



VIDESH SEWA

SUSHMA SWARAJ INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN SERVICE

**Mid Career Training Program I for 2013-14 Batch of IFS
Officers conducted at SSIFS during 05-23 May 2025**



**72nd Professional Course for 30 Foreign Diplomats was
organised at SSIFS during 19-30 May 2025**



FROM DEAN'S DESK

Dear Readers, Dear Friends,

Month of May 2025 at SSIFS saw 46 Indian mid-career diplomats and 30 foreign diplomats participating in two weeks long specially curated training programs. First was the MCTP I for the IFS Officers of 2013 and 2014 batches during 05-23 May, and the second was the 72nd PCFD for 30 Diplomats from 28 countries during 19-30 May. In both these programs we created opportunities for participants to enjoy a combination of knowledge sessions and experiential learning sessions so that they could update their



domain knowledge as well as sharpen their behavioural and functional skills. The MCTP I was designed to give our decade-long experienced diplomats the opportunity to interact with their seniors, who are in critical policy-making and executing positions in MEA. These sessions enabled them to appreciate the important short-term to medium-term focus areas, both in terms of opportunities as well as challenges. They engaged in three tabletop experiential learning exercises and one panel discussion, and they also had interactions with 12 experts from other areas connected to Diplomacy for Development. All in all, a diverse program, both in content as well as in methodology, in just 9 working days. A week-long attachment with one of the five states (Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh) completed the MCTP I. We at SSIFS enjoyed curating this program. On their part, participants contributed through submitting a case study each from their over-decade-long experience in Diplomatic work, which would become important resource material for training of our younger diplomats in coming weeks and months.

The 72nd PCFD was conducted during 19-30 May in which we had 30 foreign diplomats from 28 countries (14 from Africa, 7 from Europe, 3 each from Asia, South America, and the Caribbean). The program was designed with 24 knowledge sessions in six domains of Diplomacy, six experiential learning sessions, which included two tabletop exercises, two simulations, one panel discussion, and one TV show. A weekend trip to Gujarat in between allowed the participants to appreciate the diversity, scale, momentum, and transformation of India. They visited state-of-the-art Science City Museums in Ahmedabad, GiFT City - where they could see the futuristic urban infrastructure setting global first standards & the International Financial Services Centre, and the 999 years old Modhera Sun Temple. In short in one day they could visit Science City, Smart City, and the ancient Sun City. On Sunday 25th May, they visited Sabarmati Ashram and the riverfront, finishing the trip with "Atithi Devo Bhavah" style hospitality at an authentic Gujarati Cuisine Lunch.

In both these programs we underscored the importance of technology both as a tool for smarter and efficient diplomacy as well as, as a measure of countries' comprehensive national power in emerging and shifting world order. Secondly, we underscored the importance of behavioural skills in this age of AI, where those skills alone will define human value addition and would not be replaceable by AI and emerging technologies.

SSIFS is building new partnerships continuously with reputed institutions for expanding and diversifying our training programs and sharing knowledge and best practices with them, some details of which are included in this newsletter at the end.

With best wishes from SSIFS Family.



Raj Kumar Srivastava]
New Delhi
30 May 2025

Training Program for Foreign Diplomats

First Special Course for Diplomats from Indian Ocean Rim Association Countries (28 April - 3 May 2025)

The First Special Course for 17 Diplomats from 16 IORA Countries began at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service on 28 April 2025, which was designed focusing on six priorities of IORA in the domain of Maritime Economy, Security, Ecology, Academic & S&T Cooperation, Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief. The valedictory session on 3 May included six presentations on six priority areas of IORA by the participants based on the learnings during the course. Dean conferred Valedictory certificates to the diplomats for successfully completing their training at SSIFS. This Special Diplomatic Course by India was an initiative to give an impetus to IORA in the sphere of academic cooperation. Amb Srivastava stated that regular interactions & collaborations with other Member States is essential to achieve our collective desired objectives concerning "Global Commons". He emphasized the fact that 'oceans connect and not separate us'.



