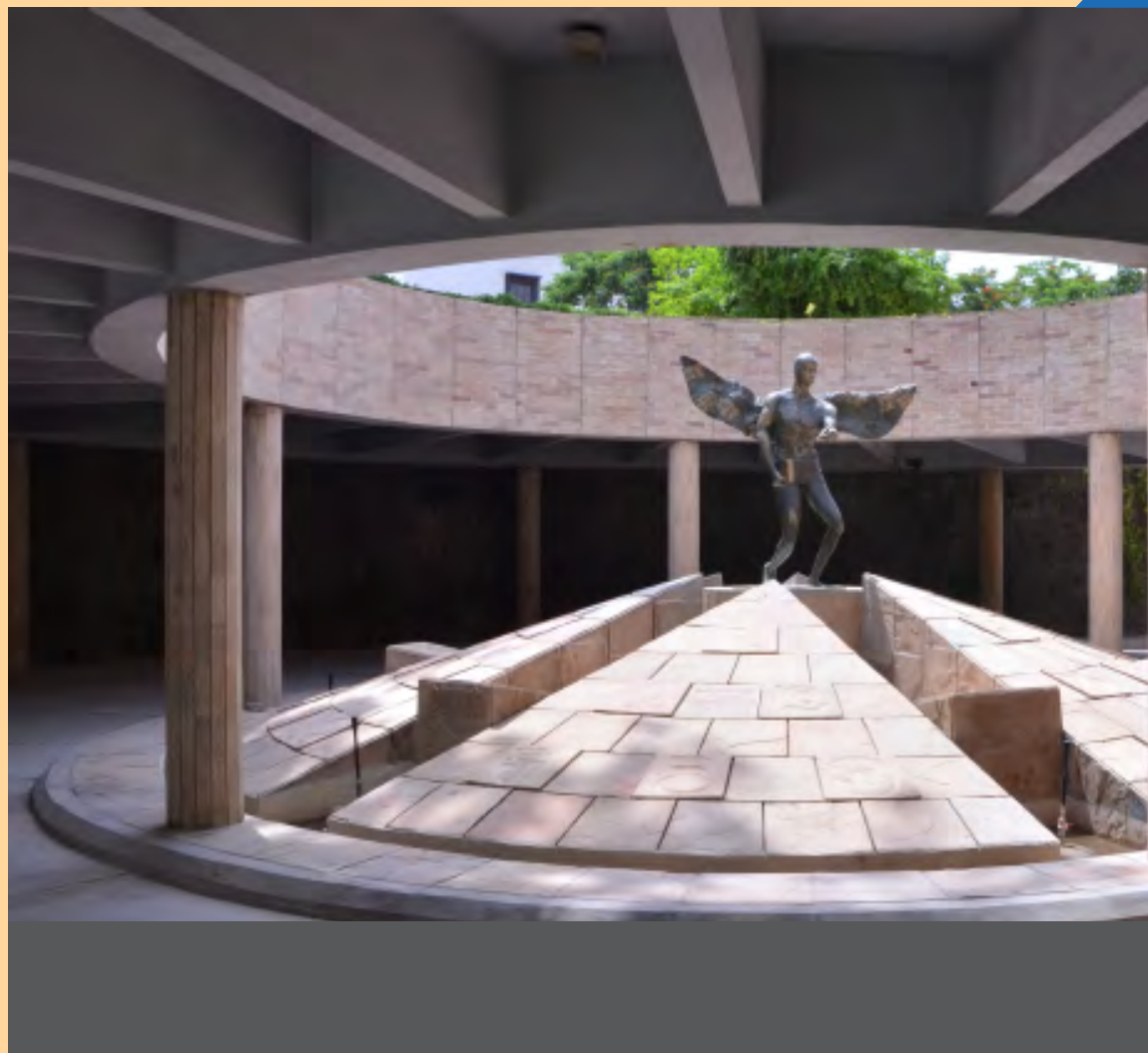




**INDIAN
INSTITUTE OF
FOREIGN
TRADE**

IIFT NEWSLETTER

JULY-DECEMBER 2025

From the Vice Chancellor's Desk



It gives me immense pleasure to present the IIFT Newsletter for the period July to December 2025. This issue captures the key milestones, academic initiatives, and global engagements that reflect IIFT's continued commitment to excellence in education, research, and policy support.

During this period, global trade witnessed significant shifts. Indian exports demonstrated notable resilience and diversification despite rising tariff pressures, particularly from the United States. At the same time, new and expanded free trade agreements with partners such as the UK, Oman and New Zealand, along with strong performance in electronics and services, helped narrow trade deficits and further strengthen India's integration with global markets.

Throughout the July–December 2025 period, IIFT organized a series of seminars, research talks, and conclaves that addressed emerging global trade dynamics. Alongside these academic engagements, the Institute delivered capacity-building and training programmes for policymakers and government officials, reinforcing its role as a knowledge partner in trade and economic policy.

