



Introducing

INDIA

to Indians...



FORTRESS INDIA

"Reconnecting a Nation with its Soul."



WHAT IS FORTRESS INDIA?

Fortress India is a national movement to reconnect Indians — especially the young — with the land, history, ecology, and values that define us. It brings together four verticals into one continuum of awareness. Together, they strengthen the idea of India — not only as a place on the map, but as a living, evolving civilisation.

1. Understanding the Geography — *Introducing India to Indians*

India cannot be defended — or even understood — unless it is first known. Fortress India begins with **The Northeast Trilogy**, a landmark effort to “fill in the blanks on the map.” It reveals the Northeast in all its complexity — its landscapes, peoples, and geopolitics — a region vital to India’s unity and security.

A must for every educational institution’s library, it lays the foundation for informed citizenship.

2. Military History — *The Story of India's Battles and Borders*

Through a series of landmark works — *Yodha I* and *Yodha II*, *1962: The War That Wasn’t*, *1965: A Western Sunrise*, and *The Long Road to Siachen* — **Fortress India** traces the evolution of India’s military journey from Independence to Kargil. These are not just accounts of battle; they are studies in leadership, sacrifice, and the shaping of national character.

3. The Environment — *Understanding the Wild India*

India’s wilderness is its truest fortress — a sanctuary of balance, identity, and renewal. Fortress India’s environmental vertical unfolds through **The Indian Quartet**, a set of immersive works that celebrate India’s wild landscapes and living ecosystems.

This vertical also features the **three-part Arunachal Wildlife Series**, an exceptional project capturing the natural and cultural grandeur of the Eastern Himalayas. Soon to be shared with all **Heads of States across the globe**, it underscores both the environmental and strategic significance of this frontier state.

4. Institutional Integrity — *The Moral Architecture of a Nation*

Nations are not built by might alone, but by trust — in systems, leadership, and truth. **Fortress India** examines this crisis of institutional integrity through case studies, essays, and dialogues that challenge complacency and call for reform.

For the youth, it offers reflection and responsibility — the courage to question, and the will to rebuild. Participants and partner institutions receive exclusive updates and academic opportunities as the movement gathers momentum.



Fortress India is not about building walls — it's about building strength from within. Our nation's security is not the responsibility of the soldier alone. It begins with every citizen who understands the land we live on, protects the environment that sustains us, upholds the institutions that guide us, and values the knowledge that unites us.

I have seen India's resilience in the eyes of a jawan on the border and in the spirit of a villager rebuilding after a flood. That same spirit must now become our collective mission.

Fortress India is a call to awaken — to rebuild a nation grounded in geography, sustained by ecology, strengthened by integrity, and enlightened by understanding.

Join this movement. Be part of a secure, sustainable, self-reliant India — an India that endures.

— *General Vijay Kumar Singh*
Governor of Mizoram and former Chief of Army Staff

BE THE FORTRESS. BE THE CHANGE.



ADVISORY PANEL

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Air Chief Marshal
Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
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Lieutenant General
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Randhir (Bittu) Sahgal
Dr. Satyanarayana Bheesette
Rajinder Pal Devgan

FORTRESS INDIA

Reclaiming the Idea of a Secure, Sustainable Nation

— By Shiv Kunal Verma

Fortress India: An Appeal to the Nation

Fortress India is not a slogan. It is a call to awaken— to recognise that the defence of our Republic is no longer the task of the soldier alone. National security now rests equally on how we treat our land, our environment, our institutions, and our understanding of each.

Every Indian must become a stakeholder in this idea. The lines between war and peace, safety and survival, are blurring fast. The Republic's strength will depend not on weaponry or rhetoric, but on the discipline, foresight, and unity of its people.

Geography: The First Frontier

Our geography is both gift and warning. From the glaciers of Siachen to the deltas of the Sundarbans, the land defines who we are and what we must defend. Yet we have allowed geography— once the foundation of statecraft — to fade from public consciousness.

To rebuild *Fortress India*, we must restore geographical literacy: maps in classrooms, terrain awareness in governance, and respect for the land in every plan we make. Every citizen must understand the ground beneath their feet— every river bend carries history, every careless alteration can change our destiny.

Fortress India begins when we treat the land as a living teacher— not as real estate, but as responsibility.

