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VIDESH SEWA

SUSHMA SWARAJ INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN SERVICE
Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

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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 Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) witnessed a change of guard in July 2022. With former Dean, Shri Arun Kumar Chatterjee, proceeding on his overseas assignment as India's Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, I assumed charge as the Dean of SSIFS on 22 July 2022. Life comes a full circle as I head the Institute where I had trained as a Probationer almost three decades ago!

I took over at a juncture when India, and naturally our Institute, finally emerged from the shadows of the pandemic. The packed training calendar continued in the third quarter from July-September 2022.

The Indian Foreign Service Officer Trainees of the 2021 batch and two colleagues from Bhutan underwent their much anticipated Mission Attachment (with a focus on India's neighbouring countries) as also attachment with important Bengaluru-based institutions such as ISRO, IISc, DRDO and India Stack. The Officer Trainees called on the Hon'ble President and the Hon'ble Prime Minister during this period. Both the calls were life-changing experiences for them as they set out on their diplomatic journey. As the six-month Induction Training Programme drew to a close, the Valedictory Ceremony, held on 13 September 2022, was a glittering one with the External Affairs Minister gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest and the Minister of State (RRS) as the Guest of Honour. They gave away various awards to Officer Trainees. SSIFS also conducted the Mid-Career Training Programme-II in July 2022. In the same month, an Orientation Module was conducted for IAS 2020 Batch Assistant Secretaries. In August 2022, a two-week Training Programme was organized for Defence Attaché-designates.

As far as our Foreign Training vertical is concerned, an orientation session was held on 2 September 2022 for senior civil servants from Bangladesh attending the 52nd Mid-Career Training Programme in Field Administration at the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG). The maiden Special Course for Diplomats from Mexico was rolled out the same month. The highlight of the two-week programme was the call on the External Affairs Minister by the thirty-one Mexican diplomats. SSIFS hosted half-day sessions in August and September 2022 respectively for the 60th and 61st Know India Programme (KIP) conducted by MEA's OIA-II Division. For MEA staff, the two-week Induction Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers of the 2019 Batch was conducted during this quarter in two batches.

To coincide with India@75 and under the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* initiatives, SSIFS will be proud to host the Annual Conference of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training (IFDT) in November 2022, bringing together around hundred delegates from over sixty countries! IFDT is the premier forum for diplomatic academies of the world. Our next issue will have details of this landmark event and all that transpires in our diplomatic training calendar in the coming months!

Sanjiv Ranjan
(Sanjiv Ranjan)

New Delhi
October 2022

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Highlights

Training for Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officers

Induction Training Programme (ITP) for IFS Officer Trainees of 2021 Batch and Diplomats from Bhutan

Attachments of the IFS OTs

The various attachments of the IFS OTs and Bhutanese diplomats during the quarter July-September 2022 were as follows:

Mission Attachment

As a part of their Induction Training Programme, IFS OTs of the 2021 Batch and two diplomats from Bhutan underwent Mission Attachment from 17-22 July 2022 in four Indian Missions in India's neighbourhood – Bhutan (Thimphu), Bangladesh (Dhaka), Nepal (Kathmandu) and Maldives (Male). During their attachment, the OTs were briefed on the structure of Indian Missions abroad and the role, function and work profiles of officers posted there. They also interacted with officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and other departments of the respective host countries.

Attachments in Bengaluru (ISRO, IISc, DRDO, India Stack)

The IFS OTs and two Bhutanese diplomats had attachments from 8-12 August 2022 with prominent Bangalore-based institutions including the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and India Stack.

Call on Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

The IFS OTs and two diplomats from Bhutan called on the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, on 29 August 2022. In a freewheeling and informal interaction, PM congratulated them on their joining the IFS and said that they would now get an opportunity to represent India on the world stage. Talking about 2023 being the International Year of Millets, he discussed in detail how they could contribute to popularising millets so that our farmers could benefit. He spoke about how millets are environment friendly and also have health benefits. He also talked about LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and how one could bring about small changes in one's lifestyle to benefit the environment. The IFS OTs discussed the Panch Pran (Five Pledges) espoused by Hon'ble PM in this year's Independence Day speech and gave inputs about how IFS Officers could contribute towards their attainment. PM exhorted the OTs to think and plan long-term, for the next 25 years, about how they could evolve themselves during this period, and be of use for the growth of the country.

