



**INDIAN
INSTITUTE OF
FOREIGN
TRADE**

IIFT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-MARCH 2026

From the Vice Chancellor's Desk



It gives me immense pleasure to present the IIFT Newsletter for the period January-March 2026. 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.

Global trade expanded to nearly US\$35 trillion in 2025, but geopolitical conflicts, supply chain disruptions, and rising protectionism have increased uncertainty, particularly for developing economies facing higher import and energy costs. Despite these challenges, trade growth has been supported by developing countries, especially through South-South trade. India continues to be one of the fastest-growing major economies, with projected GDP growth of 6.5–6.9 per cent in 2026. Strong domestic demand, infrastructure spending, digital transformation, and the PLI scheme support growth. While risks such as higher oil prices, trade deficits, and global protectionism remain, FTAs, rising FDI, and the “China Plus One” strategy provide significant opportunities.

During January-March 2026, IIFT organized a wide range of academic, executive, and capacity-building programmes aimed at enhancing expertise in international trade, business management, and policy. The Vice Chancellors' Conclave on “Reimagining Internationalization of Higher Education for Viksit Bharat 2047”, organized by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, convened more than 75 Vice Chancellors, Heads of Institutions, academic leaders, and policy experts from across the country. The event served as a platform for deliberations on enhancing India's global academic engagement and advancing the internationalization of higher education. Key initiatives included training programmes on International Trade and Business, International Business Management for Armed Forces Officers, International Business Excellence for TVS Motors, professional training for Indian Trade Service (ITS) probationers, and capacity-building programmes for officials from the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. IIFT also conducted executive education programmes, international trade operations training, study tours, port visits, conferences, and faculty development activities, strengthening its role as a leading institution in trade education and global business capacity building.

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 'Rakesh Joshi', with a horizontal line underneath.

Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi
Vice Chancellor
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

From the Editor's Desk



It provides insight into the IIFT Newsletter (January-March 2026) issue, which offers a brief overview of IIFT's academic, research, and institutional activities that continue to define the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. As we navigate an era of unprecedented shifts in global economic architecture, this publication is intended to provide a transparent and meaningful window into the impactful work being undertaken by IIFT.

IIFT remains deeply committed to addressing the complexities of global trade and economic policy through high-impact research, innovative teaching, and active participation in international policy discussions. The initiatives highlighted in this edition are a testament to the persistent efforts of our academic community to contribute thoughtfully to global trade discourse, the Business Management Landscape, and International Business, while steadfastly maintaining our tradition of strong academic rigour.

This issue captures a glimpse of the activities of our recent journey—encompassing research contributions, student accomplishments, and strategic outreach initiatives that have propelled the Institute forward. Together, these highlights reflect the intellectual depth and the collaborative spirit that serve as the foundation of our institutional growth.

The IIFT Newsletter seeks to bridge the gap between our internal progress and our wider stakeholder community by sharing credible, relevant, and timely insights.

We look forward to your continued support as we work collectively toward further strengthening IIFT's academic excellence.

Dr. Sheeba Kapil
Head (Publications)

Vice Chancellors' Conclave on

Reimagining Internationalisation of Higher Education for Viksit Bharat 2047

The Vice Chancellors' Conclave on “Reimagining Internationalisation of Higher Education for Viksit Bharat 2047,” organized by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade on 6 March 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, bringing together over 75 Vice Chancellors, Directors of prominent universities and Head of institutions from across the country, along with policymakers, academic experts and senior administrator.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, inaugurated the Vice Chancellors' Conclave. In his inaugural address, he emphasised the need to position India's high-quality education system on the global stage and commended the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) for spearheading discussions on the internationalisation of higher education.



Management Development Programmes

Training Programme on ‘International Trade and Business’

The Training Programme on ‘International Trade and Business’ was designed to provide participants with insights into international trade dynamics, business management techniques, and cross-border trade strategies. This course aims to enhance participants’ managerial capabilities and global trade awareness, with a particular focus on practical applications in international business operations from 23-27 February 2026.



International Business Management Programme for the Officers of Armed Forces (DGR Batch-20)

The International Business Management Programme for the Officers of Armed Forces was designed to provide participants with insights into global business dynamics, strategic transition techniques, and cross-border trade strategies. This course aims to enhance participants’ corporate capabilities and global trade awareness, with a particular focus on practical applications in international business and leadership from September 2025 to February 2026.