Environment: Security in Disguise

The Himalayas are shifting; rivers are flooding; forests are falling silent. Each ecological collapse is also a breach in our national security. Cloudbursts in Uttarakhand, landslides in Sikkim, floods in Assam — these are no longer “natural disasters.” They are failures of awareness.

Fortress India demands that environmental stability become an article of security policy. Roads, bases, dams, and settlements must now pass the test of ecological wisdom as much as strategic need.

The soldier who digs trenches in monsoon mud understands what policymakers must now accept— that the soil, like the state, must hold.

Protecting the environment is no longer an act of charity; it is an act of national defence.

Institutions: The Hidden Frontline

If geography is India's body and the environment its breath, our institutions are its heart. When institutions weaken, nations fracture— quietly, from within. The erosion of integrity is a slower but deadlier enemy than any army on our borders.

Every citizen, in whatever role, must defend the idea of institutional honesty— schools that teach truth, courts that uphold it, a press that reports it, and a civil service that practices it. The Armed Forces still show what this looks like : service before self, discipline over display. That ethos must now flow outward again into every public space.

A fortress cannot stand on compromised foundations. Rebuilding institutional integrity is the real test of patriotism.

Knowledge: The Invisible Weapon

Wars are blindly fought by those who fail to understand. For decades, we have confused information with knowledge. True knowledge connects the map to the mind, the soldier to the citizen, and the classroom to the command post. Knowledge makes conflict the last resort.

Our history and geography must return to the curriculum, not as rote chapters but as stories that reveal why we endure and how we survive. A generation that understands its land and its defenders will grow up not with slogans, but with insight.

Every parent, teacher, and student must see themselves as part of the nation's learning network. In an age of misinformation, informed citizenship is the new national service.

A Call to Build Together

India's strength has always been endurance. But endurance without understanding is drift. *Fortress India* is not about building walls; it is about building awareness— of land, of limits, of responsibility.

The challenge is immense, but the tools are in our hands :

- **Teachers** can bring maps and military history into classrooms.
- **Communities** can restore degraded land and protect rivers.
- **Institutions** can rebuild trust through transparency and competence.
- **Citizens** can demand foresight, not fire-fighting, from leadership.

From the Siang to the Shyok, from the Nilgiris to the Rann of Kutch, every corner of this country tells a story of endurance and renewal. Fortress India is the act of listening to that story—and keeping it alive.

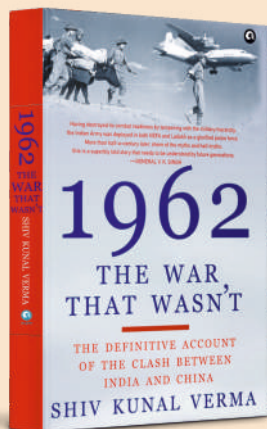
It is time for every Indian to step forward—not as observer, but as participant—in rebuilding the one fortress that can truly endure: an informed, united, and responsible Republic.

Join the movement today. Spread the word. Invite others to become part of this growing initiative. Age or gender is no bar. Together, we can—and will—make a difference.



Wg Cdr Rakesh Sharma, AC





1962: The War That Wasn't

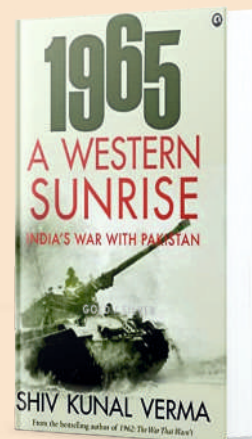
The definitive account of the India–China War that examines both the Eastern and Western theatres of conflict. Based on years of field research, the book weaves Indian, Chinese, Tibetan, and British perspectives into a single, panoramic narrative that reaches far beyond the Nehru years.

Rich with historical context and first-hand insight, *1962: The War That Wasn't* traces the origins of the boundary dispute through startling new evidence that reshapes how the war—and its legacy—are understood.

1965: A Western Sunrise

In 1965, while India was still recovering from its bruising encounter with China, Pakistan launched a series of probes across the Rann of Kutch — a prelude to a larger war. By July, India had mobilised its forces in the Punjab and Kargil sectors, even as Pakistan prepared *Operation Gibraltar* in Kashmir.

A Western Sunrise captures this decisive phase of India's military history — a campaign that tested the nation's resolve and defined its strategic temperament in the years that followed.

