

Politics of South Asia

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Rajesh Basrur · Sumitha Narayanan Kutty
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India and Japan

Assessing the Strategic Partnership

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PREFACE

The India–Japan strategic partnership ties Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “Act East” policy with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s push for a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” Both countries view the other as central to their efforts to meet the strategic challenge posed by China. Their response pairs a growing defence relationship and a joint infrastructure and connectivity drive for enhancing regional integration in competition with China’s Belt and Road Initiative. How will these interactions play out bilaterally and in their defence triangle with the United States and the resurgent Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (the ‘Quad’)? What challenges lie ahead and how sustainable is the India–Japan partnership? The volume explores these questions through the framework of the under-analyzed concept of “strategic partnerships,” which fall short of alliances and are characteristic of an interdependent world wherein states find the option of going to war with a strategic adversary unfeasible.

This volume is the product of a workshop convened by the South Asia Programme of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). The editors would like to thank Ralf Emmers, David Envall, Arpita Mathur, C. Raja Mohan, Bhubhindar Singh, H. K. Singh and Sinderpal Singh for their critical feedback on draft papers presented at the workshop. Two anonymous reviewers provided valuable comments. We are grateful to Anit Mukherjee for his support from inception to completion of the project and to Rohan Mukherjee for helping us refine its content. We also extend our gratitude to the RSIS events team, steered by Farik

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Singapore

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