

# **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL - 2020**



**(Established : 1870)**

**UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION OF INDIA**

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE USI COUNCIL 2020**

1. Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the present Council. The USI is unique Institution vis a vis other Indian think tank, in terms of range and scale of its research work and activities. The Centre for Military History and Conflict Studies (CMHCS) is globally known for its domain expertise. Likewise, Centre for Strategic Studies and Simulation (CS3) is the only center of its kind in the country, with expertise in Strategic Net Assessment and Scenario Gaming. The Course Section has remained in the fore-front in the career progression of military officers. The year 2020, started with change in leadership of the USI and Major General B K Sharma (Retd) took over as Director on 01 Jan 2020. He has laid out a sound vision and road map for growth of USI. We profoundly acknowledge the great contribution of Lt Gen P K Singh (Retd), the former Director, in building the USI to the level where it stands today. During the Corona lockdown period, the USI not only maintained its momentum of work but also embarked upon new initiatives and outreach to enhance the image of the institution. The USI co-hosted with Chanakya Chakra Forum a brain-storming session with Indian think tanks on the theme "Why Think Tanks Matter - Role and Challenges to Policy Making". Significant step have been taken in way of regular conduct of webinars, towards digitization, outreach to other think tanks, regular E-interaction with USI Members and by adopting innovative themes for strategic dialogue. USI Management took remarkable austerity measures to keep the institution in sound financial state, despite drastic reduction in income due to Corona pandemic. The year 2020 saw significant increase in the conduct of digital events and publication of high quality literature. The highlights of the USI work are contained in the USI President's report 2020.

2. It is my privilege to present the report of the Institution for the year 2020. A copy of the report has been placed on the table and will be included in the Minutes of the Meeting.

## **Membership**

3. The Institution began with a membership of 215 members and it increased to 3500 when USI moved to the present premises in 1996. Today, we have 13,482 members. During the current year, 87 new Life Members, 27 Special Civilian Members, 6 Associate Members, 208 Ordinary Members and 742 Course Members were enrolled. This continuous growth exemplifies the support and trust the Institution enjoys. But for the Corona pandemic, the USI membership would have further increased.

## **Finances**

4. The Institution does not get any grant / aid from the Ministry of Defence or the Services. The efforts to get financial assistance due to USI from the Service HQ or MoD have not borne fruit. USI continues to carry out all its activities from the resources generated within. Since, Center for Strategic Studies and Simulation (CS3) and Center for Military History and Conflict Studies (CMHCS) that were created at the behest of Service HQ, are not able to meet their annual expenditure, they are allocated resources from the Corpus Fund. Further, USI building and equipment being more than two decades old, now require greater allocation of funds for renovation and upkeep. Under the prevailing conditions of COVID pandemic, extreme steps were taken to minimize losses due to sudden drop in all sources of income. Loss of income, particularly from Residency and Hiring of Auditorium/ Seminar Rooms amounting to Rs 75 Lac, has been mitigated by reduction in temporary staff, temporary reduction in monthly pay, with-holding annual increment and DA, decrease in MES power consumption and utilization of Solar Power. Other measures taken to reduce expenditure are cutting down of capital expenditure, eqpt repair & maintenance, building maintenance, reduced allocations of funds to library, CS3 and CMHCS.

5. Other austerity economic measures include suppression of selected permanent appointment (DDE and DDR), allocation of additional responsibilities to current staff, temporary

employment of resource faculty for research projects and reduction in contractual services. At the same time sustained efforts are being made to increase income by bidding for projects from HQ IDS, Army HQ, MoD, MEA, NSCS and raising funds for additional Chairs of Excellence. DGAR and War Wounded Foundation (WWF) have contributed grants for one Chair of Excellence each.

6. The USI Audit Report and Balance Sheet for the FY 2019-20, Revised Estimates for the FY 2020-21 and Budget Estimates for the FY 2021-22 are submitted to Council. These have been recommended by the Finance Sub Committee and Executive Committee for approval by the Council.

### **USI 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Activities**

7. The CMHCS undertook the responsibility to plan and carry out a number of events for the USI sesquicentennial commemorative activities which were planned for the year 2020. Following activities are being executed:

(a) A special USI Logo was brought out to highlight the 150th year celebrations.

(b) As part of the planned activities, following three special publications were brought out:

(i) "A Brief History of the USI" by Col VK Singh (Retd). Book was released on 23 Oct 2020 by Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar, AVSM, VSM, CISC, HQ IDS. This abridged version of the Institution's history has been prepared for general reading of the wider public and the Armed Forces.

(ii) A Special Publication comprising of select articles from USI Journals over the past 150 years titled 'Vignettes from a Military Journal.' The publication reflects the core activities and values of the USI over the years and also provides a glimpse into the evolution of India's military history and strategic culture.



- (iii) A special commemorative issue of the USI Journal containing articles on the contribution of former Directors and vision and roadmap by the present Director and Head of Sections is being published.
- (c) As part of the fourth edition of Valley of Words (VoW) International Literature and Arts Festival, a special event "150 years of USI - A Road Map for the Future" was recorded online on 31 Oct and aired live on 22 Nov 2020.
- (d) The organisers of the Chandigarh Military Literature Festival have been approached to include a special panel on the USI, in view of its 150th Anniversary. They have accepted the suggestion in principle.
- (e) Wreath laying ceremony at National War Memorial is scheduled on 07 Dec 2020.
- (f) Digital episodes on the history of USI and MacGregor's Medal awardees will be produced with the assistance from Peninsular studio.

### **USI Annual Events**

8. Details of traditional annual USI events conducted are as under:-

- (a) **18th Major General Samir Sinha Memorial Webinar.** This was held on 16 July 2020 on the subject, 'Evolving China-Pakistan Strategic Nexus: Implications and Response'. The Webinar had an eminent panel comprising three former Service Chiefs; General Bikram Singh, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, former COAS and Chairman COSC; Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, former CNS and Chairman COSC and Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, PVSM, AVSM, VM, former CAS and Chairman COSC.
- (b) **24th Colonel Pyara Lal Memorial Webinar.** This was held on 23 September 2020 on, 'Post Article 370, dealing with the J&K Conundrum'. Experts from diverse professional backgrounds with in-depth understanding of Kashmir and its complexities delivered their views.

(c) **National Security Paper.** The paper on ‘Determinants of India’s Joint Military Strategy’ has been written by Lt Gen Rakesh Sharma, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd). It was discussed as a webinar on 10 November 2020.

(d) **36th National Security Lecture (webinar).** A talk on, ‘Chinese Way of Conducting Grey Zone Conflicts: Lessons for India’ by Lt Gen SL Narasimhan, PVSM, AVSM, & Bar, VSM (Retd) DG CCCS, MEA is scheduled for mid-December 2020

(e) **41st National Security Seminar/Webinar.** Security Seminar /Webinar is planned on “The Emerging Cold War 2.0 in the Indo-Pacific Region: Implications for Peace and Stability”. Due to COVID 19 this event has been delayed to early 2021. The event is a part of 150th year anniversary.

### **Webinars and other Activities**

9. During the lockdown period the USI remarkably transformed to digital conduct of events. A large number of national and international webinars, including with RAND, HUDSON, think tanks of Nepal, Taiwan and Afghanistan were conducted. Similar events being planned jointly with partner think tanks in Bangladesh and Vietnam. Likewise, presentations, book discussions and strategic panel discussion with the IAS Academy, FSI and NDC were conducted. Details of USI activities are at Appendix A.

### **Director’s Interactions**

10. During the year, the Director remained proactive in reaching out to various dignitaries. He called on the RM, CDS, Service Chiefs, Defence Secretary, Foreign Secretary, CISC, DCIDS (DOT), Vice Chief of the Army Staff, JS (IC), MoD, JS (Policy), MEA, Commandant NDC and Heads of Missions in Delhi with a view to showcase USI domain expertise and to seek their support and guidance. He also participated in Track 1.5 level digital dialogues and represented USI at number of national and international webinars. These included participation in a special

theme based series "SARAD KE US PAR' hosted by Shri Arvind Saharan with Prof Pervez Hoodbhoy, Amb Abdul Basit and Barrister Hamid Bashani from Pakistan. Another series of programme conducted with Gauri Dwivedi on Geopolitics and Strategic Security, involving USI Council Members and Resource Faculty.

### **USI Publications**

11. **USI Journal.** The flagship publication and the pride of the USI, the USI Journal continues to have uninterrupted publication since 1871. The articles from its archives continue to be sought out by the scholars and researchers the world over. The articles reflect a sense of the 'times' in respect of issues related to strategy, national security, Defence Forces and International Relations. In the recent issues, our articles have received wide appreciation. The Journal, not infrequently, also carries well researched articles from foreign scholars and experts. During the last one year, 19 latest books have been reviewed in the USI Journal in the form of review articles and short reviews. With effect from January 2017 the Journal has been digitized, only 1000 copies are printed for institutional subscribers / for those desirous of buying a hard copy. Further, the USI Journal is converted into e-format and being promoted on Amazon.