Our vibrant academic community remains dedicated to creating meaningful impact through education, research, and societal engagement. Let us move forward together, guided by the enduring power of knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Joshi', with a horizontal line underneath.

Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi

Vice Chancellor
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

From the Editor's Desk



I am pleased to share this issue of the IIFT Newsletter, which brings together important academic, research, and institutional developments from across the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. The newsletter is intended to serve as a simple yet meaningful window into the work being done by our faculty, students, and staff, and the collective progress of the Institute.

IIFT continues to engage actively with issues of global trade, economic policy, and management education through research, teaching, policy discussions, and academic collaborations. The initiatives and achievements highlighted in this issue reflect the consistent efforts of our academic community to contribute thoughtfully to national and international conversations, while maintaining strong academic rigour.

This edition captures key academic activities, research contributions, student accomplishments, institutional milestones, and outreach initiatives undertaken during the period. Together, these reflect the depth and diversity of work at IIFT and the collaborative spirit that drives the Institute forward.

The IIFT Newsletter seeks to strengthen communication within the Institute and with our wider stakeholder community by sharing credible, relevant, and timely updates. I hope readers find this issue informative and engaging, and that it encourages continued interaction and exchange of ideas.

I would like to sincerely thank all faculty members, students, and staff who have contributed to this issue, and the Publication Division for coordinating and bringing this newsletter together.

I look forward to your continued support as we work collectively towards further strengthening IIFT's academic excellence and institutional standing.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheeba Kapil".

Dr. Sheeba Kapil
Head (Publications)

Division of Alumni Affairs

Hyderabad Chapter Meet – 12 July 2025

The Hyderabad Chapter Meet held on 12 July 2025 was a lively and engaging gathering attended by over 60 alumni from diverse industries. The event facilitated meaningful interactions, with alumni exchanging insights on emerging business trends and professional opportunities. The session also featured an informal networking segment that strengthened bonds within the Hyderabad alumni community and inspired plans for collaborative initiatives.



Delhi Chapter Meet – 19 July 2025

The Delhi Chapter Meet, organized on 19 July 2025, witnessed an enthusiastic participation of around 100 alumni. The evening included discussions on industry innovations, leadership journeys, and future alumni engagement

strategies. The event created a vibrant atmosphere for reconnecting and exploring opportunities to contribute to institute-led initiatives. Attendees appreciated the warm camaraderie and the platform to network with peers across sectors.



Guest Lecture (Envision Series) by Pratik Dokania in Kolkata – 19 July 2025

As part of the Envision Series, the Alumni Relations Committee organized an insightful guest lecture by Mr. Pratik Dokania on 19 July at the Kolkata Campus. Drawing from his professional journey, Mr. Dokania shared key lessons on navigating evolving business landscapes and making impactful career decisions. His practical insights resonated with students, encouraging them to think critically and strategically about their own paths. The session saw active participation, with students engaging in meaningful discussions and Q&A. It highlighted the value of alumni-led learning, blending real-world experience with classroom understanding.

valuable insights on the fundamentals of international trade, the practical challenges of setting up an export-import venture, and the mindset needed to succeed in the field. His session gave students a clear roadmap to approach global business opportunities with confidence. The interaction was lively, with students asking thoughtful questions and gaining actionable takeaways, making the session both educational and inspiring.



Guest Lecture by Ashish Jain on the topic “Import Export Business: Where to Start” in Kolkata – 2 August 2025

On 2 August 2025, the Alumni Relations Committee hosted an engaging guest lecture by Mr. Ashish Jain at the Kolkata Campus on “Import Export Business: Where to Start.” Mr. Jain shared

Kolkata & Executive Committee Meet – 2 August 2025

The Kolkata and Executive Committee Meet, held on 2 August 2025, brought together senior alumni, chapter representatives, and members of



the Division of Alumni Affairs. The discussions focused on strengthening inter-chapter coordination and planning upcoming alumni initiatives. The meet also served as a platform to review recent chapter activities and deliberate on new strategies to enhance alumni engagement and outreach in the eastern region.

Guest Lecture by Partha Pratim Samaddar on the topic “Basics of Project Finance” in Kolkata – 18 August 2025

On 18 August 2025, the Alumni Relations Committee organized a guest lecture by Mr. Partha Pratim Samaddar on “Basics of Project Finance.” The session offered students a practical understanding of key financial concepts and how they apply to real-world business projects. Mr. Samaddar simplified complex financial mechanisms, making the topic approachable and relevant for future managers. His insights into structuring and evaluating projects were particularly valuable for students exploring finance as a career path. The interactive discussion helped participants build conceptual clarity and encouraged them to approach project finance with confidence.



