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of Foreign Service

विदेश मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
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 first quarter of 2020 will always remain a landmark or milestone in the evolution of the Institute. The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) became the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) as a solemn and fitting tribute to former External Affairs Minister of India, late Smt. Sushma Swaraj, for her invaluable contribution to Indian diplomacy, ethos of public service and focus on training. The change to SSIFS was appropriately made on 14 February, 2020, which marked her birth anniversary. The Institute holds a debt of gratitude to the former leader and public figure for her vision of making SSIFS a state-of-the-art centre of excellence.

In this context, it may be recalled that the Institute was first established in 1986 as the Foreign Service Training Institute (FSTI). Thereafter, in 1993 its name was changed to Foreign Service Institute (FSI). We are now the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) – the premier institution in India for training of Indian and foreign diplomats and all Indian personnel posted in our Missions/Posts abroad.

The first quarter of 2020 started with a bang but had to end in a whimper! The Induction Training Programme of IFS OTs 2019 included Phase-I training focussed on international relations, strategic issues, diplomatic skills by way of interactive lectures, case studies, simulations, role-plays, etc. They also participated in various attachments as part of their hands-on training programme. On the foreign diplomats training front, the 2nd Disarmament Fellowship saw its successful institutionalisation as an annual programme on SSIFS calendar. In the regional context, the first Special Course for BIMSTEC diplomats was organised. Country-specific training courses for Iraqi and Syrian diplomats were successfully completed. Towards the end of the quarter, i.e. from March 2020, SSIFS had to curtail activities and postpone programmes due to Covid-19. However, with a view to leveraging the challenge into an opportunity, SSIFS strengthened its digital outreach through IFS OTs participation in Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU)'s online cyber security course and other online activities. Similarly, part of the Section Officers and Private Secretaries promotion-related training programme was implemented remotely using digital technology. While we continue to leverage other online options, Team SSIFS eagerly looks forward to the post-Covid-19 period to resume regular work and revert to our 'sage on stage' with 'guide on side' methodology for full impact and effectiveness.

Videsh Sewa wishes all the SSIFS alumni and readers good health and safe stay.

New Delhi
April 2020


[J.S. Mukul]

Highlights

Training for IFS Officers

Induction Training Programme of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer Trainees (2019 batch) and Diplomats from Bhutan

The Induction Training Programme (ITP) for 30 IFS Officer Trainees (OTs) and 2 diplomats from Bhutan commenced on 9 December 2019. The OTs and Bhutanese diplomats called on Dr. S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Shri V. Muraleedharan, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Shri Vijay Gokhale, Foreign Secretary. The Orientation Module and Phase I of the ITP has been completed.

The first two phases i.e. the Orientation Module and Phase I included modules on matters related to diplomacy, India's foreign policy, military strategy, India's bilateral and multilateral ties with countries and organisations around the globe, relevant domestic issues, climate change, theories of international relations, administrative, finance, accounts and establishment matters, etc.

To ensure all-round development and training of the OTs, a comprehensive training pedagogy is applied at the Institute. For example, of the total 215 Sessions in the first two phases, there were 126 interactive class room lectures, 18 simulations, 4 gaming exercises, 3 group exercises, 1 role play, 14 case studies, 2 hands on sessions, 6 workshops, 4 mentoring sessions and 1 success-story session. In addition, 11 foreign ambassadors addressed the OTs on bilateral relations and diplomacy matters. As part of the training programme, the OTs have also attended conferences and programmes such as Raisina Dialogue, Indian Ocean Dialogue and Delhi Dialogue. The OTs also underwent an online course on cyber security.

Additionally, as part of the training programme, the OTs were sent on various attachments, such as attachment to three Indian Missions in Indonesia, Vietnam and UAE, Army Attachment and Bharat Darshan. Further, as per new training guidelines, beginning 2019, the OTs are being evaluated on the basis of examination, participation and overall conduct during the training programme.

Raisina Dialogue

OTs got an exposure to India's Foreign Policy through the Raisina Dialogue in January 2020.



