

VIDESH SEWA



Sushma Swaraj Institute
of Foreign Service

विदेश मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

Contents

Editor's Desk

Highlights 01

Training for IFS OTs and
Bhutanese Diplomats 01-05

Training for Other Civil
Service Officers 06-07

Training Programmes for
Foreign Diplomats 08

Workshops/Training Programmes
for MEA Officials 09

Dean (SSIFS)' Meetings 09

Visitors to SSIFS 10-11

Renaming of SSIFS' Facilities 12

New Postings 12

Editor:

Amb. J.S. Mukul, Dean (SSIFS)

Managing Editor:

Ms. Nilakshi Saha Sinha,
Joint Secretary (SSIFS)

Editorial Team:

Dr. Rajiv Kaushik, Faculty (SSIFS),

Dr. Shikha Gupta, Faculty (SSIFS),

Dr. Shilpa Bagade, Faculty (SSIFS),

Dr. Hitashi Lomash, Faculty (SSIFS),

Dr. Indrani Talukdar, Faculty (SSIFS),

Dr. Anuradha Saibaba, Faculty (SSIFS),

Mr. Prateek Kapil, Consultant,

Mr. Rahul B. Gajbhiye,
Private Secretary, SSIFS.

Contribution/Feedback email:

cc.ssifs@gmail.com



Editor's Desk



डीन
सुषमा स्वराज विदेश सेवा संस्थान
विदेश मंत्रालय

Dean
Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service
Ministry of External Affairs

Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service's (SSIFS) focus during first quarter of 2021 was on Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer Trainees (OTs) 2020 and Bhutanese diplomats Induction Training Programme (ITP). Interactive sessions were organised on political, strategic, defence, security, disarmament, climate, international law, etc. along with the Administration and Finance modules. The pedagogical emphasis continued to be on hands-on training by way of simulations, role plays, case studies, success stories, panel discussions, fire-side chat, etc. Online modules on cyber security and speed reading were held. At the end of Phase-I of ITP, the trainees embarked on Army Attachment on our borders, Bharat Darshan to different parts of the country and State Attachment in their allocated States.

SSIFS introduced two innovative training programmes during the quarter: (i) Special training programme for IAS and other officers from States & Union Territories (UTs) in the spirit of cooperative federalism with a view to sensitising State/UT officers on external dimensions of their work relating to trade, investment, technology, connectivity, tourism and diaspora. Two editions of this first time week-long programme were rolled out in January and February 2021; (ii) Special familiarisation programme for resident foreign diplomats in Delhi with a view to introducing them to salient features of India's foreign policy. Given the overwhelming response, three editions of the week-long programme were held in January, February and March 2021.

In March 2021, SSIFS conference halls were named after *VV Rao* and *RH Mhatre* in memory of Indian diplomats who were martyrs to terrorism. Other facilities named were *Nalanda*, *Takshashila* and *Vikramashila* lecture halls, *Chanakya* auditorium, *Panini* language lab, *Panchamrit* video conference facility, *Gyanodaya* library and *Kutumb Kunj* hostel.

New Delhi
April 2021

[J.S. Mukul]

बाबा गंग नाथ मार्ग, पुराना जे.एन.यू. कैम्पस, नई दिल्ली-110 067
Baba Gang Nath Marg, Old JNU Campus, New Delhi-110 067
Tel.: +91-11-26181345 • Fax: +91-11-26181346
E-mail: dean.ssifs@mea.gov.in • Website: <http://ssifs.mea.gov.in>

Highlights

Training for IFS Officers

Training for IFS Officer Trainees of 2020 Batch and Diplomats from Bhutan

Phase-I of the Induction Training Programme (ITP) for 24 IFS Officer Trainees (OTs) and 2 diplomats from Bhutan was conducted during this period. Phase-I of the ITP covered modules on International Relations & Diplomacy, Neighbourhood & Major Powers, Bilateral, Regional & Multilateral Relations, Defence & Strategy, Disarmament and International Security, Environment & Climate Diplomacy, International Law, Cyber Security, Administration and Finance. An online course on Speed Reading was conducted. IFS OTs and Bhutanese diplomats also attended an online course on cyber security conducted by the National Forensic Science University (NFSU).

The IFS OTs and the Bhutanese diplomats called on Foreign Secretary on 06 January 2021. They were addressed by the Omani Under Secretary for Diplomatic Affairs (Foreign Secretary), H.E. Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Issa al-Harthy and the Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary, H.E. Amb. Masud bin Momen. Resident Heads of Missions from Iran, France, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Singapore, Israel & the UK and Deputy High Commissioner of Australia addressed them.

The IFS OTs and the Bhutanese diplomats participated in *Shramdaan* on 09 January 2021 at the SSIFS premises as a part of the 'Swachhata Pakhwada' under the Swachh Bharat Mission. They also participated virtually in the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas celebrations on 09 January 2021. They visited the headquarters of the International Solar Alliance at Gurugram on 12 March 2021 and the National Defence College on 17 March 2021.

On completion of Phase-I of their Induction Training Programme, the IFS OTs and the Bhutanese diplomats proceeded for their Army Attachment and Bharat Darshan. They appeared in three internal examinations conducted by SSIFS between January and March 2021.

