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VIDEESH SEWA



Contents

Editor's Desk

Highlights

- 01 | Training for Indian Foreign Service Officers
- 04 | Training Programmes for other Civil Service Officers
- 04 | Training Programmes for Foreign Diplomats
- 08 | Training Programmes for MEA Officials
- 09 | Visitors to SSIFS
- 09 | New Postings

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Editor's Desk



डीन
सुषमा स्वराज विदेश सेवा संस्थान
विदेश मंत्रालय

Dean
Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service
Ministry of External Affairs

We entered the second quarter of 2024 with a series of programmes at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS). On the Foreign Vertical, the Institute held the 71st edition of its Flagship programme, the "Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats" with participation of 34 diplomats from 30 countries. In addition, the Institute welcomed 29 diplomats from Cambodia and Madagascar for their 1st ever Special Course. Similarly, the Institute organised the 2nd Special Course for 15 diplomats from the Lao PDR and the 3rd Special Course for 21 diplomats from The Gambia. A delegation from Diplomatic Correspondents Association of Bangladesh (DCAB) also visited the Institute.

On the Internal Training Vertical, the Institute's focus was on completion of the Induction Training Programme (ITP) of the 2023 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer Trainees (OTs) and the two Bhutanese Diplomats. The OTs attended a technology module at Carnegie India. They also undertook attachments at the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE); the External Publicity and Public Diplomacy and Protocol Divisions of MEA; and at the National Disaster Management Authority & the Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure Headquarters. The OTs also underwent their traditional Army and Air Attachments as well as deployments with select Indian Missions abroad.

External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar congratulated the OTs at their Valedictory Ceremony in the presence of Minister of State, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh and Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra. Meritorious officers were awarded the Medals in the respective categories.

The IFS Officers of the 2008 Batch joined the SSIFS for their Mid-Career Training Programme. The Institute also conducted a training programme for Defence Attachés who have been posted to Indian Missions abroad.

The Institute conducted both promotion related and domain based training programmes for MEA Staff members with 93 officials joining the programmes in-person and another 72 officials in virtual format from Missions abroad.

We at the Institute convey our hearty congratulations to the IFS OTs of the 2023 Batch and two Bhutanese colleagues on successful completion of their Induction Training Programme at SSIFS and wish them well in their future endeavors.

[Gaddam Dharmendra]

New Delhi
July 2024

Highlights

Training for Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officers Induction Training Programme for IFS Officer Trainees of 2023 Batch and Diplomats from Bhutan

The second phase of the Induction Training Programme (ITP) for thirty-six IFS Officer Trainees (OTs) and two Bhutanese diplomats continued in April 2024. This period included sessions on technology,

including a one-day technology module by Carnegie India; consular, visa and passport issues, passport sewa project, crisis management, diaspora engagement, emigration policy, paper presentations, etc.



A day-long technology module organized by Carnegie India



The OTs and the Bhutanese diplomats were attached to various entities in New Delhi such as NDMA, CDRI, Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE), the External Publicity & Public Diplomacy and Protocol Divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs.



Visit to CDRI, New Delhi



Module at the National Disaster Management Authority, New Delhi





Mission Attachment of IFS OTs

The period also saw the officers undergo attachments outside New Delhi such as Army Attachment and attachment with Indian Missions abroad. This year,

the OTs underwent week-long Attachments with our Missions in Bangladesh, China, Kenya, Nepal, Russia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, UAE, and USA in April 2024.



Call on Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal



Call on State Minister of Sri Lanka



Call on MoS for Foreign Affairs of UAE



Meeting with HRC President in Geneva



OTs called on Ambassador of India to Russia



OTs called on PR of India to the UN in Geneva



OTs at the Consulate General of India, Birgunj, Nepal



Army Attachment



OTs met with DG, United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya



Army Attachment



Army Attachment

The six-month long ITP concluded with a valedictory function on 11 May 2024 chaired by Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Dr S.Jaishankar as the Chief Guest and Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh as the Guest of Honour. EAM gave away Gold Medal to the Best Officer Trainee and Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Medal for the Best Research Paper, while MoS gave away the

Silver Medal for Esprit de Corps and Trophies for Best Sportsman, Best Sportswoman and Best Committee. Shri Vinay Kwatra, Foreign Secretary and Amb Amarendra Khatua, President of the Association of Indian Diplomats (AID), along with Maj. Gen. Vetsop Namgyel, Ambassador of Bhutan to India were also present on the occasion.



EAM's Gold Medal



Bimal Sanyal Medal



Silver Medal (Esprit d'corps)



EAM at the Valedictory Function

Mid Career Training Programme-II

The Mid-Career Training Programme-II (MCTP-II) for 30 IFS officers of 2008 batch from 24-28 June, 2024 commenced with a foreign policy

module at SSIFS. The valedictory session on 28 June, 2024 was chaired by Shri Vikram Misri, Deputy NSA.



Group Photo



Valedictory session



Valedictory session

Training Programmes for other Civil Service Officers

Training Programme for Defence Attachés

A 3-day training programme for Defence Attachés posted to Indian Missions abroad was held at SSIFS on 08-10 April 2024. 16 Defence Attaché-designates

from the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy participated in the programme.



Group photo



Inaugural session

Training Programmes for Foreign Diplomats

1st Special Course for Diplomats from Cambodia and 2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Lao PDR

The 1st Special Course for Diplomats from Cambodia and the 2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Lao PDR was held at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi from 27 March - 05 April 2024. Thirty young diplomats from Cambodia and Lao PDR participated in this course.

