

VIDESH SEWA



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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

The quarter from April-June 2022 signalled a return to full-time physical courses with a packed schedule. Both the verticals of SSIFS had several programmes lined up either simultaneously or sequentially. With the Institute humming with activity, numerous participants and guest speakers thronging the premises, it appeared that the pandemic was indeed behind us though it is not so!

The 2021 Batch of the Indian Foreign Service Officer Trainees (IFS OTs) and two diplomats from Bhutan settled in quickly and had an intensive quarter filled with training sessions addressed by dignitaries and visitors. They had various attachments within the country. SSIFS also conducted the Mid-Career Training Programme-III (MCTP-III) for senior IFS Officers and MCTP-I (for middle-level IFS Officers) in May and June 2022 respectively. In addition, the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), in collaboration with SSIFS, organized a one-day workshop on "Enhancing Teaching Capacities of Central Training Institutes (CTIs)" on 29 June 2022.

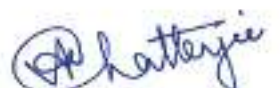
As far as Foreign Training (FT) was concerned, a half-day orientation programme for the EU COASI (Asia-Oceania Working Party) diplomats was organized in May 2022. The 3rd Special Course for Diplomats from South Sudan was held from 17-27 May 2022. After a gap of almost one year, the 5th Familiarization Programme for Resident Foreign Diplomats was conducted from 13-17 June 2022. There was a significant presence of women diplomats in all the three FT programmes.

Several courses of Non-Representational Grade (NRG) officials were conducted during this quarter. The first-ever Induction Training Programme (ITP) for the 2018 batch of Direct Recruit Assistant Superintendents of the Central Passport Organisation (CPO) was conducted in April 2022 in collaboration with MEA's PSP (Passport Seva Project) Division. Similarly, the Induction Training Programme (ITP) for the newly inducted officers and officials of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was conducted in June 2022 in collaboration with ICCR. A "Citizen-Centric Orientation Programme" was also organized in June for MEA Interns from different States of India. The Programme was conducted in collaboration with MEA's Administration Division. In addition, various posting-related programmes and skill tests were conducted during the past quarter.

The past three months witnessed visits by several Cabinet Ministers, foreign guest speakers and Ambassadors to address our participants in the programmes of SSIFS.

As we look forward to the next three months, the schedule of programmes promises to be exciting! We, at *Videsh Sewa*, will work to ensure that you do not miss anything in the diplomatic training calendar in the months ahead!

New Delhi
July 2022


[Arun Kumar Chatterjee]

Highlights

Training for Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officers Induction Training Programme for IFS Officer Trainees of 2021 Batch and Diplomats from Bhutan

The Induction Training Programme for IFS Officer Trainees (OTs) of the 2021 Batch and two Bhutanese diplomats was on in full swing during this quarter and the programme has been a power-packed one. The modules included theories on International Relations focusing on Policy Making, MEA Administration-related sessions, role and responsibilities abroad and at headquarters, organisation and structure of MEA, gender sensitization, diplomatic communication, India's foreign policy, India's relations with neighbouring countries, regional connectivity, cross border power trade, border infrastructure, movement of people, border trade, Indian Ocean Region (IOR), BIMSTEC, political, economic, social and strategic aspects of India, critical thinking, simulations on foreign policy analysis, India's development partnership cooperation, India's relations with major powers, Europe, EU, Central Asia, Central Europe, Nordic countries, Visegrad countries, Oceania, ASEAN, Indo-Pacific, Japan, Iran, West Asia (Israel and GCC countries), Africa, multilateral bodies, economic diplomacy, trade, technology, security, migration, climate change, EU-India FTA, global gateway etc.

In April, there was a Fireside Chat with Prof. Rachel Kyte, Dean, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. IFS OTs and the Bhutanese diplomats visited the MEA Library in Patiala House. They attended a book launch at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) by the then Foreign Secretary, Shri Harshvardhan Shringla, on "Indian Diplomacy and Covid Response". They also attended the two-day Raisina Dialogue on 26-27 April 2022 organised by Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in collaboration with MEA. A half-day visit to the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) and the International Solar Alliance Headquarters, both located in Gurugram, and the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya were also organised during this quarter. They were addressed by the Polish

Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Zbigniew Rau, and the former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh and Bangabandhu Chair of University of Delhi, Mr. Shahidul Haque. In the month of May, Ambassadors from Israel, Iran and Mexico also addressed them.

Attachments of the IFS OTs

The various attachments of the IFS OTs and Bhutanese diplomats were as follows:

Bharat Darshan

Bharat Darshan provides the Officer Trainees an opportunity to explore and appreciate India's rich history and heritage and its immense ecological and cultural diversity. This was organised from 01-09 May 2022.

