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SUSHMA SWARAJ INSTITUTE
OF FOREIGN SERVICE
विदेश मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

VIDEESH SEWA



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Editor's Desk



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विदेश मंत्रालय

Dean

*Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service
Ministry of External Affairs*

Frenetic diplomatic training activities and outreach defined the last quarter of the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS)' calendar. Both the verticals were intensely involved in rolling out courses under their respective charges. SSIFS was the proud host of the 48th Annual Meeting of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT) in November 2022. IFDT is the premier global forum that brings together more than 70 diplomatic training institutes and academic institutions from around the world. The 48th Annual Meeting of IFDT, which coincided with Government of India's 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, was attended by more than 60 Heads of Diplomatic Training Academies, Deans of academic institutions and other delegates drawn from over 40 countries.

In December 2022, SSIFS welcomed the latest entrants to the Indian Foreign Service fraternity - the IFS Officer Trainees of the 2022 Batch along with two Foreign Service Officers from Bhutan. During the Orientation Module, held from 12-22 December 2022, they called on the External Affairs Minister, all three Ministers of State for External Affairs and Foreign Secretary. Training programmes were also conducted in November 2022 for the Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) on India and its neighbourhood and in December 2022, Protocol Training for G20 Liaison Officers from other GoI Ministries was organized.

Under the Foreign Training vertical, we were delighted to roll out the 69th edition of SSIFS' month-long flagship programme, the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) which resumed after the COVID hiatus in October 2022. Forty-six young diplomats from forty-six countries participated in the programme. Fulfilling a commitment undertaken in the First India-Central Asia Summit in January 2022, the 2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Central Asia was conducted in December 2022. The 62nd and 63rd editions of the Know India Programme (KIP) were held in quick succession in November and December 2022 respectively where SSIFS hosted half-day orientation sessions on India and the broad contours of its foreign policy. The KIP is organized by MEA's Overseas Indian Affairs-II Division for young Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs).

It was a hectic quarter for MEA Staff training where Promotion-related training (for ASOs, PAs and Stenographers) and posting-related programmes were conducted sequentially.

The first quarter of 2023 is already geared up to be a hectic one with all our training programmes running at full steam. We look forward to sharing news on those fronts in our coming editions. Before concluding, on behalf of *Videsh Sewa*, allow me to wish all SSIFS alumni and readers a very happy, healthy and successful New Year – 2023!

[Sanjiv Ranjan]

New Delhi
January 2023

Highlights

Training for Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officers Induction Training Programme for IFS Officer Trainees of 2022 Batch and Diplomats from Bhutan

The Induction Training Programme (ITP) for the Officer Trainees (OTs) of the 2022 Batch of IFS and two diplomats from Bhutan commenced on 12 December 2022. During the Orientation Module, held from 12-22 December 2022, the OTs called on the External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar and MoS

for External Affairs & Education, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh on 19 December 2022; MoS for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan, MoS for External Affairs & Culture, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi and Foreign Secretary, Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra on 21 December 2022.



IFS OTs 2022 Batch with Team SSIFS



Welcome address by Dean (SSIFS)



IFS OTs' call on External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar





IFS OTs' call on Minister of State for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan



IFS OTs' call on Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi



IFS OTs' call on Minister of State for External Affairs & Education, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh



IFS OTs' call on Foreign Secretary, Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra



Training Programmes for other Civil Service Officers

Foreign Policy Module for the Special Foundation Course organized by Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA)

As part of a Special Foundation Course conducted by the Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), SSIFS organized a training programme on foreign policy with a focus on India and its neighbourhood

on 28-29 November 2022. Thirty-five officers of the 2018 to 2021 Batches from the Indian Police Service, Indian Railways Accounts Service and Indian Postal Service participated in the programme.



Special Training Module for Liaison Officers designated for G20 Summit

A one-day special training module was conducted by SSIFS on 02 December 2022 for the Liaison Officers (LOs) designated from various Ministries of the Government of India who are to be deputed with

foreign dignitaries attending Ministerial and other meetings in the run-up to the G20 Summit being hosted in India in September 2023.



Training Programmes for Foreign Diplomats

69th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats

The 69th edition of SSIFS' flagship programme, the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD), resumed after the COVID hiatus and was successfully conducted from 03-28 October 2022. Forty-six young diplomats from forty-six countries participated in the programme.

PCFD, which started in 1992, is the flagship programme for training of foreign diplomats. Held twice a year, in spring and autumn, it affirms India's commitment to its partner countries in sharing the knowledge and expertise acquired in the field of diplomats' training.

