

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 Indian Diplomats

Training for Foreign Diplomats

Workshop/Training for MEA Officials

Visitors to SSIFS 07

Dean (SSIFS)' Meetings 09

New Postings 09

Editor

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

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Dr. Indrani Talukdar, 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*

The highlight of the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) during the October – December 2020 quarter was the Orientation Module of the Induction Training Programme (ITP) for 24 young Indian Foreign Service Officer Trainees of the 2020 Batch and 2 Bhutanese Diplomats from December 21, 2020. The module included calls on Minister of External Affairs and Minister of State for External Affairs, sessions on India's foreign policy, mentoring, etc.

SSIFS organised the Mid-Career Training Programme (MCTP-I) for 26 officers of the 2008 batch at Headquarters and various Missions abroad. The virtual course included a foreign policy & diplomacy module, research paper and book review.

SSIFS partnered with External Publicity Division of MEA to roll-out a virtual media/social media module for Heads of Missions/Posts across the world.

On foreigners' training, SSIFS organised the Sushma Swaraj Lectures (SSLs) in association with India Foundation as an 'Introduction to India' for foreign diplomats resident in New Delhi. SSL, inaugurated by Foreign Secretary, was held in two parts covering history, culture, politics, economics and foreign policy. 43 foreign diplomats from 31 Missions and International Organisations in New Delhi participated.

SSIFS organised a virtual Second Special Course for 20 Surinamese diplomats which was focused on economic and commercial issues.

As a part of on-going efforts to upgrade SSIFS infrastructure, a new stand-alone video conference (VC) facility was set up in line with blended learning or hybrid training methodology as the 'new normal' going forward. Other infrastructural improvements included upgrading of hostel facilities.

I wish the readers of *Videsh Sewa* a very happy New Year 2021.


[J.S. Mukul]

New Delhi
January 2021

Highlights

Training for Indian Diplomats

Induction Training Programme of IFS Officer Trainees and Diplomats from Bhutan

Twenty-four (24) Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer Trainees (OTs) of the 2020 batch and two (2) diplomats from Bhutan began their Induction Training Programme (ITP) at Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) on 21 December 2020. The Orientation Module from 21-24 December 2020 comprised of calls on dignitaries in MEA, sessions on India's foreign policy by serving and former senior IFS officers, academia from think-tanks, mentoring, etc. Dean, SSIFS hosted a welcome reception on 20 December 2020. The Induction Training will conclude on 18 June 2021.

The IFS OTs and Bhutanese diplomats called on Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar on 22 December 2020 and on Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan on 24 December 2020.



First day of IFS OTs on 21st December 2020



IFS OTs call on Hon'ble EAM, Dr. S. Jaishankar



IFS OTs call on Hon'ble MOS (EA), Shri V. Muraleedharan

Mid-Career Training Programme-III

A supplementary Mid-Career Training Programme-III (MCTP-III) for a 1994 batch IFS Officer, Dr. Anupam Ray, JS (PP&R), was conducted from 05-09 October 2020. The training programme consisted of a Foreign Policy module and a paper on foreign policy. The regular MCTP-III for IFS officers of the 1994 batch was earlier conducted from 29 October – 12 November 2019.



Mid-Career Training Programme-I

The Mid-Career Training Programme-I (MCTP-I) for twenty six (26) IFS Officers of the 2008 batch was conducted online from 23 November - 04 December 2020. The training programme consisted of a Foreign Policy Module (covering various aspects of foreign policy matters), submission of a paper on 'Strategies for promoting Trade & Investment in India from a country of choice' and a book review on India's foreign policy.



Online Training Module for Heads of Missions/Posts abroad on social media

A two-day training programme for Heads of Missions/Posts on social media was conducted by SSIFS in coordination with the External Publicity (XP) Division of the Ministry from 12-16 October 2020. The training programme was held virtually and the Missions/Posts actively participated in the programme.



Training for Foreign Diplomats

Sushma Swaraj Lectures 2020 Parts I & II on Introduction to India for Diplomats of Resident Missions:



Group picture of SSL Part-I



Inaugural address by Foreign Secretary at SSL Part-I

The Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), Ministry of External Affairs in association with the India Foundation, organised the 1st Sushma Swaraj Lectures (SSL) 2020 on Introduction to India for diplomats of resident Missions in October and November 2020. This was the first edition of the lectures aimed at sensitizing partner countries to the dynamic and complex Indian history, polity, culture, economy, etc. This was held from 15-16 October 2020 and attended by thirty nine (39) resident diplomats. The Inaugural Address was delivered by Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary. In his address, he sketched the contours of contemporary India around the 4 Ds of Democracy, Development, Demography and Diversity. He highlighted the seminal contribution of former External Affairs Minister (EAM), late Smt. Sushma Swaraj (after whom the lecture series was named) for making diplomacy responsive to the needs of Indian citizens, whether in India or abroad. An eminent list of speakers including Members of Parliament, senior Government officers and intellectuals/academics addressed the participants.