Guest Lecture by Subhajit Ghosh in Kolkata – 24 August 2025

The Alumni Relations Committee hosted an impactful guest lecture by Mr. Subhajit Ghosh on 24 August 2025 at the Kolkata Campus. Mr.

Ghosh shared his professional journey, offering deep insights into the evolving business environment and the skills required to thrive in it. He emphasized the importance of adaptability, problem-solving, and continuous learning in shaping successful careers. The session struck a strong chord with students, who engaged actively through discussions and Q&A. This interaction not only provided practical perspectives but also strengthened the bond between alumni and students, fostering a culture of mentorship and growth.



Singapore Chapter Meet – 13 September 2025

The Singapore Chapter Meet, conducted on 13 September 2025, marked a successful international gathering with active participation from alumni across Southeast Asia. The event emphasized global networking, cross-border career opportunities, and the institute’s growing global footprint. Alumni shared experiences from diverse professional journeys, reinforcing the chapter’s commitment to fostering international collaboration and maintaining strong ties with the alma mater.

Executive Council Meet and Annual General Body Meeting – 15 November 2025

The Executive Council Meet and the Annual General Body Meeting were held on 15 November 2025 at the IIFT Delhi Campus. The meeting was chaired by the Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Prof.

Rakesh Mohan Joshi, President of the Alumni Society, and convened by Prof. Sanjay Rastogi, Head of the Division of Alumni Affairs.

The session brought together Executive Council members, chapter representatives, and senior alumni to review the activities and developments undertaken over the past year. Key discussions focused on strengthening alumni engagement strategies, enhancing coordination among domestic and international chapters, and expanding collaborative initiatives to support students and the broader alumni community.

Members shared constructive insights on strengthening alumni engagement and enhancing the effectiveness of ongoing initiatives. Suggestions included developing more coordinated outreach activities, deepening collaboration between chapters, and expanding opportunities for alumni to contribute to institutional growth. The meeting reflected a unified commitment to enriching the alumni network and supporting the institute's long-term objectives.

Following the meeting, several distinguished alumni were honoured with prestigious awards in recognition of their exceptional achievements. The award categories and their respective awardees are as follows:

- Young Achievers' Award – Corporate Category:
Mr. Mohammad Farhan
- Young Achievers' Award – Entrepreneurial Category:
Mr. Aditya Goel
- Alumnus of the Year Award – Entrepreneurship Category:
 - i. Ms. Hema Gandhi
 - ii. Mr. Vishal Kapoor
- Alumnus of the Year Award – Corporate Category:
 - i. Shri Shashi Prakash Goyal

ii. Dr. Ranjit Rath

iii. Shri Rajarshi Gupta

iv. Shri Rajesh Agrawal

- Distinguished Lifetime Leadership Award – Entrepreneurship Category:

Shri N. Ramachandran

The Grand Alumni Reunion – 15 November 2025

The IIFT Delhi Campus hosted the Grand Alumni Reunion on 15 November 2025, continuing the institute's proud tradition of celebrating its growing and diverse alumni community. The event was chaired by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi, President of the Alumni Society, and convened by Prof. Sanjay Rastogi, Head of the Division of Alumni Affairs.



The reunion witnessed enthusiastic participation from alumni across batches, reflecting the strong bond they continue to share with the institute. The evening served as a vibrant platform for reconnecting with peers, reliving cherished memories, and engaging in meaningful conversations about the institute's progress and future initiatives.

Alumni shared their professional experiences, exchanged ideas, and expressed keen interest in supporting upcoming programmes of the

institute. The warm and interactive atmosphere made the reunion a memorable occasion, further strengthening the spirit of camaraderie within the IIFT alumni community.

VIVAAN – 25-26 October 2025

Alums attended:

1. Sanjay Chowdhary (Berger Paints) (2010-12)
2. Deepika Rastogi (Reckitt) (2014-16)
3. Arul VelArasan C. (ANSR Consulting) (2010-12)
4. Gaurav Poplee (Adobe)

VIVAAN, the annual management conclave of IIFT, was held on 25-26 October 2025 and brought together industry leaders, alumni, and students for two days of enriching discussions and engagements.

The event featured keynote sessions, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues centred on emerging trends in global trade, marketing innovations, supply chain transformations, and leadership in the digital era.

Alumni shared valuable insights from their professional journeys, highlighting the evolving industry landscape and offering guidance to students aspiring to build impactful careers.

Dubai Chapter Meet – 4 October 2025

The Dubai Chapter Meet was held on 4 October 2025, bringing together alumni from across the region for an engaging and collaborative gathering. The meet provided a valuable platform for networking, sharing professional experiences, and strengthening connections within the global IIFT alumni community. Alumni discussed opportunities for future initiatives, local chapter engagement, and ways to support institute-driven programmes.

The meet concluded on a positive note, reinforcing the chapter's commitment to fostering a strong and active alumni network in the Middle East.