Call on Hon'ble President of India

The IFS OTs and two Bhutanese diplomats called on the Hon'ble President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, on 29 September 2022. Addressing the OTs, the President said that they had joined the Foreign Service at a time when India has emerged on the world stage with a new self-confidence. India plays an important role in the developing South and as a frontline State in the fight against terrorism. She said that the Indian Foreign Service offers them a unique opportunity to project India's proud civilization, heritage and culture, together with its developmental aspirations, to the rest of the world. Referring to the changes taking place around the world, the President said that ongoing transformations on multiple fronts offer great opportunities as well as great challenges. It is amid this fast-changing world, with its opportunities and threats that the role of IFS Officers becomes critical. Navigating through these difficult waters and ensuring the best for India and also for the world will test their intelligence. She expressed confidence that they would respond to the challenges of the future in the best possible manner, in the best interest of fellow citizens.

Call on Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu

Visit to Parliament

Address by Dr. Amitabh Kant, CEO of Niti Aayog

Address by Shri Vikram Misri, Deputy NSA

Visit to Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

Visit to Indian Council for Cultural Relations

Visit to Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)

Visit to Patiala House: Briefing on Consular, Passport and Visa matters

Visit to National Health Authority

Visit to ISRO, Bengaluru

Visit to Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

Visit to IntelIndia, Bengaluru

IFS OTs calling on foreign dignitaries during their Mission Attachment

Call on H.E. Mr. Tandi Dorji, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan

Call on H.E. Dr. Narayan Khadka, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal

Call on H.E. Ms. Dasho Dechen Mangmo, Minister of Health of Bhutan

Call on Mr. Mohamed Nasheed, Speaker of People's Majlis (Parliament) of Maldives

Call on Mr. Ahmed Latheef, Foreign Secretary of Maldives

IFS OTs visiting projects etc. during their Mission Attachment

Visit to Integrated Check Post (ICP), Raxaul

Visit to Punatsangchhu Hydroelectric Projects in Wangduephodrang, Bhutan

Visit to ICP Petrapole, India -Benapole, Bangladesh

Address by H.E. Ms. Maria Ubach Font, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Andorra

Visit to Embassy of France, New Delhi

Valedictory Ceremony

Upon conclusion of the Induction Training Programme, the Valedictory Ceremony was organized on 13 September 2022 which was presided over by Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister (EAM) as Chief Guest. Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs & Education, was Guest of Honour. Also present in the ceremony were Foreign Secretary, Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra and President of the Association of Indian Diplomats (AID), Amb. Amar Sinha. Various awards were given on the occasion to the OTs of the 2021 Batch.

EAM's Gold Medal for the Best Officer Trainee & Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Prize to the Best Officer Trainee: Shri Aayush Gupta

Minister of State for External Affairs' Silver Medal for Esprit de Corps: Ms. Maithreyi Naidu

Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Medal for Research Paper: Shri Rajat Ravindra Ubhaykar

Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Medal for Research Paper: Ms. Divya Akhauri

Best Logo Designing of SSIFS: Shri Prakash Kumar Choudhary

Best Sportswoman Award: Ms. Sai Manasa N.C.

Best Sportsman Award: Shri Sanjeev Mandia

Trophy for Best Committee - Cinema & Photography Committee: Shri Akshay Simha K.J., Shri Amir Bashir, Shri Aneez S., Shri Anmolam, Ms. Namgey Peldan and Ms. Medha Wangmo

Training Experience

Aayush Gupta

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

– Benjamin Franklin

The 2021 Batch of Indian Foreign Service entered service in the 75th year of our Independence and has the unique privilege of serving it during its 'Amrit Kaal'. We represent the hopes and aspirations of a new and resurging India and training has been reflective of this. Our batch was the first to be trained under the Mission Karamyogi programme which focused on making us future-ready by fostering Creativity, Constructiveness, Imagination, Innovation, Professionalism and Progressiveness.