Training Program for Foreign Diplomats

72nd Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) (05-23 May 2025)

As a flagship program of the Institute, PCFD (started in 1992) affirms India's commitment to share knowledge & expertise acquired in the field of diplomatic training with friendly countries. In line with this, Dean SSIFS, inaugurated the program & highlighted the "Karmayogi Competency" based Training Model followed at the Institute. The program started with discussions on different theories of International Relations including "Kautilya's Arthashastra" and then moving on to the "Guiding Principles of India's Foreign Policy" & their applicability through our diplomatic initiatives. Some glimpses from inauguration and 24 knowledge sessions are presented below.

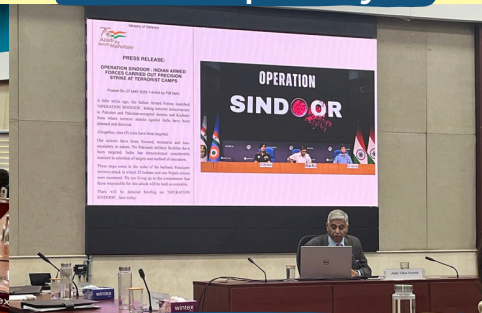


Geopolitics of Emerging Technology

Public Diplomacy



Plurilateral Diplomacy - G20 & BRICS



Eco Diplomacy - Connectivity



Special Opportunity for the 72nd PCFD Participants to feature in a National TV Show on Diplomacy on 24 May 2025

Of the 72nd PCFD participants, 22 diplomats from 20 countries participated in a Group discussion moderated by Dr. Sreeram Chaulia at the National TV “DD INDIA” Show on “Indian Diplomacy”, which was aired on 24th May 2025. Themes covered included the benefits for international diplomats to undergo training programmes in India, the contributions being made by India to build skills and capacities of civil servants from the Global South, the increasing economic, cultural, security and people-to-people cooperation between India and partner nations from different continents, and the values of inclusive society and pluralistic democracy that make India a role model around the world. DD India is India’s 24x7 international news channel from the stable of the country’s Public Service Broadcaster, Prasar Bharati. Launched in 2021, DD India has made a name for itself to deliver balanced, fair and accurate news from India and around the world.



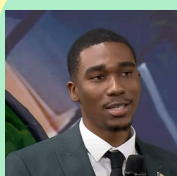
Johanne-Ashlee Moore Jamaica

Visiting abroad for such training programs is different from learning back home, as we get an opportunity to understand new areas of possible cooperation.

In this course we learnt about India’s vision of “One World One Family”, and I can say that by hosting many Indian students in Moldova we are contributing to the same vision.



Iulia Miaun Moldova



Davion Akil Sealy Barbados

Although Barbados and India are geographically distant, they have shared values and we have common responsibility to work together.

We learnt from our visit to the Prime Ministers’ Museum how this large democracy works and there is a lot that we can learn from India in that context.



Dharma Wara Mier Lizarazu Bolivia



Akwi Gertrude Esamij Uganda

Many Indians have invested in Uganda since our independence because of friendly nature of Ugandan people. Your PM during his address to Ugandan Parliament in 2018 had laid down 10 principles of India’s engagement with Africa. India helped Uganda multilaterally during its G20 presidency by including African Union into G20. I am sure our cooperation would go from strength to strength.



Some Glimpses from the 72nd PCFD Welcome Dinner and Visit to Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya



Some Glimpses from the 72nd PCFD Participants' weekend visit to Gujarat - Science City Museums in Ahmedabad & GiFT City

Diplomats from 28 countries visited state-of-the-art “Science City Museums” in Ahmedabad and enjoyed the professionally curated Aquatic & Astronomical spaces in the Museums.



The delegates also visited India's first occupational greenfield 'Smart City' at the Gujarat Infrastructure Finance Tec-City (GiFT) to learn about International Financial Service Centre (IFSC), Central Business District (CBD), SEZ etc. and special features of a smart city - automated waste collection system and utility tunnel.



Some Glimpses from the 72nd PCFD Participants' weekend visit to Gujarat - Modhera Sun Temple & Sabarmati Ashram

A memorable visit to the 999 years old Modhera Sun Temple in District Mehsana was hugely enjoyed by the delegates. Modhera two years ago became the first fully solar empowered village in India. Quite a coincidence!