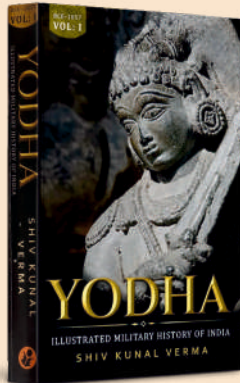


The 1962 and 1965 Wars (Hindi Editions)

The Hindi editions of these landmark works bring two defining chapters of India's post-Independence history to a wider audience. The wars of 1962 and 1965—against China and Pakistan—tested India's resilience and revealed the indomitable spirit of its soldiers.

Drawn from extensive field research and rare archival sources, these richly illustrated volumes take the reader to the heart of the battles— from the icy passes of the Himalayas to the tank-lined plains of Punjab.

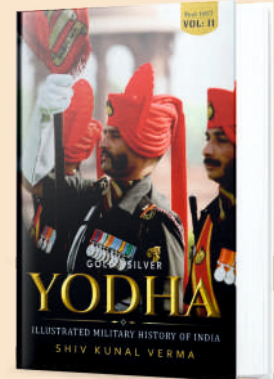
Yodha: Illustrated Military History of India (Volumes I & II)



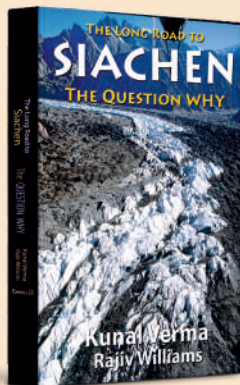
The military history of Bharat is as panoramic and enduring as the land itself— epic in scale, intimate in experience. *Volume I* takes us from the wars of the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata* to the great uprising of 1857— a saga of courage, discipline, and transformation that has shaped the Indian nation.

Yodha: Illustrated Military History of India is the first comprehensive work to visualise this vast heritage— through over 1,600 rare paintings, maps, and photographs that trace the evolution of India's military identity from *The Crown* (1858) to *The Kargil War* (1999).

Painstakingly compiled and written by Shiv Kunal Verma, the two volumes blend art, field research, and archival depth to create a definitive visual history— a work that brings to life the terrain, the battles, and the spirit of those who fought them.



The Long Road to Siachen

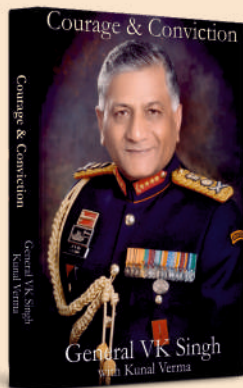


Published by **Rupa & Co.**, *The Long Road to Siachen* explores one of the most remarkable chapters in modern Indian military history— the securing of the Siachen Glacier, the highest battlefield on earth.

Authored by **Shiv Kunal Verma**, with the final section co-authored by **Brigadier Rajiv Williams**, the book situates Siachen within the larger geopolitical contest that began nearly two centuries ago, as the Great Game played out across Central and South Asia.

Drawing on extensive field experience with all three Services, Verma combines strategic insight with narrative realism. His on-ground familiarity with Ladakh, Jammu, Zaskar, and the Karakoram gives the book its texture and authenticity. It is as much a chronicle of endurance as it is an exploration of the terrain that has tested generations of soldiers and statesmen.

Together, these four works illustrate the *intellectual and visual architecture* behind Fortress India— each book representing a “vertical” of knowledge: geography, military heritage, and the lived experience of the land.



General V.K. Singh: Courage and Conviction

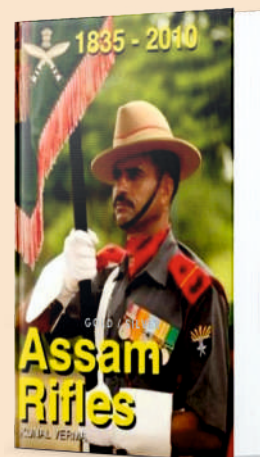
General V.K. Singh served the Indian Army for over four decades, retiring as Chief of Army Staff in May 2012. One of the most decorated officers of his generation, he saw action in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and was among the foremost authorities on counter-insurgency warfare.

Known for his principled leadership, he often spoke out on issues ranging from arms procurement to the deployment of forces against insurgents. His story, written in collaboration with **Shiv Kunal Verma**, takes readers through the life of a soldier in the Indian Army— from cadet to commander— and offers rare insights into the institution's internal dynamics and its relationship with the nation's political establishment.