Certificate Programme in ‘International Business Excellence’ for TVS Motors

The Certificate Programme in ‘International Business Excellence’ for TVS Motors was designed to provide participants with insights into international trade dynamics, operational excellence

techniques, and cross-border trade strategies. This course aims to enhance participants’ corporate capabilities and global trade awareness, with a particular focus on practical applications for international business expansion from 5 February 2025 to January 2026.



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 currently serves 3 ITS 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.



11 Months Professional Training Programme for ITS Probationers 2026

The 11 Months Professional Training Programme for ITS Probationers 2024 was designed to provide participants with insights into international trade dynamics, policy formulation techniques, and cross-border trade strategies. This course aims to enhance participants' administrative capabilities and global trade awareness, with a particular focus on practical applications in international business and trade policy from 16 February to January 2027.



Capacity Building Programme for the Officials of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

The Capacity Building Program for the Officials of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Sri Lanka High Commission of India, Colombo, MEA, Govt. of India was designed to provide participants with insights into international trade dynamics, institutional networking techniques, and cross-border trade strategies. This course aims to enhance participants' bilateral capabilities and global trade awareness, with a



particular focus on practical applications in international business and economic cooperation from 16th to 24 March 2026.

International Trade Operations Programme for the LPAI ITEC Programme

The International Trade Operations Program for the LPAI ITEC Programme was designed to provide participants with insights into international trade dynamics, border infrastructure techniques, and cross-border trade strategies. This course aims to enhance participants' operational capabilities and global trade awareness, with a particular focus on practical applications in international business and land port logistics from 23 to 24 February 2026.



Foreign Trade: Branding and Marketing for the Indian Postal Service

The Foreign Trade: Branding and Marketing for the officers of the Indian Postal Service programme was designed to provide participants with insights into international trade dynamics, global marketing techniques, and cross-border branding strategies. This course aims to enhance participants' marketing capabilities and global trade awareness, with a particular focus on practical applications in



international business and postal logistics from 17 March 2026.

DGR Batch-21 - International Business Management Programme

The DGR Batch-21 - International Business Management Programme for the officers of the Armed Forces was designed to provide participants with insights into international trade dynamics, corporate management techniques, and cross-border business strategies. This course aims to enhance participants' executive capabilities and global trade awareness, with a particular focus on practical applications in international business and corporate transition, from 16 March to 28 August 2026.



Participation by IIFT Faculty

Dr. Sheeba Kapil, Professor

- Key speaker at Tanjungpura International Conference on Management, Economics and Accounting, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Tanjungpura, Pontianak, Indonesia 2024-25.
- Key Speaker in GSEM Round Table "Internationalization in a Business School" organized by Ural Federal University, Russia at Ural Federal University, Russia, 2024-25.

Dr. Kaushik Bhattacharjee, Associate Professor

- Presented a paper titled "A Research Note on Correlation between Sharpe Ratio and Treynor Ratio" at the Global Banking and Finance Conference 2026 at XLRI Delhi-NCR on 5-7 February 2026. Also chaired a session at the same Conference. ●

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 and the Post Graduate Certificate in Management (International Business), which provide the executives of various organizations with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and competencies to meet 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.

Upcoming Programmes

Registration is open for the following upcoming batches:

- (i) Post Graduate Diploma in Management – International Business (PGDM-IB) 2026–27 (18 months).
- (ii) Post Graduate Certificate in Management – International Business (PGCM-IB) 2026–27 (12 months).

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	13
	PGDM (IB) 2025-26	18 Month	63
	CPEIM-13 (1 Nov. 2025 - Feb. 2026)	4 Month	33

- (iii) Post Graduate Diploma in Management – Human Resource Development (PGDM-HRDM) 2026–27 (18 months).

- (iv) 14th Batch of Certificate Programme in Export-Import Management (CPEIM).

Valedictory Ceremony

The Valedictory Ceremony for the CPEIM-12 batch was conducted on 24 January 2026. The Guest of Honour, Mr. Sandeep Singh, Head – International Business, Relaxo Footwears Ltd., along with Dr. Biswajit Nag (Head – EMPD), distributed certificates to the 23 participants.

ENCORE Special Lectures for Executive Batches

- ENCORE-8 special lecture series: A Special Lecture on “Navigating Challenges of Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for New and Emerging Businesses” by Mr. Sushil Chaudhary, CEO & Founder, Picture Time DigiPlex on 11 January 2026.
- ENCORE-9 special lecture series: A Special Lecture on “Maritime Port Ecosystem: Cargo Handling to Trade Gateways” by Mr. Afaq Hussain, Co-Founder & Director, Bureau of Research on Industry & Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF), New Delhi, on 31 January 2026.
- ENCORE-10 special lecture series: A Special Lecture on “Basics of Port Operations” by Captain Hemant Gupta, Deputy Director, Drewry Maritime Services Pvt. Ltd., on 1 February 2026.

