

Delegation of IFS Officers Visits Uttar Pradesh to Explore Trade, Tourism, and Export Opportunities

- *IFS Delegation explores business potential in Uttar Pradesh*

Lucknow, May 22, 2025: A delegation of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers from the 2013–14 batch is visiting Uttar Pradesh to explore the state's initiatives in trade, export, tourism, and skill development. The visit aims to promote global awareness of Uttar Pradesh's policies and position the state as a destination for investment, employment and inbound tourism.

On May 22, the delegation including — Ms. Soumya Gupta, Mr. Vivek Singh, Mr. Dharmendra Singh, Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Mr. Rahul Kumar Rakesh, Mr. Ved Prakash Singh, and Ms. Ananya Agarwal and Saumya Agarwal, visited the Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM) office in Lucknow, where Dr. Hariom, Principal Secretary, and Shri Abhishek Singh, Mission Director, presented key initiatives aimed at skilling youth for global opportunities. Discussions focused on aligning skill development with international standards and expanding global employment prospects through high-quality training programs like 'Special Project Praveen' and rural skill initiatives.

Later in the day, the officers interacted with officials of the UP-Tourism Department. Director Shri Prakhar Mishra and Special Secretary Ms. Eesha Priya highlighted the state's 12 Mega Tourism Circuits, including the Spiritual Triangle of Ayodhya, Varanasi, and Prayagraj, and the Buddhist circuit, which attracts global pilgrims. The discussions centred on collaborative efforts between embassies and the tourism department to enhance UP's visibility on the global tourism map and attract high-value foreign travellers.

Earlier, on May 21, the delegation met Shri Pranjal Yadav, Secretary, Department of MSME & Export Promotion at Lok Bhawan. He briefed the officers on Uttar Pradesh's robust export ecosystem, including the flagship *One District One Product (ODOP)* scheme and the upcoming Export Policy 2025. Emphasis was laid on leveraging diplomatic roles to promote local products and artisans abroad. ODOP mementos were presented to the officers as a gesture of goodwill.

The officers also interacted with Shri Anurag Yadav, Principal Secretary, IT & Electronics, who shared the state's achievements in electronics and IT exports. Despite being landlocked, Uttar Pradesh ranks as the second-largest electronics exporter in India, driven by investments in data centers and incentives for semiconductor manufacturing.

This multi-sectoral engagement reflects Uttar Pradesh's commitment to strengthening global linkages across trade, tourism, and skill development. The IFS officers expressed enthusiasm in supporting the state's global outreach through their diplomatic assignments.