12. First three quarterly issues of the Journal this year have been published and distributed. The last issue is the 150th Anniversary Special issue and is being finalised. The special issue covers a glimpse of USI (1870-2020), write up on its founder Major General MacGregor, post-Independence Director Late Colonel Pyara Lal and Late Major General SC Sinha. Two previous Directors, Lt Gen Satish Nambiar (Retd) and Lt Gen PK Singh (Retd), have highlighted the growth of USI through their tenures, while the present Director has elaborated on his future vision for the USI. The issue also lists out the details of the winners of various essay competitions and the MacGregor Memorial Medal winners since its inception. All in all it would be a 'collector's edition'.

13. **USI Strategic Year Book.** The fifth edition of the book, titled 'USI Strategic Year Book 2020' was released at the USI on 30 June 2020. The book provides comprehensive researched articles on contemporary security issues by knowledgeable Indian strategic thinkers and scholars, both from the military and civil field. This edition covers the international and domestic affairs under five thematic sections, namely, National Security Overview, Internal Security Environment, Pakistan-China Strategic Challenge, India's Strategic Neighbourhood and National Security Capacity Building. The papers look at the new challenges and responses to the existing paradigm of India's national security.

14. **USI Books.** The USI published 16 single author books during the year. Details are at Appendix B.

15. **Occasional / Policy Papers.** Following Occasional Papers were published:

(a) "The Dynamics of the India-Nepal Relationship" by Lt Gen Shokin Chauhan, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, SM & VSM (Retd)

(b) "Chinese Intransigence in Ladakh: An Overview" by Maj Gen PK Mallick, VSM (Retd)

(c) "CDS and Other Reforms: A Mid Way Milestone" – Col (Dr) Rajneesh Singh.

(d) "Unpacking SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)" – Cdr Subhasish Sarangi.

16. **Policy Papers.** Following policy papers are under editing:

(i) Dealing with Pakistan: India's Response to Proxy War by Brig Sanjay Vishwasrao (former MA in Pakistan)

(ii) Leveraging Tibet Government in Exile and the Tibetan Diaspora in India to pressure China on Strategic Issues by Mr Claude Arpi.

17. **Articles.** More than 84 articles have been published in the USI Strategic Perspective and USI blogs. In addition the USI scholars from CS3 and CMHCS published a number of articles. Details are at Appendix B.

### **USI Library**

18. The USI library with a collection of over 69,224 books, some dating back to 16th and 17th Centuries, is a storehouse of knowledge and archival material. During the period Nov 2019 – Oct 2020, a total of 267 books have been added to the library.

19. The library has Army Lists since the days of the Presidency Armies, dating back to 1793 (Bombay Army List), and are sought after by many to locate service details of their ancestors.

20. As part of the Information Service for its members, the library is putting out 'Fortnightly First' twice a month in place of 'news highlights' (on daily basis) and 'Information Alert' (monthly).

### **Digitisation Drive**

21. The USI has increased its footprints in the digital domain and rejuvenated the digital presence on the important social media platforms - Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

22. Due to the Covid pandemic, presently all talks, presentations, conferences and seminars are being conducted in virtual domain using CISCO WebEx platform. In addition, these events are being converted to short videos and uploaded on YouTube.

23. We have also commenced recording a series of USI 'Strategic Dialogue' on strategic and military affairs, being covered by USI faculty and other strategic experts. These will be uploaded on the USI YouTube channel and other USI social media platforms for wider circulation.

24. Efforts are on to further improve the USI Website to make it user and mobile friendly.

### Updation of E-Mail Addresses

25. A drive has been undertaken to update e-mail addresses of all members so that they can be reached through digitally.

### Annual Essay Competitions

26. **Gold Medal Essay Competitions.** A total of 226 entries were received for the Group 'A' competition, the subject being 'Emerging Dynamics of Warfare – Role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics and How India Can Exploit It'. A total of 205 entries were received for the Group B competition, the subject being 'Space the Next Frontier: Opportunities and Challenges for India'. The results will be declared in the USI Council meeting in December 2020.

27. **Lt Gen S L Menezes Memorial Essay Competition.** A total of 194 entries were received but 130 entries were rejected for not adhering to the rules of submission. The subject of this year's essay competition was **"Post-Independence India: Evolution of Jointmanship in the Military and Lessons Learnt"**.

28. There is a need to impress upon the Service Headquarters to encourage more officers to participate in these competitions.

### Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs)

29. The following MOUs were signed with international and national organisations :-

- (a) War Wounded Foundation, New Delhi
- (b) Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi.
- (c) Peninsula Publications & Studio Pvt. Ltd. and British High Commission, New Delhi.
- (d) Chinese Council of Advanced Policy Studies (CAPS), Taiwan.
- (e) TAC Infosec Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai.
- (f) Global Dialogue Forum (GDF), New Delhi.

- (g) StratNews Global, New Delhi.
- (h) DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, Geneva, Switzerland
- (j) India-Central Asia Foundation (ICAF), New Delhi
- (k) Assam Rifles, Laitkor Shillong (Chair of Excellence)
- (l) Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie (Uttarakhand).

### **The Centre For Military History And Conflict Studies (CMHCS)**

30. In January 2020, the name of the Centre was changed from Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research (CAFHR) to Centre for Military History and Conflict Studies (CMHCS) to reflect the expanded scope of the Centre's activities beyond the realm of pure military history.

31. During the year 2020, the CMHCS undertook various activities and submitted a number of major project proposals, as follows:-

(a) **India Remembers WWII: The End of the War in the East - Online Event.** USI-CMHCS, British High Commission and Big Ideas Company UK, jointly held an online commemorative event 'India Remembers WWII: The End of the War in the East'. It was a shared event bringing together the UK and India, to mark the role of the Indian Army in the events which led to the end of World War II. The Secy CMHCS hosted the digital commemoration which included speakers from both the UK and India.

(b) **USI-NAM Partnership.** As part of the British-Indian Military Heritage Partnership between National Army Museum, UK (NAM) and USI, Ms Shefali Oberoi, Research Assistant, CMHCS, and Mr Adil Chhina, Senior Research Fellow, CMHCS attended the Virtual Regimental Museums Curators Course of NAM in October 2020, on behalf of the USI. Under the aegis of this partnership it was decided

to produce a set of volumes on British Indian Army badges. These volumes will be very useful addition to the history of the Indian Army heraldry and insignia over the past 300 years, and will be a tangible contribution to the heritage partnership. The first two volumes will be:

- (i) Shoulder Titles of the British Indian Army
- (ii) Buttons of the British Indian Army.

(c) **USI-NAM Military Museum Curator's Course.** The second USI-NAM Military Museum Curators' Course was held from 19 Oct to 23 Oct 2020. In view of the pandemic, this year's course was held online. As part of the course, representatives from NWM&M (National War Memorial and Museum), Indian Navy and Indian Air Force participated and speakers from the Navy and the Air Force gave a presentation on their respective museum projects. A special presentation was made on the broad concept of the formation of a National Military Heritage Trust. The five-day virtual training programme was conducted by trainers from the National Army Museum, Gurkha Museum and the York Army Museum, UK. It aimed to acquaint curators and officers dealing with military heritage, with best practices in the field in order to enhance their displays, preserve their artefacts and devise educational and outreach programmes to optimise the impact of the museums in their charge.

(d) **Battlefield Guide Series.** As part of the USI-CMHCS series of battlefield guides comprising of six books, the Centre edited and submitted drafts of the Kohima/ Imphal 1944, Lucknow 1857 and Kanpur 1857 battlefield guides to the publisher – Harper Collins. These volumes are planned to be published in 2021.

(e) **USI-SOAS Project Partnership.** As part of the project partnership of USI-School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) University of London, online discussions and meetings were held for the project 'Performing Law, Staging



History: The (Re) Trial of Bahadur Shah Zafar' with Dr Kanika Sharma, Director, Centre for Asian Legal Studies at SOAS and other stakeholders. Due to the pandemic situation it was decided to move the entire project online, so that it can be accessed by a wider audience. The project conceptualises a digital site as a stage which will host the live performance and act as an archive, all set within the scenography of the Red Fort in the form of a 3-D rendering. The Centre will assist with research towards shaping the online performance of the trial in its historical context in the Red Fort at Delhi, as with sourcing the archival material for the evidence rooms that will be central to the narrative and delivery of the performance. The project is now expected to commence in Oct 2021.

