

# Indo-Pacific Report 2019

## INDO-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Realising the Benefits of  
Economic and Maritime Cooperation



## ABOUT THE REPORT

The 'Indo-Pacific' construct has gained significant attention globally and is advancing rapidly. It is a multipolar region, contributing more than half of the world's GDP and population, in which several Asian powers are once again rising, especially in geoeconomic terms. The 'ocean' is the common thread that connects this vast Indo-Pacific region. The prime focus of the Indo-Pacific is, therefore, centred upon the oceans. The region is highly heterogeneous in terms of economic size and level of development, with significant differences in security establishments and resources. The motivation for a larger bloc always comes from the sheer size, resources it owns, and, the scope and size of the economies of scale that it can generate. It has all ingredients to generate regional trade and investment opportunities, thereby benefitting the people of the region. However, the region faces complex challenges in terms of economy, security and the environment.

India believes in an Indo-Pacific that is free, open and inclusive, and one that is founded upon a cooperative and collaborative rules-based order. Clearly, the effectiveness of the 'Indo-Pacific' in meeting its original collaborative and cooperative objectives, namely, freedom of navigation, holistic-security, and regional-prosperity, will greatly depend upon the manner in which regional-structures are fleshed out, at the political level as well as the executive level, and, the degree to which functional cooperation is nurtured, not only amongst the countries of the region, but also between regional and extra-regional maritime powers. Regional cooperation within the Indo-Pacific, with a sharp and enduring focus on the maritime domain, needs to be enhanced so as to benefit all nations economically as well as through enhanced maritime security.

The principal objective of this *Indo-Pacific Report 2019 (IPRep-2019)* is to present a deeper understanding and analysis of the emerging Indo-Pacific architecture. It has a total eight chapters dealing with a host of important geoeconomic and geostrategic issues, which would, individually and collectively, contribute to the shaping of regional cooperation programmes in the Indo-Pacific region. In overall terms, this Report recognises the inextricable linkages between holistic security and economic prosperity. Considerable emphasis has been laid upon regional geoeconomics, maritime safety, and, good order at sea. In essence, the Report argues that multi-dimensional regional cooperation within the Indo-Pacific would not only foster economic relations, but would, in addition, strengthen regional capacity and enhance regional capability while dealing with the region's complex security challenges.

This Report will be invaluable for policy-makers, research scholars, members of academia, and senior practitioners of national and international maritime-endeavour.

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