



**SYMBIOSIS SCHOOL  
OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

# **DEEKSHARAMBH 2025**

## **INDUCTION PROGRAMME 2025**

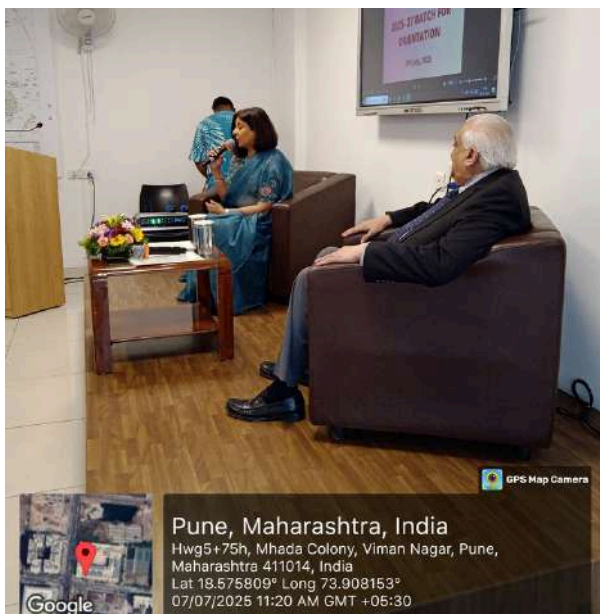
As part of the induction programme 'Deeksharambh' for the students of Symbiosis School of International Studies (SSIS), Pune, a comprehensive series of events, field trips, and mentoring sessions were organised to provide a thorough introduction to university life. This mandatory induction programme, which commenced on July 7 and continued until September 13, 2025 was designed to ensure all students received essential orientation before beginning their academic journey.

The extensive programme, spanning over two months, included activities ranging from welcoming addresses to in-depth explorations of universal human values. These carefully curated experiences aimed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and understanding necessary for their academic and personal growth. The mandatory nature of the programme ensured that every student participated in this foundational experience, creating a unified starting point for their university education and fostering a sense of community among the incoming cohort.



## 1. Welcome Address and Introduction to the Institute (July 7, 2025)

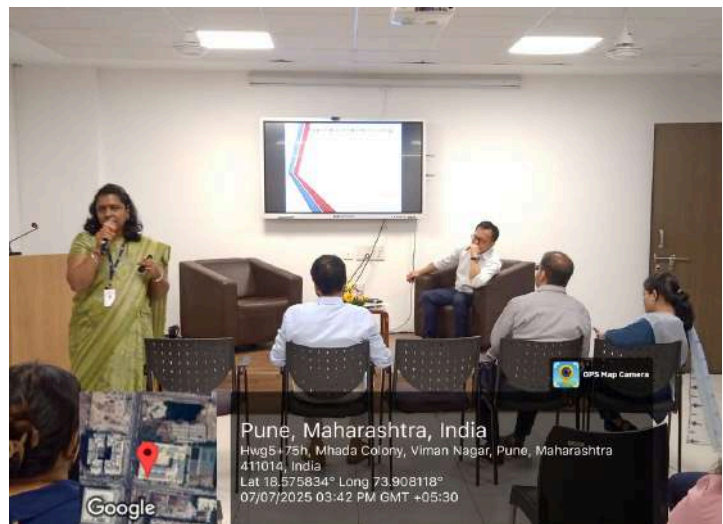
The induction programme began with a welcome address delivered by the Director of SSIS, Ms. Shivali Lawale, who set the tone for the days ahead by emphasizing the importance of international studies in the Indian curriculum. In her comprehensive address, Ms. Lawale elaborated on the transformative significance of the programme, highlighting how it serves as a crucial bridge between traditional Indian educational frameworks and contemporary global perspectives. She discussed the major developmental milestones that the programme represents, including its role in fostering cross-cultural understanding, enhancing critical thinking skills, and preparing students to navigate an increasingly interconnected world. Ms. Lawale emphasized that this initiative marks a pivotal moment in educational evolution, where students gain exposure to diverse international methodologies while remaining rooted in their cultural heritage, ultimately creating well-rounded global citizens equipped to address complex international challenges.