Toronto, Canada Chapter Meet – 29 November 2025

The Toronto Chapter Meet took place on 29 November 2025 and saw enthusiastic participation from alumni residing across Canada. The event facilitated meaningful conversations on career growth, industry trends, and collaborative opportunities within the alumni community. Participants also explored ideas for expanding chapter activities, enhancing outreach, and supporting upcoming institutional initiatives. The meet successfully strengthened connections among Canada-based alumni and set the direction for more frequent and structured engagements in the future.

Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE)

The following Programmes/Webinars were conducted:

Programmes

1. MOOC Programme on Basics of Export-Import Management (July-September 2025) with 41 participants.
2. 4-Month Online Certificate Programme on Export-Import Management, Batch -02 with 27 participants.
3. 4-Month Online Certificate Programme on Export-Import Management, Batch -03 with 23 participants.
4. 4-Month Online Certificate Programme on Export-Import Management, Batch -04 with 48 participants.

Webinars

1. Rethinking India's External Balances: Perception vs Reality by Mr. Dhananjay Sinha on 19 July 2025.
2. The high price of land in India: The problem and the solution by Mr. Gurbachan Singh on 23 August 2025.
3. India's Role in the Evolving World Order by Mr. Ashok Sajjanhar on 29 September 2025. ●

Participation by IIFT Faculty

Dr. Sheeba Kapil, Professor

- Invited as Key Note speaker at Hanoi International Conference on Mobilizing Gold Resources from the Populace to Facilitate Socio-Economic Development on 19-21 December 2025, Hanoi Financial and Banking University, Vietnam.

Dr. Debashis Chakraborty, Professor

- ‘Exports in a Tumultuous Time: Options for India’ at the Panel Discussion on ‘Pioneering the Future – Manoeuvring Trade and Tariffs; Advancing Innovation and Sustainability in the Indo-Pacific Ecosystem’, during 3rd Edition of BCC&I’s Indo-Pacific Economic Conclave, Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industries in association with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Kolkata, 18-19 September 2025.
- ‘India’s FTAs in the Midst of Global Tariff Wars: Opportunities and Concerns’, at the BCC&I’s Managing Committee Meeting, Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Kolkata, 30 August 2025.
- ‘India’s Participation at the QUAD Forum: Opportunities and Challenges’, at the Panel Discussion on ‘QUAD as an Engine for Growth and Sustainability in the Indo-Pacific’, Observer Research Foundation, Kolkata, 13 August 2025.
- ‘GVCs and Embedded Carbon Emission Dynamics: Implications of CBAM for EU Downstream Sectors’ (Co-authors: S. Goyal and A.A. Siddiqui), 31st International Input-Output Association (IIOA) Conference in Malé, Maldives, 6-11 July 2025.

Dr. Anchal Arora, Assistant Professor

- Presented a paper on “Assessing the Impact of Potential Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism Cost on Firm Profitability: Evidence from Indian Energy Intensive Sectors” at the 12th International Conference on Sustainability (SUSCON XII), organized by IIM Shillong, 20-22 November, Shillong, Meghalaya.

- Chaired a session on “Green Industry, Infrastructure and Mobility” at SUSCON XII, organized by IIM Shillong on 20 November 2025.

Dr. Miklesh Prasad Yadav, Assistant Professor

- Deliver a guest session on Unravelling Unbiasedness on Futures Markets in Global Forex Markets on 4 October 2025 at Spark Research Seminar, Bennett University, Greater Noida.
- Deliver a guest session on Impact of Exchange Rate Volatility on Business Strategy on 6 October 2025 at NDIM Delhi.
- Deliver a guest session (online) in FDP on Advanced Panel Data Analysis using GRETL Software on 17-20 September 2025 at Service Setu Academics.

Publications by IIFT Faculty

Dr. Sheeba Kapil, Professor

Papers

- Kapil, S., and Kaur, J. (2025), “Women in Boardrooms and Firm Performance: A Review of the Recent Trends, Global Scenario, and Way Forward”, *Journal of Commerce and Accounting Research*, Vol. 14, Issue 1.
- Kapil, S., and Kaur, J., (2024), “Mapping the Scholarly Landscape of Firm Ownership and Performance: A Bibliometric Exploration”, *Orissa Journal of Commerce*, Vol. 45, Issue 3, ISSN: 0974-8482.
- Kumar, S., and Kapil, S. (2024), “Does Female on Board Affect M&A Participating Firms’ Performance? Empirical Evidence from India Using Dynamic Panel Data Analysis”, *The Indian Economic Journal*, Vol. 72, Issue 4.

