition and digital transformation of economies globally and especially in India. **The four Ts of Talent, Technology, Tourism, and Trade, which are the key ingredients of Diplomacy for Development initiatives, were covered in detail in both the programs.** There were specific sessions and visits, which were designed differently for the two groups, keeping in mind the different history and heritage of the two countries and the retrospect and prospect of our respective bilateral relations.

While IFS Officer Trainees of 2024 batch began their three months long on-job training with different divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs, they got three chances to interact with the Trainee Diplomats of Myanmar and DRC, including in **a Cultural Diplomacy evening at the Chanakya Auditorium of the SSIFS, the details of which are inside this newsletter.**

In this newsletter we have included two contributions from our guest faculties in the technology side who have brought important elements of digital toolkit for our training programs, given the importance of AI in all fields of human activities including Diplomacy. On one side, we need these digital skills for smarter and efficient Diplomacy, while on the other, we need to understand the regulatory and normative discussion points so that AI could be developed responsibly and its opportunities could be shared democratically with larger masses. **Clearly, we need to learn AI for Diplomacy as well as Diplomacy for AI.**

In March SSIFS has three new MoUs (Ireland, Armenia, and Mauritius) added to take our MoU partners list to 104. In April and May 2025, we have two Mid Career Training Programs coming up for Indian Foreign Service Officers of 15 and 11 years of experience, on Indian training side, and a special course for Indian Ocean Rim Countries' (IORA) Diplomats and the 72nd Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD), on Foreign training vertical. In Parallel, we continue our focus on physical and digital upgradation of the institute, making it future ready infrastructurally, and also on bringing in new resource persons into SSIFS's guest faculty to enrich the experiential learning for our trainees.

With best wishes from SSIFS Family.

[Raj Kumar Srivastava]

New Delhi

28 March 2025



## **SSIFS continued expanding its interactions in March 2025 with diverse knowledge partners for future cooperation in the field of diplomatic training and sharing of best practices**



**Dean of Fletcher (The Graduate School of Global Affairs at the Tufts University in Boston), Ms. Kelly Sims Gallagher and the Assistant Dean, Ms. Hilary Price visited SSIFS on 17 March 2025** and discussed different aspects of diplomatic training and future collaborative ideas. They were participating in the 10th Raisina Dialogue. In past, some of our Mid career IFS officers have participated in short courses held at Fletcher.

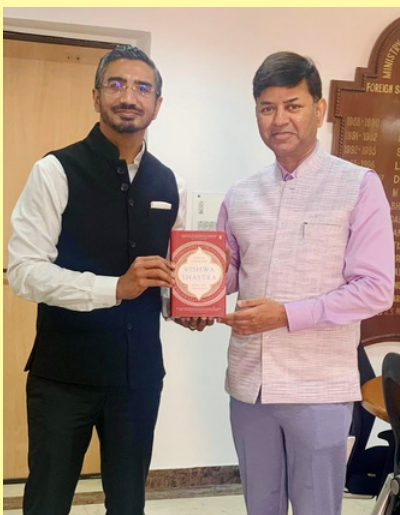
**Ambassador Shani Cooper-Zubida, Director of Cadets Training Department, Bureau of Personnel Training & Development at the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited India from 17-23 March 2025** along with three Israeli Officer trainees. She paid a visit to SSIFS on 19th and held wide ranging discussions with Dean on areas of future collaboration between two countries in the area of capacity building.



On the sidelines of Raisina Dialogue Dean (SSIFS) met with **Amb. Kishore Mahbubani, former Singaporean Diplomat and Dean of Lee Kuan Yew Institute of Public Policy.**



**Ambassador of El Salvador, H.E. Mr. Guillermo Rubio Funes, met with Dean(SSIFS) on 11th March** and discussed possibilities for training slots for Diplomats of El Salvador.



Dean(SSIFS) received **Mr. Dhruva Jaishankar, Executive Director of ORF America on 20th March.** Apart from discussing areas of importance in new age Diplomacy, they also talked about his recently published book “Vishwa Shastra” and the Book Club activities at the SSIFS, promoting reading habits in this AI era.



