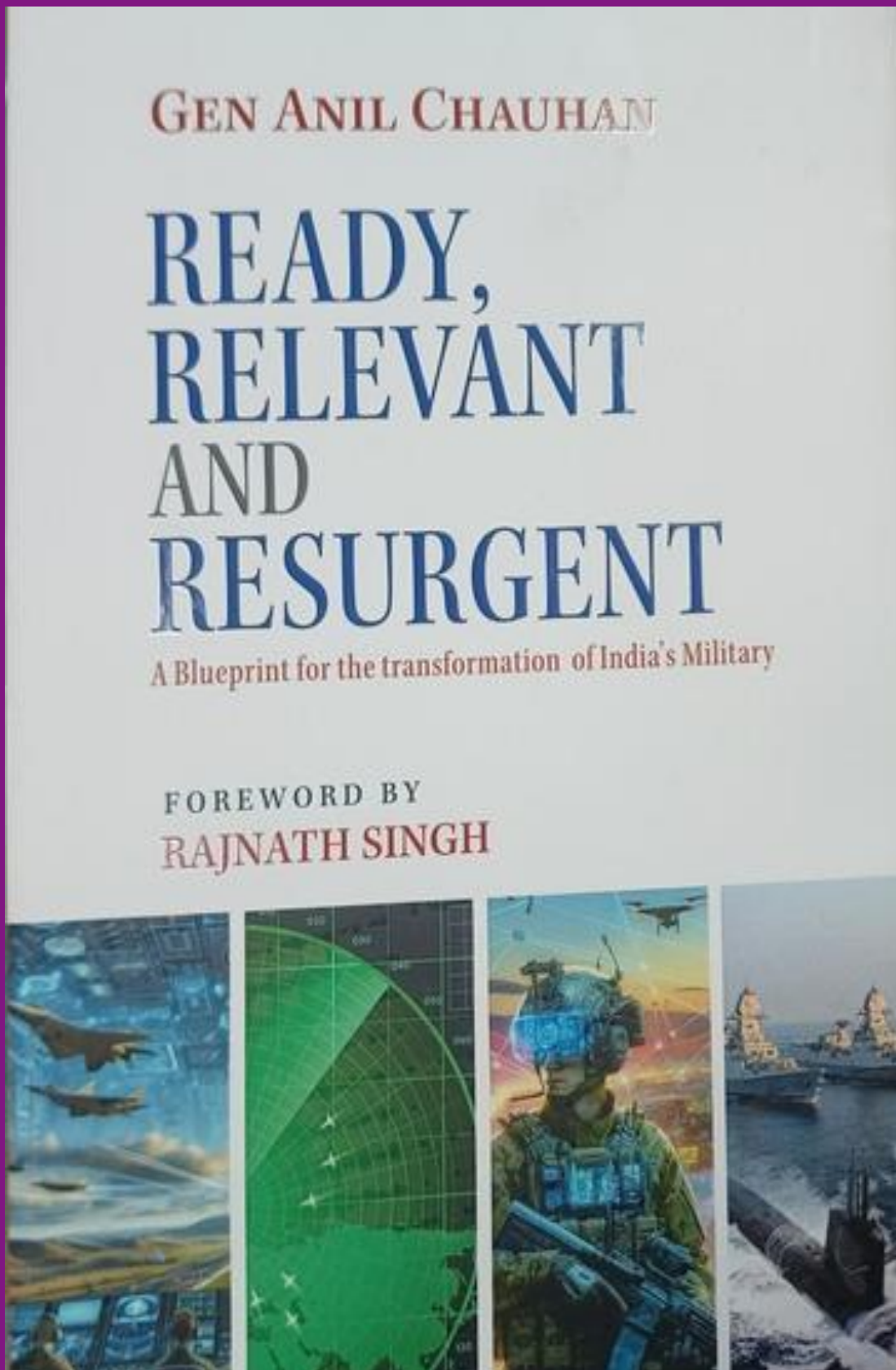


BOOK REVIEW

**READY, RELEVANT AND RESURGENT: A Blueprint for
the transformation of India's Military**

Authored by General Anil Chauhan



General Anil Chauhan, *READY, RELEVANT, AND RESURGENT: A Blueprint for The Transformation of India's Military*; New Delhi: Pentagon Press LLP, 2025; ISBN: 978-81-984458-6-5

About the author of the book: General Anil Chauhan, was commissioned into the Sixth Battalion, the Eleventh Gorkha Rifles in Jun 1981. With over 43 years of distinguished military service, the general has held various key appointments across varied operational and terrain profiles including the Command of 3 Corps and Eastern Army, besides serving as the Military Advisor to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) before being appointed as the second CDS of the country.