The journey of our training commenced in the lap of Mother Nature in Mussoorie where we had our Foundation Course (FC). In Mussoorie, we had our first brush with the responsibilities we would shoulder in representing our nation. The FC introduced us to some of the basic concepts of governance. The various modules focused on building foundational skills important for a civil servant. The deconstruction module and the leadership module helped us develop the required empathy needed to serve the people. The *esprit de corps* which prevailed throughout the course would help us break silos in the future between our respective services, and work together towards nation building. After a teary eyed goodbye to our batch mates from the other services, we embarked upon the next phase of our training.

Our professional training began at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) which has since become home for us IFS OTs. The professional training began with calls on the Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, all three Ministers of State for External Affairs, Foreign Secretary and all the other Secretaries of our Ministry. These interactions gave us a strategic overview of the key issues we would be dealing with as well as to familiarise us with the Service as a whole and we were formally welcomed into the IFS fraternity.

This year's Training Programme focused equally on learning within and outside the classroom. We had over 300 individual sessions by over 350 speakers over the course of these short six months. The speakers ranged from former Foreign Secretaries to serving diplomats, from military leaders to leading academicians - all having attained excellence in their field, shared their experience with us. The sessions were structured in a way that allowed for free-flowing discussion on the subject matter and these discussions would often extend beyond the class timings well into our lunch break. Classes also included a number of simulation exercises on a wide range of topics from crisis management to negotiations, sharpening our skills as diplomats.

Staying true to the spirit of taking us beyond the classroom, we had over 20 attachments with various organisations and departments. The highlight of course, was our Bharat Darshan. It helped familiarise us with the great diversity of our country and made us understand its majesty in more detail. We also had our Army Attachment which helped us appreciate its role in national security and foreign policy. Our Mission Attachment this time was focused on the neighbourhood with the OTs going to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal. Spending time with our Missions gave us a practical understanding of the work that we do and helped us understand the subtle nuances of diplomacy which can only be learnt through experience and observation.

The spirit of camaraderie fostered at the Institute was one of the best elements of our training. We learnt, laughed and trained together, built lifelong bonds and friendships which we will all cherish throughout our lives. I learnt something of value from each and every one of my batch mates with their unique talents and interests. The role of peer learning could be further enhanced for the next batches. Looking back, I will fondly remember and value the memories that we made during our training.

Maithreyi Naidu

There are broadly two categories of people entering into professional training academies of the civil services. There are those who have been looking in from the outside, who have been dreaming of the hallowed halls, who watched innumerable inspirational photos and videos of their predecessors, and scoured the depths of the Internet to find bits and pieces to build and nourish their long held dreams. They hope that the people and the learnings in their new *alma mater* would be transformative, taking them from bright-eyed aspirants to confident, knowledgeable and competent officers. And then, there are the jaded ones, who have endured one of the most prolonged, gruelling and all-encompassing exams in the world and believe that few new things can actually be taught which would aid in the real world of government work.

The Induction Training Programme at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service took all of us in and gave every single person some new experience, something to learn from and a lot to cherish for the rest of our lives. From the very first moment, care and attention was given to every single detail to make sure that our time at the academy was filled with joy and comfort. The single flower and chocolate given to every single OT upon arrival are testaments to this.

In the very first week, we had the opportunity to interact with the Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Ministers of State, Foreign Secretary and the other Secretaries in the Ministry. This gave us not only an overview of the working of the different Divisions of the Ministry but also familiarised us with the broad contours and concerns of India's foreign policy. Every single interaction inspired us to think creatively about the various challenging India faces in the international arena and the importance of paying attention to the nuances of diplomacy.

This was followed by the module on Theories of International Relations which for many of us, was a first time introduction to this field of knowledge. The ability to tie the daily events we had avidly read in the international news section of newspapers to ponder through lines and strategies in international politics, was encouraged in all of us. The Administration and Finance module, on the other hand, introduced us to the details of the day-to-day working of the Ministry which will surely help us in our postings.

Modules on specialised subjects such as technology, disarmament, energy, climate change, international law, neighbourhood relations, trade negotiations, developmental partnerships, multilateral fora and India's relationships with major powers were conducted through interactive sessions where all OTs participated enthusiastically and engaged with the speakers. The boundless curiosity of the participants brought out several interesting, thought-provoking ideas from various stalwart speakers including retired Ambassadors, dignitaries from foreign missions, academicians, experts from think tanks and senior government officials. The classroom sessions were peppered with simulations on diverse topics such as developmental projects, UNSC, UNCLOS and negotiations. The all-round development of the OTs was at the forefront of the training process and was ensured through grooming, hospitality and public speaking modules.