As part of their extra-curricular activities, the cohort organized a cultural soirée on the occasion of 'Lohri' on 13 January and also celebrated 'Holi' in March 2021. The OTs also organized a colourful cultural extravaganza on the theme 'Two States: Kerala & Punjab' on 19 February 2021. They organized a photographic contest on the theme 'Life@SSIFS' apart from screening movies at regular intervals. They participated actively in gymnastics, aerobics and tennis under the respective coaches.



Call on Foreign Secretary, Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, by IFS OTs



Secretary (East), Smt. Riva Ganguly Das addressing the IFS OTs on 08 February 2021



Secretary (West), Shri Vikas Swarup addressing the IFS OTs on 09 February 2021



IFS OTs and Bhutanese Diplomats visit the headquarters of International Solar Alliance in Gurugram on 12 March 2021



IFS OTs and Bhutanese Diplomats visit the National Defence College on 17 March 2021



IFS OTs' mentoring session on 22 February 2021

IFS OTs' interaction with Resident Heads of Mission, Senior Foreign Diplomats and Resident Diplomats



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Issa al-Harthy, Under Secretary for Diplomatic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sultanate of Oman on 15 January 2021



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Dr. Ali Chegeni, Ambassador of Iran to India on 18 February 2021



IFS OTs' interaction with Deputy High Commissioner of Australia in India, Mr. Bryce Hutchesson on 24 February 2021



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India on 24 February 2021



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Dr. Saud Bin Mohammed Al Sati, Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to India on 26 February 2021



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Mr. Andre Aranha Correa do Lago, Ambassador of Brazil to India on 26 February 2021



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Mr. Simon Wong Wie Kuen, High Commissioner of Singapore to India on 05 March 2021





IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Dr. Ron Malka, Ambassador of Israel to India on 19 March 2021



IFS OTs' interaction with H.E. Mr. Alex Ellis, High Commissioner of United Kingdom to India on 19 March 2021



IFS OTs' interaction with Resident Foreign Diplomats

Special Training Programme on 'Economic & Commercial Diplomacy' for IAS and other officers from States and UTs

SSIFS, in association with the States Division of MEA, organized the 1st and 2nd Special Training Programmes on Economic & Commercial Diplomacy' for IAS and other officers from States and Union Territories of India from 04-08 January and 08-12 February 2021 respectively. Sixteen officers from States/UTs participated in the 1st Training Programme, while seventeen officers took part in the 2nd Training Programme. External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, delivered a video message at the inaugural session of 1st Special Training Programme on 04 January 2021. He described the States and UTs as integral partners in India's international engagement. The week-long special training programme was designed with a focus on promotion and facilitation of international trade, foreign investment, joint ventures, technology, education, tourism etc. relevant for States and Union Territories. The aim was to impart training to States/UT Officers with an interface with foreign countries/embassies. Participants interacted with senior officers from various Ministries/Departments, resident foreign Ambassadors in Delhi, retired diplomats, academics, chambers of commerce, export promotion councils, development cooperation agencies, tour operators and Resident Commissioners of States/UTs in Delhi. In both Programmes, Secretary (Economic Relations) interacted with the participants and hosted a lunch for them.



1st Special Training Programme for IAS and other Officers from States & UTs from 04-08 January 2021



Hon'ble EAM addressing the participants of the 1st Special Training Programme for IAS and officers from States & UTs on 04 January 2021



Secretary (ER), Shri Rahul Chhabra addressed and hosted lunch for the participants of 1st Special Training Programme for IAS and other Officers from States & UTs on 05 January 2021





H.E. Mr. Shin Bongkil, Ambassador of Republic Korea of India addressed & interacted with participants of the 1st and 2nd Special Training for IAS and other Officers from States and UTs



Valedictory function of 1st Special Training Programme for IAS and other Officers from States & UTs on 08 January 2021



2nd Special Training Programme for IAS and other Officers from States & UTs from 08-12 February 2021



Secretary (ER), Sh. Rahul Chhabra addressed and hosted lunch for the participants of 2nd Special Training Programme for IAS and other Officers from States & UTs on 09 February 2021



Valedictory function of 2nd Special Training Programme for IAS and other Officers from States & UTs on 12 February 2021

Training Programmes for Foreign Diplomats

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Familiarization Programmes for Resident Foreign Diplomats were organised at SSIFS from 18-22 January, 22-26 February and 22-26 March 2021 respectively. This was in continuation of Familiarization Programmes conducted earlier for resident Heads of Missions. Thirty-one resident diplomats from Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas participated in the 1st Programme, thirty-four in the 2nd and thirty-two took part in the 3rd Programme.

Dean (SSIFS) inaugurated these programmes and hosted a welcome lunch for all three editions. Senior officers from MEA addressed the diplomats during each edition of the week-long programmes on a wide variety of foreign policy issues aimed at giving an introduction and perspective on India and its foreign policy including contemporary dimensions, challenges, strategic issues, relations with neighbouring countries and major powers, development partnership, health diplomacy, etc. A panel discussion on India's economic initiatives by Invest India, CII and FICCI was also organized.