Valedictory Session of SSL Part-I

SSL Part-II covering Indian foreign policy, national security, Indian constitution and contemporary challenges and attended by twenty six (26) resident diplomats, was held from 19-20 November 2020. The programme was inaugurated by Dean SSIFS Amb J.S. Mukul and Shri Ram Madhav, Member, Board of Governors, India Foundation. As in SSL Part-I, an eminent faculty of speakers including MPs, Senior Government officers and intellectuals/academics addressed the participants.



Group picture of SSL Part-II



Inaugural address by Shri Ram Madhav at SSL Part-II



Valedictory Session of SSL Part-II with Dr Vinay Sahasrabudde, President of ICCR

2nd Special Course on Commercial & Economic Diplomacy for Diplomats from Suriname

The 2nd Special Course on Commercial & Economic Diplomacy for Diplomats from Suriname was held virtually from SSIFS, New Delhi from 07-18 December 2020. Twenty (20) Surinamese diplomats participated in this course from Paramaribo. The inaugural address was delivered by H.E. R. Ramdin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname on 7 December 2020. The inaugural session was also attended by Amb. Luziano Edwin Truideman, Permanent Secretary, Administrative and Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Amb. Miriam A. Mac Intosh, Permanent Secretary, Geopolitical Affairs and International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the Surinamese side. Amb. J. S. Mukul, Dean SSIFS welcomed the participants. This Special Course included modules covering the entire gamut of commercial and economic diplomacy (role of commercial representatives, WTO, FTA, trade negotiations, India's economic initiatives, publishing trade and investment journals, future potential of India-LAC trade and investment, trade financing, organizing B2B meetings and shows, trade security remedies, data management, international and regional trade law etc.) In addition, there were also lectures on India's Foreign Policy, India's relations with the Latin American and Caribbean region and Suriname.

During the valedictory session held on 18 December 2020, the valedictory address was delivered by Amb. Luziano Edwin Truideman, Permanent Secretary, Administrative and Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Suriname. India has traditionally enjoyed warm, friendly and cordial relations with Suriname reinforced by cultural and people-to-people contacts bridged by the Indian Diaspora's arrival 146 years ago. Bilateral relations have been further strengthened during the last few years with the exchange of regular high-level visits. With the successful completion of this course, a total of 60 Surinamese diplomats have been trained at SSIFS till date.



Workshop/Training for MEA Officials

- A Promotion related Training Programme for Senior Secretarial Assistants (SSAs), Junior Secretarial Assistants (JSAs) and Stenographers was conducted over webinar for sixty two (62) officials at SSIFS from 28 September - 05 October 2020.
- The 77th Integrated Mission Accounting System (IMAS) Training Programme was conducted over webinar at SSIFS for eighty three (83) officials from 12-16 October 2020.
- An Immigration, Visa and Foreigners' Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) Training Programme was conducted over webinar for seventy two (72) officials from 24-25 November 2020.
- The 78th Integrated Mission Accounting System (IMAS) Training Programme was conducted over webinar at SSIFS for sixty six (66) officials from 14-18 December 2020.



*Dean, SSIFS
addressing the
participants of 77th
IMAS training*

Visitors to SSIFS



During Foreign Secretary, Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla's visit to SSIFS to deliver the inaugural address at the Sushama Swaraj Lectures 2020 Part-I on 15 October 2020, Dean (SSIFS), Amb. Mukul briefed him about the activities of SSIFS and training related matters. Foreign Secretary was taken on a tour of the SSIFS campus.



H.E. Mr. Shin Bongkil, Ambassador of Republic of Korea to India called on Amb J.S. Mukul, Dean, SSIFS on 20 October 2020 to discuss issues of mutual cooperation and training related matters including in the COVID-19 scenario.



Mr. Niluka Kadurugamuwa, Acting High Commissioner of Sri Lanka called on Amb J.S. Mukul, Dean, SSIFS on 27 November 2020 to discuss issues of mutual cooperation and training related matters.



H.E. Mrs. Faduma Abdullahi Mohamud, Ambassador of Somalia to India called on Amb J.S. Mukul, Dean, SSIFS on 03 December 2020 to discuss issues of mutual cooperation and training-related matters.

Dean (SSIFS)' Meetings

A virtual round-table meeting between SSIFS and the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan (IIRMFATM), Ashgabat was held on 05 October 2020 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the international recognition of the policy of 'Permanent Neutrality' of Turkmenistan. The meeting was co-chaired by Amb. J.S. Mukul, Dean, SSIFS and Mr. Begench Myatliev, Vice-Rector for Science Affairs, IIRMFATM.

Amb. T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA); Amb. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and Amb. J.S. Mukul, Dean, SSIFS held a virtual coordination meeting on 6 November 2020.

Amb. J.S. Mukul, Dean, SSIFS virtually attended the 19th Meeting of Governing Body of Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and 18th Meeting of Governing Council of ICWA virtually held on 02 December 2020.

New Postings

SSIFS bid farewell to:

S.No	Name	Designation
1.	Shri R.K. Chandolia	Advisor (Economic)
2.	Dr. Amit Kumar Gupta	Faculty
3.	Shri Arun Yadav	Private Secretary
4.	Shri Mahesh Sharma	Librarian

*Shri Mahesh Sharma, Librarian joined SSIFS in October and superannuated in November 2020.



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