Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day 2026 – 9 October (80th year)

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News

9 October is observed every year as 'IFS Day' to mark the Government of India's creation of the Indian Foreign Service on 9 Oct 1946; in 2026 the service completes 80 years. On 12 Oct 2026 External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar interacted with IFS officers of the 2011 batch attending mid-career training.

Key facts

Date	9 Oct – the IFS was created (1946)
Observed	IFS Day observed since 2011
First batch	First batch recruited through UPSC in 1948
Training	Foundation course – LBSNAA, Mussoorie; then the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi
Minister	External Affairs Minister – Dr S. Jaishankar (since 2019)

Background

- History: K.P.S. Menon was independent India's first Foreign Secretary (1948–52). Nehru, the first PM, was also the first External Affairs Minister. The Foreign Service Institute was renamed the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service in 2020.

- Constitution: Article 51 (Directive Principle) – promote international peace and security; 'foreign affairs' is in the Union List.
- Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) – privileges of diplomats. Panchsheel – 1954, India–China.

Tamil Nadu link: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar comes from a Tamil family; his father, strategic analyst K. Subrahmanyam, was born in Tiruchirappalli. Jaishankar was Foreign Secretary in 2015–18.

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