The 69th PCFD was inaugurated on 03 October 2022 by Dean (SSIFS), Amb. Sanjiv Ranjan, who delivered

the Inaugural Address. MOS for External Affairs & Education, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, was the Chief Guest at the Valedictory Ceremony held on 28 October 2022.

The programme included sessions on various topics including India's foreign policy, key international issues, multilateral diplomacy and diplomatic skills. There were also sessions on Ayurveda and Yoga. The participants got an exposure to modern India's economic and technological developments. They also undertook study tours both within and outside Delhi to experience the rich cultural heritage of India. The participants made interesting country presentations at the end of their training stint with SSIFS.



Group photo



Inaugural session



Welcome dinner hosted by Dean (SSIFS)



Country presentations





Valedictory Ceremony

Field Visits



Briefing session by Joint Secretary (XP) & MEA Spokesman, Shri Arindam Bagchi



Visit to Election Commission of India



Visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan



Visit to National Museum



Visit to National Gallery of Modern Art



Visit to Taj Mahal, Agra

Activities



Participants of 69th PCFD participated in the Yoga session

Cultural Extravaganza: LecDems organized by ICCR on Mohiniyattam and Kuchipudi



2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Central Asia

The 2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Central Asia took place from 05-16 December 2022. This course was offered by India at the First India-Central Asia Summit held virtually in January 2022. Twenty-nine diplomats from the Central Asian Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan attended the course. The Special Course was inaugurated on 05 December 2022 by Dean (SSIFS), Amb. Sanjiv Ranjan. The Valedictory Ceremony, held on 28 October 2022, was graced by Secretary (West), Amb. Sanjay Verma.

The training programme included modules on India's foreign policy, India's relations with Central

Asia, multilateral diplomacy & WTO, UN reforms, space diplomacy, India's perspectives on nuclear non-proliferation & disarmament, negotiation skills, water security, GoI's economic initiatives and economic reforms, digital empowerment, India's pandemic response, women in diplomacy, INSTC etc. There were also sessions on Ayurveda and Yoga. As a part of their study tours in New Delhi, the diplomats undertook visits to Rashtrapati Bhavan, Election Commission of India, National Museum and the Gurgaon automobile plant of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. They undertook a day-long visit to Agra to see the Taj Mahal. The participants made interesting country presentations.



Group Photo



Inaugural Session



Welcome dinner hosted by Dean (SSIFS)



Country presentation



Valedictory Ceremony



Field Visits



Briefing session by Joint Secretary (XP) & MEA Spokesman, Shri Arindam Bagchi



Visit to Election Commission of India



Visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan



Visit to Taj Mahal, Agra

Know India Programme (KIP)

Orientation Sessions for the 62nd and 63rd Know India Programmes (KIP) were organized by SSIFS in collaboration with MEA's OIA-II (Overseas Indian Affairs-II) Division on 04 November 2022 attended by 40 young Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) from fourteen countries and on 23 December 2022 attended by 38 PIOs from twelve countries respectively. The KIP is

a flagship initiative for Diaspora engagement which familiarizes Indian-origin youth (18-30 years) with their Indian roots and contemporary India through a 25-day orientation programme organized by OIA - II Division. The familiarization programme at SSIFS included modules on India and India's foreign policy.



Group photo of 62nd KIP



Group photo of 63rd KIP

Training Programmes for MEA Officials

- ❖ A Promotion-related Training Programme for 70 Assistant Section Officers and Cypher Assistant Section Officers (25 officials attended physically at headquarters and 45 joined in virtually from Missions and Posts abroad) was conducted in hybrid mode from 21-25 November 2022.
- ❖ A Promotion-related Training Programme for 54 Personal Assistants and Stenographers (21 officials attended physically at headquarters and 33 joined in virtually from Missions and Posts abroad) was conducted in hybrid mode from 28 November – 02 December 2022.
- ❖ An IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration and Tracking) Training was conducted for 38 MEA officials from 06-08 December 2022. This is a posting-related training programme.



- ❖ An Accounts Training Programme for 45 MEA officials (Section Officers/Private Secretaries and below) under orders of transfer to Missions/Posts abroad, was conducted on 22 December and the 84th IMAS (Integrated Mission Accounting System) Training Programme was conducted from 23 December 2022 – 06 January 2023.

Visitors to SSIFS



Dean (SSIFS), Amb. Sanjiv Ranjan received on 25 November 2022, a 7-member delegation from the Korean National Diplomatic Academy (including two officers from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in New Delhi) led by Mr. Hong Hyunik, Chancellor. Dean (SSIFS) gave a detailed briefing on SSIFS' activities and training programmes. They discussed issues of mutual cooperation and training related matters.