International and Domestic Study Tour/Port Visit - Successfully Conducted

Domestic Visits

- (i) ACTL, Faridabad (13 February 2026): A domestic port visit to VCTL, Faridabad, was conducted successfully on 13 February 2026 for the CPEIM & PGCM-IB batch, with 12 participants.
- (ii) Vizag, India, (24-25 February 2026): A domestic port visit to Visakha Container Terminal Pvt. Ltd., & VCT- Container Freight Station, Vizag was conducted successfully during 24-25 February 2026 for the EPGDIB-Summer 2023-25 batch, with 17 participants.
- (iii) Bhiwadi, Rajasthan, India, (24 February 2026): A domestic port visit to Relaxo Footwear's Ltd. was conducted successfully for the CPEIM-13 batch, with 5 participants.

International Visits

- (iv) Antwerp, Belgium (23-26 February 2026): Training in International Business and Trade Operations was successfully conducted for the EPGDIB-Summer 2023-25 batch, consisting of 35 participants and 1 faculty member. The training took place at the Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Centre (APEC) from 23-26 February 2026.

Colombo Port (23-26 February 2026): Training in International Business and Trade Operations was successfully conducted for the EPGDIB-Summer 2023-25 and PGCM-IB 2025-26 batches, comprising 35 participants and 1 faculty member. The training took place at the Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Centre (APEC) from 23-25 February 2026.

All the above visits and training programmes were successfully conducted, providing participants with valuable insights into international business, trade operations, and human resource management practices across various countries and industries. ●

Publications by IIFT Faculty

Dr. Sheeba Kapil, Professor

Book

- Elton, Edwin J., Gruber, Martin J., Brown, Stephen J., Goetzmann, William N., and Kapil, S. (2026), *Security Analysis and Portfolio Management*, 9th ed. (An Indian Adaptation), 25 March, Wiley India Pvt. Ltd., pages 754.

Paper

- Kapil, S., Kumar, S., Gupta, I., and Singhal, N. (2026), "Corporate Governance and Sustainability Performance: Triple Bottom Line Approach for the Indian Listed Firms", *Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management*, April, Wiley, pp. 1-14.

Dr. Asheesh Pandey, Professor

- Bhattacharya, P. and Pandey, A. (2025), "Bridging Quality and Sustainability: A Bibliometric and Systematic Exploration of ESG Scores in Quality Anomalies," *Economics and Policy of Energy and the Environment*, Issue 2, pp. 67-92.
- Kaushik, R. and Pandey, A. (2026), "De-dollarisation 2026: Tariff War Pushes Countries to Diversify," *Policy Circle*, February.
- Anand, Y. and Pandey, A. (2026), "Drawing the Green Line: The Revamping of Indian Climate Finance Taxonomy," *Terragreen*, February.

Dr. Anchal Arora, Assistant Professor

- Arora, A. (2026), "Sustainable Growth of Aluminum Sector in India: An Economic Analysis of Energy Intensity, Investment, Tariffs and Competitiveness", *Resources Policy*, Vol. 114, 105871.

Dr. Md Tanweer Ahmad, Assistant Professor

- Ahmad, Md. T. (2025), "Stochastic Fuzzy Portfolio Model for India's Power Generation Mix", 19th ISDSI-Global Conference, *International Management Institute (IMI)* Kolkata, India, 26-29 December. ●

International Collaborations & Capacity Development (ICCD) Division - A&R Cell

The following Achievements/Activities were undertaken by the International Collaborations & Capacity Development (ICCD) Division:

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

New MoUs Signed

- The Institute has signed a General Academic Cooperation Agreement with the Indian Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) for a period of 5 years on 2 February 2026.

Student Exchange Programme

Under the Student Exchange Programme for the Academic Year 2025–2026, a total of 52 MBA(IB) and MBA(BA) students from all four campuses - Delhi, Kolkata, Kakinada, and GIFT City — visited international partner universities between January and March 2026

International Events

Zayed Foundation Visit: A delegation of 20 Emirati Students and Young Professionals in International Relations visited IIFT on 5 February 2026 as part of their India Study Tour sponsored by the Zayed Foundation and coordinated by Authentica.