The course was inaugurated on 27 March 2024 by

Amb. Gaddam Dharmendra, Dean (SSIFS) in the presence of Mr. Theam Vuth, Cd'A of Royal Embassy of Cambodia and Mr. Keo Sengdavong, DCM of Lao People's Democratic Republic to India.

The programme was in line with strong bonds of friendship anchored in shared civilization, religious and cultural heritage between India & Cambodia and India & Lao PDR.



Group Photo



Inaugural session



Visit to Rashtrapati Bhawan



Visit to Bharat Mandapam

Visit to Taj Mahal

Visit to Hyderabad House

Visit to Maha Bodhi Temple,
Delhi

Visit to National Museum

Valedictory Session

71st Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats

The 71st Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) was organized from 22 April - 03 May 2024. The PCFD is a flagship programme of SSIFS which is being held since 1992. Thirty-four diplomats representing thirty countries participated in this programme.

Shri Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East) inaugurated the 71st PCFD with Shri Gaddam Dharmendra, Dean, SSIFS.

The PCFD programme affirms India's commitment to its partner countries in sharing knowledge and expertise acquired in the field of diplomatic training since one of the core principles of India's Foreign Policy has been to work towards building a peaceful, secure and stable world, particularly through forging

mutually beneficial relationships with countries from across the world.

The Programme included modules on topics such as global political and economic landscapes, digital & financial infrastructure, sustainable development goals, multilateral diplomacy, new and emerging technologies, sustainable tourism etc. were also included. The participants got an exposure to developments through class room sessions and field trips to various Institutions and facilities - International Solar Alliance, Indian Council for Agricultural Research and Delhi Metro. As part of the programme, a day visit to Agra and some places of cultural heritage in New Delhi were also organized.



Group Photo



Inaugural session



Visit to International Solar Alliance



Visit to Indian Council of Agricultural Research



Special Yoga Session



Visit to Delhi Metro Museum



Visit to Maruti Plant



Valedictory Session



Visit to Taj Mahal



Valedictory Session

1st Special Course for Diplomats from Madagascar and 3rd Special Course for Diplomats from The Gambia

The 1st Special Course for Diplomats from Madagascar and 3rd Special Course for Diplomats from The Gambia was organized from 12-21 June 2024 with the participation of thirty-five young diplomats in this course.

The Special Course was inaugurated by Amb. Gaddam Dharmendra, Dean (SSIFS), in the presence of H.E. Mr. Mustapha Jawara, High Commissioner of The Gambia to India & Mrs. Tahina Rasamoelina Cd'A (a.i.) of the Republic of Madagascar to India.

The Special course was organised in line with the warm and friendly relations that India shares with both The Gambia and the Republic of Madagascar. These are reflected through high level visits, bilateral cooperation, capacity building programmes and Diaspora linkages. The programme included sessions on key international issues, geo-political and New Trends in Diplomacy, Economic Landscape, diplomacy & negotiations skills, Digitalisation, global supply chains etc. The diplomats undertook study visits both within and outside Delhi to experience the rich cultural heritage of India.



Group photo



Inaugural Session



Interactive session at FICCI



Interactive session at FICCI



Visit to Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya



Special Yoga Session on IDY 2024



Valedictory session



Visit to Taj Mahal



Valedictory session



Valedictory session

Visit of Diplomatic Correspondents Association of Bangladesh (DCAB) delegation

A 20-member delegation of Diplomatic Correspondents Association of Bangladesh (DCAB)

visited the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service on 08 May 2024



Group Photo



Inaugural session

Training Programmes for MEA Officials

Domain-based Training Programmes

- IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners' Registration and Tracking) Training was conducted at SSIFS from 09-10 April 2024. 19 MEA Officials of the rank of Section Officer/Private Secretaries and below attended in the programme.
- Accounts Training Programme and 91st IMAS (Integrated Mission and Accounting System) Training Programme is being conducted at SSIFS from 24 June – 01 July 2024. 29 MEA Officials of the rank of Section Officer/Private Secretaries and below attended in the programme.

Other Training Programmes

- A Promotion-related Training Programme for Section Officers was conducted in hybrid mode from 27 May – 07 June 2024. 15 officials attended the training in-person at SSIFS and 32 officials joined in virtual format.
- A Promotion related Training Programme for Stenographers and Personal Assistants (PAs) was conducted in hybrid mode from 13-20 June 2024. 07 Stenographers and 23 PAs attended the training in-person at SSIFS while 16 Stenographers and 24 PAs joined in virtual format.



Promotion related Training Programme for Stenographers and PAs

Visitors to SSIFS



Mrs. ZOZO BINTI Josephine
Charge d'Affaires a.i., Democratic
Republic of Congo met Joint
Secretary (SSIFS), Mrs. Anita
Shukla on 06 June 2024.



Mr. Oday Hatim Mohammed, Counsellor paid a
courtesy call on Joint Secretary (SSIFS), Mrs. Anita
Shukla on 06 June 2024.



H.E. Mr. Juan Angulo, Ambassador of the Republic
of Chile to India met Dean (SSIFS), Shri Gaddam
Dharmendra in connection with a Special Course
for Pacific Alliance Countries on 12 June 2024.

New Postings

SSIFS welcomes:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Ms. Amrita Banerjee	Under Secretary
2.	Shri Tapish Khatik	ASO
3.	Shri Surender Kumar	ASO
4.	Ms. Nisha	Receptionist (OS)

SSIFS bid farewell to

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Kriti Das Thokchom	Under Secretary
2.	Dr. Himanshi Rastogi	Faculty
3.	Shri Rahul Meena	ASO
4.	Shri Nitin Pokhriyal	ASO (OS)
5.	Ms. Upasana Choudhary	Receptionist (OS)



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 Gaddam Dharmendra. 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.

Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service

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