

STRATEGIC GAMING EXERCISE – EX KOOT NEETI (AWC, HCC-50)

Exercise Koot Neeti was conducted for students of Higher Command Course- 50 (HCC-50) as a Strategic Gaming Ex (SGE) at Army War College Mhow from 31 Aug-01 Sep 2021. The USI Team led by Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM & Bar (Retd), Director USI conducted the SGE. The scenario was set around the dynamics of balance of power in IOR and its implication on peace and security and formulation of comprehensive response strategy in keeping with national interests. The objective of the SGE was to discuss the various response mechanisms to a military-diplomatic crisis situation in context of India's neighbours, particularly those on the western and northern borders. The sub theme played were as under-

- **Free and Open Indo-Pacific as a Strategy.**
- **Geostrategic importance of IOR – Areas of contestation and cooperation.**
- **Chinese strategic interests and forays in the IOR with particular reference to BRI/MSR and development of critical infrastructure.**
- **Strategic interests and roles of extra regional players in IOR.**
- **Dynamics of Balance of Power in IOR and India's strategic interests and initiatives to maintain peace and security.**

The participants were divided into various syndicates and were mentored by the following:-

1. Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM & Bar (Retd), Director USI
2. Amb Vijay Gokhale, IFS (Retd)
3. Lt Gen Arun Kumar Sahni, PVSM, UYSM, SM, VSM (Retd)
4. Amb Anil Wadhwa, IFS (Retd)
5. Amb Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, IFS (Retd)
6. Vice Adm Shekhar Sinha, PVSM, AVSM, NM & Bar (Retd)
7. Lt Gen PJS Pannu, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)
8. Vice Adm Satish Soni, PVSM, AVSM, NM (Retd)
9. Read Adm RJ Nadkarni, AVSM, VSM (Retd)
10. Maj Gen RPS Bhadauria, VSM (Retd), Head CS3 (USI)

****Report prepared by Samriddhi Roy, Research Assistant USI***