The programme included an address by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, including a presentation



by Invest India and a panel discussion with experts from Oil India Limited, Dabur India and Kreat Energy India.

International Port Access – Initiative

University of Plymouth, a partner university, has enabled IIFT students to access International Port facilities at Bristol Port Co., Avonmouth and Royal Portbury, Bristol.

ICCD- Accreditation and Rankings

The following points may be taken as the major activities for the quarterly report of ICCD – Accreditation & Ranking Cell for January-March 2026.

1. IIFT has participated in the Times B-School Ranking 2026 and secured the 1st rank.
2. IIFT has participated in the MBAUniverse B-School Ranking 2026 and achieved the 10th rank.
3. The process of securing AMBA (Association of MBAs) accreditation for the MBA (International Business) Programme is currently in progress. IIFT submitted the application in February 2026, and the same was approved by AMBA. In the next stage, the SAF (Self- Assessment Form) is to be submitted to AMBA.

4. Association of Indian Management Schools (AIMS) has conducted the Institutional Survey 2025-26 to gather data on academic trends, accreditation progress, and the specific challenges faced by B-Schools. The survey was submitted by ICCD - Accreditation and Ranking Cell on 5 January 2026.
5. IIFT has applied for CBC re-accreditation as per NSCSTI 2.0 guidelines. The application for NSCSTI re-accreditation has been approved by CBC, and the Desktop Assessment Agency (NABET) has been assigned to IIFT. The Desktop Assessment Report (DAR) containing the required documents for 43 metrics was submitted through the NSCSTI portal on 22 January 2026. NABET has raised several non-conformities (NCs) following the assessment, and a response needs to be submitted.
6. Accreditation & Ranking Cell has submitted the information for the QS Academic Reputation survey and the QS Employer Reputation Survey on 28 January 2026 for the upcoming QS ranking process.
7. Accreditation & Ranking Cell has submitted the information for the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) India Rankings 2026 on 9 March 2026.
8. Accreditation & Ranking Cell has submitted the information for thematic surveys conducted by CBC on Collaborative Capacity Building and Resource Sharing on 23 January 2026.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE/TRAINING UNDER FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES (FDP)

Name of the Faculty	Conference/Training Programme Title	Date/Venue	Organizing Institution
Dr. Kaushik Bhattacharjee <i>Associate Professor</i>	Global Banking & Finance Conference	5-7 Feb. 2026 Delhi NCR	XLRI – Xavier School of Management
Dr. Papiya Ghosh <i>Assistant Professor</i>	Innovative Solution for Achieving SDGs	16-21 Feb. 2026 Online	MMTTC – Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University
Dr. Ashim Raj Singla <i>Professor</i>	Data Visitation for Health Science on India AI Impact Summit 2026	17 Feb. 2026 New Delhi	IIC, New Delhi
Dr. Sheeba Kapil <i>Professor</i>	Reality, Bottlenecks and Solutions to improve the efficacy of bilateral trade between India and Vietnam	9-11 March 2026 Hanoi, Vietnam	The Institute for South Asian, West Asian and African Studies (ISAWAAS)
Dr. Muhammed Rafi OPC <i>Assistant Professor</i>	Emerging Trends in Economics & Finance (ETEF 2026)	27-28 March 2026 Goa	IIT Goa & BITS Pilani

Division of Alumni Affairs

Alumnus of the Year (Entrepreneurship Category)

We are proud to celebrate Hema Gandhi as the recipient of the Alumnus of the Year Award – Entrepreneurship Category, recognizing her outstanding journey as an entrepreneur and global business leader. Her career, spanning venture-building and leadership roles across international markets, reflects a powerful combination of vision, adaptability, and purpose-driven growth.

In a recent conversation, Hema offered valuable insights into her professional journey and the mindset required to succeed in today's dynamic business landscape. She emphasized that at the heart of any meaningful career lies a simple yet profound mission — to learn continuously. According to her, the ability to adopt, absorb, and align with a larger purpose enables individuals to build and scale impactful ventures.

Interestingly, entrepreneurship was not always part of her original plan. She candidly shared that she had not envisioned herself as an entrepreneur, yet the journey became a rich learning experience that shaped her perspective and capabilities.

Reflecting on her time as a student, Hema highlighted networking as one of the most critical skills for young professionals. She encouraged students to build and nurture connections actively, noting that relationships formed during academic years often evolve into valuable professional networks in the future.