State Attachment

The OTs and the two diplomats from Bhutan attended State Attachment from 11-13 May 2022. In the spirit of cooperative federalism and for strengthening paradiplomacy, all IFS OTs have been allotted different Indian States. They underwent attachment with their allotted Indian States during which they received briefings on the latest initiatives of the respective State Governments and explored the potential for international cooperation, foreign investment, technology transfer in priority sectors of their concerned State.

Army attachment

The OTs attended the Army Attachment with the Northern & Eastern Commands from 6-10 June 2022. Army Attachment is an integral part of the ITP. It serves to provide the OTs an overview of the organizational structure of the Indian Army and a better understanding of border management issues.

Department of Atomic Energy

The OTs and two diplomats from Bhutan attended a 3-day attachment organised by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) from 13-15 June 2022. Shri K.N. Vyas, Secretary, DAE & Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, and other senior officials from DAE addressed the OTs during the attachment. They also visited the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and the Nuclear Power Plant at Tarapur.



Address to IFS OTs by Ms. Rachel Kyte, Dean, Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy

Attachment with the Indian Navy

To gain a deeper understanding of the organisational structure and maritime capabilities of the Indian Navy, the OTs and the two diplomats from Bhutan were attached with the Indian Navy in Mumbai from 16-17 June 2022.

In addition to the above attachments, the OTs also had attachments with **NITI Aayog** and the **Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (MP-IDSA)** on 29 June and 30 June 2022 respectively.



Address by H.E. Mr. Naor Gilon, Ambassador of Israel to India

Address by H.E. Dr. Ali Chegeni, Ambassador of Iran to India

Address by H.E. Mr. Federico Salas Lotfe, Ambassador of Mexico to India

Address by Mr. Shahidul Haque, former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh



Visit to Information Fusion Centre-IOR



Visit to International Solar Alliance (ISA)



Visit to Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya



Visit to Regional Passport Office, Mumbai



Visit to Department of Atomic Energy, Tarapur Atomic Power Station & Tata Memorial Hospital by IFS OTs



Call on dignitaries during State Attachments (Governors, Chief Ministers & senior officials) by IFS OTs



'Incredible India' through the eyes of IFS OTs during their Bharat Darshan



Army Attachment of IFS OTs



Mid-Career Training Programme-III

The Mid-Career Training Programme-III (MCTP-III) for IFS Officers of the 1992, 1995, 1996 and 1997 Batches was conducted from 09-27 May 2022. The participants included sixteen Ambassadors/High Commissioners, two Heads of Posts (HOPs) and seven Heads of Divisions (HODs).

The MCTP-III Programme was divided into three parts – the Foreign Policy Module at SSIFS (09-13 May), the Management Module at Indian School of Business, Hyderabad (16-20 May) and the State Attachment (23-27 May). The programme was inaugurated on 09 May 2022 by Minister of State for External Affairs & Education, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh. The Valedictory Ceremony, held on 13 May 2022, was graced by Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi. Foreign Secretary, Shri Vinay Kwatra met the participants and hosted a Welcome Dinner on 08 May 2022.

The senior IFS Officers were also addressed by several Ministers and Secretaries – Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Housing, Urban Affairs & Petroleum & Natural Gas; Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Health and Family Welfare; Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, MoS (Electronics & Information Technology); Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Aayog; Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Shri Pramod Kumar Pathak, Special Secretary, Ministry of Ayush; Shri Anurag Jain, Secretary, DPIIT & Chairman, Invest India; Dr. Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor; all MEA Secretaries – Secretary (East), Secretary (ER), Secretary (CPV & OIA) and Secretary (West) and the Ambassador of Italy to India, H.E. Mr. Vincenzo de Luca. The participants called on External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar on 12 May 2022.



Group Photo



Inauguration of MCTP-III by Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs & Education



Address by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs



Call on External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar



Visit to Indian School of Business, Hyderabad



Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture, graced the Valedictory Ceremony

Mid-Career Training Programme-I

The Mid-Career Training Programme-I (MCTP-I) for 23 IFS Officers of the 2010 and 2011 batches was held from 06-22 June 2022. The participants included officers posted at Headquarters, Regional Passport Offices in the country and in the Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

The MCTP-III Programme was divided into three components – the Foreign Policy Module at SSIFS (06-11 June), the Management Module at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (13-16 June), Cyber Security Module at the National Forensic

Sciences University, Gandhinagar (17 June) and the State Attachment (20-22 June). MCTP-I was inaugurated on 06 June 2022 by Shri Arun Kumar Chatterjee, Dean (SSIFS).

The participants were addressed by many senior serving officers and retired Ambassadors including Secretary (ER), Shri Dammu Ravi. They visited the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) on 09 June and the newly opened Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya on 11 June 2022.



