Greetings from the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration!

For many of you, the selection into the civil services is the fulfilment of a dream that you may have cherished for long, perhaps since your childhood. The gravity of the pandemic delayed the declaration of your results and naturally, this has had an impact on the time of your joining, but we do hope to have you with us by the third week of September.

The fact that you have done well in the Civil Services Examination proves that each one of you is indeed a bright person, able to ideate and analyse. You will see as you begin your career in public service, that it is not individual excellence but teamwork and positive attitude that make the difference between a pro-active organization that embraces technology and new ideas, and a moribund institution which loses its relevance over time.

Therefore, the FC is built on the idea of esprit de corps, with an emphasis on humility, intelligent cooperation and the idea that you may have to be urged, guided, even coaxed to come out of your cocoons and interact, to build and achieve lofty goals and ideals. You will get to meet and interact with new friends who represent the microcosm of our nation with its diversity of languages, cultures, ideas and of geography. Your room mates, trek mates and counsellor group mates will be colleagues who have lived and studied in places far removed from what you have hitherto called your home. I say, ‘hitherto’, because the definition of ‘home’ will change and evolve as you yourself grow in your respective Service(s).

Let me introduce your Course Team. My distinguished colleague N.K. Sudhansu who conducted the first ever Common Foundation Course Aarambh last year will mentor Vidya Bhushan, your Course Coordinator who will write to you shortly about the many dos, and the some don’ts about the 95th Foundation Course. Vidya will lead a team of our Academic council members – Monika Dhami, Alankrita Singh, Milind Ramteke and Gauri Parasher Joshi. This team encapsulates a vibrant, yet disciplined outlook to learning and will infect you with their positive energy.

You will arrive as the mists of the rainy season begin to lift and the splendour of the towering Himalayas can be marvelled at on mornings and evenings awash with colour and clarity. Let this too, be your muse and guide. I wish you good luck in your training and look forward with eagerness to having you with us, to instilling in you a sense of measured confidence, an irrepresible desire to learn and an unswerving commitment to serving our nation with integrity.

Jai Hind