Another key theme from her journey is adaptability. From moving from Bhopal to Delhi to working across global cities such as Singapore, the Philippines, London, and Boston, Hema developed a deep understanding of diverse cultures and work environments. She spoke about how each geography shaped her approach —



from trust-building in Singapore to relationship-driven work in the UK and confidence-led interactions in the United States.

She also reflected on the importance of academic fundamentals, particularly financial management, which she came to appreciate more deeply during her early professional years.

Hema Gandhi's journey is a testament to lifelong learning, resilience, and the power of embracing change. Her story continues to inspire aspiring entrepreneurs to remain curious, connected, and adaptable as they navigate their own paths.

ARC Farewell

The Alumni Relations Committee (ARC) of IIFT Delhi organized a formal farewell ceremony on 19 February 2026 to honour the dedication and contributions of the outgoing Senior Executive Members (SEMs). The event marked a significant transition as the outgoing team handed over their responsibilities to the incoming SEMs.

ARC expressed its sincere appreciation for the commitment and efforts of the outgoing SEMs

and extends its best wishes for their future endeavours. The committee also welcomes the new SEMs and looks forward to their

contributions in further strengthening alumni engagement.



Meetings with Head DAA Prof Rastogi for DAA and ARC's action plan for the year

Under the guidance of Prof. Sanjay Rastogi, Head of the Division of Alumni Affairs, the ARC has formulated a comprehensive action plan for 2026-27. In our discussions, key focus areas included organizing an Alumni Leadership Panel Discussion at IIFT Kolkata in the spirit of 'Netritva' to foster meaningful engagement between alumni and students. Emphasis was also laid on increasing alumni registrations on the portal and driving higher participation in chapter meets across regions. Additionally, the ARC will take a proactive role in

coordinating and strengthening engagement with international chapters to ensure a more connected and vibrant global alumni network.

TARANG Alumni Podcast 2026

The alumni relations committee of IIFT Kolkata launched TARANG, an official alumni podcast series aimed at strengthening alumni-student engagement through meaningful conversations and knowledge sharing.

During January and February 2026, the committee successfully recorded two podcast episodes featuring distinguished alumni from diverse



professional backgrounds. These sessions focused on capturing alumni journeys, industry insights, and practical learnings relevant to current students.

Among these, one episode has been officially released on the ARC YouTube channel, garnering encouraging engagement and positive feedback

from both alumni and students. The second episode is currently in the pipeline for release.

Each podcast recording was followed by a student interaction session, during which participants could engage directly with the alumni. These interactions enabled deeper discussions around career paths and industry.

Alumni Guest Lectures

The Alumni Relations Committee (ARC) of IIFT Kakinada organized an alumni guest session on 6 March 2026. The session was conducted by Mr. Madhavan Seshadri, an esteemed alumnus from the EMIB Batch of 2006 and the current Chennai Chapter Head.

Mr. Seshadri, who currently serves as the Chief Strategy Officer at Litmus7, engaged students in an insightful session titled *“Strategy, AI & Career Mastery: Thriving in a Rapidly Changing World.”* The session concluded with an engaging Q&A segment, during which students actively interacted with Mr. Seshadri and gained clarity on various career-related queries and industry expectations. The session was highly enriching and provided students with valuable insights into navigating careers in an AI-driven world. It successfully reinforced the importance of adaptability, continuous learning, and strategic thinking in achieving long-term professional success.



The Alumni Relations Committee (ARC) IIFT GIFT City organized an insightful guest lecture on 7 March 2026 featuring Dr. Rajiv Gatne (Batch of 1984), a distinguished alumnus with over three decades of experience in international business. The session, conducted online with students attending physically on campus, focused on *“Navigating*



Business in a Shifting Global Landscape” and saw active participation from the student community. Dr. Gatne provided a comprehensive overview of the evolving global business environment, emphasizing the relevance of the VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity) framework in today’s context. He elaborated on the far-reaching impact of ongoing geopolitical conflicts, including tensions in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. He highlighted how these developments influence global trade dynamics, supply chains, and economic stability. The discussion further explored the implications of rising trade protectionism, tariff regimes, and policy shifts, particularly those of the United States, on international markets and India’s economic positioning.

The session also underscored the importance of cultural awareness in global business operations and the need for organizations to build resilience in the face of supply chain disruptions. Dr. Gatne highlighted India’s growing strength in the global economy, driven by digital transformation, policy initiatives such as *Make in India* and *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, and a strong demographic advantage. He encouraged students to remain adaptable, globally

aware, and strategically oriented to navigate the complexities of international business. The lecture concluded with an engaging discussion that offered students valuable insights into aligning business strategies with global developments. The session served as a significant platform for strengthening alumni engagement while fostering industry-relevant learning for students.