Group Photo



Calls on Hon'ble Governor of Kerala



Calls on Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh



Visit to IFC-IOR



Visit to NFSU, Gandhinagar



Visit to IIM Ahmedabad



Valedictory Ceremony

Training Programmes for other Civil Service Officers

Workshop of Capacity Building Commission (CBC)

The Capacity Building Commission (CBC), in collaboration with SSIFS, organized a one-day workshop on “Enhancing Teaching Capacities of Central Training Institutes (CTIs)” on 29 June 2022. The objective of the workshop was to delve deep into the topics of faculty selection, training and development in CTIs like institutionalization of systematic faculty development. The focus areas were to make CTIs aware of (i) practitioner to learning-facilitator; (ii) introduction to the concepts of learning design and adult learning principles; (iii) understanding the current faculty development needs from CTIs and (iv) conducting effective faculty development programmes. Twenty-five CTIs from across India were invited. The workshop was held in a hybrid mode – thirty participants were



physically present and twenty-five joined in virtually. Chairman of CBC, Shri Adil Zainulbhai addressed the inaugural session. There were panel discussions and a breakout session related to faculty development. The workshop concluded with a session by Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Member (HR) and Shri Hemang Jani, Secretary, CBC.

Training Programmes for Foreign Diplomats

Orientation Programme for the European Union (EU) COASI (Asia-Oceania Working Party) delegation

On a request received from the Europe West Division, a half-day Orientation Programme was conducted on 23 May 2022 for the visiting European Union (EU) Asia-Oceania Working Party (COASI) delegation consisting of twenty-one diplomats. The Asia-Oceania Working Party (COASI) is composed of diplomats representing the 27 EU Member States. It handles preparations for discussions on EU relations with Asia and Oceania in the EU Foreign Affairs Council and deals with developing long-term EU strategies and policies for the region, preparing summits with EU's strategic partners and preparing the political framework agreements between the EU and countries in the Asia and Oceania region.

Three interactive sessions on the Indo-Pacific, India's Foreign Policy and GoI's Economic Initiatives & Investment Opportunities in India were organised for the visiting delegation. The diplomats were welcomed by Joint Secretary (SSIFS – FT&NRG), Ms. Nilakshi Saha Sinha, who gave a brief overview of SSIFS and the expansion in its activities over the past five years.



3rd Special Course for Diplomats from South Sudan

The 3rd Special Course for Diplomats from South Sudan was held from 17-27 May 2022. Thirty-one diplomats including ten women diplomats from the Republic of South Sudan participated in the course.

The Special Course was inaugurated on 17 May 2022 by Dean (SSIFS), Shri Arun Kumar Chatterjee. A welcome reception was hosted for the visiting diplomats. The programme included lecture sessions on India's foreign policy, India-West and North Africa Relations and in particular with South Sudan, development

partnership cooperation, water and energy security, SDGs, role of women in diplomacy, agricultural and food security, Ayurveda and disaster management. As part of their study tours, the diplomats visited Rashtrapati Bhavan, Election Commission of India and the National Gallery of Modern Art. A session on yoga and meditation was also organised for them. The South Sudanese diplomats made interesting country presentations and were attired in their national costumes on the last day of the programme.



Group Photo



Inaugural session



Visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan

Welcome dinner hosted by Dean (SSIFS)



Country presentation by diplomats from South Sudan



Visit to Election Commission of India



Valedictory Ceremony



Diplomats from South Sudan in traditional attire

5th Familiarisation Programme for Resident Diplomats

The 5th Familiarization Programme for Resident Foreign Diplomats was held from 13-17 June 2022. Thirty-three diplomats from resident diplomatic Missions of twenty-three countries spanning Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and Oceania participated in the programme. The Programme was inaugurated on 13 June 2022 by Dean (SSIFS), Shri Arun K. Chatterjee.

The objective of the Familiarization Programme was to “introduce” India to the resident diplomats. A wide spectrum of speakers drawn from the academia, think-tanks, retired Ambassadors and senior serving

officers from MEA and other Ministries, NITI Aayog, Election Commission of India, etc. addressed the diplomats on *inter alia* India’s foreign policy priorities, Indian polity, Government of India’s Flagship Schemes, economic and trade initiatives, digitalization and development, conduct of elections in India, Indian culture and tourism prospects. A high tea was hosted on all five days showcasing snacks/cuisine from different regions of India.



Group Photo



Inaugural session addressed by Dean (SSIFS)



Valedictory Ceremony



Training Programmes for MEA Officials

Induction Training Programme for Direct Recruit Assistant Superintendents of the Central Passport Organisation (CPO)

The first-ever Induction Training Programme for the 2018 batch of Direct Recruit Assistant Superintendents of the Central Passport Organisation (CPO) was conducted from 04-13 April 2022 in collaboration with MEA's Passport Seva Project (PSP) Division. Fourteen Assistant Superintendents, deployed with different Passport Offices across India, participated in this course.