32. Apart from the above activities the following projects are in the pipeline: -

(a) **National War Museum.** The USI-CMHCS has proposed to assist the NWM&M Dte to curate the National War Museum (NWM). If approved, the Centre will form a core action team to assist the NWM&M Dte to curate the display galleries and assist in identifying material for the NWM displays, which will vividly convey to the visitor the valour, sacrifice and ethos of the Indian Defence Forces.

(b) **National Military Heritage Trust.** The Centre has proposed to the HQ IDS/NWM&M Dte to establish a Military Heritage Trust (MHT) under the aegis of the USI to look after long-term issues of identification, classification, acquisition and conservation of artefacts as well as tangible and intangible elements of India's vast military heritage. The USI Council will fulfil the function of a tri-service Board of Trustees. The MHT will operate as an adjunct of the NWM&M, and other national military museums and heritage organisations will function under its umbrella.

(c) **History and Digital Archive of the Indian Army.** The USI-CMHCS has been asked by HQ ARTRAC to

submit a proposal to undertake an Indian Army Archival Digitisation Project; and to compile a history of the Indian Army for a general readership. The project proposals have been submitted and are now under consideration. The project will entail digitisation of all relevant records of archival importance. The Army War College (AWC) has now been made the nodal coordinating agency for the project. Director and Secretary CMHCS conducted an interactive session with the Commandant AWC and his team at the USI on 09 Nov 2020 to finalise the modalities of the projects.

(d) **Joint USI-ICWA International Gallipoli Seminar.** The USI-CMHCS has forwarded a project proposal to the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) to hold a joint USI-ICWA International Seminar to commemorate the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915, with a special emphasis on the role played by India in it. It also includes compilation of an illustrated coffee table book. This will provide an opportunity for India to commemorate the military and diplomatic significance of the contributions of the thousands of soldiers who fought and died to establish a new world order. Scholars from India, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Turkey will be invited to present papers at the Seminar.

(e) **Bangladesh War Golden Jubilee Celebration Projects.** In July 2020, Bangladesh Myanmar Division, MEA approached USI-CMHCS for suggestions to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Bangladesh Liberation War-1971 and highlight the role played by India in the conflict. The following project proposals have been sent to MEA for celebrating the Golden Jubilee Commemoration with Bangladesh in 2021: -

(i) **Bangladesh Liberation War 1971 Conference.** To conduct a high profile conference in Delhi, inaugurated by the EAM/RM/CDS with an invitation to their Bangladesh counterparts; the same to be

replicated in Dhaka. Selected scholars and veterans of the war from both countries to be invited to speak. Foreign Secretary to deliver the Valedictory Address. The seminar must highlight the role played by the Mukti Jodhas and the Indian Defence Forces in the Bangladesh Liberation War.

(ii) **Bangladesh Liberation War 1971: Golden Jubilee Commemoration English/ Bangla Graphic Novel.** To produce a 32 page graphic novel in English and Bangla to narrate the story of the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, aimed at engaging and educating a younger demography.

(iii) **War Exhibitions.** To curate and design an exhibition that vividly conveys to the visitor the sacrifices made by the Indian Defence Forces and the people of Bangladesh during the Liberation War; and gives the people, especially the youth, a real insight into the efforts that went into the making of the nation.

(iv) **Joint Bangladesh Liberation War Memorial, Kolkata.** To create a joint war memorial in Kolkata to the martyrs of the Mukti Bahini and Indian Armed Forces who fell in the liberation war.

(v) **Battlefield Guide.** To produce a 'Battlefield Guide' of the war, which can be used by tourists and lay-persons to visit locations where various historical events occurred. Apart from the actual historic sites and battle locations in Bangladesh, many places in Kolkata are of great significance to the history of Bangladesh.

(vi) **Illustrated Booklet in English and Bangla.** To produce an illustrated booklet in English and Bangla telling the Indian story of the Bangladesh Liberation War 1971, for widespread dissemination.

(vii) **Bangladesh Sonarbangla Sanskritik Boloy or National Monument Complex, Dhaka.** To assist the Govt of Bangladesh in creation of a National Monument Complex at the Suhrawardy Udyan, Dhaka. The USI will assist Bangladesh to curate, design and develop the memorial complex and provide the suitable display material and memorabilia.

(viii) **Community Engagement and Social Media Campaign.** To run a major social media campaign aimed at grassroots participation and targeting a younger demographic. Using recorded interviews of surviving veterans in India and Bangladesh, historical photos and films to make 6-12 short film clips for dissemination through online platforms.

**33. USI-War Wounded Foundation (WWF) Chair of Excellence.** The USI-CMHCS have signed a MoU with the WWF. Both have agreed to undertake joint activities to further the aims and objectives of the WWF by conducting research in diverse aspects of rehabilitation of war disabled personnel of the Armed Forces of India. It was decided by both to cooperate in conducting the following events:-

- (a) To conduct a joint annual seminar/lecture at the USI on the travails/concerns of the war wounded personnel in different aspects of their lives, to coincide preferably with Disabled Day or Veterans Day in Dec/Jan every year.
- (b) To conduct one WWF essay competition every year by the USI with prizes for winner/runner-up. The selected essays to be published in the USI Journal.
- (c) To produce one Monograph every year as a joint USI-WWF publication on issues affecting disabled military personnel, with special emphasis on war disabled personnel.
- (d) To provide facilities to war wounded personnel on special rates, as applicable to the Indian military.
- (e) To share published research literature as agreed.

34. **Ongoing Research.** Following researches are in progress:

(a) Maharana Pratap Chair (2020-21): History of Hong Kong Singapore Royal Artillery by Col Mandeep Singh (Retd)

(b) Chhatrapati Shivaji Chair (2020-21): Military Biography of the Late Lt Gen Jaswant Singh, PVSM, AVSM by Maj Gen Ardaman Jit Singh Sandhu, VSM (Retd).

(c) Maharana Pratap Chair (2015-16): Indo-Pak Air War of Dec 1971 by Air Mshl Vikram Singh, VSM

(d) Maharana Pratap Chair (2018-19): Remembrance, Memorialization, Commemoration and War Memorial in Post-independence India by Maj Gen Hemant Kumar Singh (Retd)

(e) USI-NAM British-Indian Military Heritage Partnership: Shoulder Titles of the Indian Army 1885-1947 by Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina (Retd) and Tony McClenaghan

(f) USI-NAM British-Indian Military Heritage Partnership: Buttons of the Indian Army 1800-1947 by Mr Adil Chhina and Tony McClenaghan.

35. **General Palit Military Studies Trust On Going Projects.**

A grant of Rs. 25,000/- for procuring historical photographs for a volume on Kanpur 1857 as part of the series of USI-CMHCS Battlefield Guides was granted to the author, Mr Andrew Ward.

36. **Misc.** Details of CMHCS events and publications are included in Appendix A and Appendix B respectively.

### **Centre For Strategic Studies And Simulation (CS3)**

37. During the testing time of Corona lockdown period, the CS3 heightened the tempo of its wide-ranging activities by harnessing the digital platforms. The Centre hosted foreign delegation visits, conducted track 1.5 dialogues with its foreign

partners & conducted a series of webinars at the national and international level. There was a significant increase in the publication of articles in our digital portals Strategic Perspective & Blog. The routine efforts such as conduct of Strategic Gaming, Training Capsule for Military Officers and Panel Discussions at the premium policy making institutions continued. A number of publications were taken out by our scholars who were allotted the Chair of Excellence and those who were on study leave. A new initiative to record specialised 'YouTube' series on matters of contemporary strategic & military interest was launched. These "Strategic Insight" and "Strategic Dialogue" series were curated and conducted with the help of noted media expert namely, Shri Nitin Gokhale, and the Journalist, Mrs. Gaurie Dwivedi. The Centre signed a number of MOUs with Indian & Foreign partners to expand and deepen our strategic cooperation. The Centre undertook a number of important Net Assessment Projects for HQIDS & NSCS.

**38. Research Projects** - Presently the following research projects are in progress: -

- (a) Occupational Stress in IA in Counterinsurgency / Counter-Terrorist Environment – Col Anil Kumar Mor, Senior Research Fellow. The book is under publication.
- (b) Universal Combat Approach Best Suited for Mechanised Warfare in Future Conflicts – Col Anurag Jyoti, Senior Research Fellow.
- (c) Use of Water as a Geostrategic Tool in India's Neighbourhood - Col Anurag Jyoti, Senior Research Fellow.
- (d) Trade and Transit Corridors in the Indo-Pacific Regions: Implications and India's Response – Cdr S Sarangi, Research Fellow.
- (e) Development of Terrain Friction in own Territory by River Interlinking – Col Kuldeep Singh Rohil, Senior Research Fellow.