# Training Programme for Foreign Diplomats

## Second Special Course for Diplomats from Myanmar (17-27 March 2025)

The 2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Myanmar was held at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) from 17-27 March 2025. The two-weeks long training programme was attended by 31 diplomats. Dean (SSIFS), Amb Raj Kumar Srivastava, inaugurated the training programme and elaborated upon the 'Guiding Principles of India's Foreign Policy' through a presentation. He also outlined specific case studies showing execution of these principles through India's diplomatic initiatives.

India and Myanmar share unique, deep rooted civilisational and cultural linkages. The close bilateral relations and longstanding people to people ties have been strengthened by regular exchanges and visits. The Special Course was especially curated to include diverse topics of geopolitical & functional relevance including Diplomacy for development with a focus on 3 Ts- Technology, Tourism, and Trade, India's human-centric approach to Development Partnership, Digital Public Infrastructure, Responsible AI for all, Multilateral Diplomacy, Table-top exercises on Leadership and Negotiations Skills, Pro-planet people initiatives to address climate change challenge. The diplomats were also introduced to Yoga and Ayurveda.

As part of study visits, the diplomats visited Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, National Disaster Management Authority, International Solar Alliance Headquarters, International Buddhist Confederation, and Confederation of Indian Industry in New Delhi.

Buddhism forms a historical connect between India & Myanmar and to explore popular Buddhist heritage pilgrimage places, the diplomats undertook a three-day trip to three cities in Bihar, on which a separate two page article is presented in this newsletter.







## Knowledge Sessions Above Valedictory Session Below





## Diplomats from Myanmar visit the State of Bihar to explore places of Buddhist Pilgrimage

SSIFS organised a three-day visit for the visiting Diplomats from Myanmar to the cities of Patna, Rajgir, and Gaya in the State of Bihar to explore places of Buddhist Pilgrimage as part of their ongoing training program. Buddhism forms a deep rooted cultural & spiritual connect between India and Myanmar which has imparted a distinct characteristic to the enduring friendship between the people of the two countries.

The diplomats visited **ancient Nalanda University ruins, the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara (NNM) & the Xuanzang Memorial** in the Nalanda district. NNM Vice Chancellor, Dr. Siddharth Singh received the delegation. In his Presidential Address, VC underscored the historical importance of Nalanda as an ancient seat of knowledge and its continued legacy through institutions like NNM. A film titled 'Heritage of Nalanda & its Continuity' was also screened. The visit also gave the group an opportunity to interact with the Scholars from Myanmar currently studying at NNM.

In Rajgir city, the diplomats visited two popular Buddhist pilgrimage sites - **Venu Vana**, a bamboo grove Monastery, gifted by King Bimbisara of Magadha to Lord Buddha, and the **Vishwa Shanti Stupa**, a monument dedicated to world peace. While the visit to Venu Vana offered a place to pray, the ride to **Vishwa Shanti Stupa through a ropeway ride over a 15 Km uphill journey to Rajgir Hills** brought excitement and exhilaration among the group, it being the first trip by a ropeway for most of them. They also observed the **Vultures Peak** from Rajgir Hill, which is so named because of its resemblance with a sitting vulture with folded wings. The place is mentioned in Buddhist texts as the place where Lord Buddha often gave sermons. The group also visited **Sone Bhandar Caves**, the two man-made caves from 4th Century carved into the base of Vaibhar Hills, and the **Cyclopean Wall**, a 40 Km wall of stone which encircled the ancient city of Rajgir to protect it from external enemies and invaders.



The diplomats visited the **Mahabodhi Temple Complex**, the most revered Buddhist pilgrimage site in the historical city of Gaya. In a special gesture, Bhikkhu Dr. Manoj extended a warm welcome to the delegates, presented them with a 'Khata', and organised special prayers for them. Mahabodhi Temple Complex houses **the sacred Bodhi Tree** under which Lord Buddha attained enlightenment. Mahabodhi Temple is among the four holy sites related to the life of Lord Buddha. The group also enjoyed their visit to the **Great Buddha Statue**, a 61 feet tall statue of Lord Buddha, and **Sujata Garhi**, a Buddhist stupa located across Phalgu river and dedicated to the Milkmaid Sujata who is said to have fed Gautam Buddha 'Kheer' thereby ending his seven years of fasting and asceticism. They also looked at the **Prag Boddhi Monastery**, situated in Dhugeswara hills, and is among the places where Prince Siddhartha practiced austerities after renouncing the world. A visit to **Myanmar Vihar** in Bodh Gaya and a '**Burmese Lunch**' there brought extreme joy and happiness to the diplomats. Myanmar Vihar, built in the traditional Burmese architecture, is among the most popular monasteries in Bodh Gaya.