Dean (SSIFS), Amb. Sanjiv Ranjan received on 30 November 2022, the State Secretary of Latvia, H.E. Mr. Andris Pelss accompanied by a three-member delegation including the Latvian Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Juris Bone. Dean (SSIFS) gave a detailed briefing on SSIFS' activities and training programmes. They discussed training related matters.



The Ambassador of Cuba to India, H.E. Mr. Alejandro Simancas Marin, met Dean (SSIFS), Amb. Sanjiv Ranjan on 30 November 2022 to discuss training related matters for Cuban diplomats.

International Outreach

48th Annual Meeting of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training [IFDT]

SSIFS organized the 48th Annual Meeting of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT) from 14-18 November 2022. IFDT is a premier global forum that brings together more than 70 diplomatic training institutes and academic institutions from around the world. The 48th Annual Meeting of IFDT, which coincided with Government of India's 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, was attended by more than 60 Heads of Diplomatic Training Academies, Deans of academic institutions and other delegates drawn from over 40 countries.

The Annual Meeting was inaugurated on 15 November 2022 by Secretary (Economic Relations), Shri Dammu Ravi, who delivered the Keynote Address on the occasion. Shri V. Muraleedharan, MoS for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs and Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, MoS for External Affairs & Culture, addressed the delegates on 15 November and 16 November 2022 respectively.

On 15 and 16 November 2022, eight panel discussions on a range of topics related to diplomatic training and issues of global importance were held under the overarching theme of 'Diplomacy for Development'. Panellists and moderators included representatives of IFDT member institutions, United Nations officials,

senior officials of Government of India, eminent domain experts including former Ambassadors of India, and members of academia and think-tanks. On 17-18 November 2022, visits to iconic monuments in Delhi and Agra were organized for the IFDT delegates. Site visits to the India International Trade Fair (IITF), and the National Crafts Museum were also conducted.

On 15-16 November 2022, on the sidelines of the IFDT, Dean (SSIFS) met his counterparts from Ghana [Amb. (Ms.) Akua Sekyiwa Ahenkora, Acting Coordinating Director, Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration of Ghana]; Armenia [Amb. (Dr.) Vahe Gabrielyan, Director, Diplomatic School of Armenia]; Kyrgyzstan (Ms. Chinara Adamkulova, Rector, Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic); Japan (Mr. Akira Muto, Director General, Foreign Service Training Institute, Japan); Jamaica (Ms. Sheila Sealy Monteith, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica); Thailand (Ms. Thitiporn Chirasawadi, Director, Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs of Thailand) and Hungary [Dr. (Ms.) Orsolya Pacsay-Tomassich, President, Hungarian Diplomatic Academy].



Address by Ministers of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi and Dean (SSIFS), Amb. Sajiv Ranjan



Panel discussions with the participation of eminent scholars and think-tanks



Cultural programme showcasing folk dances of India



IFDT delegates' visit to the Taj Mahal, Agra, Red Fort and Crafts Museum in Delhi and the India International Trade Fair



Dean (SSIFS)' meeting with Director, Diplomatic School of Armenia



Dean (SSIFS)'s meeting with Acting Coordinating Director, FSI, Ghana



Dean (SSIFS)'s meeting with Permanent Secretary, MFA, Jamaica



Dean (SSIFS)'s meeting with Director, D.V. Institute of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

2nd Meeting of Deans and Heads of the BRICS Diplomatic Training Institutions

The 2nd Meeting of Deans and Heads of the BRICS Diplomatic Training Institutions on the theme “Practical Cooperation between the BRICS

Diplomatic Training Institutions amid the New Challenges to the World” was held virtually on 06 December 2022.



New Postings

SSIFS welcomes:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Prakalp Yadav	PA
2.	Shri Nikita Kumari	ASO
3.	Shri Amit Kumar	ASO
4.	Shri Pawan Kumar	PA

SSIFS bid farewell to:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Suresh Kumar	Principal Staff Officer



About Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service

The Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) was established in 1986 by the Government of India primarily to cater to the professional training needs of the Indian Foreign Service and the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. SSIFS has diversified its activities to include courses for foreign diplomats in its efforts to build bridges of friendship and cooperation with countries around the world and courses of interest to staff and officers at all levels of the Ministry of External Affairs as well as other Civil Services. The Institute is located at Baba Gangnath Marg, Old JNU Campus, New Delhi.

SSIFS is headed by the Dean, a senior Foreign Service officer of the rank of Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. The current Dean is Shri Sanjiv Ranjan. SSIFS primarily has an extensive guest faculty drawn from experts in the field of academics and research, media, public life, industry and trade, senior serving and retired diplomats and other government officials.

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