39. **Chairs of Excellence.** Details are as under :-

(a) Admiral RD Katari Chair of Excellence – “Grey Zone Conflicts: Way Ahead for India” – Lt Gen Dushyant Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd), from 01 Aug 2020 to 31 July 2022.

(b) Flag Officer Amandeep Singh Gill Chair of Excellence – “Combat Support Aviation: Trajectory, Issues and Challenges” – Gp. Capt. Kishore Kumar Khera, VM (Retd) from 01 Sep 2020 to 31 Aug 2022.

(c) MEA Chair of Excellence – “India-China Civilisational Connect” – Shri Tarun Vijay from 01 Aug 2020 to 31 July 2022.

(d) Assam Rifles Chair of Excellence – “Comprehensive Development of Northeast: Window to India’s Act East Policy” – Mr Jitesh Khosla, IAS (Retd) from 01 Sep 2020 to 31 Aug 2022.

40. **Net Assessment Projects.** Details are as follows:

(a) A HQ-IDS Project on “Net Assessment of Chinese Ports in IOR”. (completed).

(b) A HQ-IDS Net Assessment Project on “China Myanmar Economic Corridor and Implications for India”. (Submitted)

(c) A National Security Council Secretariat Project on “China-Pakistan-India Military Balance up to 2035”. (In progress).

(d) A CCCS, MEA, Govt of India Project on “Comprehensive Assessment of China-2035. (Expected).

(e) MOD Project "Enhancement of Defence Engagement with Mongolia". (Expected).

41. **USI Scholar’s Participation in National Events -**  
Following scholars participated :-

(a) Brig Narender Kumar, SM, VSM (Retd) delivered a lecture on “Insurgency in North East – Role of Narcotic

Financing & Neighbouring Countries” in the 20th International NSG Seminar at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi on 13 Feb 2020.

(b) Maj Gen Rajiv Narayanan, AVSM, VSM (Retd), Head CS3, USI, gave a presentation on “Are there any indications of Xi Jinping’s authority over the CMC/PLA weakening?” at the Round Table Discussion organised by Centre for China Analysis and Strategy, at India International Centre, New Delhi on 17 Feb 2020.

(c) Dr Roshan Khanijo, Assistant Director (Research) gave a presentation on “Iran-US Confrontation and the Impact on India’s Strategic Interests” at IDSA, New Delhi on 17 Feb 2020.

#### 42. **Strategic Scenario Gaming & Panel Discussions.**

(a) **Strategic Crisis Game at Foreign Service Institute (FSI).** USI conducted a strategic crisis game for the IFS Officers on 27 Feb 2020 at FSI. The USI was represented by Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM & Bar (Retd), Director, USI, Lt Gen Devraj Anbu, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM (Retd), Maj Gen Rajiv Narayanan, AVSM, VSM (Retd), Maj Gen RPS Bhadauria, VSM (Retd) and Air Mshl Anil Khosla, PVSM, AVSM, VM (Retd).

(b) **National Security Workshop at Mussoorie.** The USI conducted a National Security Workshop at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) on 09 Mar 2020 for their senior officers. The USI was represented by Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM & Bar (Retd), Director, USI, Lt Gen Praveen Bakshi, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), Lt Gen Devraj Anbu, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM (Retd), Maj Gen RPS Bhadauria, VSM (Retd), Amb Yogendra Kumar, IFS (Retd), Mr Jayanto Choudhury, IPS (Retd) & Shri Anil Goswami, IAS (Retd).

(c) **Strategic Panel Discussion at NDC.** The event was conducted for the participants of NDC course on 06 Oct



2020, on the theme “Intricacies of India’s Land Borders”. The panel discussion was moderated by the Director USI with Lt Gen Praveen Bakshi (Retd), Lt Gen Shokin Chauhan (Retd) and Shri RK Mishra (Retd), Former DG BSF as panelists.

43. **Strategic Insight Series.** Strategic Insight Series anchored by Shri Nitin Gokhale of Strategic News Global was conducted by USI. The various episodes are as follows :-

(a) A Perspective on Sino-Indian Border Issues: Arunachal Pradesh – Maj Gen Rajiv Narayanan, AVSM, VSM (Retd) and Lt Gen Devraj Anbu, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM (Retd).

(b) A Perspective on Sino-Indian Border Issues: Sikkim and Bhutan” – Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM & Bar (Retd) and Lt Gen Devraj Anbu, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM (Retd).

(c) A Perspective on Sino-Indian Border Issues: Central Sector & Ladakh – Lt Gen PJS Pannu, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd) and Lt Gen Harish Thukral (Retd).

(d) Maritime Power in collusive Hybrid Threat Scenario – Vice Adm Satish Soni, PVSM, AVSM, NM (Retd) and Maj Gen Rajiv Narayanan, AVSM, VSM (Retd).

(e) Role of Aerospace Power in Collusive Hybrid Threat – Air Mshl Anil Khosla, PVSM, AVSM, VM (Retd) and Air Marshal Anil Chopra, PVSM, AVSM, VM, VSM (Retd).

(f) Pak-China Military Collusive: Possible Scenario” – Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM & Bar (Retd) and Lt Gen GS Katoch, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd).

(g) Nuclear Threat Indo-Pak-China Strategic Nexus” – Dr Roshan Khanijo and Dr Manpreet Sethi.

44. **Round Table Discussions (RTD).** The following RTDs were conducted at the USI :-

(a) RTD with 06-member delegation from Department of Research of Academy of Military Sciences (AMS) PLA China on 14 Jan 2020. The topics of discussion were “Emerging Security Dynamics in Indo-Pacific Region” and “Emerging security Trends in South Asia”.

(b) RTD with 02-member delegation, namely Mr Tsun-yen Wang, Assistant Researcher and Dr Jui-min Hung, from Institute for National Defense and Security Research (INDSR), Taiwan on 16 Jan 2020.

(c) RTD with a two-member delegation from BIPSS, Bangladesh, headed by Maj Gen ANM Muniruzzaman (Retd), President Bangladesh along with his colleague Mr Shafqat Munir on 25 Jan 2020 for a meeting. The topic of the discussion was “Evolving Geopolitical Situation in the Region: Impact on Indo-Bangladesh Relations”.

(d) RTD with 04-member CDM, Secunderabad Delegation on 13 Feb 2020.

45. **Presentations by Scholars.** Details are as under:-

(a) Col Anil Kumar Mor, Senior Research Fellow on the topic “Occupational Stress in IA in Counter-Insurgency / Counter-Terrorist Environment” on 14 Jan 2020.

(b) Brig Vivek Verma, Senior Research Fellow on the topic “PLA: Increasing Non-Contact Warfare Capabilities” on 28 Jan 2020.

(c) Col Anurag Jyoti, Senior Research Fellow on the topic “Asymmetric War: Water as a Tool in India's Neighbourhood” on 12 Feb 2020.

(d) Lt Gen Dushyant Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd) on “Grey Zone Conflicts – Way Ahead for India” under Admiral RD Katari Chair on 11 Jun 2020.

(e) Gp Capt KK Khera, VM (Retd) on “Combat Support Aviation: Trajectory, Issues and Challenges” under Flag Officer Amandeep Singh Gill Chair of Excellence at USI on 24 Aug 2020.

(f) Mr Jitesh Khosla, IAS (Retd) on “Comprehensive Development of Northeast: Window to India’s Act East Policy” under the Assam Rifles Chairs of Excellence on 26 Aug 2020.

(g) Final Virtual Presentation of Col Anil Kumar Mor, Senior Research Fellow on the topic “Occupational Stress in Indian Army in Counter Insurgency / Counter Terrorist Environment” on 17 Oct 2020.

46. **Misc.** Details of CS 3 events and publications are included in Appendix A and Appendix B respectively.

### **Course Section**

47. Professional advancement of serving officers has always been an important activity of the Institution since 1903. Despite outbreak of COVID19 pandemic, USI was able to conduct all promotion and competitive examination courses, to reach out to officers, who are remotely located. USI initiative has been widely appreciated by the subscribers.

48. The COVID19 pandemic took its toll in reduction of number of officers subscribing for the courses as the postal services were disrupted and course material containing classified contents could not be sent on email. Moreover, the correction of written work too suffered due to limited availability of examiners. Despite all these handicaps, USI subscriptions for courses during the year continued. Details are as under:-

(a) DSSC (Army)	-	273
(b) DSSC (Navy)	-	39
(c) DSSC Contact Programme	-	75
(d) Part ‘D’	-	154
(e) Part ‘B’	-	23

(f) During the year the Army HQ (Military Training Directorate) switched over to a very easy online test for Part B promotion examination. A vast majority of officers were easily able to pass. This caused a reduction in the subscription for the said course.