The training programme was inaugurated on 04 April 2022 by Dean (SSIFS), Shri Arun K. Chatterjee. The programme was curated keeping in mind the professional requirements of the Passport Cadre officials. The eight-day long training programme included interactive sessions on a range of issues related to Government rules and regulations, MEA procedures and passport-related issues and services.



Group Photo



Inaugural session



Valedictory Ceremony



Induction Training Programme for the officials of ICCR

An Induction Training Programme for thirty-one newly inducted officers and officials of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was conducted from 22-24 June 2022 in collaboration with ICCR.

The training programme was inaugurated on 22 June 2022 by Joint Secretary (SSIFS – FT&NRG), Ms. Nilakshi Saha Sinha. The programme was designed

to cater to the professional requirements of the ICCR officers and officials. The training programme included interactive sessions covering *inter alia* a range of issues related to ICCR, Government and MEA functioning, rules and procedures, foreign policy, financial rules and regulations.



Group Photo



Inaugural session



Valedictory Ceremony



Posting-related Training Programmes and Skill tests

- ♦ A training programme on Immigration, Visa, Foreigners' Registration and Tracking (IVFRT) was conducted from 18-25 April 2022 for 105 MEA officials under orders of transfer to Missions/Posts abroad.
- ♦ An Accounts Training Programme, in two batches was conducted from 26 April - 12 May 2022 for 92 MEA officials under orders of transfer to Missions/Posts abroad.
- ♦ The 83rd IMAS (Integrated Mission Accounting System) Training Programme was conducted from 27 April - 27 May 2022 for 92 MEA officials in four batches.
- ♦ Training in computer skills was organized, in two batches, for 17 officials from the OIA-II (Overseas Indian Affairs –II) Division, MEA from 02-03 June 2022.
- ♦ An English Stenography Test, in two batches, for the 13 Direct Recruit Personal Assistants (PAs) and 04 Stenographers of the Ministry was conducted on 30 June 2022.



*Inaugural address by Ms. Nilakshi Saha Sinha, JS (SSIFS)
at 83rd IMAS Training Programme*



Citizen-Centric Orientation Programme for MEA Interns

A “Citizen-Centric Orientation Programme” was organized from 21-22 June 2022 for forty-four Interns from different states of India. The Interns have been deployed with various MEA Divisions. The Programme was conducted in collaboration with MEA’s Administration Division.

The objective of the Orientation Programme was to give an overview of the MEA to the Interns and the citizen-centric services rendered by the Ministry to Indian citizens and Diaspora. Senior officers of the MEA addressed the Interns on the organizational structure of the MEA, Passport and Consular Services, India’s foreign policy priorities, Diaspora and Students’ Welfare Schemes, India’s pandemic response, evacuation of Indian citizens in emergencies and India’s Development Partnership Initiatives. The Orientation Programme enabled the

Interns to understand the functioning of the MEA before being deployed with the various Divisions. This would also promote a better understanding of the work being done by the MEA amongst the larger student community when the Interns return to their colleges and universities.



Group Photo



Inaugural session



Valedictory Ceremony

Visitors to SSIFS



H.E. Mr. Zbigniew Rau, Foreign Minister of Poland visited SSIFS on 25 April 2022 and addressed the IFS OTs and Bhutanese diplomats.



Dean (SSIFS) met Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sheikholeslami, President of the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) of Iran during his visit on 27 April 2022.



H.E. Mr. Daniel Peter Othol, Ambassador of South Sudan to India met Dean (SSIFS) on 11 May 2022 to discuss the forthcoming 3rd Special Course for Diplomats from South Sudan from 17-27 May 2022.



H.E. Mr. Isse Abdillahi Assoweh, Ambassador of Djibouti met Dean (SSIFS) on 08 June 2022.



H.E. Mr. Abderrahmane Benguerah, Ambassador of Algeria met Dean (SSIFS) on 22 June 2022.

International Cooperation

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding

Jamaica

A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Diplomatic Training between SSIFS and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica was signed on 16 May 2022 during the visit to Jamaica by Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind.



Gabon

A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Diplomatic Training between SSIFS and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Gabon was signed on 31 May 2022 during the visit to Gabon by Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu.



New Postings

SSIFS bid farewell to:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Dr. Shilpa Bagade	Faculty
2.	Shri Vijay Ram	MTS

SSIFS welcomes:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Rahul Meena	ASO
2.	Shri Hitesh Agrawal	MTS



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 Arun K. Chatterjee. 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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