Book

- Kapil, S., Kapil, K.N., and Kapil, H.S. (2024), “Mergers and Acquisitions: Strategy, Valuation, Leveraged Buyouts, and Financing” (3rd ed.), Wiley India Pvt. Ltd. ISBN-10 9370607897, 13 978-9370607897

Dr. Niti Nandini Chatnani, Professor

- Asthana, R. and Chatnani, N.N. (2025), Examining the Interconnectedness of Cryptocurrency with the Indian Stock Market, *Global Business Review*, July.
- Asthana, R. and Chatnani, N.N. (2025), Time-based Connectedness between Cryptocurrencies and ASEAN Fiat Currencies: A TVP-VAR Approach, *Vision: The Journal of Business Perspective*, August.

Dr. Debashis Chakraborty, Professor

- Aggarwal, S. and Bhattacharyya, R. (2025), “Determinants of Domestic Value Added in Exports: Empirical Evidence from India’s Manufacturing Sectors”, *Global Business Review*, 26(4), pp. 1082-1102.

Dr. Charu Grover Sharma, Assistant Professor

- Sharma, Grover, C., Bansal, S. and Martinez-Cruz, A.L. (2025), “Preferences for Energy Efficient Cars in New Delhi: A Discrete Choice Experiment Exploring Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Interventions”, *Transportation*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11116-025-10581-1>
- Sharma, Grover, C. (2025), “Consumer Preferences for Alternative Fuel Vehicles: A Discrete Choice Experiment from New Delhi”, India, *Indian Growth and Development Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IGDR-01-2025-0011>

Dr. Divya Tuteja, Assistant Professor

- Dua, P. and Tuteja, D. (2025), “Impact of Conventional and Unconventional Monetary Policy on Correlations Across Financial Markets: Evidence from an Emerging Economy”, *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade*, 61(8), pp. 2280-2301.

Dr. Ondrila Dey, Assistant Professor

- Chatterjee, S. and Dey, O. (2025), “Conditionality Matters: A Samaritan’s Dilemma with In-Kind Transfers Targeting Educational Attainment”, *IIMB Management Review* (Elsevier). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iimb.2025.100592>.

Dr. Miklesh Prasad Yadav, Assistant Professor

- Gupta, H. and Vadlamudy, R.S. (2025), “From Policy to Practice: What Drives Climate Orientation in Development Finance Flows”, *Journal of Policy Modelling*, 47(6), pp. 1344-1371. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpolmod.2025.09.008>
- Yadav, M.P., Kushwah, S.V., Sehgal, V., Vadlamudy, R.S., Shore, A.P. (2025), “Is Quantile Connectedness Flexible or Uniform under Catastrophic Tenure? Insight into ESG Investing and Financial Markets in the Quad Nations”, *Global Journal of Flexible Systems Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40171-025-00470-y>.

KAKINADA CAMPUS

The Induction Programme of the IPM 2025 – 30 Batch (22-26 September 2025)

The Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) for the 4th batch of students at Kakinada commenced with an induction programme during 22-26 September 2025. This five-day programme is thoughtfully curated to provide students with a foundational understanding of universal human values, managing personal and professional life and many other concepts of business and management. More than 40 students attended the inaugural session. The event was graced by Mr. Khalid Khan, Vice President and Head - Procurement and Supply Chain and Member of Agri Business Management Committee, ITC Limited; Dr. V. Raveendra Saradhi, Head, Kakinada Campus; Dr. Saikat Banerjee, Head CRCA Division; and Dr. Saurav Dash, Programme Director.



Management Development Programmes

This report provides a consolidated overview of our training activities for the second half of 2025. Across 11 distinct programmes, we have successfully

empowered 287 participants with specialized expertise in international trade, finance, and strategic management.

24-Week Course in 'International Business Management' for the Officers of DGR Batch 18 (10 February to 25 July 2025)

This comprehensive 24-week sponsored programme was designed specifically for the Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) to empower 54 transitioning officers with global market expertise. The curriculum emphasized the complexities of International Business Management, equipping participants with a deep understanding of global trade dynamics, cross-border logistics, and international marketing strategies.

As a cornerstone of our resettlement training initiatives, this course served as a critical bridge for



senior officers moving from military command to global corporate roles. The programme concluded on 25 July 2025, successfully meeting its objective of transforming veteran leadership into high-impact global business management.

24-Week Course in 'Business Management HR & Finance' for the Officers of DGR Batch 19 (5 May to 17 October 2025)

This specialized 24-week sponsored certificate programme was curated for the officers of the Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) to facilitate a smooth transition into corporate leadership. The curriculum focused on the dual pillars of Human Resources and Financial Management provides participants with the strategic tools required to navigate complex organizational structures. The programme successfully catered to 38 DGR



officers and concluded on 17 October 2025. While the final results are currently awaited, the programme has effectively bridged the gap between military leadership and corporate excellence through rigorous academic and practical training.