49. USI Conducted two contact pgmes for the officers appearing for DSSC through on line mode. During the year following contact pgmes (CP) were held:-

(a) CP II - 06 - 11 Jul 2020.

(b) CP III - 20 - 25 Jul 2020

50. USI has been allotted a project, on competitive bidding, by Integrated Headquarters of MoD (Navy). The tendered value of the contract is 3,28,000/-. The project relates to competitive examination for the Indian Navy officers and is classified in nature.

51. Chief Instructor continued to interact with DSSC pre-staff course coaching programmes at various levels. Besides, delivering talks personally, he facilitated participation of instructors from the USI panel to speak at the pre-staff courses conducted by various Commands.

52. During the year 2020, Chief Instructor USI participated in a number of TV panel discussions and webinars at national/ international events. His writings as well as speeches have been quoted in many global newspapers and journals. He extensively contributed articles for various Indian and foreign publications. Details of his participation are included in Appendix A.

### **UN Activities**

53. The USI continued working on UNPK policy and doctrinal related issues through webinars. This year USI was represented in 15 UN webinars by Maj Gen SB Asthana (Retd) and Maj Gen PK Goswami (Retd). Ambassador Asoke Mujerji, IFS (Retd), Lt Gen Abhijit Guha (Retd), Lt Gen Iqbal Singh

(Retd), Maj Gen A K Bardolai (Retd) and other former UN Force Commanders form part of our UN resource faculty. The details of UN participation are included in Appendix A.

54. **Challenges Forum.** The USI is a founding partner of the Challenges Forum and works with the partner institutions to provide a strategic, broad based and dynamic platform for deliberations on peace operations. This year USI participated in four webinars with Challenges Forum. Maj Gen SB Asthana (Retd) was appointed member of Expert Group of Challenges Forum in Apr 2020. Last year Lt Gen Abhijit Guha had participated in the Challenges Forum Advisory Committee meeting.

55. **Swedish Armed Forces International Centre (SWEDINT).** Our interaction with SWEDINT continues. SWEDINT is working on a project on the theme of “Training Senior Mission Leadership and Promotion of Women”. Maj Gen SB Asthana represented the USI on their Advisory Board and participated in webinars in Sept 2020.

56. **Effectiveness of Peace Operations Network (EPON).** The USI is a founding member of EPON and Maj Gen SB Asthana had participated in the EPON Annual General Meetings and Seminars held at Washington DC and New York in Nov 2019. The EPON Seminars were co-organised by the Division of Policy, Evaluation and Training of UN Department of Peace Operations. Maj Gen Asthana had also attended the EPON Seminars organized at the Stimson Centre in Washington DC and at the International Peace Institute, New York.

## **CONCLUSION**

57. The USI continues to grow steadily in all fields of its activities and fulfills the aim and vision for which it was set up. I am sanguine that the 150th year of our founding would spur us on to take this venerable Institution to even greater heights.

58. I would like to thank members of the USI Council for their unstinted support, guidance and cooperation. On behalf of the Council, I wish to place on record appreciation for the Director and USI staff for selfless service, exemplary dedication and for path-breaking initiatives undertaken despite the lockdown and financial constraints. I am sanguine that through the collective efforts of USI Council and Management, the Institution will scale new heights of fame, success and glory.

**Appendix A**  
**(Refers to paras 14, 17, 37 & 47)**

**USI TALKS / DISCUSSIONS / INTERACTION – 2020**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1.	01 Jan 2020	Director's Meeting with Brig Gen Ibrahim Didi, ex MP Maldives.
2.	01 Jan 2020	Director's Meeting with Dr Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.
3.	02 Jan 2020	Director's Meeting with Lt Gen Nirbhay Sharma, ex-Governor.
4.	06 Jan 2020	Second meeting of the USI 150th Anniversary Steering Committee held at USI, to discuss the events planned for the USI sesquicentenary celebration in 2020.
5.	07 Jan 2020	Lecture at India International Centre by Director.
6.	09 Jan 2020	Meeting with General Bipin Rawat, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, ADC Chief of Defence Staff.
7.	10 Jan 2020	Meeting with Maj Gen D Banerjee, Convenor and Ms Mallika Joseph, Dy Convenor from Chanakya Chakra and discussion on, "Cooperation Between USI and Chanakya Chakra".
8.	14 Jan 2020	Visit of 06 Member delegation from Deptt of Research of Academy of Military Sciences (AMS), PLA China. Topics of discussion "Emerging Security Dynamics in Indo-Pacific Region" and "Emerging security Trends in South Asia".
9.	14 Jan 2020	Scholar Presentation by Col Anil Kumar Mor, Sr Research Fellow, on "Occupational Stress in Indian Army Due to Prolonged Exposure to Counter – Insurgency / Counter-Terrorism Environment".

10. 16 Jan 2020 Visit of Two-member delegation from Institute for National Defense and Security Research (INDSR), Taiwan - Mr Tsun-yen Wang, Assistant Researcher and Dr Jui-min Hung.
11. 20 Jan 2020 Meeting with Vice Adm R Hari Kumar, AVSM, VSM, CISC and President USI Council.
12. 20 Jan 2020 Director's Meeting with General MM Naravane, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC, Chief of the Army Staff.
13. 20 Jan 2020 Talk at India International Centre on, "Perspective Iran-US Conflict" delivered by Director.
14. 20 Jan 2020 Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CAFHR attended first meeting of Designing Committee for National War Museum under the Chairmanship of Vice Adm AB Singh, AVSM, VSM, DCIDS (DOT).
15. 23 Jan 2020 Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CAFHR meeting with Mr Jean Francois RAMON, Director Alliance Francaise New Delhi.
16. 25 Jan 2020 RTD with two-member delegation from BIPSS, Bangladesh, headed by Maj Gen ANM Muniruzzaman (Retd), President Bangladesh along with his colleague Mr Shafqat Munir. The topic of the discussion was "Evolving Geopolitical Situation in the Region: Impact on Indo-Bangladesh Relations".
17. 27 Jan 2020 Meeting with Mr Sayed Abozar Gardize, Deputy, Political Committee of HARKAT INQLAB ISLAMI, Afghanistan Party.
18. 28 Jan 2020 Scholar Presentation at USI by Brig Vivek Verma, Sr Research Fellow, USI-CS3, "PLA : Increasing Non-Contact Warfare Capabilities".
19. 30 Jan 2020 Chanakya Chakra Meeting at USI, on topic 'Why Think Tanks Matter - Its Role and Challenges to Policy Making'.



20. 31 Jan 2020 Director participated in an international seminar on “India and Tajik Relations: Retrospect and Prospects” and chaired session II on, “Current Issues of Regional Security – Drug Trafficking, Extremism Based on the Politicization of Religion, Trans-border Terrorism”.
21. 31 Jan 2020 Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CAFHR attended a talk on ‘The Unremembered: Indian Soldiers of World War II’ at IIC.
22. 05 Feb 2020 CI delivered a talk on ‘Intelligence in US Peacekeeping’ besides attending brain storming session in an International Course Organised jointly by Centre of UN Peacekeeping (India) and ICRC.
23. 06 Feb 2020 Director chaired, panel discussion at ICWA, Sapru House on, “Elections in Uzbekistan”.
24. 06 Feb 2020 Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CMHCS attended a talk by Salil Shetty & Tara Sahgal on ‘India’s Soft Power: Challenges and Opportunities’ at British Council Library.
25. 07 Feb 2020 Director’s Meeting with Admiral Karambir Singh, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chief of Naval Staff at South Block.
26. 10 Feb 2020 Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CMHCS attended a meeting with the military members and functionaries to discuss the contents and concept of the National War Museum.
27. 11 Feb 2020 Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CMHCS attended the Second meeting of Designing Committee for National War Museum under the chairmanship of Vice Adm AB Singh, AVSM, VSM, DCIDS (DOT).
28. 11 Feb 2020 CI attended Challenges Forum discussion on Action for Peace.

