

BOOK REVIEW

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Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II – Shaping a Future-Ready Force
by Gen Anil Chauhan

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READY, RELEVANT AND RESURGENT II

Shaping a future ready force

FOREWORD BY
RAJNATH SINGH



General Anil Chauhan, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), *Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II*, Pentagon Press, ISBN: 978-81-991162-6-9

In an era where the world teeters between innovation and instability, *Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II* by General Anil Chauhan PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), emerges not just as a book, but as a strategic doctrine of modern India's awakening. It is a masterful blend of thought, experience, and vision, a mirror that reflects our present military reality and a map that charts the trajectory of India's strategic ascent in the 21st century. The Foreword by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh sets the tone with statesmanlike precision. He acknowledges India's evolving security environment, marked by grey-zone conflicts, hybrid threats, and a volatile Indo-Pacific, and declares that "the time for evolutionary change is over." This sentiment captures the urgency of our times. Singh's 'Foreword' elevates the book beyond mere analysis. It frames it as a national imperative, urging India to reimagine its security calculus amid cyber threats, space militarisation, and cognitive warfare. His words lend the book both gravitas and purpose, a rare fusion of political will and military intellect.

Section A: Understanding War – From Clausewitz to the Cloud

General Chauhan opens with a deep exploration of the changing grammar of warfare. In the chapter "Understanding War: Its Evolution and Future," he demonstrates that while the essence of war, friction, chance, and human will, remains constant, its character has evolved beyond recognition. His concept of the C5 Conflict Continuum – Cooperation, Competition, Confrontation, Conflict, Combat is a strategic gem. It encapsulates the seamless transition between peace and war in today's geopolitical theatre, where states wage influence operations, information campaigns, and cyber offensives without formal declarations. In "Future Wars and Indian Armed Forces", Chauhan lays bare the reality of multi-domain convergence with the fusion of land, air, sea, cyber, and space that defines the modern battlefield. His insights into Hybrid Wars and Intelligentization of Warfare blend tactical foresight with philosophical reflection. The discussion on Quantum and AI-enabled conflicts highlights how India must evolve from Network-Centric to Data-Centric Warfare, ensuring decision superiority in the fog of the algorithmic battlefield. This section alone makes the book an intellectual milestone, an Indian response to the doctrines that once shaped NATO and Russian thought.

Section B: Building Blocks – Reimagining India’s Strategic Foundations

The second section is where the soldier becomes the strategist. “Frontiers, Borders et al” redefines geography as destiny, while “Great Game in the IOR” and “Charting a Vision of Security in the Indo-Pacific” explore India’s maritime awakening. The analysis of Space Diplomacy and Military Space Culture highlights the transformation of outer space into the next arena of deterrence and influence. His advocacy for establishing the Indian Defence University (IDU) resonates as a clarion call. Chauhan argues that future wars will be fought as much by intellect as by armament.

In his vision, the IDU would be a crucible of doctrine where soldiers, scholars, and scientists co-create the grammar of Indian strategic autonomy. By tying the reform of the Defence Industrial Base with *Atmanirbhar Bharat* and innovation-driven exports, the book **positions defence production as a pillar of national pride and economic strength.**

Section C: Leadership and the Spirit of Resurgence

The final section, Leadership in the Military Ecosystem, is the most human and perhaps the most powerful. Here, General Chauhan writes not as the CDS but as a mentor. In “Emerging Role of Young Entrepreneurs in Nation Building”, he draws a profound parallel between the soldier’s discipline and the entrepreneur’s creativity. Drawing on the idea of Creative Destruction, inspired by Lord Krishna’s Bhagavad Geeta and the Hindu trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh, he redefines resilience as the fuel of national progress. The chapter’s emotional crescendo is reached when Chauhan quotes Rudyard Kipling’s ‘If’ and Sohan Lal Dwivedi’s **“Koshish Karne Walon Ki Haar Nahi Hoti.”** These verses, immortalised in the halls of the National Defence Academy, are reframed here as a call to India’s youth — to dream audaciously, strive endlessly, and refuse defeat. The Conclusion ties it all together with timeless wisdom: “Success is not a matter of chance. It’s a matter of choice.” “Never–Never–Ever Give Up.” Few military leaders write with such moral conviction. Fewer still combine operational clarity with philosophical grace.

A Masterpiece of Modern Indian Strategic Thought

Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II is a profound synthesis of experience and intellect, a work that belongs to every war college, think tank, and policymaker's library. General Chauhan's writing is lucid yet layered; assertive yet reflective. It bridges the trench and the think tank, offering soldiers a framework for modern war and scholars a vocabulary for India's strategic future. The book is also a subtle manifesto for Bharat's civilisational confidence. It embodies the transition from a reactive security mindset to a proactive, idea-driven doctrine, rooted in India's heritage yet responsive to its future.

A Modern Classic of Indian Strategic Literature.

Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II is not merely a sequel — it is a strategic scripture for a resurgent Bharat. With its intellectual rigour, emotional depth, and visionary reach, this book will inspire generations of officers, policymakers, and young Indians to think boldly, act decisively, and dream indigenously. In a single sentence: This is not just a book about war — it is about wisdom, will power, and the making of a future-ready nation.

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