The diplomats also visited the **State-of-the-Art Bihar Museum** in Patna and glimpsed through the rich history & culture of Bihar including through audio visual technologies. The Museum displays artefacts from ancient India. One of the most highlighted exhibits is of the **2300 year old Didarganj Yakshi**, one of the finest Indian stone statues, discovered near Patna in 1917. This three day trip also gave the diplomats an opportunity to **taste different variations of Indian cuisine**, as well as **local specials** – 'Khaja' and 'Anaras'. They also enjoyed **purchasing souvenirs, local handicrafts & fabrics**. This visit by the 31 diplomats from Myanmar to historical places of shared cultural heritage in the State of Bihar reaffirmed the deep cultural and historical ties between India and Myanmar.





## Second Special Course for Diplomats from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The 2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was held at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) from 19-28 March 2025. 32 diplomats from DRC participated in the Special Course. Dean (SSIFS), Amb Raj Kumar Srivastava inaugurated the training programme and made a presentation on the 'Guiding Principles of Foreign Policy and outlined the ten priorities of India's vision of Global South and ten guiding principles for India's engagement with Africa.

India and DRC have traditionally enjoyed warm and cordial relations. The Special Course focused on various themes of current regional and global importance such as Global Development Compact for South-South Cooperation, International Law, Multilateral Institutions, Trade & Connectivity, Digital Toolkits, Multimodal Connectivity for Infrastructure Planning, Technology in the Service of Mankind, Digital Public Infrastructure, Responsible AI for All, and AI as a tool to enhance access to healthcare. The diplomats also learned about pro-planet people initiatives through sessions on Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), Climate Resilient Agri-Tech & visit to National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE). The diplomats were introduced to Yoga and Ayurveda and Indian Heritage & Culture through visits to Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, Rashtrapati Bhavan, and a day trip to Taj Mahal, Agra.







## Experiential Learning Above Valedictory Session Below





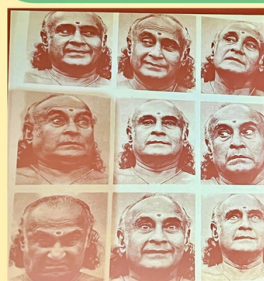
## An Evening of Cultural Diplomacy at SSIFS : Understanding Human Emotions & Building People to People Ties

On 25 March, 2025, the Chanakya Auditorium at Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) hosted a special Cultural Diplomacy session which aimed to connect people. **The session titled "Dance & Music in the Culture of India" was designed as a lecture-cum-demonstration featuring renowned Odissi dancer & Chauu performer, Smt. Shagun Butani and her musical troupe.**

The program began with the traditional lighting of lamp and welcome remarks by Dean (SSIFS) who emphasised the importance of cultural diplomacy in strengthening international relations by building people to people ties and developing cultural sensitivity. His address set the tone for the evening as he highlighted India's diverse cultural heritage and the role of ancient wisdom as contained in **Natya Shastra, a performing arts treatise attributed to sage Bharata written about 2500 years ago. In its 7th chapter of overall 36 chapters, there is a complete description of all 49 possible human emotions that form the basis of a complete stage performance. The Nataraj, Lord Shiva's cosmic dance with its 108 hand gestures has that power to arouse all 49 emotions in an involved and attentive spectator.**

In her Lec-Dem, Smt Shagun Butani stated that the dance and music is deeply rooted and ingrained in the Indian way of life, religious practices and philosophies that address the yearnings and higher aspirations of the human soul. Tracing briefly the origin of formal traditions of dance and music to Natyashastra, she demonstrated before the audience the nine main 'Rasas' or Immersive Sentient states along with 'Hasta Mudras' or hand gestures having spiritual connotation.