29. 12 Feb 2020 Scholar Presentation by Col Anurag Jyoti, Senior Research Fellow on the topic "Asymmetric War : Water as a Tool in India's Neighbourhood"
30. 12 Feb 2020 Scholar Presentation by Col Anurag Jyoti, Sr Research Fellow, USI-CS3, on "Geopolitics of Water in South Asia: Implications for India".
31. 13 Feb 2020 First India-Uzbekistan Think Tank Forum at ICWA, Sapru House – Director Chaired session II on, "India-Uzbekistan Cooperation in Regional Initiatives".
32. 13 Feb 2020 Brig Narender Kumar, SM, VSM (Retd) delivered a lecture on "Insurgency in North East – Role of Narcotic Financing & Neighbouring Countries" in the 20th International NSG Seminar at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
33. 13 Feb 2020 Visit by 04 member delegation from CDM delegation, Secunderabad.
34. 15 Feb 2020 Signing of Assam Rifles MOU by Director at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt.
35. 17 Feb 2020 Secy CMHCS participated in an audio-visual recording of two episodes for the Brains Trust programme. The programme will be live streamed as episodes titled 'The Indian Army in World War 1 & 2: Western Theatre' and 'The Indian Army in World War 2: The Forgotten Army - Battles of Kohima & Imphal'.
36. 17 Feb 2020 Director's Meeting with Air Chief Mshl RKS Bhadauria, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC, Chief of the Air Staff.
37. 17 Feb 2020 Maj Gen Rajiv Narayanan, AVSM, VSM (Retd), Head CS3, gave a presentation on "Are there any indications of Xi Jinping's authority over the CMC/PLA weakening?" at the RTD organised by Centre for China Analysis and Strategy, at IIC, New Delhi.

38. 17 Feb 2020 Dr Roshan Khanijo, Assistant Director (Research) gave a presentation on “Iran-US Confrontation and the Impact on India’s Strategic Interests” at IDSA.
39. 18 Feb 2020 USI Council Meeting.
40. 19-20 Feb 2020 CI attended a global Meet on Senior Leadership in UN at ZIF International Institute, Berlin (Germany).
41. 20 Feb 2020 Meeting with Mr Debraj Pradhan, DG (International Relations), Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology.
42. 20 Feb 2020 Meeting with Maj Gen D Banerjee, AVSM (Retd) from Chanakya Chakra.
43. 20 Feb 2020 Meeting with Prof Nirmala Joshi, Director, India Central Asia Foundation (ICAF).
44. 21 Feb 2020 Director’s Meeting with Dr Ajay Kumar, IAS, Defence Secretary.
45. 23 Feb 2020 Director participated in a panel discussion on J&K at Delhi Gymkhana Club Literature Festival.
46. 26 Feb 2020 Director’s Meeting with Lt Gen SK Saini, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VSM, ADC, Vice Chief of the Army Staff.
47. 26 Feb 2020 Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CMHCS attended a book discussion of Sikh Heritage of Nepal by Amb Manjeev Singh Puri at IIC, New Delhi.
48. 27 Feb 2020 USI conducted a Strategic Gaming Exercise for IFS Officer Trainees of 2019 batch and two Bhutanese diplomats on “Crisis Management” at Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi.
49. 27 Feb 2020 Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CMHCS meeting with Col Preet Dhillon and Brig Ramachandran of National Security Council.

50. 28 Feb 2020 Meeting with Mr Moses Manoharan, Chairman, Global Dialogue Forum.
51. 29 Feb 2020 Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CMHCS attended the farewell of Ben Stretton at British High Commission.
52. 03 Mar 2020 Director's meeting with Shri Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister.
53. 03 Mar 2020 Visit by Team from India Central Asia Foundation for signing MOU.
54. 04-05 Mar 20 Director participated in Indian Army International Seminar at Manekshaw Centre.
55. 04 Mar 2020 Talk at USI by Col Mandeep Singh (Retd), Scholar, CMHCS, on "History of Indian Air Defence Artillery 1940-45".
56. 04 Mar 2020 Book Release at USI by Shri Ram Madhav, National General Secretary, BJP. Book titled – "Missing in Action" written by Ms Chander Suta Dogra.
57. 06 Mar 2020 Director spoke at RTD on Taliban Ceasefire and Impending US withdrawal from Afghanistan: Implications for India and the Region at DPG-SDS Conference Room, IHC, New Delhi.
58. 09 Mar 2020 USI conducted Module for Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) on National Security Issues at LBSNAA, Mussoorie.
59. 12 Mar 2020 Director's Meeting with Russian Ambassador, HE Mr Nikolay Kudashev at Russian Embassy.
60. 12 Mar 2020 Sqn Ldr Rana Chhina, Secy CMHCS attended The 3rd Meeting of Designing Committee for National War Museum under the Chairmanship of Vice Adm AB Singh, AVSM, VSM, DCIDS (DOT).

61. 17 Mar 2020 Director's meeting with Mr Shoaib Lone, Ex MLA, Srinagar.
62. 22 Apr 2020 USI Webinar on "Post COVID-19 World: Emerging Geo-Political and Geo-Strategic Trend Lines."
63. 28 Apr 2020 USI Webinar on "China and North Korea's Nuclear and Missile Tests and Impact of Kim Jong-UN's Illness."
64. 28 Apr 2020 CI gave presentation in webinar meeting of Challenges Forum. CI appointed member of Expert Group of Challenges Forum.
65. 29 Apr 2020 CI attended webinar with Norway based NUPI (Narwegrain Peace Keeping Institute) on Woman Peace and Security.
66. 02 May 2020 CI spoke as guest of Honour at Ryan Group of Schools as webinar regarding impact of COVID on education.
67. 06 May 2020 USI Webinar on "Impact of the Pandemic on Af-Pak: Impact on India's Security Matrix."
68. 08 May 2020 USI-AIDIA, Nepal Webinar on "Nepal – India Security Relations: During & Post COVID-19".
69. 13 May 2020 USI Webinar on "Impact of Covid on CNP and Internal Security".
70. 15 May 2020 CI was interviewed by German institute of International Affairs on UN related subjects.
71. 15 May 2020 CI interviewed on Indo-German Relations by journal of Foreign Affairs, Germany.
72. 20 May 2020 USI Webinar on "COVID-19 and China's Strategic Behaviour in the Western Pacific: Lessons for India".
73. 21 May 2020 Sqn Ldr Rana Chhina, Secy CMHCS attended the Second USI-NAM British Indian Military Heritage Partnership Steering Committee via Zoom.

74. 22 May 2020 Webinar on Role of CDS and DMA- A Military Transformation of India.
75. 22 May 2020 CI attended UN webinar with SIPRI on Regional Organisations and Political Missions Cross Regional learning in fostering Peacebuilding.
76. 22 May 2020 CI as panelist on webinar discussion by Business World Journal on Defence Procurement, telecasted on TV Channels.
77. 24 May 2020 Webinar Impact of COVID – 19 on Education system org by Confederation of Education Excellence, CI participated.
78. 29 May 2020 A joint USI - NIICE, Nepal Webinar on the topic “Global and Regional Response to COVID-19”.
79. 03 Jun 2020 USI Webinar on “Decoding China’s 13th NPC and Strategic Behaviour: Implications for India”.
80. 05 Jun 2020 As part of USI-SOAS partnership, Secy CMHCS and Wing Cdr UC Jha (Retd) attended an online meeting with Dr Kanika Sharma, Director, Centre for Asian Legal Studies at SOAS.
81. 11 Jun 2020 Presentation by Lt Gen Dushyant Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd) to BOM on “Grey Zone Conflicts – Way Ahead for India” for Admiral RD Katari Chair of Excellence.
82. 11 Jun 2020 Signing of MoU with Global Strat News, Mr Nitin Gokhle.
83. 12 Jun 2020 USI Webinar on “China’s Strategic Behaviour: Implications & India’s Response”.
84. 15 Jun 2020 Signing MoU with Mr Moses Manoharan, Chairman, Global Dialogue Forum.
85. 22 Jun 2020 CI - Joint Talk to Sanchin University through webinar.

86. 26 Jun 2020 A joint USI-Global Dialogue Forum (GDF) Webinar on the topic “India's Role in the Emerging World Order”.
87. 26 Jun 2020 Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CMHCS and Shefali Oberoi, RA-CMHCS attended the meeting with team of National Army Museum, UK via Zoom.
88. 30 Jun 2020 Expert Group meeting as UN Related webinar at ZIF Berlin, Germany on emerging issues confronting UN, CI participated.
89. 02 Jul 2020 USI Webinar on “India China Relations: A reality Check Options for India”.
90. 06 Jul 2020 Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CMHCS attended a meeting with Ms Smita Pant, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs (Bangladesh & Myanmar Division) and Col KS Tomar, OSD.
91. 14 Jul 2020 Talk on India China relation by CI to Miranda House College, New Delhi.
92. 16 Jul 2020 Webinar on Maj Gen Samir Sinha Memorial lecture on “Evolving China-Pakistan Strategic Nexus : Implications and Response”.
93. 18 Jul 2020 Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CMHCS chaired an online discussion of the book “The Indian Army: Reminiscences, Reforms & Romance” by HS Panag for its virtual release.
94. 20 Jul 2020 Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CMHCS meeting with Maj Gen Bhaskar Kalita, YSM, Chief Project Coordinator (NWM&M) and Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM (Retd) Director USI.
95. 20 Jul 2020 CI participated in talk on Democracy Live on Chinese strategy.
96. 24 Jul 2020 Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CMHCS attended a Joint Webinar- USI- ICWA on the subject “Re-Imaging Pakistan’s Strategic Behavior vis-a vis India.

