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

VIDESH SEWA



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Editor's Desk



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Dean
Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service
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The first quarter of 2023 was an eventful one for the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), with both training verticals of the institute organizing several flagship programmes for Indian diplomats, civil servants, and officials as well as foreign diplomats.

The Induction Training Programme for Indian Foreign Service Officer Trainees of 2022 batch and two diplomats from Bhutan resumed in the New Year which included addresses by senior officers of Ministry of External Affairs and other eminent guest speakers. As is customary, the Officer Trainees were sent on 'Bharat Darshan'. They also attended State Attachment during which they receive briefings on the latest initiatives of the respective State Governments, the potential for international cooperation and the developmental challenges faced by aspirational districts in these states. The Officer Trainees also got a unique opportunity for hands-on training in protocol and media management during the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in March 2023.

The Mid-Career Training programme for 27 IFS Officers of 2007 batch was conducted from 06-31 March 2023.

As part of SSIFS's efforts to train officials involved with the G20 meetings, a day-long training programme for Protocol Officers from States & Union Territories was organized on January 27, 2023. This followed the first training programme for more than 300 GoI Liaison officers held in December, 2022.

As far as training for officials at junior level is concerned, the 85th edition of the Integrated Mission Accounting System (IMAS) and Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration and Tracking training programmes (IVFRT) were conducted in February-March, 2023.

Under the Foreign Training vertical, the year began with the 3rd Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme was conducted in January 2023 where 34 young diplomats from 30 countries participated. There were also special courses for 21 diplomats from Iran and 17 diplomats from 9 Pacific Island countries (PIC) in February and March, 2023. The 64th and 65th edition of the Know India Programme for young PIOs was also conducted by SSIFS during this quarter.

The quarter ended with SSIFS's flagship training programme - 70th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats - conducted from 13-31 March 2023 where 52 diplomats from as many countries attended.

The next quarter also promises to be an equally exciting one and we at SSIFS look forward to bringing out the details of our institute's activities through the next edition of 'Videsh Sewa'.

(Sanjiv Ranjan)

New Delhi
April, 2023

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Highlights

Training for Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officers

Mid Career Training Programme -II

SSIFS conducted the Mid Career Training Programme (MCTP) – II for 27 Director-level officers from 06-31 March 2023. During the training programme, the officers :

- Underwent a week long attachment with the States allotted to them which included a visit to an aspirational district in the State (06-10 March, 2023);
- Attended the Management module at IIM, Ahmedabad (13-17 March, 2023);
- Attended cyber security module at NFSU, Gandhinagar (18 March, 2023);
- Attended Foreign Policy module held at SSIFS (20-24 March 2023) which included interaction with EAM as well as with Foreign Secretary, Secretary(East) and Secretary(ER) of the Ministry ;
- Attended a briefing session at New York organised by the Consulate General of India, New York (25 March, 2023) ; and
- Attended Diplomacy Module at The Fletcher School, Tufts University, Boston, USA (27-31 March, 2023).



Call on EAM



Fireside chat with MOS for MeITY Skill Development & Entrepreneurship



Call on Foreign Secretary



Valedictory Ceremony



Briefing Session at New York



At The Fletcher School

Induction Training Programme for IFS Officer Trainees of 2022 Batch and Diplomats from Bhutan

As part of the Induction Training Programme, the Officers Trainees (OTs) of 2022 batch and Bhutanese Diplomats were on Bharat Darshan Tour from 27 January 2023 to 04 February 2023. The IFS OTs also were attached to Protocol Division and XP Dvision of MEA from 21 February - 04 March 2023 in connection with the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi. They also attended the Raisina Dialogue organized by ORF from 02-04 March, 2023. The Officers Trainees (OTs) of 2022 batch were on 5-day Army Attachment (Northern Command and Eastern Command) from 20-24 March, 2023 and an attachment with the States allotted to them which included a visit to an aspirational district in the State from 27-31 March, 2023.





IFS OTs' call on Raksha Mantri











Army Attachment of IFS OTs






State Attachment

Training Programmes for other Civil Service Officers

Special Training Module for Protocol Officers from States/Union Territories for G20 Summit

Following the training programme in December, 2022 for Liaison Officers (LOs) designated from various Ministries of the Government of India for G20 Summit, a special training module was organized for Protocol officers from States and Union Territories by SSIFS in coordination with Protocol Division of the Ministry on 17 January 2023. The training module was inaugurated by Shri Sanjay Verma, Secretary(West) and was attended by 55 Protocol Officers from 22 States and Union Territories.




Training Programmes for Foreign Diplomats

3rd Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme

As a part of India's commitment to promote arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation education under UNGA Resolution 71/57 "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education" and in line with the focus on 'Disarmament Education" in UNSG's Disarmament Agenda 'to Secure our World and our Future', the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), in collaboration with the Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division (D&ISA) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, conducted the 3rd Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme from 09-27 January 2023 at SSIFS. Thirty-four young diplomats from thirty countries from across the globe participated in this programme. Both international and domestic speakers from the world of disarmament affairs addressed the participants of the Fellowship Programme which was inaugurated on 09 January 2023 by Secretary (West), Amb. Sanjay Verma, who delivered the Keynote Address. The 3rd D&ISA Fellows undertook visits to Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) facilities in Bengaluru and Department of Atomic Energy in Mumbai [including a half-day visit to BARC in Trombay with visits to the Dhruva experimental reactor, food technology division (food irradiation) and the waste immobilization plant (harvesting nuclear waste for societal uses)]. Foreign Secretary, Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra graced the Valedictory Ceremony at Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan on 27 January 2023.



