

**From Defense to Dominance**

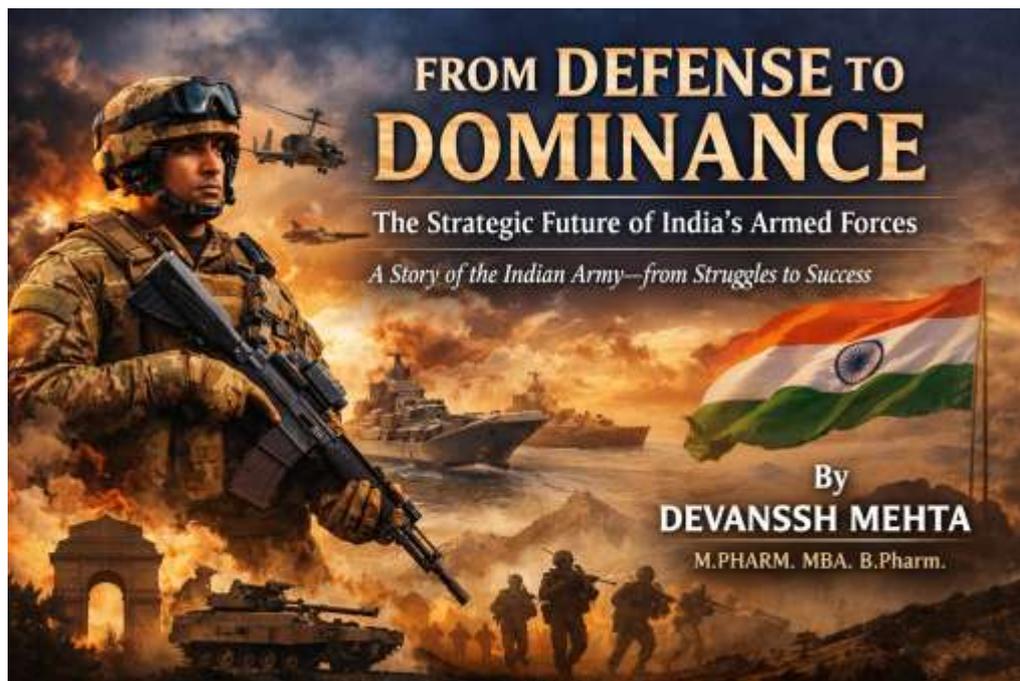
*The Strategic Future of India's Armed Forces*

*A Story of the Indian Army—from Struggles to Success*

*By,*

*DEVANSSH MEHTA*

*M.PHARM. MBA. B.PHARM.*



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## About This Book

*From Defense to Dominance* is not a battlefield chronicle or a sentimental war memoir. It is a **strategic, institutional, and intellectual biography** of India's armed forces—especially the **Indian Army**—tracing their journey from post-independence uncertainty to emerging global credibility.

Written in a **logical, policy-oriented, and systems-thinking framework**, this book examines how India's military evolved under constraints of poverty, politics, technology denial, and geopolitical pressure—and how it is now transitioning toward **deterrence leadership, indigenous capability, and strategic confidence**.

The narrative moves from **struggle to structure, from reaction to readiness, from dependence to dominance**.

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## Chapter Structure

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### Chapter 1: Why This Book—Why Now

Sets the intellectual premise: why India's military story must be told not as heroism alone, but as a **strategic national institution**. Explains the shift from emotional patriotism to rational defense thinking.

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### Chapter 2: Independence Without Preparedness (1947–1950)

Explores the birth of India's armed forces amid partition trauma, administrative vacuum, refugee crises, and lack of strategic doctrine.

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### **Chapter 3: Civil-Military Relations and the Early Republic**

Analyzes India's deliberate subordination of the military to civilian authority—its strengths, limitations, and long-term consequences.

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### **Chapter 4: 1962—The War That Reshaped Military Consciousness**

A clinical, non-emotive analysis of the 1962 conflict as a **strategic failure**, not a soldierly one—and how it permanently altered defense planning.

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### **Chapter 5: Learning Under Fire—1965 and Tactical Maturity**

Shows how institutional learning, armor doctrine, and command confidence improved despite political ambiguity.

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### **Chapter 6: 1971—When Strategy, Politics, and Military Aligned**

Explains why 1971 succeeded: unified command, political clarity, diplomatic foresight, and professional execution.

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### **Chapter 7: From Victory to Complacency**

Examines the post-1971 stagnation, delayed modernization, and the illusion that past success guarantees future security.

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### **Chapter 8: Counterinsurgency as a Long War**

Studies the Army's adaptation to insurgency in the Northeast, Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir—doctrine, ethics, fatigue, and resilience.

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### **Chapter 9: The Soldier's Burden—Human Cost of Permanent Readiness**

Focuses on morale, officer shortages, family separation, mental health, and the invisible cost of continuous deployment.

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### **Chapter 10: Kargil—A Wake-Up Call in the Nuclear Age**

Analyzes Kargil as a **failure of intelligence and coordination**, but a success of soldier-level courage and adaptive command.

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### **Chapter 11: The Era of Limited War and Strategic Restraint**

Explores how nuclearization forced India to rethink escalation, deterrence, and political signaling.

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### **Chapter 12: Modernization Delayed—Weapons, Procurement, and Bureaucracy**

A structural critique of procurement paralysis, import dependence, and institutional inertia.

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### **Chapter 13: Make in India and the Quest for Strategic Autonomy**

Assesses indigenous defense production—not as slogan, but as **national security economics**.

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### **Chapter 14: Jointness and Theatre Commands**

Explains why future wars will not be fought by services in silos, and why integration is now unavoidable.

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### **Chapter 15: Technology as the New Battlefield**

Covers cyber warfare, drones, AI, surveillance, space assets, and electronic warfare—where dominance will be decided before shots are fired.

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### **Chapter 16: Leadership, Ethics, and the Officer Class**

Reflects on leadership culture, training institutions, moral authority, and the evolving expectations from military officers.

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### **Chapter 17: China, Pakistan, and the Two-Front Reality**