Navras - Nine Emotions mentioned in the 7th Chapter of 36 Chapters long with 6000 Poetic Verses, of 2500 years old Natya Shashtra of Bharat Muni, Depicted on Stage by Renowned Classical Dancer Smt. Shagun Bhutani at Chanakya Auditorium in SSIFS on 25/3/25



THE CORE ESSENCE OF NATYASHASTRA  
RASA THEORY  
9 MAIN RASAS OR IMMERSIVE SENTIENT STATES



She highlighted the key tenets of Odissi dance (a classical Indian art form) which has techniques built around the Chowk and Tribhanga postures and use of torso, facial expressions (abhinaya), rhythmic patterns (tala) and body movements to convey emotions and stories. She also mentioned about the folk traditions of India and gave details about the various musical and percussion instruments like drums, reed pipes and single stringed objects that usually accompany folk songs.



She further talked about Nataraja, a depiction of the Hindu god Shiva as the cosmic dancer that embodies the eternal cycle of creation, preservation, and destruction through his dance, known as the Tandava or Ananda Tandava, which is often depicted with symbolic elements like a ring of fire and a drums. Lastly, she also mentioned the fact that the various dance forms in India are preserved in stone and find manifestation across various temples all over India.

**During the course of the lecture, Smt Shagun Butani gave a live demonstration that highlighted expressive narration (use of abhinaya to depict mythological narratives and contemporary themes) and technical mastery by display of rhythmic footwork and graceful movements that exemplify the precision and fluidity of Odissi.** There was also active audience engagement as the performance was interspersed with brief explanations of the significance of various postures and gestures, which allowed the audience to appreciate the depth and nuance of the art form.

**The Lec-Dem was followed by a colourful cultural exchange through performances by three groups of trainee diplomats from Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo & India simultaneously undergoing training at SSIFS in these two weeks.** The trainees from Myanmar performed their traditional Yein or Chorus dance popularly done during one of the most prominent festivals in Myanmar namely Thingyan (The Water festival that marks the beginning of Myanmar New Year). Synchronized brilliantly in their traditional attires [longyi & eingyi], the trainee diplomats performed beautifully with their thanaka applied faces and padauk flowers in their hair. Dawned in their colourful attires in 'Liputa style', the trainee diplomats from Democratic Republic of Congo looked visually pleasing and performed on the African hip-hop music. The officer trainees from India dressed vividly, danced and sang on a medley of renditions from popular Bollywood movies.



**The event was well-received by the diplomats, who appreciated the opportunity to get a firsthand experience of India's cultural heritage. This session deepened their appreciation for India's artistic traditions and its historical continuity.**

## Smart Training for Smarter Diplomats

### By Commodore (Dr) Arun Golaya

Alvin Toffler famously said that, “The illiterate of the future are not those who can't read or write but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn”. Given the fast pace of change - not only of technology - but indeed of the world around us, formal training is much more than just ‘imparting instructions’ in a class room. This certainly poses a problem for educational or professional training institutes which must prepare the trainees for their next task by imparting not just ‘training’ but indeed ‘education’. The terms are interlinked, and yet distinct. **Giving a broad-based exposure, and, encouraging the trainees to experiment and think may be a better approach for enabling them towards a lifelong quest of learning, unlearning and relearning.**

I have recently taken a few lectures at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS). This included classes not only for the Officer Trainees of the Indian Foreign Service but a few classes for diplomats from some friendly foreign countries as well. **Every time I have visited the SSIFS for a lecture, I have come away having learnt a few things myself. I have also been impressed with their training curriculum and methodology in each of these visits.**