According to the author, the Indian Armed Forces stand at the cusp of a profound transformation, in keeping with the changing nature and character of war. With the unwavering pursuit of national interests and the inviolable need for safeguarding the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the armed forces are taking deliberate and sustained strides towards greater synergy through jointness and Integration. However, as we navigate the stormy geo-political arena of the 21st century, there is a rising uncertainty in the nature, type and timing of future threats. To put this in context, one must turn to the notion of security which has diffused and proliferated across domains and fields. The notion of conventional security has expanded to food, water, human, and climate security, while the domains or arenas where armed forces fight each other have also multiplied to include cyber, electromagnetic spectrum, near space, and outer space, apart from the traditional ones of land, air and sea.

Faith in indigenous capability development, bolstered by original, innovative and critical thinking abilities is the foundational pillar for progress. The articles in the book intensely deliberate over the need for developing indigenised solutions for India's problems and lay emphasis on self-reliance and Atmanirbharta as the way forward in defence manufacturing for retaining our strategic autonomy. The reforms in the Armed Forces need to be seen from a wider perspective. Our position in the comity of nations and thus our stakes in international affairs stem from our heritage. It reflects our deep-rooted strategic and cultural characteristics. These thoughts have been emphasised in an article on 'Ancient Indian Wisdom and its Relevance in Modern Strategy and Statecraft'.

Today, war and warfare are continuously evolving at an increasingly rapid pace. As a result, the armed forces need to absorb new and emerging technologies, as well as evolve new tactics to be future-ready. The future of warfare itself needs deliberation, diligent prognosis and an informed assimilation. The armed forces need to build capabilities to conduct integrated Multi-Domain Operations across the spectrum of conflict. Our organisational structures, capabilities and strategies must be dovetailed into our understanding of the future. Articles such as 'Preparing for the Third Revolution in Military Affairs', 'Evolving Battlefield Architecture', 'The Nature of War and Types of Conflicts' and 'Tactics Led Force Modernisation' are an expression of the author's thoughts on what lies ahead in the domain of warfare.

Creation of the Department of Military Affairs and the post of the Chief of the Defence Staff is one of the major defence reforms undertaken in the recent times. The book highlights the significance of Higher Defence Organisation and the need to adopt a whole-of-nation approach towards effectively harnessing civil-military fusion. Operations other than war such as aiding and assisting civil authorities during disasters and countering grey zone operations require that we mould and transform ourselves to stay relevant in the pursuit of national interests. It underscores how the Armed Forces are adopting a nuanced consensus based approach towards the creation of the Integrated Theatre Commands and the subsequent advancements in the processes, doctrines and their warfighting strategies. The concept of establishing theatre commands is to create two parallel and complementary streams for 'Force Application' and 'Force Generation'. The Force Application component will become the responsibility of a theatre commander, whereas Service Chiefs, in their transformed role will be responsible for what is colloquially called the 'Raise, Train and Sustain (RTS) functions'. In other words, the service chiefs will preside over the Force Generation, an equally important aspect.

True reform can only be ushered by changing the old mindset by way of sharing one's experiences. It is with this objective, that the author has articulated his vision and thoughts in this book titled 'Ready, Relevant and Resurgent'. The book provides a cogent viewpoint to the readers as to how the Indian Armed Forces are transforming to emerge as a future ready force and their steadfast contributions towards realization of the national vision of becoming 'Sashakt, Surakhshit, Samridh and Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

The foundation of an economically vibrant and politically stable Bharat must rest on a strong military. The four instruments of National Power that are Diplomatic, International, Military and Economic must work in unison towards a common vision for Bharat to realise its desired destiny. A self-reliant, self-assured, self-confident Indian military will be supported by the principle of 'Atmanirbharta'. The relevance of self-reliance in India's growth is the subject of deliberation in articles such as 'Atmanirbharta in Defence', and 'Indigenisation and Innovation: The Road Ahead'.

The concepts ideated in the book aim to focus on the long-term efficacy of military reforms to foster jointness and interoperability, facilitate optimisation and ensure credible modernisation of the armed forces to meet emerging challenges and contribute to the security of the nation. I am confident that the readers will find these ideas stimulating which in turn will result in further deliberations.

Moderately priced at Rs 895/-, despite being a hard-bound book, it is a must have book for all Indians. The book is available on Amazon, Flipkart and with Pentagon Press.

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