97. 27 Jul 2020 A portrait of Maj (later Lt Gen) PS Bhagat, VC was handed over by Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CMHCS to the British Defence Adviser, Brig Gavin Thompson to be presented to the NAM as part of the British Indian Military Heritage partnership.
98. 27 Jul 2020 Director's Meeting with Brig Gavin Thompson, Defence Adviser, British High Commission along with Sqn Ldr RTS Rana Chinna, Secy CMHCS at USI.
99. 27 Jul 2020 Recording of a episode on  
(a) "A Perspective on Sino-Indian Border Issues: Arunachal Pradesh' by Maj Gen Rajiv Narayanan, AVSM, VSM (Retd) & Lt Gen Devraj Anbu, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM (Retd)  
(b) "A Perspective on Sino-Indian Border Issues: Sikkim and Bhutan" by Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM & Bar (Retd) & Lt Gen Devraj Anbu, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM (Retd)
100. 31 Jul 2020 Webinar on "Rebalancing and Capacity Building along India's Northern Borders.
101. 04 Aug 2020 Recording of a episode on "A Perspective on Sino-Indian Border Issues: Central Sector & Ladakh" by Lt Gen PJS Pannu, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd) & Lt Gen Harish Thukral (Retd).
102. 06 Aug 2020 USI-CMHCS and Big Ideas jointly held an online commemorative event 'India Remembers WWII: The End of the War in the East'. It was a shared event bringing together the UK and India to mark the role of the Indian Army in the events which led to the end of World War II.
103. 10 Aug 2020 USI has conducted a strategic discussion in the form of "Strategic Insight" with Strategic News Global.



- (a) "Maritime Power in collusive Hybrid Threat Scenario" by Vice Adm Satish Soni, PVSM, AVSM, NM (Retd) & Maj Gen Rajiv Narayanan, AVSM, VSM (Retd).
- (b) "Role of Aerospace Power in Collusive Hybrid Threat" by Air Mshl Anil Khosla, PVSM, AVSM, VM (Retd) & Air Marshal Anil Chopra, PVSM, AVSM, VM, VSM (Retd).
104. 13 Aug 2020 Director's Lecture to Air Higher Command on the subject "Evolving Security in Afghanistan: Implications for India".
105. 14 Aug 2020 USI Webinar on "India's Nuclear Factor in China-Pakistan Strategic Calculus.
106. 17 Aug 2020 Meeting with Gp Capt Kishore Khera at Director Office, for Flg Officer Amandeep Singh Gill Chair, on the subject, "Combat Support Aviation: Trajectory, Issue and Challenges.
107. 19 Aug 2020 Webinar on "Remembrance, Memorialisation, Commemoration and War Memorials in Post-independence India" by Maj Gen HK Singh (Retd).
108. 20 Aug 2020 USI has conducted a strategic discussion in the form of "Strategic Insight" with Strategic News Global. Participants were:-
- (a) "Pak-China Military Collusive: Possible Scenario" – Maj Gen BK Sharma, AVSM, SM & Bar (Retd) & Lt Gen GS Katoch, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd).
- (b) "Nuclear Threat Indo-Pak-China Strategic Nexus" – Dr Roshan Khanijo & Dr Manpreet Sethi.
109. 21 Aug 2020 Director called on Air Mshl D Choudhury, AVSM, VM, VSM; Commandant National Defence College.

110. 26 Aug 2020 A virtual presentation-cum-discussion by Mr Jitesh Khosla, IAS (Retd) on “Comprehensive Development of Northeast: Window to India’s Act East Policy” for Assam Rifles Chairs of Excellence.
111. 27 Aug 2020 Director’s meeting with Shri SB Taneja, Director ISSA, DRDO to discuss USI-DRDO cooperation.
112. 27 Aug 2020 Signing of MoU between USI and CAPS, Taiwan.
113. 28 Aug 2020 A Joint USI-Chinese Council of Advanced Policy Studies (CAPS), Taiwan Webinar on “New Cold War with Implication for Indo-Pacific.
114. 28 Aug 2020 Meeting with Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secy at A select group of Heads of Think Tank at Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, New Delhi.
115. 31 Aug 2020 Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Secy CMHCS meeting with AVM Vikram Singh, VSM, ACAS Plan.
116. 01 Sep 2020 Secy CMHCS attended the fourth meeting of the Design Committee for National War Museum under the chairmanship of Vice Adm AB Singh, AVSM, VSM, DCIDS (DOT).
117. 02 Sep 2020 5th India-Afghanistan Security Dialogue Webinar on “Emerging Geo-Political Trends in Afghanistan: Impact on Indo-Afghan Relations”.
118. 02 Sep 2020 A video conferencing on UN Training was carried out wherein CI gave a presentation to SWEDINT – Swedish Armed Forces International Centre.
119. 07 Sep 2020 Director and Secy CMHCS attended a meeting with Vice Adm AB Singh, AVSM, VSM, DCIDS (DOT) for National War Museum Curatorial Service.

120. 18 Sep 2020 A joint USI – NIICE, Nepal, Webinar on “Dynamics of India-China-Pakistan: Contestations and Implications”.
121. 22 Sep 2020 Discussion on Challenges Form on Impact of COVID on Peacekeeping.
122. 23 Sep 2020 Colonel Pyara Lal Memorial Webinar-2020 – “Post Article 370, Dealing with the J&K Conundrum”.
123. 23 Sep 2020 Lecture by Director on “South Asia and an External Neighbourhood Present fresh challenges and opportunity” for Global Dialogue Forum and St Stephen College Forum.
124. 24 Sep 2020 Meeting with Lt Gen SL Narasimhan, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd) at MEA (CCCS) to discuss modalities of study - Comprehensive Assessment of China 2035.
125. 24 Sep 2020 Meeting with Vice Adm AB Singh, AVSM, VSM, DCIDS (DOT) along with Secy CMHCS at South Block on the subject “National War Museum Curatorial Service”.
126. 24 Sep 2020 CI attended silver jubilee of ITS Group of Institutes, Ghaziabad as Chief Guest.
127. 29 Sep 2020 CI participated in Expert Group panel discussion on UN – African Union relations hosted by challenges Forum, Swedish Agency of Peace and Security Development and Institute of strategic studies, Cairo, Egypt.
128. 5 Oct 2020 USI in collaboration with RAND Cooperation organised a Webinar on “Is India Edging towards the QUAD: An Assessment of 2020”.
129. 05-08 Oct 2020 As part of the British-Indian Military Heritage Partnership between National Army Museum, UK (NAM) and USI, Ms Shefali Oberoi, RA CMHCS attended the NAM - Virtual Regimental Museums Curators Course on behalf of the USI.

130. 10 Oct 2020 Director's Webinar Interview with National state Dialogue with JNU.
131. 16 Oct 2020 Virtual Book Release Webinar on the book "The End of an Era India Exits Tibet India - Tibet Relations: 1947 – 1962" by Mr Claude Arpi.
132. 17 Oct 2020 Final Virtual Presentation of Col Anil Kumar Mor, Senior Research Fellow on the topic "Occupational Stress in Indian Army in Counter Insurgency / Counter Terrorist Environment".
133. 17 Oct 2020 CI delivered talk on International Organisation of Educational Development on Hybrid Warfare. This webinar was chaired by former Prime Minister of Maldives.
134. 20 Oct 2020 USI in collaboration with Hudson Institute organised a Webinar on "US-India View of China –Pakistan Security Relations".
135. 22 Oct 2020 Director and Lt Gen GS Katoch (Retd) participated in a Webinar on Tribal invasion in 1947, organised by Kashmir Policy and Strategy Group.
136. 23 Oct 2020 Book release of 'A Brief History of the USI' by Col VK Singh (Retd) by CISC.
137. 23 Oct 2020 Book "China the Rising Aerospace Power - Implications for India" by Air Marshal Anil Chopra, PVSM, AVSM, VM, VSM (Retd), released by Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, PVSM, AVSM, VM, ADC, Chief of the Air Staff.
138. 26 Oct 2020 Director's participation in Webinar on Security Scenario in J&K and Response, organised by Global Terrorism Council.
139. 03 Nov 2020 Secy CMHCS participated in an International e-conference on 'India, Ireland and the World War I: The Connaught Rangers 1920 Mutiny and its Socio-Political Dimensions' which was hosted by Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