**The most prominent differentiating factor which makes a class at SSIFS both interesting and challenging is the diverse range and intake-level of the student officers.** Having taken classes (on diverse subjects) for multiple Armed Forces training establishments, universities and even think-tanks, I find that this ‘range’ is much more varied in civil servants. To take one example, when I was taking a class on smart digital tools, I learnt that a majority of the trainees have a B.Tech Degree – including some in Information Technology from the prestigious IITs. It is not only quite possible but indeed very likely that some of them already knew the subject better than I did! They would certainly be more current. There were also other trainees from a Humanities background who were probably being ‘formally’ introduced to the nuances of Artificial Intelligence for the very first time. **The challenge for the instructor is to peg the interaction at the correct level so that it does not become boring or irrelevant for either of these groups. To maintain interest, examples of how the information can be put to use in their diplomatic careers as well as some interactive interludes are necessary.** Thankfully, I could provide these based on my eight-year long tenure at the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS). Therefore, the practical utility of what was being discussed – rather than a boring theoretical sermon – was the takeaway that I aimed to give. In each of the visits, I also glanced through the training schedule (which was posted on the notice board) and the lectures planned for the day. The sheer range of topics that were being covered were amazing. Believe it or not (I didn't till I double checked), they are formally being taught how to play Bridge! Bridge, of course, is much more than just a game of cards. It is about strategy. It is also about human interactions. Bill gates once quipped that Bridge is one of the last games --



where the computer is not better. There is a reason why this is so. Learning Bridge will undoubtedly provide useful skills relevant to their diplomatic careers. **Bridge (the card game) was once very popular in the Navy. Things have changed. Now - sadly - more time is spent on the 'bridge' of ships than on the table of Bridge.** It is true that the younger generation would rather play games on the computer or explore other means of entertainment than cards, and yet exposure to something like this which can possibly help in their future careers is useful. It also shows attention to detail whilst planning the training schedule.

The next distinguishing feature which set the training at SSIFS apart was this level of attention to detail. I have known the Dean, Ambassador Raj Srivastava since the time we were both posted at NSCS. When I first met him after he had taken over as the Dean and before there was any talk of my being invited for a lecture, I had called on him to catch up on old times. We discussed my foray into defence innovation. He asked a lot of questions and in addition to eliciting my views, gave his views about where he disagreed or had reservations. Our discussions were longer than any of the 'classes' I later took. It is only later that I realised that he was planning my class even as we spoke. On every visit of mine, he has been there either during the lecture (where he often interjected with his views or examples) or even immediately before it. During the brief 'pre-lecture lecture', he asked me what all I planned to cover, briefed me about what some other speakers had already covered and even discussed what was planned in the coming weeks. In one case, he asked me if I would be keen on sitting through a lecture by another speaker on a topic related to mine. Of course, I jumped at the opportunity. This enthusiasm and attention to detail is not limited to the Dean alone but is visibly present in the entire faculty whom I have interacted with. **Enthusiasm is infectious. It also spreads to the trainees. When they see the level of interest being taken in imparting them training, they are equally enthusiastic about embracing it. The lectures were always interactive and enthusiastic.** More importantly, they did not end with the lecture getting over. As I shared my email address and 'Twitter' (now X) handle with the students, I invariably got follow on questions and requests for specific information even days after the lecture.

As stated before, I have - in each of my lectures - not only taught but also learnt. I have covered topics as basic as how to optimise results from Large Language Models such as GPT, how to make Internet searches better and even on how Game Theory can be used to bargain better. These topics can be highly technical. They can also be very interesting. I have used stories, examples, cartoons, demonstrations and even played some interactive 'games' with the students. Most importantly, I have thoroughly enjoyed each interaction. I just hope the 'students' did too. That is what training is all about. That is how it should be. **The trainees at SSIFS are undoubtedly being trained not only on smart digital tools for diplomacy but on how to be smarter diplomats. They are being equipped to learn...unlearn...and relearn.**

## Cybersecurity Capacity Building for Diplomats

In today's interconnected world, the role of diplomats has expanded to include **navigating the complexities of cyberspace**. As key sectors such as commerce, energy, transport, and finance increasingly rely on digital technologies, the risk of cyber threats grows correspondingly. Cybersecurity has thus ascended to the forefront of the global agenda, encompassing not only the safeguarding of data but also the protection of privacy, preservation of intellectual property, and assurance of national security through cyber diplomacy. Given the confidential nature of diplomatic work, it is imperative for diplomats to possess a robust understanding of cybersecurity principles to protect sensitive information and maintain the integrity of international relations.