Mission Attachment

As part of the training programme, OTs went on Mission Attachment in different groups to Indian Missions in Indonesia, Vietnam and UAE in February 2020.



Bharat Darshan

OTs did Bharat Darshan tour in March 2020.



Army Attachment

OTs were sent on Army Attachment in March 2020.



IFS OTs interactions with Foreign Heads of Mission



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Ms. Harinder Kaur Sidhu, High Commissioner of Australia to India and Mr. Grahame Morton, Charge d'Affaires, High Commission of New Zealand, New Delhi.



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Mr. Satoshi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to India.



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Mr. Andre Aranha Correa do Lago , Ambassador of Brazil to India.



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Mr. Sun Weidong, Ambassador of China to India



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Mr. Ali Chegeni, Ambassador of Iran to India



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Dr. Ron Malka, Ambassador of Israel to India



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Dr. Heba Salah Eldin Elmarassi, Ambassador of Egypt to India



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Mr. Ugo Astuto, EU Ambassador to India



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Mr. Walter J. Lindner, German Ambassador to India



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India

Workshop on Technical Risk Assessment of Dual-Use Exports by Department of Energy, DoE, USA

A Workshop on Technical Risk Assessment of Dual-Use Exports (TRADE) was organized by SSIFS between 5-7 February 2020 in collaboration with Disarmament and International Affairs (D&ISA) Division of MEA, Directorate General of Foreign Trade of India and The United States Department of State and The United States Department of Energy. 15 officials from various Government of India organizations participated in the Workshop.



Training for Foreign Diplomats

The 2nd Annual Disarmament & International Security Affairs Fellowship Programme was conducted at SSIFS from 13-31 January 2020. 23 young diplomats from developed and developing countries participated in the Fellowship Programme. Amb. Vikas Swarup, Secretary (West), MEA delivered the keynote address, at the inaugural session of the Programme.



The 1st Special Course for Diplomats from BIMSTEC Member Countries was organised at SSIFS from 3-15 February 2020. 21 young diplomats from BIMSTEC Member Countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand) and BIMSTEC Secretariat participated in the Course.



The 3rd Special Course for Diplomats from Syria was organised at SSIFS from 24 February – 7 March 2020. 19 diplomats from Syria participated in the Course.



The 4th Special Course for Diplomats from Iraq was organised at SSIFS from 24 February – 7 March 2020. 13 diplomats from Iraq participated in the Course.



Syrian and Iraqi Diplomats called on Amb. Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Secretary (CPV & OIA)

Other Programmes

Know India Programme (KIP)

Know India Programme (KIP) is a flagship initiative for diaspora engagement which familiarises Indian-origin youth (18-30 years) with their Indian roots and contemporary India, through a three-week orientation programme organised by MEA. Participants of 59th KIP underwent a one-day familiarisation programme at SSIFS on 6 January 2020.



Workshop/Training for MEA Officials



Dean (SSIFS) welcoming participants of IVFRT Training



IVFRT Session in progress



Participants of IVFRT undergoing hands-on training



Induction Training Programme for Direct Recruit ASOs in progress



Induction Training Programme for 92 new Direct Recruit ASOs was organised at SSIFS.

Swachhta Pakhwada

Amb. J.S. Mukul, Dean (SSIFS) along with all members of SSIFS participated in a cleanliness drive at SSIFS on 14 January 2020 to celebrate Swachhta Pakhwada. All members of SSIFS took a pledge to keep their offices and surroundings neat and clean.



Visitors to SSIFS



The faculty & students from Australian Universities (Deakin, La Trobe, Monash, Murdoch, RMIT, New England, New South Wales & Wollongong) and O.P. Jindal Global University, Gurgaon visited SSIFS on 10 January 2020.



Dr. Seyed Kazem Sajjadpour, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran visited SSIFS on 16 January 2020 to discuss training of Iranian diplomats at SSIFS.



H.E. Mr. Armen Martirosyan, Ambassador of Armenia to India visited SSIFS on 20 February 2020 to discuss issues of mutual cooperation & training related matters.