*1st Familiarisation Programme for Resident Diplomats
from 18-22 January 2021*



*Valedictory function of 1st Familiarisation
Programme for Resident Diplomats
on 22 January 2021*



*2nd Familiarisation Programme for Resident Diplomats
from 22-26 February 2021*



*Valedictory function of 2nd Familiarisation
Programme for Resident Diplomats
on 26 February 2021*



*3rd Familiarisation Programme for Resident Diplomats
from 22-26 March 2021*



*Valedictory function of 3rd Familiarisation
Programme for Resident Diplomats
on 26 March 2021*

Workshop/Training for MEA Officials

- A Typing Test for 04 Direct Recruit Assistant Section Officers was organised at SSIFS on 13 January 2021.
- A training programme on Immigration, Visa and Foreigners' Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) was organized for 43 MEA officials from 20-22 January 2021. The training was conducted online while the test was held physically at SSIFS on 22 January 2021 for all the participants.
- An English Stenography Test for 21 newly recruited Personal Assistants and Stenographers from the year 2019 was organized at SSIFS on 03 February 2021.
- An Accounts Training Programme for 49 MEA officials was conducted at SSIFS from 18-19 February 2021.
- The 79th Integrated Mission Accounting System (IMAS) Training Programme was conducted for 48 MEA officials at SSIFS from 22 February - 05 March 2021 in two batches. The training was followed by a written test.
- A new training session of IVFRT on PAP/RAP (Protected Areas Permit/Restricted Areas Permit) in eFRRO Module was organised online for 134 officials from all Indian Missions/Posts abroad on 18 March 2021.
- A Promotion-related Training Programme for Assistant Section Officers and Personal Assistants was conducted for 122 MEA officials (46 at Headquarters and 76 in Missions abroad) at SSIFS from 22-26 March 2021.



Dean, SSIFS welcoming participants of Promotion Related Training Programme for ASOs & PAs



Participants of IMAS undergoing hands-on training

Dean (SSIFS)' Meetings



Amb J.S. Mukul, Dean SSIFS, called on H.E. Mr. Mohammad Haneef Atmar, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on 24 March 2021 to discuss mutual cooperation in training related matters.



First Meeting of the Deans of Diplomatic Academies of the BRICS countries held virtually on 16 March 2021

Visitors to SSIFS



Mr. Carlos Enrique Pineros Torres, Cd'A, Embassy of Colombia called on Amb J.S. Mukul, Dean SSIFS on 25 January 2021.



H.E. Mrs. Hayet Talbi Bilel, Ambassador of Tunisia to India, called on Amb J.S. Mukul, Dean, SSIFS on 01 March 2021.



H.E. Mr. Reuben Gauci, High Commissioner of Malta to India, called on Amb J.S. Mukul, Dean, SSIFS on 08 March 2021.



H.E. Mr. Federico Salas Lofte, Ambassador of Mexico to India, called on Amb J.S. Mukul, Dean, SSIFS on 11 March 2021



H.E. Mr. David Emmanuel Puig Buchel, Ambassador of Dominican Republic to India, called on Amb J.S. Mukul, Dean, SSIFS on 23 March 2021



Swachhata Pakhwada

IFS Officer Trainees (2020 Batch) participated in *Shramdaan* as part of the 'Swachhata Pakhwada' on 09 January 2021 under the Swachh Bharat Mission .



Renaming of SSIFS' Facilities

With a view to assigning distinct identities to various facilities at the SSIFS, these were renamed during March 2021 after prominent persons and places of historical and cultural heritage of India associated with knowledge and learning. Accordingly, the three lecture halls were renamed after ancient Indian universities of eminence - Nalanda, Takshashila and Vikramashila. The Auditorium and the Language Lab were renamed after Chanakya and Panini while the Library, Hostel and the newly established Video Conferencing facility were renamed as Gyanodaya, Kutumb Kunj and Panchamrit respectively.

Further, to honour the IFS Officers who were victims of terrorism, the two Conference Halls were renamed after Shri V.V. Rao and Shri R.H. Mhatre.



New Postings

SSIFS bid farewell to:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Amarnath Dube	Director
2.	Shri Jagdeep S. Juneja	Sr. PPS
3.	Shri Rahul Krishna Soni	PA
4.	Shri Vinod Kumar Bairwa	MTS

SSIFS welcomes:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Shri Vijay Ram	MTS

Glimpses of Cultural Extravaganza



A 'Cultural Evening' showcasing the talent, creativity and teamwork of IFS OTs and Bhutanese Diplomats organized at SSIFS.



Cultural events on the occasions of 'Lohri' and 'Holi' organised by IFS OTs and Bhutanese Diplomats at SSIFS



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, media, public life, industry and trade, senior serving and retired diplomats and other government officials.

Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service

Ministry of External Affairs, Baba Gang Nath Marg, Old JNU Campus, New Delhi - 110067, India

Phone: 26170250,26170260, 26181321, 26181327 | Fax: 26181358, 26181238 | Email: cc.ssifs@mea.gov.in