The various attachments were perhaps the most interesting and educational part of our training. Whether it was The Bharat Darshan which allowed a glimpse of the diversity and beauty of our country, the State attachment which enabled us to interact with State government officials and understand the needs of the State vis-à-vis the MEA or the Department of Atomic Energy attachment, the opportunity to develop on-the-ground understanding and build networks while breaking inter-departmental silos, was immense.

The Technology attachment in Bengaluru familiarised us with the developments made by India in the fields of space, digital payments, digital service delivery, technology exports etc while through the Army and Navy attachments, we were able to understand how the foreign policy of India manifests itself in its defence interests as well. In addition to these longer attachments, several attachments were also conducted within Delhi such as those with the Protocol Division, XP division, NITI Aayog, ICCR, RIS, International Solar Alliance etc.

We have been fortunate to meet some true stalwarts of their fields. Yet nothing stands out as much as the interaction with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, who not only gave us key actionables for the near future but challenged us to come up with innovative solutions on specific issues.

SSIFS has been home for us since the day we first set foot there, not least because of the role of the Administration and

Faculty there. The attention to the pedagogy, the concern for our all-round betterment and the prompt reponses to our feedback, have made us feel like a part of the training process.

As Chanakya says, the two fruits of the tree of this world are sweet words and good company. And I have been blessed with the best company. When you take a set of intelligent, extremely motivated, diverse individuals and put them through an intense six months in close quarters, you come up with the most brilliant, perspective changing conversations ranging from can AI develop consciousness to how do we popularize millets. We might have become known as a bit of an overenthusiastic Batch. But I really do believe that it is this enthusiasm and zeal which sets us up for not only doing well in our careers but also seeing India reach its potential in Amrit Kaal.

Mendha Wangmo

As a part of the Indian Foreign Service training programme at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), I had the opportunity to spend six momentous months in India. Due to the pandemic, the training programme had been delayed. However, I was still looking forward to the journey and meeting the 2021 batch of Indian Foreign Service officers. The training programme started off by calling on the Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, an experience I still fondly look back to. This was followed by calling on the Ministers of State, Foreign Secretary and other dignitaries, each of whom reminded us of the exciting journey that lay ahead of us.

The classroom sessions with its unique system of bringing in speakers who were experts in their fields, proved to be effective and thought provoking. Individuals from different walks of life including retired and current diplomats, professors, intellectuals, etc. provided the variety in perspective a Foreign Service officer requires. Debates and questions were thoroughly encouraged during sessions while simulations and case studies provided us the platform to implement our ideas.

Something that I personally found profound meaning in was the attachments. Starting off with the Bharat Dharshan, we had the rare opportunity to get a glimpse of the incredible diversity that India has to offer. From the crisp air of Kashmir, the low clouds of Meghalaya to the mighty tides of the Andamans, India welcomed us with its richness in culture, traditions and way of life. On the other hand, the Mumbai and Bangalore attachments took us knee-deep into some of the most exciting initiatives that India is carrying out in space, nuclear, technology, etc. These attachments were not only an opportunity to learn more about such subjects but also to understand how India is truly coming to be at the helm of global leadership.

The Mission attachment to Maldives was another life changing experience. It was meant to simply expose us to how Indian Missions function abroad. However, we learned so much more than that and the attachment impacted us in many more ways. For the first time, we understood how diplomats, while on the most picturesque locations that others might consider a vacation, are actually still on duty. We learned how important it was to learn the ways of life in a new country, to observe and understand how the social, political and economic dynamics of a country impacts its place in the world. Additionally, we also had the opportunity to come face-to-face with transnational issues such as climate change and the consequences it has on vulnerable countries like the Maldives. As part of the attachment, we were taken to local islands where people were working hard to fight the impact of climate change such as the impending danger of losing their land to soil erosion.

Another key moment during the training programme was the call on the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, H.E. Shri Narendra Modi. It was another rare opportunity whereby Hon'ble Prime Minister interacted at length with all of us while touching on various important issues concerning India and the role which a robust foreign service can play in its development.