Assam Rifles: Sentinels of the Northeast

Commissioned to mark its 175th anniversary, *Assam Rifles 1835–2010* was produced by **Shiv Kunal Verma** as both a film and an illustrated book— a visual chronicle of India's oldest para-military force. Tracing its evolution since 1835, the work became a journey through the history and geography of the Northeast— from the mist-laden hills of Nagaland and the forests of Manipur to the high ridges of Mizoram.

Photographing and filming often meant venturing into regions that had remained blank on the national map. The result was not only a tribute to the force's service and sacrifice, but also to its deep connection with the people and landscapes it guards. The book was accorded the rare honour of being released by the President of India.



Assam Rifles: Hindi Edition and Second Edition

Following the English edition's success, **KaleidoIndia** released a Hindi version that carried the book's message deeper into the homes and hearts of those it represents. The edition expanded the legacy of the *Assam Rifles* by making its history accessible to families across the Northeast and beyond.

In 2016, recognising its continued relevance, the force commissioned an upgraded second edition— reaffirming the Assam Rifles' role as both protector and bridge between the frontier and the nation.



The Northeast Trilogy

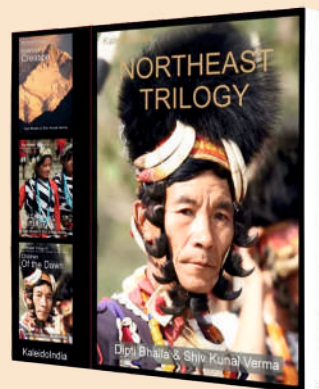
The *Northeast Trilogy* is a landmark set of three books that opens a rare window into one of India's least-known regions—the Northeast. With over 2,300 photographs and extensive fieldwork, it remains one of the most ambitious visual and narrative journeys undertaken in independent India.

Volume I (The Eastern Himalaya) explores Sikkim, North Bengal, Assam, and Meghalaya, weaving geography with history, myth with daily life, and religion with culture.

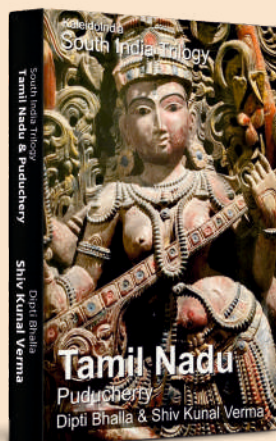
Volume II (Brahma's Creation) moves deeper into Arunachal Pradesh, a land of glaciers, rivers, and vast mountain walls where Lamaism meets tribal animism and the great Brahmaputra carves its path.

Volume III (Children of the Dawn) follows the Naga Patkai hills through Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram to the Chin and Arakan Yoma—tracing the frontiers where India meets Southeast Asia.

The trilogy brings to life not just the landscape, but the living continuum of peoples, faiths, and frontiers that shape this vital region.



The large format version was subsequently published by Mapin (Ahmedabad) and Abbeville Press (New York).



Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

Produced on the lines of *The Northeast Trilogy*, this work offers a vivid window into India's southernmost states—a region where heritage and modernity coexist in rare harmony.

Through its temples, architecture, and coastal settlements, the book traces one of India's oldest civilisational continuums—from the Chola and Pallava legacies to the French echoes of Puducherry.

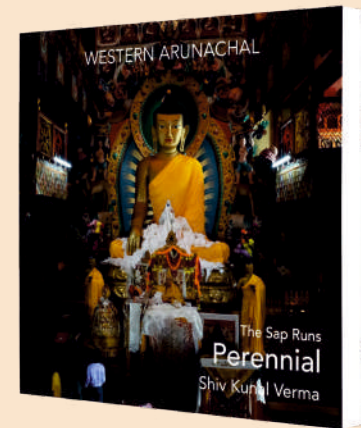
"The closest anyone came to doing something as spectacular as this was the British, whose Gazetteer of the Madras Presidency attempted to cover similar ground."

The Sap Runs Perennial (Western Arunachal)

The inaugural volume of the *Arunachal Trilogy* journeys through the mountains and valleys of Western Arunachal, where the Kameng and Tawang rivers sustain both landscape and legend.

It captures the lives of the Monpas, Sherdukpens, and Akas—communities whose faith, art, and rituals reflect an unbroken dialogue with nature. From the monasteries of Tawang to the forests of Pakke and Eaglenest, the book documents a region where culture and conservation flow together.