**Diplomats face significant cybersecurity threats due to the confidential nature of their work and access to sensitive geopolitical information.** They are prime targets for nation-state actors, cybercriminals, and hacktivists aiming to intercept communications, steal data, or manipulate narratives. **Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs) and spywares** like Pegasus or Predator enable remote surveillance, compromising diplomatic communications. **Phishing attacks**, including spear-phishing and whaling, are designed to deceive diplomats into divulging classified information. **Deep-fake technology and disinformation campaigns** create false narratives, disrupt relations, and discredit officials. **Cyber attacks on diplomatic communication infrastructure**, such as intercepting emails, exploiting vulnerable networks, and hacking IoT devices, pose severe risks. Supply chain attacks through third-party vendors further threaten security. **Ransomware** can paralyze diplomatic operations and expose sensitive data, while insider threats increase the risk of internal leaks. **Smart devices, unsecured Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth exploitation expose diplomats to persistent surveillance.** **DDoS attacks** disrupt official communication, and cyber harassment campaigns target diplomats online. **Given these evolving threats, cybersecurity capacity building is essential, including intelligence sharing, incident response training, and stronger security frameworks to safeguard diplomatic missions from emerging cyber risks.**

**A series of cybersecurity awareness sessions were conducted at SSIFS by Major Vineet Kumar, Founder and Global President of CyberPeace, on behalf of USI-CyberPeace Cyber Center of Excellence.**

These sessions, delivered to diplomats from Kuwait, Oman, and Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, and Democratic Republic of Congo, aimed to enhance understanding of cybersecurity challenges and defensive strategies. Each session provided an interactive platform where participants engaged with real-world examples, case studies, and practical demonstrations on cybersecurity threats and best practices.



A comprehensive overview of cybersecurity threats was provided, covering social media use and cyber threats to individuals, families, and society. The risks associated with IoT devices, mobile, and computer-based threats were explored in detail. Additionally, the sessions categorised cyber threats into technology-based and content-based threats. The concept of cybercrime-as-a-service was explained, shedding light on hacking, fraud, malicious codes, and denial-of-service (DoS) attacks. Moreover, national security threats such as sedition, defamation, and the misuse of online forums were also discussed.

The sessions delved into cybersecurity laws, particularly the IT Act, along with discussions regarding usage of Cyber Weapons and their implications. Specific security concerns, such as vulnerabilities in iOS, android devices and hacking methodologies, including the Jamtara scam, were also discussed. Ransomware attacks were explored in-depth, with an emphasis on understanding their workings, consequences, and prevention methods. **Participants witnessed live demonstrations showcasing compromised device vulnerabilities using radio technology and WhatsApp Web hacking through QR code scanning.** The discussions covered new-age cyber risks, with a special emphasis on deep fake technology (audio and video) and AI-generated misinformation. Engaging, interactive, and practical demonstrations showcased how deep fakes can be used for deception, emphasising their growing threat in cybercrime. Social engineering tactics such as spear phishing, as well as the rise of sextortion and the dark web's criminal market, were also explored. Secure digital payments were examined, highlighting methods to spot fake URLs and prevent exploitation of credit and debit cards through Wi-Fi-enabled fraud. Best practices and defensive strategies were emphasized, including enabling Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) on WhatsApp, Gmail, Facebook, and Instagram, updating privacy settings regularly, and conducting security check-ups. **Participants were advised to implement endpoint security for online shopping platforms and to secure Wi-Fi networks by changing default passwords and enabling WPA2/WPA3 encryption. Practicing cyber hygiene, such as avoiding public Wi-Fi for sensitive transactions and enabling login alerts, was strongly recommended.**

Diplomats were advised on developing and practicing an incident response plan, conducting regular cybersecurity drills, leveraging international legislative frameworks for cybersecurity, and strengthening communication channels for proactive monitoring and threat deterrence. **The importance of reporting cyber abuses on social media platforms and the DMCA website was underscored.** The sessions concluded with a review of CyberPeace publications, hackathons, and ongoing initiatives. Participants were encouraged to continue their cybersecurity education and foster a culture of cyber resilience and security awareness within their organisations. The interactive and practical approach ensured diplomats gained valuable insights into securing their digital presence and protecting sensitive data in an increasingly interconnected world.

## 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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