Professor Chinara Adamkulova, Rector, Diplomatic Academy, MoFA, Kyrgyz Republic, and H. E. Mr. Asein Isaev, Ambassador, Kyrgyz Republic visited SSIFS on 25 February 2020 and discussed further cooperation between the two diplomatic training institutes.



Professors from German Universities visited SSIFS on 2 March 2020 and interacted with Dean (SSIFS).



H.E. Mr. J. Eduardo Malaya, Under-Secretary (Vice-Minister), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Philippines and H.E. Mr. Ramon S. Bagatsing, Ambassador of Philippines to India visited SSIFS on 11 March 2020. Dean (SSIFS) briefed them about training programmes at SSIFS.

Field Visits



Visit of participants of 2nd Annual D&ISA Fellowship Programme to Taj Mahal, Agra



Visit of participants of 2nd Annual D&ISA Fellowship Programme to Agra Fort



Visit of participants of 2nd Annual D&ISA Fellowship Programme to ISRO, Bangalore



Visit of participants of 2nd Annual D&ISA Fellowship Programme to Department of Atomic Energy, Mumbai

Visit of participants of 1st Special Course for Diplomats from BIMSTEC Countries to Fatehpur Sikri, Agra





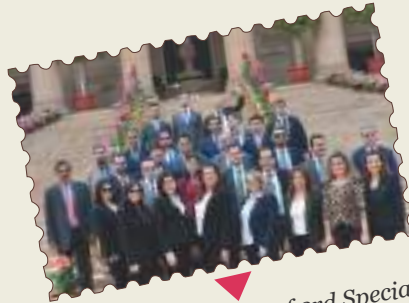
Visit of participants of 1st Special Course for Diplomats from BIMSTEC Countries to Rashtrapati Bhavan



Visit of participants of 1st Special Course for Diplomats from BIMSTEC Countries to BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate, Noida



Visit of participants of 1st Special Course for Diplomats from BIMSTEC Countries to Taj Mahal, Agra



Visit of participants of 3rd Special Course for Diplomats from Syria and 4th Special Course for Iraq to Rashtrapati Bhavan



Visit of participants of 3rd Special Course for Diplomats from Syria and 4th Special Course for Iraq to Fatehpur Sikri



Visit of participants of 1st Special Course for Diplomats from BIMSTEC Countries to Akshardham, New Delhi



Visit of participants of 3rd Special Course for Diplomats from Syria and 4th Special Course for Iraq to Taj Mahal, Agra

Activities



Diplomats from BIMSTEC Countries participated in Yoga Session



Diplomats from Syria and Iraq participated in Yoga Session

Country Presentations & Valedictory Functions



Valedictory session of 2nd Annual D&ISA Fellowship Programme



Country presentation by participants of 2nd Annual D&ISA Fellowship Programme



Valedictory session of 1st Special Course for Diplomats from BIMSTEC Countries



Country presentation by BIMSTEC Secretariat diplomats



Country presentation by Syrian diplomats



Valedictory session of 3rd Special Course for Diplomats from Syria and 4th Special Course for Diplomats from Iraq.



Country presentation by Iraqi diplomats

Welcome Dinners Hosted Foreign Diplomats

Dean (SSIFS) hosted a welcome dinner for the participants of 2nd Annual D&ISA Fellowship Programme on 12 January 2020



Dean (SSIFS) hosted a welcome dinner for the participants of 1st Special Course for BIMSTEC Countries on 2 February 2020



Dean (SSIFS) hosted a welcome dinner for the participants of 3rd Special Course for Diplomats from Syria and 4th Special Course for Diplomats from Iraq on 23 February 2020

SSIFS Outreach

As a part of its outreach programme, SSIFS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Portuguese Diplomatic Institute on 14 February 2020.

New Postings

SSIFS welcomes:

| Sl. No. | Name | Designation |
|---------|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Dr. Hitashi Lomash | Faculty |
| 2. | Dr. Indrani Talukdar | Faculty |



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 Amb J.S. Mukul. SSIFS, primarily has an extensive guest faculty drawn from experts in the field of academics and research, the media, public life, industry and trade, senior serving and retired diplomats and other government officials.

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