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BOOK REVIEW

**Ready, Relevant and Resurgent: A Blueprint for the Transformation of India's
Military**

Authored by Gen Anil Chauhan

GEN ANIL CHAUHAN

READY, RELEVANT AND RESURGENT

A Blueprint for the transformation of India's Military

FOREWORD BY
RAJNATH SINGH



Recent decades have witnessed the dramatic advancement in the military affairs. This comes in the wake of changing geopolitical atmosphere in the global politics. Regional conflicts from Europe to the Middle East have showcased the potential requirement and adaptive military strategies around the world. Military doctrine and strategies have undergone a seismic shift from a defensive to a pro-active posturing in shaping national and defense policies. The post-Cold War shift and unipolarity on global arena is no longer there, which has taken the form of multipolar and sub-conventional war. For which, countries have emphasised on self-reliance in terms of military production as growing apprehension over weaponization of dependence. Rajesh Basrur et al (2014) had examined India's military moderations and anticipated of future requirements, such as priority of to be Atmanirbhar in military hardware to overcome the dependence dilemmas on outside actors, and dealing with internal challenges, etc. Among these advancements and needed work to be finished, General Anil Chauhan's work (2025), Ready, Relevant, and Resurgent: A Blueprint for the Transformation of India's Military, is a timely and scholarly contribution to the India's military policy and strategies. The book captures a shift in the approach and outcomes. The Jointness and integration have evolved new trends in the military domains. Likewise, it is the comprehensive outlook of the book that has expanded the concept of security to include non-conventional security threats emanating from internal and external sources.

The book has 19 chapters divided into four different sections, which covers major aspects concerned to the India's military requirement, challenges facing and vision. The first section deals with geography and its 360-degree relevance, not just for living and non-living beings, but in wars the necessity to understand the multifaceted nature of geography as an element in economics, politics and strategy. The evolving field of military geography, which has long been overlooked among strategic community, can be a separate discipline as historically several examples, such as the construction of Suez and the Panama Canals, have testified that any changes in geography could have major implication on geopolitics of that region (p. 6-7). To deal with the challenges and present solutions, the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) as not just a wisdom, but an ocean of modern warfare strategies and statecraft. Chapter third examines the ancient Indian wisdom as a framework to study current development in conventional war, such as air, land, maritime, space etc. Historically, the strategic thoughts in India's strategic culture starting from the Harappan to Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana, etc (p.27). The different war strategies and planning were present during the ancient times what international community see today.

The second section examines warfare and its evolution over period times. Wining battle is not the only objective of armed forces in the age of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), but shaping outcome for a durable peace and stability is the potential long-term goal of forces. The nature of war is no longer limited to the conventional domain, it has entered into sub-conventional format, for which the overall readiness of armed forces with upgraded strategy and jointness is the need of hour. The cascading effects of above-mentioned regional conflicts could be seen in the upgrading military strategies in a cohesive and jointness manner. General Chauhan has demonstrated the new shift not just in perspective, but also in approach. Having underlined the theoretical evolution of war strategies, such as Sun Tzu, Liddell Hart's indirect approach in strategy, Clausewitz's Trinity war conceptualization of "emotion, chance and reason based", etc. The emerging sub-conventional conflict, not full or limited war, is a new trend in warfare as experienced in South Asia between India and Pakistan over Uri, and Balakot. The Third Revolution in Military Affairs requirement felt after the Russia-Ukraine conflict is placed as major development in military domain, given the rise of emerging and disruptive technologies. It is alluded that a 'Future Ready Armed Forces' can achieve a 'Viksit and Shashakt Bharat' with indigenous characteristics.

The third section underlines the major reforms needed in the Indian Military affairs by strengthening integration and jointness. The establishment of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and the creation of separate Department of Military Affairs (DMA) in the Defence Ministry are marked as watershed moment to promote integration among armed forces. Change is an inevitable mantra embodies from Lord Krishna's teaching and Heraclitus. So, the focus is placed on indigenization and innovation in the military hardware and software to avoid future uncertainty.

The last section offers an account of important talks delivered on different occasions touching different aspect, such as emerging security threats, Indo-Pacific and its impact, transformations through Atmanirbharta, India's strategic autonomy and new emerging tech like the AI, and the role of youth in shaping new India and its military discourse through employing indigenous thoughts and vision. Maintaining strategic autonomy in the turbulent times would strengthen India's consistent efforts to achieve its national interests. This journey is more than "prepare or perish", but to make hard choices in the uncertain times. Likewise, the strengthening of future armed forces lie in the creation of a Unified Theater Commands with the spirit of jointness.

To sum up, the book is an incisive work and a master piece. It is based on first-hand experience and policy insights, clubbed with history, conceptually rich and theoretically strong in format. The book seeks to achieve core of three forces to make them “a modern, agile, adaptive, technology-enabled, and self-reliant future-ready force, capable of deterring and winning wars in a multi-domain environment across the spectrum of operations, to protect our national interests in synergy with the other services” (PIB 2024).

The book is a must for policy community, think tanks, military personals, students, and those who want to explore India's military affairs, major reforms, and future requirement for armed forces. The book would contribute to India's defense and security architecture in line with the 2047 Amrit Kal Vision to achieve an Atmanirbhar Bharat in all terms.

The book written by present India's CDS has been published by Pentagon Press (New Delhi) as one of the CENJOWS' publications (cenjows@cenjows.in) and has been priced merely at Rs 895/- to ensure that it reaches to maximum people in the country and international community. It is available with publisher as well as on platforms like Amazon with reasonable discount.

Dr. Chander Shekhar
Research Assistant
CENJOWS

Conclusion

Ready, Relevant and Resurgent is a comprehensive, reflective, and forward-looking treatise on the future of India's military and strategic posture. General Anil Chauhan combines historical insight with strategic foresight to present a compelling case for transformation. The book succeeds in weaving together concepts of geography, ancient wisdom, modern warfare, institutional reform, and technological innovation into a cohesive narrative.

For scholars of defence studies, policymakers, and military professionals, this book offers both depth and direction. More than a memoir or military manual, it is a manifesto for strategic transformation, rooted in Indian realities, yet global in its outlook. It is a timely contribution to India's strategic literature and a must-read for those interested in understanding the past, present, and future of Indian military thought.

A must have book for all Indians. It is available on Amazon, Flipkart and with Pentagon Press. The price is marginally kept at Rs 895/- despite being a hardbound book.

Bidisha Deka
Research Intern,
CENJOWS