140. 03 Nov 2020 Mr Adil Chhina, Senior Research Fellow, CMHCS participated in an International e-conference on 'India, Ireland and World War I: The Connaught Rangers 1920 Mutiny and its Socio-Political Dimensions' hosted by Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He presented the paper on the topic 'Recovering Memory - Indian Testimonies of the Great War'
141. 08 Nov 2020 Secy CMHCS, Senior Research Fellow CMHCS and RA CMHCS attended the Service of Remembrance at Delhi War Cemetery organised by British High Commission.
142. 07-08 Nov 2020 Secy CMHCS chaired a session at the first annual e-conference of the Indian Association for South Asian Studies (IASAS) 'Rethinking South Asia: Alternative Paradigms, Practices and Discourses' which was hosted by Centre for Alternative Studies in Social Sciences (CASSS), New Delhi.
143. 07-08 Nov 2020 Mr Adil Chhina, Senior Research Fellow, CMHCS participated at the first annual e-conference of the Indian Association for South Asian Studies (IASAS) 'Rethinking South Asia: Alternative Paradigms, Practices and Discourses' which was hosted by Centre for Alternative Studies in Social Sciences (CASSS), New Delhi. He presented the paper on the topic 'An Imperial Vision: The 'Indian' Memorial at Neuve Chapelle'.
144. 10 Nov 2020 The 38th National Security Paper on the subject 'Determinants of India's Joint Military Strategy?' written by Lt Gen Rakesh Sharma, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd).
145. 11 Nov 2020 As part of the India Remembers project, USI-CMHCS and Big Ideas Company, UK made four short films consisting of interviews with WW2 veterans of the British Indian Army. These films were shared via social media platform to raise the awareness of India's contribution in WW2.

146. 18 Nov 2020 Director's Meeting with Defence Secretary on Study on Defence Cooperation with Mongolia.
147. 18 Nov 2020 Director's Meeting with ADG (PI), Army HQ on Role of USI in Narrative Building.
148. 18 Nov 2020 Dy Director Adm's meeting with JS (UNP) MEA on UNSC Project - ICTs for Peacekeeping.
149. 20 Nov 2020 A Joint USI – Assam Rifles Webinar on “Role in the Act East Policy in the backdrop of North east Security Calculus”.
150. 25 Nov 2020 Dr Roshan Khanijo participated in a DCAF Webinar on "Gender-based Violence and Access to Justice During the COVID-19 Pandemic".

### **Planned**

151. 07 Dec 2020 As part of the USI 150th commemorations, a wreath laying ceremony planned at National War Memorial. Wreath will be laid by Director USI, President USI Council and Chairman of the USI Council Executive Committee in the presence of Council members and senior USI officers.
152. 7-11 Dec 2020 Annual Forum (virtual) of Challenges Forum with 53 Institutes and think tanks from 23 Countries and UN.

### **Mid December 2020**

153.
  - (a) USI-IDIR, Vietnam Webinar on “Geopolitical and Strategic Security Dynamics in the Indo-Pacific Region”
  - (b) USI-BIPSS, Bangladesh Webinar on “Geopolitical Dynamics of Indian Ocean Region (IOR)”.
  - (c) 'Chinese Way of Conducting Grey Zone Conflicts : Lesons for India' by Lt Gen SL Narasimhan, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd) DG CCCS, MEA.

**List of USI Publications - 2020**

**1. Books**

**(a) CS 3**

(i) “Non-Contract Warfare – An Appraisal of China’s Military Capabilities” – Brig Vivek Verma, Senior Research Fellow.

(ii) "The End of an Era: India Exits Tibet - India-Tibet Relations (1947-1962)" – Mr Claude Arpi.

(iii) “China, The Rising Aerospace Power – Implications for India” – Air Mshl Anil Chopra, PVSM, AVSM, VM, VSM (Retd).

(iv) “India and China Building Strategic Trust”, A joint USI-Sichuan University book on China.

(v) “Tao of Soldiering: The Chinese Paradigm – The Shift in Human Resources Development in PLA and Lessons for India” – Col Nihar Kuanr, Senior Research Fellow.

(vi) “USI Strategic Year Book 2020”, A annual USI project.

(vii) “When Sparrows Flew Like Eagles – 1971 Indo-Pak War of Liberation of Bangladesh” by Brig M R Narayanan, VSM (Retd).

(viii) "The Enemy Within - Stress in Indian Army" by Col A K Mor, Senior Research Fellow.

**(b) CMHCS**

(i) “Laddie Goes to War: Indian Pilots in World War I” by Mr Somnath Sapru, Vij Books India Pvt. Ltd.

(ii) “A Brief History of the USI’ by Col VK Singh, VSM (Retd), Vij Books India Pvt Ltd.

(iii) “With Honour and Glory – Five Great Artillery Battles” by Maj Gen AJS Sandhu, VSM (Retd), USI, 2020

(iv) “Vignettes from a Military Journal: Selections from the Journal of the United Service Institution of India 1870-2020” (tentative title) edited by Sqn Ldr Rana Chhina (Retd), Speaking Tiger Publishing Pvt. Ltd.

(v) **Under publication**

(aa) Chhatrapati Shivaji Chair: History of Indian Air Defence Artillery 1940-45 by Col Mandeep Singh (Retd).

(ab) Chhatrapati Shivaji Chair: Customs and Traditions of the Indian Armed Forces by Brig SP Sinha, VSM (Retd).

(ac) Chhatrapati Shivaji Chair: Alha-Udal Ballad Rendition of Western UP by Dr Amit Pathak.

(ad) Jat Regiment History Post 1971 – Lt Gen KK Khanna, PVSM, AVSM & Bar (Retd)

2. **Articles**

(a) **CS 3**

(i) Maj Gen Rajiv Narayanan, AVSM, VSM (Retd) published an article in USI Yearbook – 2020 on “Emerging Geo-political Trends in the Indo-Pacific: Implications & Way Ahead”.

(ii) Dr Roshan Khanijo published an article in USI Yearbook – 2020 on “Role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Nuclear Domain”.

(iii) Cdr S Sarangi, Research Fellow published a paper in the USI Journal on “The Indian Navy and PLA Navy in 1962” for USI Journal (Jul-Sep 2020).

(iv) Maj Gen RS Yadav, VSM (Retd), Distinguished Fellow, USI published a paper on “De-ciphering Chinese Intent Behind ‘Unilateral Decision to Change Status quo at LAC’ should be the Key to India’s Military Response and Follow-up Strategy” for USI Journal (Jul-Sep 2020).

(v) Maj Gen RS Yadav, VSM (Retd), Distinguished Fellow, USI published a paper on “Restructuring, Staffing and Equipping of the Indian Armed Forces” for USI Journal (Apr-Jun 2020).



(vi) Brig Narender Kumar, SM, VSM (Retd) published an article on “Stability in the Northeast: Imperative for Implementation of Act East Policy” for USI Journal (Jan-Mar 2020).

(vii) Dr Roshan Khanijo, “Challenges to Prevention of Nuclear Terrorism”, Defence and Diplomacy, Journal of the Center for Air Power Studies, (January-March 2020).

(b) **CMHCS**

(i) Article by Secy CMHCS titled ‘A Road for China’ and ‘The Hump and Training to Nationalist China’ were published in the special issue of The Week magazine, 24 July 2020.

(ii) Article by Mr Adil Chhina, ‘Mind Hunters : A Propoganda War to Capture the Hearts and Minds of Enemy Soldiers’ was published in the special issue of The Week magazine, 24 July 2020.

(iii) Secy CMHCS wrote a blurb for the book titled ‘The Evolution of Military Law in India: Including the Mutiny Acts and Articles of War’ by Wing Cdr UC Jha (Retd).

(iv) Secy CMHCS wrote the foreword for the book ‘La Tigre Sulla Linea Gustav: 1943’ (The Tiger on the Gustav Line: 1943) by Saverio Malatesta, an Italian Researcher.

(v) Secy CMHCS reviewed the book Allahu Akbar: Understanding the Great Mughal in Today's India by Mr Manimugdha Sharma for the USI Journal.

(vi) Secy CMHCS presented comments on ‘Sites Associated with Memories of Recent Conflicts and The World Heritage Convention’ for the ICOMOS Second Discussion Paper to UNESCO.

(vii) Article by Secy CMHCS titled ‘The Indian Technical and Followers Corps, Royal Air Force’ was published in the winter issue of the Durbar (Journal of the Indian Military Historical Society, UK)

(viii) Article by Mr Adil Chhina titled ‘The Last Stand of Abu-sil-Sillah and his gallant Dogras’ was published in the winter issue of the Durbar (Journal of the Indian Military Historical Society, UK)

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