



Chintan
Research
Foundation

ELEVATING IDEAS
EMPOWERING PEOPLE

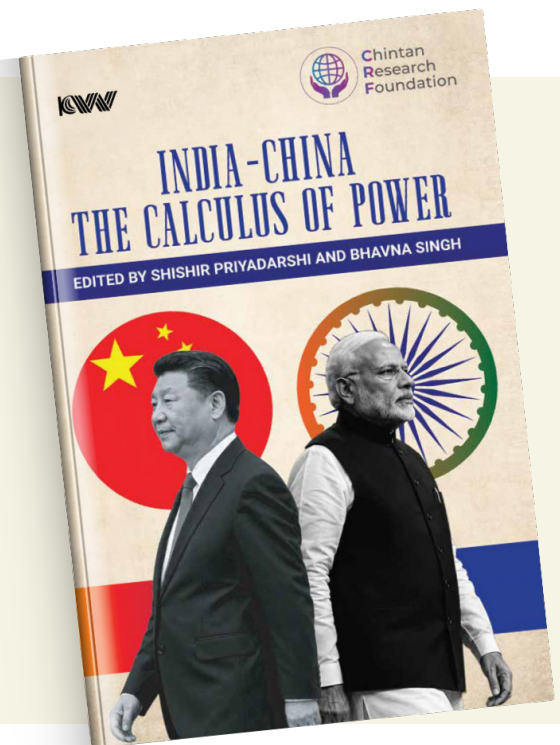
Book Launch and Discussion

INDIA-CHINA THE CALCULUS OF POWER

13 October 2026

The Ambassador Hotel, New Delhi

6:30-8 pm



About the Book

'You can change friends but not neighbours and only good fences make good neighbours'

Why do India and China still behave as adversaries despite geographical and civilizational proximity? What defines their choices as rational actors in a rapidly changing world order? Is there a method to the 'quixotic' madness for resources and race? This volume attempts to provide some answers....

India-China relations are increasingly shaped by an intractable calculus of power in which competition, cooperation and strategic caution coexist. Beyond the unresolved boundary dispute, the relationship is embedded in wider contests over economic influence, technology, connectivity, regional order and the future architecture of the Global South. Despite significant economic, technological and military asymmetry, neither country exercises uncomplicated dominance. India seeks to manage this asymmetry through strategic autonomy, issue-based partnerships and calibrated engagement, while China continues to expand its influence across India's neighbourhood and beyond.

This volume examines how these dynamics shape Indian and Chinese choices across bilateral, regional and multilateral arenas. Essays explore the historical nostalgia and narratives, current exigencies and strategic mistrust that constrain cooperation while identifying possibilities for coexistence. The volume conceptualises India-China relations not through the lens of a choice between engagement and confrontation, but as a continuous negotiation between the imperatives of economic coexistence and the realities of strategic competition.

Contents

Foreword by *Amb. Ashok K. Kantha*

Section I: Conceptual Foundations and Strategic Thought

1. China and the Global Trading Order: Norm Shaper, System Challenger, and India's Strategic Quandary *Shishir Priyadarshi*
2. Who Lost China? A Story of Unresolved Dilemmas *Amb. Nirupama Rao*
3. India, China and Competing Visions of National Interests, Global Responsibilities and Leadership *Manoj Kewalramani and Anushka Saxena*
4. China's Periphery Diplomacy and India's Strategic Encirclement: How China and India Jostle to Manage the Neighbourhood Chaos *Bhavna Singh*
5. Tagore, Asia, and the Cultural Roots of India-China Strategic Thought ... *Sreshtha Chakraborty*
6. Between the Border and the Balance Sheet: De-risking India's Relationship with China *Bidisha Bhattacharya and Lakshmi Kusuma Kotha*

Section II: Border, Trade and Bilateral Narratives

7. Narratives at the Frontier: Indian and Chinese Perceptions of the Border Dispute and Pathways toward Strategic Stabilisation *Esha Banerji*
8. China's Peripheral Strategy and India's Central Dilemma *Lt. Gen. Shokin Chauhan*
9. Chinese Narratives on the US Factor in the China-India Thaw. *Ivan Lidarev*
10. Media Discourses on Changing Narratives in the Digital Era: A Study of China's Information Warfare in the Indian Subcontinent *Madhukar Shyam and Ila Joshi*
11. Mirroring Anxieties, Refracting Reality: Analysing Indian and Chinese Media Discourses on Strategic Rapprochement *Anugya Bharadwaj and Prachi Aggarwal*

Section III: Regional and Global Contestations

12. Securing Leverage Through Infrastructure Diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific: India's Balancing Game Against China. *Shrabana Barua*
13. Transnational Connectivity-China's BRI vs India-led Regional Connectivity: Competition or Co-Existence *Col. Rajeev Agarwal*
14. China in the Global South: Prospects for Cooperation with India *Prashant Kumar Singh*
15. Power and Geography in US-India-China Dynamics: Evolution, Metamorphosis, and Implications *Monish Tourangbam*
16. Asymmetries in India-China Relations: Navigating a Changing World Order *Swati Arun*
17. Norms, Ethos, Governance and the Sino-Indian Contestation in the IOR *Irfan ul Haq, Pooja Bhatt and Aparajita Pandey*

Section IV: Security, Defence and Strategic Competition

18. Defence, Dual-Use Technologies, and Strategic Industry: China's Lead and India's Modernisation Curve *Bhavna Singh*
19. Russia–China's 'No Limits' Nexus: Strategic Convergence, Hidden Frictions, and India's Concerns *Indrani Talukdar*
20. The Bay of Bengal Pivot: Re-alignment of Myanmar, China's Myanmar Foothold, and India's Strategic Dilemma *Cchavi Vasisht*
21. India's Strategic Nightmare: Loosing the Neighbourhood *Gunjan Singh*
22. India and China in Africa: Structural Asymmetries and Strategic Choices *Poorvie*

Section V: Resources, Talent and Competition

23. India, China and the Geopolitics of Talent *Divyanshu Jindal*
24. Assessing India's Role in Central Asia amid China's Dominance *Ayushi Saini*
25. India-China and the Contours of 'Managed Competition' *Nidhi Taneja*
26. Decoding China's Strategy towards Energy Exploration in the Western Indian Ocean Region: Preferences and Challenges *Neeraj Singh Manhas and Mrinmoy Kumar Deb*

Afterword: Power Asymmetry as a Factor in India-China Relations *Srikanth Kondapalli*

Agenda

Time	Session
6:00 – 6:30 pm	Arrival & Registration
6:30 – 6:40 pm	Opening Remarks
6:40 – 7:00 pm	Keynote Address
7:00 – 7:15 pm	Official Book Unveiling & About the Book
7:15 – 7:55 pm	Panel Discussion on the Book: 'India-China and the Evolving Global Paradigm'
7:55 – 8:00 pm	Vote of Thanks & Closing Remarks
8 pm onwards	Networking Dinner



1st Floor, Bharti Crescent Building, 1 Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj Phase II, New Delhi - 110070



info@crfindia.org



+91 9311630957, +91 6358871398



www.crfindia.org