Training on ‘Globe X: International Trade and Negotiations’ for Bharat Electronics Limited (10 November to 14 November 2025) at Bengaluru

This intensive five-day sponsored training programme was specifically designed for the professionals of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to enhance their strategic capabilities in the global marketplace. The curriculum, titled “Globe X,” focused on the intricacies of international trade operations and the art of complex trade negotiations. By blending theoretical frameworks with simulation-based learning, the programme equipped participants with the skills to navigate global procurement, trade compliance, and cross-border agreements. The workshop successfully catered to 28 BEL officials. It was conducted by the CIN division from 10-14 November 2025, fostering a deeper understanding of how to manage and negotiate high-stakes international contracts effectively.



International Trade Negotiations (DoC) (29 September – 3 October)

The 4 Day Training Programme on International Trade Negotiations for the Senior Officials of the Department of Commerce (DoC) commenced with its Inaugural Ceremony on 29 September 2025 and concluded on 3 October 2025 at IIFT, New Delhi.

The programme focused on enhancing participants' understanding of global trade frameworks,

negotiation strategies, and India's role in International trade discussions. Expert-led sessions and interactive case studies enriched the learning experience.



Export Promotion & Trade Negotiations (15 October 2025)

IIFT New Delhi conducted a one-day Training Programme on Export Promotion and Trade Negotiations for Senior Officers of the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS) on 15 October 2025.

The programme aimed to strengthen participants' knowledge and skills in international trade, India's Foreign Trade Policy, and negotiation techniques, contributing to a greater understanding of India's trade policy landscape.



One Week Training Programme for Officer Trainees (OTs) of the Indian Economic Service (IES) from 7 to 11 July 2025

The Management Development Programmes (MDP) Division of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Delhi, successfully conducted a one-

week training programme on ‘WTO Intellectual Property Rights and Trade Negotiations’ for Officer Trainees (OTs) of the Indian Economic Service (IES).

A total of 17 OTs participated in expert-led sessions that covered key aspects of global trade, IPR frameworks, and negotiation strategies.



5-Day On-Campus Training Programme on ‘Export-Import Operations & Trade Law’ (18 August to 22 August 2025)

This five-day intensive “Open” category training programme was designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the operational and legal frameworks governing international trade. Unlike sponsored sessions, this on-campus programme brought together a diverse group of 16 participants from various professional backgrounds, offering a collaborative environment for learning. The curriculum focused on the end-to-end mechanics of export-import documentation, logistics management,



and the complexities of international trade law. By combining academic rigour with practical case studies, the programme successfully equipped participants with the necessary expertise to handle cross-border transactions efficiently and ensure compliance with global legal standards.

Export Promotion & Trade Negotiations (22-26 September 2025)

The 05-Day Training Programme on Export Promotion and Trade Negotiations for AIS (IAS IPS & IFoS) Officers, Officers from Group A Central Civil Services, at the behest of DoPT commenced with its Inaugural Ceremony on 22 September 2025 and Valedictory Ceremony on 26 September 2025 at IIFT, New Delhi.

The programme brings together officers from IAS, IPS, Department of Commerce, DGFT & Export Promotion Councils to strengthen knowledge and skills in international trade & negotiations.



24-Week Course in ‘International Business Management’ for the Officers of the Armed Forces (Batch DGR-20: September 2025 to February 2026)

This flagship 24-week sponsored certificate programme is meticulously structured for the officers of the Armed Forces under the aegis of the Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR). Designed to facilitate a seamless transition from military service to the corporate global arena, the curriculum provides a deep dive into

International Business Management. The programme covers critical domains such as global supply chain logistics, international marketing strategies, and cross-border trade operations. Currently, the course is catering to the professional development of 50 DGR officers, having commenced in September 2025 with a scheduled completion in February 2026. By blending academic excellence with practical business insights, the programme continues to empower these officers with the strategic



competencies required to lead in the dynamic global business environment.

Certificate Programme in ‘International Business Excellence’ for TVS Motors (Batch TVS-4: 5 February to December 2025)

This year-long customized certificate programme was specifically designed to meet the evolving global requirements of TVS Motors. Focused on the core tenets of International Business Excellence, the curriculum provides participants with a strategic understanding of global market dynamics, international trade operations, and organizational efficiency. The programme was developed to

enhance the professional competencies of corporate leaders within the automotive sector, enabling them to navigate complex international supply chains and competitive global landscapes. This intensive training successfully catered to 29 participants from TVS Motors, running from 5 February through December 2025. By integrating industry-specific case studies with global trade theory, the programme has played a vital role in strengthening the workforce’s ability to drive excellence in the international arena.