The *Sap Runs Perennial* offers an enduring portrait of India's westernmost Himalayan frontier—a land of faith, fortitude, and deep ecological wisdom.

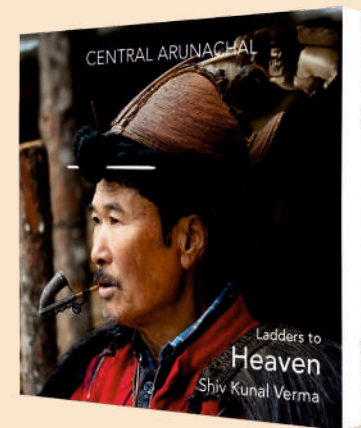


Ladders to Heaven (Central Arunachal)

The second volume, *Ladders to Heaven*, traverses the great valleys of the Siang, Siyom, and Subansiri rivers—regions where myth and geography intertwine.

Here, the animistic faiths of the Adis and Galos coexist with the Buddhist serenity of the Membas and Khampas in Mechuka and Tuting. Through aerial imagery and evocative writing, the book portrays Arunachal as both wilderness and sanctuary—a realm of sacred forests, glacial rivers, and timeless human spirit.

Ladders to Heaven is a meditation on endurance—a record of a land where every valley is indeed a rung towards heaven.



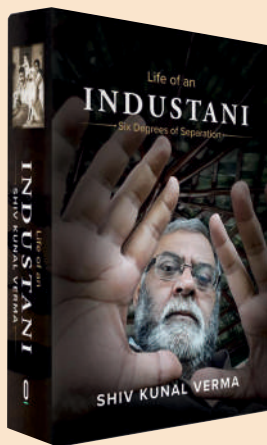
The Wild Green Earth (Eastern Arunachal)

Completing the *Arunachal Trilogy*, *The Wild Green Earth* explores the eastern reaches of India—where the Lohit and Dibang rivers descend from misted highlands into tropical valleys.

It celebrates the abundance and resilience of the Mishmi, Khampti, and Singpho communities—cultures that have thrived in one of the planet's richest ecological zones. From Namdapha's rainforests to the Golden Pagoda of Namsai, the narrative captures both vitality and vulnerability.

The *Wild Green Earth* stands as a tribute to Arunachal's living frontier—where forest and river remain the twin guardians of identity and hope.





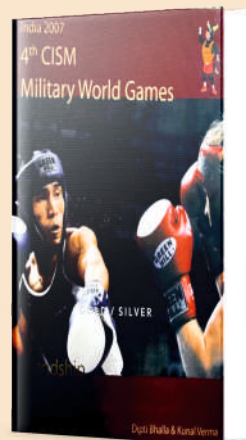
A high-velocity account that moves from crisis to crisis, *Industani* offers a ringside view of India's turbulent 1980s and 1990s.

Brutally honest and often self-deprecating, it is a rare first-person narrative that blends reportage, reflection, and irony — an inside look at the events that shaped a generation. Written with cinematic immediacy, the book reveals the making of a writer who would later chronicle India's military and geographic frontiers with the same relentless clarity.

Industani defies easy classification. It is part memoir, part chronicle — and wholly, unmistakably, **Shiv Kunal Verma's** own story.

Among Verma's earliest and most ambitious large-format works, *Ocean to Sky: India from the Air* was a pioneering photographic chronicle of the subcontinent — from the snowbound Himalayas and the emerald forests of the Patkai to the deserts of Rajasthan and the Siadaris of the west.

Having flown over 350 sorties on fighter aircraft, as well as extensive missions on fixed- and rotary-wing platforms, Verma brought a rare civilian perspective to India's aerial geography. His later collaboration with the Military World Games (2007) further expanded this engagement with the land, its defenders, and its stories.



Upcoming Books

Book Title	Tentative Year of Launch
1. Kargil-25: Illustrated	2026
2. 1971: An Eastern Blitzkrieg	2026
3. Long Road to Siachen (Revised)	2026
3. Long Road to Siachen (Hindi)	2026



SHIV KUNAL VERMA

Author, Photographer & Filmmaker

Born into an Army family (2 Rajput) in Dehradun in 1960, Shiv Kunal Verma is a writer, photographer, and filmmaker who has produced some of the most acclaimed films and books across diverse themes—from wildlife and the armed forces to India's geography and frontiers. His *Northeast Trilogy* not only documents the seven states but also Sikkim and the northern reaches of West Bengal.