365 elephants around temple representing days, 52 pillars inside Sabha-mandapam representing weeks, 24 pillars inside Gudha-mandapam representing hours, 12 Sun sculptures representing months and seven horses of Sun representing seven days in a week. A true Kala Mandir devoted to Lord Sun! Modhera Sun Temple could also be called Temple of Time, or Kalpa Devalaya. Many metaphors of time in numbers are hidden inside this 1000 years old masterpiece!



The delegates visited two unique places in Ahmedabad, the historic Sabarmati Gandhi Ashram and the innovative and eco conservation urban development project, Sabarmati Riverfront. Authentic Gujarati Cuisine with “Atithi Devo Bhavah” inspired Hospitality completed the two days immersion learning visit to Gujarat.



Some Glimpses from the 72nd PCFD Cultural & Public Diplomacy Day - 29 May 2025



DG (ICCR), Amb Nandini Singla



Kathak Lecture Demonstration



A Special Panel Discussion on Diplomacy in New Age with four Ambassadors (Spain, Chile, Moldova, & Ireland) posted in New Delhi



H E Juan Antonio Pujol

H E Juan Angulo

H E Ana Taban

H E Kevin Kelly



Final Day of the 72nd PCFD - Reflections through Presentations & Valedictory

At the last day of the 72nd PCFD, the participants made enriching presentations on five thematic topics namely - New Technologies, Climate Change & Renewable Energy, Disaster Risk Reduction & Resilience Efforts, Cultural Diplomacy & Connectivity. In each of these presentations, they brought out peculiarities of the region and country they come from, and scope for strengthening tangible cooperation with India. Dean commented that their presentations justified the design of program that was explained to them at the beginning on 19 May, that it aimed to strengthen behavioural competencies of the participants in 5 Cs of Confidence, Commitment, Compassion, Communication, and Collaboration. Their five presentations matched one C for another C - Cyber (Confidence), Climate Change (Commitment), Calamity (Compassion), Cultural Diplomacy (Communication), and Connectivity (Collaboration). One can say a mission accomplished in 12 days.

Dean (SSIFS) shared a snapshot of the Institute's upcoming digital newsletter 'Videsh Sewa'. He commended the participation of diplomats in the program & wished them well for their future endeavours. Finally, Dean (SSIFS) conferred the Valedictory certificates to the diplomats at the close of the 72nd PCFD program at SSIFS on 30 May 2025. A twelve-days immersive experiential learning program came to an end, but a new beginning was made with network of global diplomats who committed to work together for the global good and remain in touch. They also expressed their deep desire to return to India on a diplomatic assignment but before that they would continue to work with innovative ideas to strengthen their country's bilateral partnership with India.



Mid Career Training Program I for 2013 & 2014 Batches of IFS Officers conducted at SSIFS during 05-23 May 2025

Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service conducts every year a Mid Career Training Program I (MCTP I) for IFS officers with 10-11 years of experience, who are due for promotion to the level of Director. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar discussed the contemporary global landscape, as well as opportunities and challenges with the IFS Officers of 2013 & 2014 Batches, when they called on him on 14th May 2025, during their three weeks long MCTP I. Same day Foreign Secretary highlighted to them, the importance of meticulous preparation and not leaving anything to chance and luck, as the mantra, for successful outcomes.

MCTP I consisted of 9 days of training at SSIFS, which included 24 sessions on Diplomatic Domain competencies, and 6 sessions each on Functional and Behavioural competencies. The Officers could interact with 15 Seniors in the Ministry through these sessions; they engaged in three tabletop experiential learning exercises and one panel discussion, and they also had interactions with 12 experts from other areas connected to Diplomacy for Development. All in all a diverse program, both in content as well as in methodology, in just 9 working days. A week-long attachment with one of the five states (Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh) completed the MCTP I, developing the important interface with States where the real action of Diplomacy for Development becomes visible, especially in the areas of three Ts of Technology, Trade, and Tourism. Tradition (culture) and Talent (skill development and demography) were also the focus areas in the interactions and visits organised during the States' Attachment.