11-Month Professional Training Programme for ITS Probationers 2024 (March 2025 to February 2026)

This flagship 11-month professional training programme is a high-level initiative sponsored by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), specifically designed for the Indian Trade Service (ITS) Probationers of the 2024 batch. The curriculum is meticulously crafted to build a robust foundation in trade policy, international economics, and commercial diplomacy, ensuring these future

officers are equipped to safeguard India's interests in the global trade arena. The programme provides a blend of theoretical rigour and field-level exposure, covering topics from WTO regulations to export promotion strategies. The course is currently catering to 03ITS Probationers. It is being conducted from March 2025 to February 2026, serving as a critical phase in their professional development as they prepare to join the ranks of India's trade administrators.



Ongoing Academic Sessions

These intensive professional courses are currently in progress or awaiting final results:

- **Officers of Armed Forces (DGR-20):** 50 participants are currently enrolled in the International Business Management Programme (September 2025 – February 2026).
- **TVS Motors (TVS-4):** 29 participants are completing the Certificate Programme in International Business Excellence (February – December 2025).
- **ITS Probationers 2024:** 3 probationers are undergoing the 11-month Professional Training Programme (March 2025 – February 2026).

Strategic Highlights

Prof. Rohit Mehtani, Head of MDP Division and the Centre for International Negotiations, was invited by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (Overseas Centre, Australia) to present a paper on BoP Underpinnings of India's Bilateral Trade Agreements and to be on a Panel on India-Australia Ties at an international conference held in Sydney, Australia, from 3 to 5 September 2025. The Conference, supported by the Australia-India Chamber of Commerce, saw a huge participation of various stakeholders from Australia, New Zealand, India and a number of East and Southeast Asian Countries.

Prof. Rohit Mehtani, Head of MDP Division and the Centre for International Negotiations, was

invited as a Guest of Honour in a Seminar organized by the Federation of India Export Organisations (FIEO) and JIMS on 21 November 2025 in New Delhi. The Seminar titled ‘India@2047: Building Global Competitiveness through Innovation and Trade Integration’ was attended by representatives of leading export and business entities.

Prof. Rohit Mehtani, Head of MDP Division and the Centre for International Negotiations, received an invitation to attend a UN Negotiations Conference in Doha, Qatar. The Conference was held on 8 December 2025.

Broad Reach: Our training reached 287 professionals, ensuring that vital trade and management skills are being implemented across the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Finance (IES), and Ministry of Defence.

- Defence & Resettlement: 142 Participants (DGR-18,19 & 20)
- Government & Civil Services: 72 Participants (DOC, IES, DoPT, IDAS, ITS)
- Corporate & Open Enrolment: 73 Participants (TVS, BEL, and Open Trade Law)

Completed & Concluded Initiatives

The following programmes were successfully delivered during this period:

Programme Name	Date(s)	Participants	Category
International Business Management’	10 Feb. - 5 July 2025	54	Sponsored (DGR-18)
Business Management HR & Finance	5 May - 17 Oct.	38	Sponsored (DGR-19)
Globe X: International Trade & Negotiations	10-14 Nov.	28	Sponsored (BEL)
International Trade Negotiations (DOC)	29 Sept. - 3 Oct.	30	Sponsored (DOC)
Export Promotion & Trade Negotiations	15 Oct.	09	Sponsored (IDAS)
Officer Trainees (OTs) Training	7-11 July	17	Sponsored (IES)
Export–Import Operations & Trade Law	18-22 Aug.	16	OPEN
Export Promotion & Trade Negotiations	22-26 Sept.	13	Sponsored (DoPT)

Operational Excellence: Programmes were seamlessly executed by the MDP and CIN divisions, maintaining our high standard of professional development.

The diversity of our sponsors, ranging from TVS Motors and BEL to the DGFT and DoPT, underscores our institution’s position as a premier training hub for both public and private sector leadership.

Across 11 distinct programmes, we have successfully empowered 287 participants with specialized expertise in international trade, finance, and strategic management.



Activities of Journal-Publications Division

The Journal-Publications Division have published the following issues of the Journals and IIFT Newsletter:

- FOCUS WTO Journal (Vol. 27 Nos. 1 & 2 January-June 2025 and Nos. 3 & 4 July-December 2025).
- IIFT-IBMR Journal published by Sage (Vol. 1 Issue 1, June 2023 and Vol. 1 Issue 2, December 2023; Vol. 2, Issue 1, June 2024 and Vol. 2 Issue 2, December 2024).
- IIFT-Newsletter (January-March 2025 and April-June 2025).