His grandfather was a civil servant with the Provisional Services, belonging to the Central Provinces & Berar cadre, while his father, Ashok

Kalyan, retired as a Major General in the Indian Army. His mother, Usha Hoon, was a teacher. A graduate of Madras Christian College, Verma was educated at St. Joseph's Academy and The Doon School, Dehradun.

He began his career by opening trekking routes between Kashmir and the Zaskar–Ladakh region. After brief stints with *India Today* and *The Associated Press*, he went on to direct and film the *Project Tiger* television series for *Sanctuary Films*, later co-founding *KaleidoIndia* with Dipti Bhalla. In 1992, he shot and produced *Salt of the Earth* for the Indian Air Force—a documentary that remains a benchmark in military filmmaking. This was followed by a series of films on the Navy and the Army, culminating in a film on the Kargil War.

He has also made films on the National Defence Academy (*The Standard Bearers*) and the Indian Military Academy (*Making of a Warrior*). In 2001–02, he directed *Aakash Yodha*—produced with the NDA—which premiered on the Discovery Channel as part of the *Discover India* series. The same year, he filmed the aerobatic teams of the Indian Air Force (*Suryakirans*) and the Royal Air Force (*Red Arrows*), becoming the first cameraman to fly with both teams.

His other works include films on the War College, Mhow, and the College of Defence Management, Hyderabad. He also made the first-ever film on the Light Combat Aircraft (*Tejas*). Having flown hundreds of hours in fighters, transports, and helicopters, he is among the most experienced aerial cameramen in the country today.

Following in his father's footsteps, who authored *Rivers of Silence*, *Blood on the Snow*, and *The Bridge on the River Meghna*, Shiv Kunal Verma's first book, *Ocean to Sky: India from the Air*, was published by Roli Books— a pioneering photographic journey that captured the subcontinent from the cockpit of fighters, fixed-wing aircraft, and helicopters.

Under the KaleidoIndia banner, he released *The Northeast Trilogy* in 2011, launched across multiple Indian cities. *The Long Road to Siachen* followed in 2010 with Rupa & Co., and in 2013, *Courage and Conviction*— co-authored with General V. K. Singh— was published by Aleph. The same publisher later released *1962: The War That Wasn't* and *1965: A Western Sunrise*.

Each of these books has been hailed as a definitive work on its subject, and *1962* was included in the syllabus for the prestigious Defence Services Staff College.

In 2018, Verma released *Tamil Nadu & Puducherry* as part of the planned *Southern Trilogy*. Since 2017, he has worked to bring military history into schools — a vision that has evolved into the Fortress India movement, engaging institutions across the country in redefining national awareness.

In 2022, BluOne Ink published *Industani: Six Degrees of Separation*, a deeply personal reflection on contemporary India— less an autobiography than an inward journey through history, identity, and time.

He lives in Bandrol, Kullu, with his four dogs and six cats.

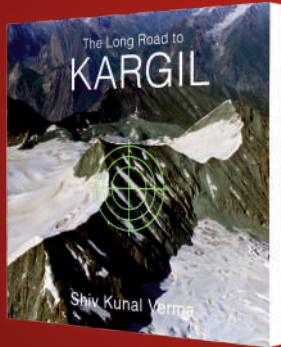
His latest works include *Yodha I* and *Yodha II*— illustrated military histories of the subcontinent— and *The Arunachal Trilogy*, which is being translated into ten languages and presented to Heads of State. Forthcoming titles include *1971: Battles That Shaped the Republic* and an illustrated book on the Kargil War, both to be published by Aleph in 2026.



Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, General K. T. Parnaik, studies the three-volume **Arunachal Series**, a visual testament to the frontier's resilience and spirit. Below, Western Army Commander Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Kadiyan— also Colonel of the Rajput Regiment, a post once held by the author's father— reflects the unbroken bond between generations of soldiers and storytellers who have served the same idea of India.

Fortress India is, at its heart, about that continuity— the endurance of memory, duty, and understanding across time. The story continues...

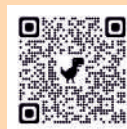
FORTHCOMING BOOKS



JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Be part of Fortress India—a nationwide initiative to rebuild awareness of our land, our history, and our shared responsibility as citizens.

FORTRESS INDIA



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www.fortressindia.in/register

(Scan the QR code to sign up and receive updates on educational programmes, seminars, and publications.)