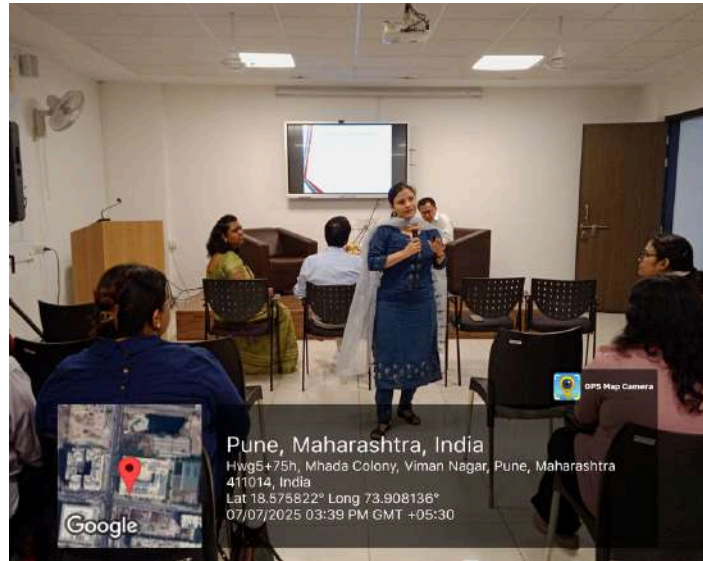
The welcome address was followed by a Fireside Chat featuring eminent speakers, Amb. (Retd.) Talmiz Ahmad, who spoke on the topic of “World Order.” He provided an insightful overview of the current global order, discussing its challenges and potential paths forward. Amb. (Retd.) Talmiz Ahmad also emphasised the importance of the course for aspiring diplomats and reaffirmed the institute’s commitment to supporting them on their journey.



Following the fireside chat, Dr. Alvite Singh Ningthoujam, Deputy Director, and Ms. Bharti Borkar, Supervisor & OS, familiarised students with the institute's regulations and policies. They covered crucial topics such as eligibility criteria, academic expectations, examination procedures, leave policies, the code of conduct, anti-ragging measures, the feedback mechanism, scholarship opportunities, the plagiarism policy, and the use of technology.



Dr. Alvite Singh Ningthoujam, Deputy Director, then sensitised students to the mentor-mentee system, sports facilities, extracurricular activities, and various student committees, highlighting their support and opportunities. The day also included sessions on campus safety, security, health, hygiene, and emotional well-being, alongside an introduction to the library facilities and rules.



## 2. Sessions on Wellness, Environmental Awareness, and Gender (July 8, 2025)



The second day began with a session on the basics of yoga, promoting physical and mental wellness among the students. This was followed by a session on environmental consciousness, where students were made aware of waste management practices and the importance of environmental stewardship.

In line with the university's commitment to creating a safe and inclusive environment, there was an awareness session on sexual harassment to educate students on recognising and preventing inappropriate behaviour. This was complemented by a session on human values, focusing on gender sensitisation, further reinforcing the importance of respect and equality within the university community.



The day concluded with a creative arts and culture activity—a poster-making competition—that allowed students to express their creativity while engaging with the themes of the induction programme.



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### 3. Social Sensitization Field Visit (July 11, 2025)

As part of our Social Sensitisation program, students were taken on a field visit to Kamayani School, located in Gokhale Nagar, Pune. This school is dedicated to the education and care of mentally disabled children. The visit aimed to create awareness and foster empathy among our students towards differently-abled individuals. During the visit, students interacted with the children and observed the specialised teaching methods employed by the school. The experience was both enlightening and humbling, helping students appreciate the challenges faced by these children. It also encouraged a spirit of inclusion and respect for diversity. Overall, the visit was valuable in promoting social responsibility and sensitivity among our students.



The day concluded with visits to two important cultural sites: the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Museum and Memorial, and the Afro-Asian Museum in Pune. These visits were enlightening, offering a deep dive into the life and legacy of Dr. Ambedkar, as well as a broader perspective on Afro-Asian history and culture.



#### 4. Visit to local monument/ landmark (July 19, 2025)

The day began with a visit to Nana Phadnavis Wada monument as part of the "Visit to Local Monument/Landmark" initiative. Students explored the historical architecture and learned about the monument's significance. The visit provided valuable insights into local heritage and its preservation.