Activities of Research Division

I. Research Projects

Ongoing Projects

Year	Name of Project	Proposal Submitted to	Research Team
2025-26	Evaluation and Impact Assessment	SPMCIL	Prof. Pooja Lakhanpal Dr. Prateek Maheshwari
2025-26	Impact of ESG Score and Firm Quality on Corporate Performance: A Study for Asian Markets	ICSSR	Prof. Asheesh Pandey (as a Co-PI) (Grant funded to PI from DU)

• Student Activity

To encourage the collaborative exchange of knowledge and skills among scholars, the following peer-to-peer (Manthan) interaction session was organized during July-November 2025:

Topic	Date	Speaker
Time Series in Eviews	23 Sept. 2025	Ms. Abhirami Aykara Ph.D. Scholar
Understanding Theory and Theorizing in Management Research	28 Oct. 2025	Ms. Ayushi Gupta Ph.D. (Mgmt.) Programme, 2021 Batch
Building the Foundation: How to Craft a Meaningful Systematic Literature Review	6 Nov. 2025	Ms. Simran Rathi Ph.D. (Mgmt.) Programme, 2023 Batch

II. Ph.D. Programme

Convocation

The following 8 Ph.D. (Management) Scholars were awarded their Ph.D. Degrees during the 58th Convocation of IIFT, held on 10 September 2025 at the Bharat Mandapam.

S. No.	Name of the Scholar	Batch
1.	Roshan	2018
2.	Aanchal	2019
3.	Amol Baxi	2019
4.	Vijay Kumar Sharma	2019
5.	Mansi Kapoor	2017
6.	Saurabh Chaturvedi	2018
7.	Neetu Kumar	2019
8.	Kamna Virmani	2018

The Final Ph.D. Viva of the following scholars was conducted on 19 November 2025

Name of the Scholar	Batch	Supervisor
Ms. Jasmeet Kaur	2018	Prof. Sheeba Kapil
Ms. Arushi Bathla	2020	Dr. Ginni Chawla

• Admission Process

The admission process for the Ph.D. (Management) Programme, 2025 has been successfully completed. A total of 7 Full-Time Ph.D. Scholars have been admitted to the programme.

• Release of Research Pulse

The Bi-annual magazine “Research Pulse” (Vol. II, Issue 2) was released on 19 September 2025, during

the inauguration of the Ph.D. (Management) Programme 2025.

III. Launch of the Diplomatist – Annual Edition 2025

A roundtable conference was held at the Institute on 19 November 2025 to unveil “The

Diplomatist – Annual Edition 2025” themed “The Time They Are A-Changin”. The commemorative publication was brought out under the editorship of Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Vice Chancellor, IIFT.



Executive Management Programmes Division

The Executive Management Programmes Division (EMPD) aims to enhance knowledge and skills for a broad audience, including Government Officials, Diplomats, Entrepreneurs and Exporters, Corporate Sector Professionals and Members of Civil Society. EMP Division also fosters discourse on contemporary trade and economic issues, especially those relevant to developing countries.

The Division conducts the PG Diploma Programmes in International Business and Global Human Resource Management, as well as Post Graduate Certificate in Management (International Business), which provide executives from various organizations with the opportunities to enhance their knowledge and competencies in meeting the complexities and challenges of their businesses.

These programmes are designed to equip participants with cutting-edge insights and practical expertise, positioning them at the forefront of international business and trade policy development.

Ongoing Programmes:

The details of the ongoing programmes of the EMP Division are as follows:

Academic Year	Name of the Programme	Duration of	No. of Students (Enrolled)
2025-26	PGCM-1 (IB) 2025-26	12 Month	15
	PGDM (IB) 2025-26	18 Month	66
	CPEIM-13 (1 Nov. 2025 - Feb. 2026)	4 Month	52

Inauguration of EMP Division

1. Inauguration of 4 Month CPEIM (Offline-Weekend)-13 (Nov. 2025-Feb. 2026) 2025

The 13th batch of the Four-month Certificate Programme in Export and Import Management (CPEIM) was successfully inaugurated by Guest of Honour Dr. Amiya Chandra, Former DGFT & Indian Trade Service Officer (1989 Batch) and a programme briefing by Dr. Biswajit Nag (Head-EMPD) on 1 November 2025. The batch commenced with a total of 52 participants enrolled in the programme.

ENCORE Special Lectures for Executive Batches

ENCORE-6 special lecture series, a Special Lecture on “Growth & Opportunities in India’s Start-up Ecosystem” by Mr. Rachit Srivastava, Co-founder & CEO, Mushin Innovation Labs; Mr. Amman Batra, Co-founder & COO, Mushin Innovation Labs; and Mr. Subhajit Bhattacharya, Start-up Mentor, NITI Aayog on 5 October 2025.

About IIFT

Indian Institute of Foreign Trade is an autonomous institute under the aegis of the Ministry of commerce, Government of India. The institute was granted “Deemed to be University” status in 2002. The Institute is granted AACSB accreditation on 17th November 2021. With this, IIFT bags a position amongst the top 900+ business institutes in the world having received this accreditation. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has also recognized IIFT as Grade “A+” institution in its third cycle in 2023. IIFT has four Campuses: Delhi, Kolkata, Kakinada, and GIFT City (Gandhinagar). IIFT is also opening its first overseas campus at Expo City Dubai.