We at SSIFS enjoyed curating this program, which had elements of knowledge and experience sharing, teamwork and participatory learning, and critical thinking & brainstorming on opportunities and challenges ahead in our journey towards Viksit Bharat. On their part, participants contributed through submitting a case study each from their over decade-long experience in Diplomatic work. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that nearly 500 years of diplomatic work experience is showcased in 64 pages of the publication "Diplomatic Case Studies for Viksit Bharat". The 46 Case Studies presented in this publication, would serve as models for replicating elsewhere, as we continue on our path of growth and transformation as a nation.



Mid Career Training Programme I (5-23 May 2025) DIPLOMACY FOR VIKSIT BHARAT



Glimpses from the States Attachment of the MCTP I Participants Focus on Tradition (Culture), Technology, Trade, Tourism, & Talent (Skill Development & Mobility)

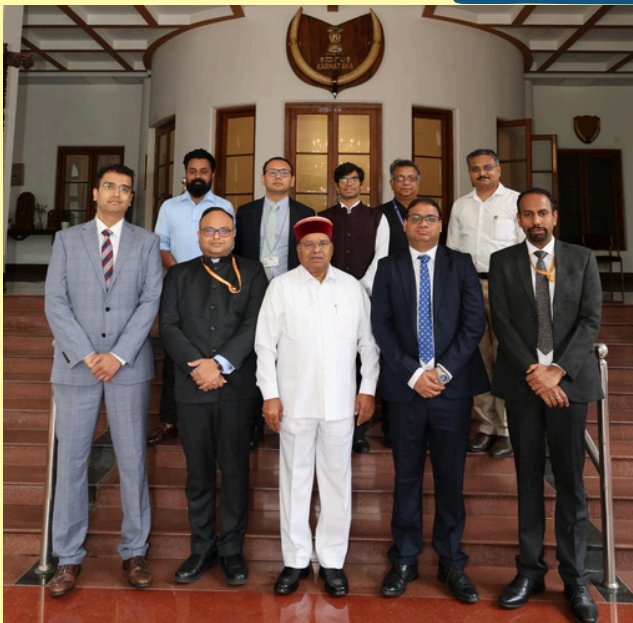
Tamil Nadu



Maharashtra



Karnataka



Uttar Pradesh



Haryana



Selected Quotes by MCTP I Participants from the Publication “Diplomatic Case Studies for Viksit Bharat”

Operation Raahat evacuated 5,600 individuals, with only one reported Indian casualty. Negotiations with Houthi authorities secured critical access to evacuation points, contributing to the operation's success. India's evacuation of 960 foreign nationals earned global praise, with countries like the US directing citizens to board Indian ships. Operation Raahat set a precedent for India's crisis response, influencing subsequent missions like Operation Kaveri (Sudan, 2023) and Operation Ganga (Ukraine, 2022). Operation Raahat's experience underscored the importance of local networks and diplomatic negotiations in complex evacuations. Operation Raahat was a defining moment in India's humanitarian and diplomatic history, showcasing its ability to execute a complex evacuation under extreme conditions.



**Abhishek
Sharma**

Suggested Modules for training at SSIFS:

- Crowd management module - It would be good to have a crowd management module on how to respond to a gathered crowd in a crisis situations.
- Communication during crisis - Communication from Ministry/ Missions to people through advisories. Communication from those handling helpline numbers. Communication on ground.
- Evacuation Simulation exercise - Based on a hypothetical scenario, a simulation exercise could be done by forming different teams, team working in Missions, in the Ministry, team working at borders, teams working on transportation and communication etc.

In conclusion, it may be noted that Operation Ganga saw regular supervision and intervention by the leadership, seamless coordination between different Ministries, dedicated MEA teams on the ground. Besides, strong-willed Indian students who were kept motivated, assured by the government, and committed and responsible Indian community proved to be crucial for the success. Overall, Operation Ganga was one of the largest, complex and successful evacuation operations carried out by the Indian government. It is a model not only in terms of showcasing the Government of India's whole of Government Approach (WGA) but also for showcasing a Whole of Society Approach (WSA) while dealing with an external crisis.