The day concluded with students embarking on an enriching field visit to Bhilar Village, known as the "Village of Books," in the Satara District. This unique initiative has transformed local homes and community spaces into accessible public libraries. The visit aimed to promote reading and highlight innovative approaches to community literacy. It provided students with a firsthand experience of a village dedicated to fostering a love for books.



## **5. Mentoring with Universal Human Values**

### ***Session: Aspiration and Gratitude (August 1, 2025)***

The session was led by Dr. Shafat Yousuf and supported by Dr. Alvite Ningthoujam, Dr. Anamika Asthana, and Dr. Mohd Tahir Ganie.

The session began with a general introduction to Universal Human Values (UHV), encompassing many aspects that pertain to our being as humans, our role in the larger human society, and its specific context as students in an academic institution.

The session focused on Aspiration and Gratitude as key values among UHV. It explored how aspiration and gratitude relate to and support other universal human values and their role as catalysts for personal growth and social cohesion. The session included the following activity: Stimulating students to reflect on gratitude by answering these questions:

- How many people have helped us? Give examples from past experiences. What sense of gratitude would you feel towards them?
- How many people are we helping now? Compare the above question and see if we are doing enough for those needing our help?



Towards the end, challenges to Universal Human Values were discussed, including technological advancement, globalisation, political polarisation, climate change, and economic pressures.

## **6. Mentoring with Universal Human Values**

### ***Session: Human Needs and Peer Pressure (August 4, 2025)***

Session led by Dr. Anamika Asthana and supported by Dr. Mohd Tahir Ganie, Dr. Alvite Ningthoujam, and Dr. Shafat Yousuf.

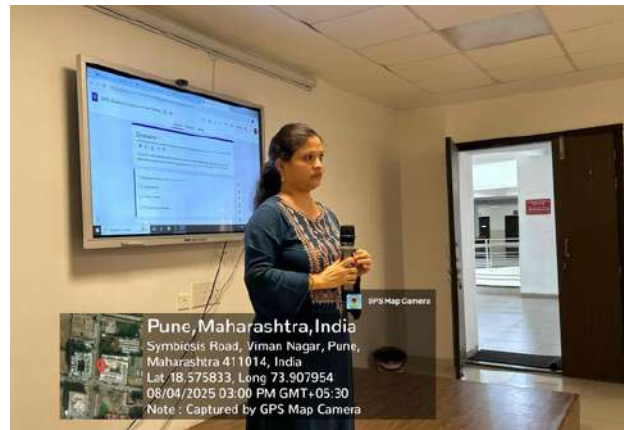
This session focused on the intersection of human needs and peer pressure, incorporating the following elements:

Objectives:

- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills
- Enhance communication skills
- Promote teamwork and collaboration

To achieve the above objectives, the session included the following activities:

- Viewing an animation on Maslow's hierarchy of needs
- Ice-breaking session with personal anecdotes on handling peer pressure
- Google Forms surveys on clothing practices, smoking/drinking, and study groups
- Scenario analysis and discussion
- Coping strategies workshop
- Reflection and debriefing



The session aimed to help students understand the relationship between human needs, peer pressure, and universal values, encouraging them to develop practical skills for navigating social dynamics.

## **7. Mentoring with Universal Human Values**

### ***Session: Prosperity and Relationships (August 5, 2025)***

The session was led by Dr. Shafat Yousuf and supported by Dr. Alvite Ningthoujam, Dr. Mohd Tahir Ganie, and Dr. Anamika Asthana.

This session delved into the concepts of prosperity and relationships, structured as follows:

Prosperity:

- Definition and components of prosperity
- Two pillars: self-knowledge and physical assessment
- Conditions for feeling prosperous
- Common misconceptions and educational focus



Relationships:

- Seven types of relationships
- Justice (Nyaya) in relationships
- Transactions vs. relationships
- Fair transactions and societal values
- Nine values in relationships
- Focus on trust (Vishwas)



The session involved assignments designed for students to reflect on their understanding of prosperity and trust in relationships. They were asked to share examples from their own lives where a lack of prosperity arose because they confused the needs of the self with the needs of the body, and to think about how they would address this. Additionally, they were encouraged to list people they trust unconditionally and continuously, and to reflect on why some close individuals may not fall into this category, exploring the reasons behind the lack of complete trust.