The training finally came to a conclusion with the Valedictory Ceremony which was presided over by the Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, where I had the opportunity to share a little bit about my experience in SSIFS as well. In a nutshell, my time in India had been filled with excellent learning, enriching attachments around India and of course, wonderful moments shared with my fellow *diplo-mates* as we say amongst ourselves. The training programme was also an opportunity for me to see first-hand the special bond that exists between Bhutan and India and the potential for growth that this friendship has in the future. The friendships established during these six months will be cherished forever.

Mid-Career Training Programme-II

The Mid-Career Training Programme-II (MCTP-II) for IFS Officers of the 2006 batch was held from 11 July-03 August 2022. Twenty-six Officers from the 2006 batch of IFS participated in the programme.

MCTP-II Programme was divided into five parts – the Diplomacy Module at the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, USA (11-15 July); the Foreign Policy Module at SSIFS (18-22 July); the Management Module at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad (25-28 July), Cyber Security Module at the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), Gandhinagar (29 July) and the State Attachment (01-03 August) at the respective States allotted to the officers by MEA.

Group Photo

Interaction with Shri Vikram Misri, Deputy NSA

Call on External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar

Call on Secretary (West), Shri Sanjay Verma

Call on Secretary (CPV & OIA), Dr. Ausaf Sayeed

Visit to Fletcher School, Tufts University, USA

Valedictory Session presided over by Secretary (West) and Dean (SSIFS)

Training Programmes for other Civil Service Officers

MEA Orientation Module for IAS Assistant Secretaries

A MEA Orientation Module was held from 11-15 July 2022 for four Assistant Secretaries from the 2020 batch of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). The module commenced at SSIFS with sessions of the role and structure of the MEA, India's foreign policy and an overview of India's development partnership projects. This was followed by calls on Joint Secretaries heading MEA Divisions including Administration, Territorial Divisions, Multilateral Divisions, etc. The module included visits to MEA offices in South Block, Jawaharlal Nehru Bhavan, Patiala House, Akbar Bhavan, Shastri Bhavan, Sushma Swaraj Bhavan etc. Following the Orientation Module, the four IAS Assistant Secretaries have been deployed with MEA Divisions as a part of Desk Attachment from July-October 2022.

Group photo

Inaugural Session

Training Programme for Defence Attachés

A training programme for Defence Attaché-designates (DA-designates) who have been posted to Indian Missions abroad, was organized from 22-26 August 2022. The training programme, intended to familiarize and sensitize DA-designates about the various aspects of serving at an Indian Mission abroad, was specially curated to meet their training needs and objectives. Eleven DAs participated in the training programme.

Group photo

Valedictory Session

Training Programmes for Foreign Diplomats

Orientation Session on 'India's Foreign Policy' for Civil Servants from Bangladesh

An Orientation Session on "India's Foreign Policy with special emphasis on 'Neighbourhood First Policy'" for Civil Servants from Bangladesh was organized on 02 September 2022. The Orientation Session was a part of the 52nd Mid-Career Training Programme (MCTP) in Field Administration conducted from 22 August - 02 September 2022 by the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) for thirty-nine civil servants from Bangladesh.

Group Photo

Inaugural Session

1st Special Course for Diplomats from Mexico

The first-ever Special Course for Diplomats from Mexico was held from 05-17 September 2022. Thirty-one diplomats, including thirteen women diplomats, from Mexico participated in the course.

The Special Course was inaugurated on 05 September 2022 by Secretary (East), Shri Saurabh Kumar, who delivered the Inaugural Address. A Welcome Dinner was hosted by Dean (SSIFS), Amb. Sanjiv Ranjan for the visiting diplomats. The Mexican diplomats called on External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar on 13 September 2022. Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, was the Chief Guest at the Valedictory Ceremony held on 15 September 2022. Following their training stint in New Delhi, the diplomats attended a two-day module from 16-17 September 2022 at the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), Ahmedabad.

The training programme in SSIFS included modules on India's foreign policy, India's relations with Latin America & the Caribbean region, women in diplomacy, WTO, UN reforms, the Indo-Pacific, nuclear non-proliferation & disarmament, space diplomacy, negotiation skills, GoI's economic initiatives and economic reforms, digital empowerment, India's pandemic response etc. There were also sessions on Ayurveda and Yoga. As a part of their study tours, the diplomats visited the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Election Commission of India, National Museum and Indian media houses.