**Madhav
Sulphule**

Leading airport operations during Operation Ganga was a career-defining moment, testing my leadership and crisis management skills. Managing thousands of evacuees under resource constraints, harsh weather, and logistical chaos required resilience, innovation, and community collaboration. The operation's success in Budapest—repatriating over 6,000 individuals—underscored India's diplomatic prowess and commitment to its citizens. By sharing this case study, I aim to contribute to the MEA's knowledge base, ensuring future operations benefit from these hard-earned lessons. Operation Ganga stands as a testament to the power of collective effort, reinforcing India's reputation as a nation that leaves no citizen behind.



**Shitanshu
Chaurasia**

The Embassy of India in Kuwait's role during India's COVID-19 oxygen crisis exemplifies the power of agile diplomacy, rapid logistics, and community engagement. The establishment of an air bridge, naval coordination, and high-level diplomatic outreach—including the Prime Minister's personal appreciation of Kuwait, demonstrated how embassies can bridge foreign goodwill with domestic emergency response. This personally gave me satisfaction in my world as it helped to save thousands of lives in India through timely supply of Liquid oxygen in India when it was needed the most. This successful case is not only a testament to the spirit of international cooperation but also offers a replicable model for future diplomatic interventions in times of crisis.



**Vinodkumar
Gaikwad**

The state specific and sector specific targeted initiatives of Indian Embassy in Dublin, underscores the transformative role being played by the Indian diaspora in the economic diplomacy. By aligning diaspora strengths with India's commercial priorities, the initiatives have significantly contributed in boosting the bilateral trade and investment opportunities between India and Ireland. The success highlighted the importance of structured, targeted and localized engagement in unlocking the potential of Indian diaspora, offering a replicable model for other Indian Missions seeking to strengthen bilateral partnerships through the Indian diaspora in the respective countries.



**Murugaraj
Dhamodaran**

SSIFS is Building Partnerships with Other Capacity Building Institutions for developing Mutually Beneficial Cooperation

Dean (SSIFS) visited the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) in Lavad, Gandhinagar, Gujarat to explore possibilities of mutually beneficial cooperation in the area of defence and security related training modules for different programs conducted at SSIFS and assist RRU in developing programs on strategic thinking and international relations.

The RRU is destined to grow as a model security educational University of India. It aims at providing security and strategic education in the contemporary and futuristic security strategic and police studies and interdisciplinary areas.

Out of 13 thematic Schools at RRU following three have natural synergy with SSIFS in the area of capacity building, exchange of best practices and developing specific modules for training programs at both institutions:

1. School of Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security (SITAICS)
2. School of Integrated Coastal and Maritime Security Studies (SICMSS)
3. School of Internal Security, Defence and Strategic Studies (SISDSS)





One Day Attachment at SSIFS

For IDAS OFFICERS

from
Arun Jaitley National Institute of
Financial Management
(AJNIFM)



Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) is collaborating with Sushma Swaraj Institute for Foreign Services (SSIFS) for a one day attachment during the upcoming Mid Career Training Program (MCTP), Phase-IV for 20 officers of the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS) with 14-18 years of experience.



Programme Schedule - 11 June 2025



Shri Raj Srivastava
Dean SSIFS

Guiding Principles of
Indian Foreign Policy

0930 to 1100 hrs



Shri Bipin Menon
Development
Commissioner SEZ

Trade Negotiations

1115 to 1245 hrs



**Major General Rajendra
Singh Yadav, VSM (Retd)**
United Service Institution
of India (USI)

Defence Diplomacy

1400 to 1530 hrs



**Col (Dr) Rajneesh
Singh (Retd)**
MP-IDSA

Indigenization of Defense
Industry Vs Need for
External Procurement

1545 to 1715 hrs

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 six 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 include three annual flagship programs in the form of - Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Training program for three weeks in January, Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) for two weeks in May, and Global South Young Diplomats Forum (GSYDF) Training Program for two weeks in September. Other months, SSIFS organises country, region, grouping or themes specific training programs of maximum two weeks, emanating from 105 MoUs that SSIFS has signed in 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 Shri Raj Kumar Srivastava, IFS officer of 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