

# 1. Introduction

Lieutenant General A K Singh

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Joining the Indian Army in 1973, one has been dealing with matters military ever since.

Starting at the tactical level as a tank troop leader with T-55 tanks, my military education was enriched with a year each spent at the Malinovsky Tank Academy, Moscow, and the Staff College at Camberley, UK, at the height of the Cold War. This gave me a good insight into two contrasting military philosophies and military strategies. Over five years in the Military Operations Directorate and two years as Director General, Perspective Planning, along with extensive service in the strike corps in virtually every rank and appointment helped me mature my operational thoughts.

On completion of my tenure as Lieutenant Governor, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Puducherry, the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), beckoned me as a Distinguished Fellow, and there germinated the idea of a publication on military strategy. What persuaded me was the Director CLAWS' argument that there was a dearth of research and books on the subject, and the time had come for us to take the lead. As one mulled over the proposition, it became a convincing narrative, more so when Lieutenant General Nagal offered to co-edit the book. In our initial discussions, we agreed that the proposed book should be a collection of essays by prominent military/ civil personalities/analysts rather than an individual monologue. This, we felt, would offer to the readers varied and specialised views on a host of subjects that form the core of military strategy. Thus, took shape, the outline of this book, as a comprehensive collection of essays defining the nuances of "Military Strategy for India in the 21st Century."

The chapters selected cover almost the full range of subjects which encompass military strategy and have an important bearing on the subject. The authors selected are domain experts and practitioners of the art, in most cases, with extensive experience at the highest levels. The authors have been allowed full freedom of approach, with minimum editorial interface. The resultant collection not only harmonises prevalent and futuristic thoughts

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but also puts forth a contrary view, where it has a strong and convincing narrative.

Whilst in service, it was my constant endeavour to empower subordinates; this is a continuation of the same effort towards a larger cross section within the Services. They will now have, within this collection, access to matured thoughts on most subjects that comprise military strategy and related issues. In the absence of official articulation, we are sanguine this book will cover the vacuum that so exists.

The book should also appeal to the present and future leadership in providing the edifice on which to bounce their thoughts and beliefs. Similarly, analysts and research scholars, as also interested citizens will also benefit by the thoughts and experience available in this collection, which we hope will lead to further discussion and debate on a subject so vital for our national defence and security.

The views expressed are those of respective authors, and we do not claim this to be the only perspective on the subject. If the book was to form the basis for further discussion and writings, and, most importantly, enhance the security of our nation, the effort would have been well worth it. Care has also been taken to avoid transgressing into the official / classified domain, being a sensitive subject.

We also take this opportunity to thank the authors and the publisher and the team and Shreya, Kritika and Dharmender from CLAWS, whose efforts have helped realise this book.

Lieutenant General **A K Singh**