Group photo



Inaugural session





Welcome dinner hosted by Dean (SSIFS)



Address by Dr. Robin Geiss, Director of UNIDIR



Address by Mr. Peter Kolarov, Coordinator United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament





Country presentation





Valedictory ceremony

2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Iran

The 2nd Special Course for Diplomats from Iran was conducted at SSIFS from 06-17 February 2023. A total of 21 Diplomats participated in the programme. The Special Course was inaugurated on 06 February 2023 by Dean (SSIFS), Amb. Sanjiv Ranjan. The training programme included modules on India's foreign policy, India's relations with Iran, India's relations with its neighbouring countries, UN reforms, role of connectivity, India's success story in its pandemic response, food security, GoI's economic initiatives and economic reforms, digital empowerment, climate change, multilateral diplomacy, negotiation skills etc. There were also sessions on Ayurveda and various facets of Indian culture. As a part of their study tours in New Delhi, the young diplomats visited Rashtrapati Bhavan, Election Commission of India, TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute), Delhi Metro Headquarters and a media house. A day-long visit to Agra (Taj Mahal) was also planned.



Group photo



Inaugural Session





Country presentation





Valedictory Ceremony

3rd Special Course for Diplomats from Pacific Island Countries

The 3rd Special Course for Diplomats from Pacific Island Countries was conducted at SSIFS from 20 February - 03 March 2023. A total of 17 Diplomats from 09 countries participated in the programme. The Special Course was inaugurated on 06 February 2023 by Dean (SSIFS), Amb. Sanjiv Ranjan. Shri Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and Education graced the valedictory ceremony on 03 March 2023.



Group photo



Inaugural Session





Valedictory Ceremony

70th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats

The 70th edition of SSIFS' flagship programme, the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD), was successfully conducted from 13-31 March 2023. Fifty-two young diplomats from fifty-two 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 70th PCFD was inaugurated on 13 March 2023 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 31 March 2023.

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 for diplomats





Valedictory Ceremony

Field Visits

Diplomats of 3rd D&ISA Fellowship Programme



Visit to Department of Atomic Energy, Mumbai



Visit to Election Commission of India



Visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan



Visit to Taj Mahal, Agra

Diplomats from Iran



Briefing session by XP Division, MEA



Visit to Election Commission of India



Visit to The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI)



Visit to Metro Museum



Visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan



Visit to Taj Mahal

Diplomats from Pacific Island Countries



Visit to National Museum



Visit to Election Commission of India



Visit to Taj Mahal



Visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan

Diplomats of 70th Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats



Visit to the Indian Parliament



Visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan



Visit to Election Commission of India



Visit to Purana Qila



Visit to Humayun's Tomb



Visit to Qutub Minar

Activities





Participants of 3rd DBISA Fellowship Programme participated in a Yoga session





Participants of 70th PCFD participated in a Yoga session

Know India Programme (KIP)

Orientation Sessions for the 64th and 65th Know India Programmes (KIP) were organized by SSIFS in collaboration with MEA's OIA-II (Overseas Indian Affairs-II) Division on 04 January 2023 attended by 37 young Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) from thirteen countries and on 07 February 2023 attended by 38 PIOs from eleven 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 64th KIP



Group photo of 65th KIP

Training Programmes for MEA Officials

Accounts Training Programme: An Accounts Training Programme for 31 MEA officials (Section Officers/Private Secretaries and below) under orders of transfer to Missions/ Posts abroad, was conducted on 21 February and the 85th IMAS (Integrated Mission Accounting System) Training Programme was conducted from 22 February – 07 March 2023.

An IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration and Tracking) Training was conducted for 56 MEA officials from 21-23 March 2023. This is a posting-related training programme.

Visitors to SSIFS





Dean (SSIFS), Amb. Sanjiv Ranjan received on 17 January 2023, a delegation from the Estates General of Diplomacy of France (including one officer from the Embassy of France in New Delhi) led by Mr. Jonathan Cordier, Deputy Secretary General. Dean (SSIFS) gave a detailed briefing on SSIFS' activities and training programmes. Both 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.

International Cooperation

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding

On the sidelines of the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD), an MOU between SSIFS and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama signed on 09 January 2023 in Indore. The MoU was signed by EAM, Dr. S. Jaishankar from Indian side while from Panama side by H.E. Mrs. Janaina Tewaney Mencomo, Minister of Foreign Affairs.



New Postings

SSIFS welcomes:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Dr. Sama Haq	Faculty
2.	Dr. Bhushan A. Mehare	Faculty
3.	Shri K. Govinda Raju	Sr. Principal Private Secretary
4.	Shri Kriti Das Thokchom	Under Secretary
5.	Shri Rohit Nirwan	Private Secretary
6.	Shri Varun Kumar Yadav	Personal Assistant
7.	Shri Arvind Kumar Tiwari	MTS

SSIFS bid farewell to:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Ms. Nilakshi Saha Sinha	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Rakesh Tanwar	Principal Private Secretary



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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