Road to Summers 2026

The *Road to Summers 2026* mentorship series was successfully conducted to prepare students for their upcoming summer internships through alumni guidance and engagement.

As part of this initiative, 15 virtual mentorship sessions were organized, during which alumni from leading organizations such as Goldman Sachs, Philips, Aditya Birla Group, and HSBC, among others, interacted with students. These sessions were designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of internship roles, industry expectations, workplace dynamics, and strategies to maximise learning outcomes and PPO prospects.

The sessions saw active student participation, students engaging with the alumni through insightful discussions and queries. Alumni mentors shared their professional experiences, practical advice, and actionable insights, helping students gain clarity and confidence before beginning their internships.



IIFT, Kolkata Campus

1 January: New Year Celebrations – A cake was cut by CH Sir along with other faculty and staff members – high tea was arranged for all.



Academy of International Business (AIB) South Asia Conference

The Academy of International Business South Asia Conference (AIB SAC) 2026, held on 4-5 January 2026 at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Kolkata Campus, brought together eminent academics, scholars, editors, and practitioners from across the globe under the theme “*Changing International Trade Environment in South Asia: Impact on International Business.*” The conference was graced by distinguished guests including Prof. S. Raghunath, Chair, AIB-SAC Executive Board and Professor at IIM Bangalore; Prof. K. Rangarajan, Chair, AIB SAC 2026 and Centre Head, IIFT Kolkata Campus; Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Vice Chancellor, IIFT; Prof. Shaker A. Zahra, Carlson School of Management, University of



Minnesota, USA; Prof. Torben Pedersen, President, Academy of International Business and Professor at Copenhagen Business School, Denmark (has given a recorded video message); Prof. Deepankar Sinha Chair, Co-chair AIB SAC 2026 and Head, Research Division, IIFT Kolkata Campus.

Other Activities

- 7 January 2026: Economics Division – Alumni workshop.
- 9 January 2026: Economics Division Seminar – Dr. Ananish Chaudhuri.
- 13 January 2026: Celebration of Lohri at the Campus.
- 14 January 2026: Economics Division Seminar – Dr. Upasak Das.
- Celebration of Pongal at the Campus.
- 23 January 2026: Celebration of Saraswati Puja at the Campus.
- Inauguration of a Library corner in the memory of Dr. R.P. Datta.
- 26 January 2026: Celebration of Republic Day.

Inauguration of the Bio-gas Plant

IIFT, Kolkata Campus is one of the greenest in the region and maintains ecological balance through its water bodies, biodiversity, and fully recycled water footprints. Leaping towards the next step towards a greener campus, the Biogas plant was inaugurated by Dr. K. Rangarajan, Head and Professor, Kolkata Campus, on 12 February 2026.



Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Renewable Energy Programmes, the setting up of this plant at an educational institution is already an applaudable feat. The IMF's student-run sustainability club has also put in significant effort to make this happen.

Through sustainable waste management, this Bio-gas plant will help manage organic waste from hostels, cafeterias, and gardens, reducing landfill waste and environmental pollution. The Bio-gas will be used for cooking, heating, or generating electricity, reducing dependence on fossil fuels. This plant will generate about 15 to 30 m³ / of Bio-gas per day, which is equivalent to 7 to 15 kg of LPG saved daily. Lastly, it will lower greenhouse gas emissions and promote a cleaner and environmentally friendly Campus.

“Green Campus, Clean Campus!”

Guest Lecture

21 February: The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade Kolkata Campus was pleased to have the presence of Dr. Indranil Sarker, a versatile industry professional with over 20+ years of experience. Dr. Sarker is currently a principal innovation consultant at Cognizant. The guest lecture covered various topics spanning today's AI verticals, primarily 'Generative' & 'Agentic' AI, and discussed their impact on the market in the near future. The interaction not only

demonstrated the intent to bridge the industry-academic gap but also showcased students' curiosity in the domain of technology at IIFT Kolkata Campus.

Training Programme

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Kolkata Campus, in association with the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India, had organized a two-day training programme for the senior officers of the department on 'Emerging Landscape for MSME Exports Processes & Procedures' on 7-8 March 2026 at IIFT Kolkata Campus.



International Women's Day

To celebrate International Women's Day, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata Campus, is hosting a session on "Nari Shakti: Towards Clean & Green Exports" on 5 March 2026, focusing on Women and Sustainability.



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.