Group Photo

Call on External Affairs Minister

Welcome dinner hosted by Dean (SSIFS)

Inaugural session

Visit to Rashtrapati Bhawan

Yoga session

Visit to National Museum

Visit to Media House

Valedictory Session

Briefing session by JS (XP) & Spokesperson of MEA

Know India Programme (KIP)

SSIFS hosted participants of the 60th and 61st Know India Programme (KIP) on 29 August and 27 September 2022 respectively for half-day familiarization sessions. In both editions of the KIP, forty young Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) from ten and seven countries respectively took part. The familiarization programme at SSIFS included modules on India and India's foreign policy. AS (OIA-II), Ms. Manika Jain, addressed the participants of the 61st KIP on 27 September 2022.

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 MEA's Overseas Indian Affairs (OIA)-II Division.

Group photo of 60th KIP

Group photo of 61st KIP

Training Programmes for MEA Officials

Posting-related Training Programme

An IVFRT (Immigration, Visa, Foreigners' Registration and Tracking) Training Programme was conducted from 27-28 July 2022 for 15 MEA officials posted to Missions/Posts abroad.

Induction Training Programme (ITP) for Direct Recruit Assistant Section Officers (DR ASOs) of 2019 Batch

The Induction Training Programme (ITP) for Batches-I & II of Direct Recruit Assistant Section Officers (DR-ASOs) of the 2019 Batch were conducted from 22 August – 02 September and 19-30 September 2022 respectively. In Batch-I, 36 ASOs participated while in Batch-II, 29 took part.

The two-week programme included *inter alia* sessions on MEA organization, Missions and Posts, file and record management, Manual of Office Procedure (MOP), noting and drafting, forms of official communication, Conduct Rules, IFS PLCA, gender sensitization, office etiquette, dress code etc. In addition, there were a few sessions on India's culture, polity, economy and globalization, foreign policy, ITEC, Development Partnership Cooperation, Indian Diaspora and emotional intelligence. The programme concluded with a session on Heartfullness Yoga to promote long-term general well-being.

Group photo of ITP for ASOs (Batch-I)

Valedictory Session of ITP for ASOs (Batch-I)

Group photo of ITP for ASOs (Batch-II)

Valedictory Session of ITP for ASOs (Batch-II)

Visitors to SSIFS

H.E. Dr. Tizita Mulugeta, Ambassador of Ethiopia to India met Dean (SSIFS) on 05 August 2022

H.E. Mr. Federico Salas Lotfe, Ambassador of Mexico to India met Dean (SSIFS) on 31 August 2022 to discuss the 1st Special Course for Diplomats from Mexico from 05-17 September 2022

H.E. Mr Youri Babkhanian, Ambassador of Armenia to India met Dean (SSIFS) on 17 August 2022

International Cooperation

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding

Madagascar

A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Diplomatic Training between SSIFS and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Madagascar was signed in Antananarivo on 12 September 2022.

Djibouti

A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Diplomatic Training between SSIFS and the Institute of Diplomatic Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Djibouti was signed on 22 September 2022 during the visit to Djibouti by Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan.

New Postings

SSIFS bid farewell to:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Arun K. Chatterjee	Dean
2.	Dr. Shikha Gupta	Faculty
3.	Ms. Ovessa Iqbal	Deputy Secretary
4.	Shri K. Raju	Private Secretary
5.	Shri Rajendra Kumar Meena	ASO
6.	Shri Om Prakash Meena	ASO
7.	Shri Brajesh Kumar	JSA
8.	Shri Ajit Kumar	MTS

SSIFS welcomes:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Sanjiv Ranjan	Dean
2.	Shri Suresh Kumar	Principal Staff Officer
3.	Dr. Himanshi Rastogi	Faculty
4.	Ms. Manjeet Nar	Principal Private Secretary
5.	Shri Nitin Pokhriyal	ASO (OS)
6.	Shri Krishan Ratan Bhardwaj	SSA
7.	Shri Jasbir Singh	JSA
8.	Shri Ravi Kumar	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 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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