## **8. Literary Activity - Debate on Contemporary IR issue (August 6, 2025)**

The debate session was led by Mr. K Thangjalen Kipgen, supported by Dr Alvite Ningthoujam, Deputy Director.

Topic: The role of international organizations in conflict resolution

Format: Oxford-style debate

Duration: 2:30 – 3:30 PM

Structure:

- Opening Statements (7-10 minutes each for Proposition and Opposition teams)
- Rebuttals (5 minutes each)
- Cross-Examination (5-10 minutes)
- Closing Statements (3-5 minutes each)

This activity aimed to enhance students' critical thinking, argumentation, and public speaking skills while exploring a relevant global issue. As part of the Deeksharambh [Induction] programme, the above activities provided a comprehensive introduction to universal human values, personal development, and critical thinking. Through lectures, interactive sessions, and practical exercises, students were encouraged to reflect on important aspects of their individual and academic lives while developing essential skills for their future careers.

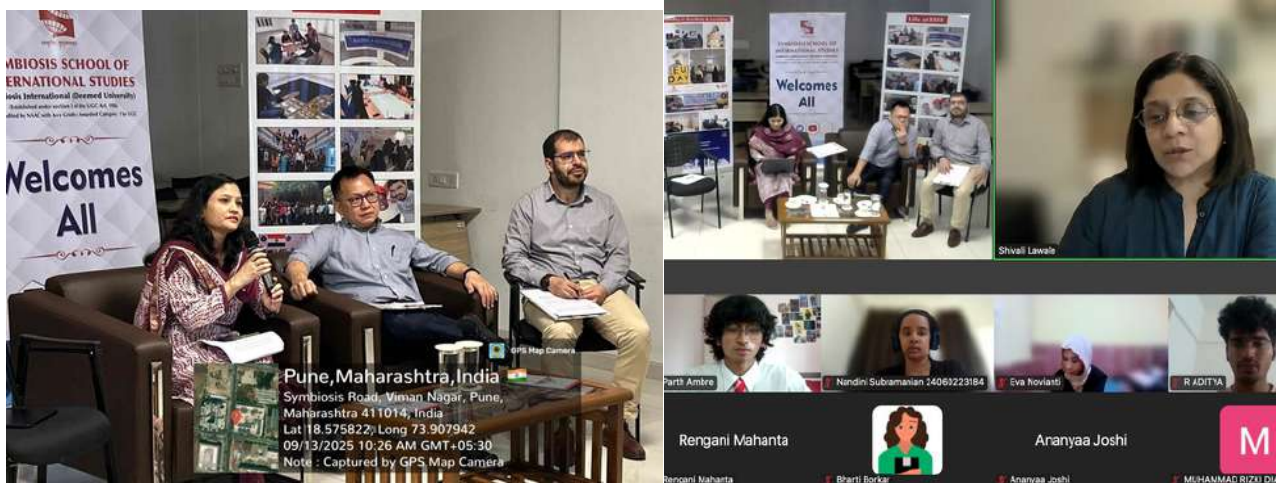


## 9. SSIS Student Research Conclave -virtual (September 13, 2025)

The SSIS Student Research Conclave was held virtually on September 13, 2025, bringing together young scholars from India - Indonesia. The event highlighted interdisciplinary engagement, featuring diverse perspectives from fields such as Law, Psychology, English, and more. The Conclave provided a dynamic platform for students to present their research papers and engage in meaningful academic exchange.

The event's central theme was “Beyond Traditional Diplomacy: India’s Engagement with Flexible Partnerships in a Changing World.” Presentations explored India’s evolving foreign policy strategies, particularly emphasising non-traditional and adaptive partnerships that address shifting global challenges.

Students highlighted various aspects of India’s international outreach, including regional cooperation, multilateral engagements, and issue-based alliances. The discussions underscored the importance of innovative diplomacy in responding to geopolitical, economic, and technological transformations.



## Conclusion

The ‘Deeksharambh’ induction programme was a comprehensive introduction to the academic, cultural, and social dimensions of life at SSIS, Pune. The field trips facilitated the integration of new students into the university community and broadened their perspectives on various societal issues. Furthermore, the Student Research Conclave served as a platform to ignite intellectual curiosity, enabling students to engage with research culture early in their academic journey and appreciate the significance of knowledge creation in international studies. These experiences have set a strong foundation for their journey in the Master's in International Studies program.