

**THE CHINA FACTOR IN JAPAN'S
RISING INTEREST IN INDIA**

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Executive Summary

1. Japan is now seeking a strategic alignment with India to balance a rising China.
2. Prime Minister Abe Shinzo perceives India as a nation that, unlike China, shares common political values and strategic interests with Japan. Abe enthusiastically advocates “a stronger Japan for a stronger India, and a stronger India for a stronger Japan.”
3. Though flattered by Tokyo’s new found attention, New Delhi is cognizant of Japan’s limited economic interest in India despite the buoyant Indian economy.
4. India seeks greater Japanese investment and ODA (Official Development Assistance) in key infrastructural and industrial development --- sectors in which Japan has been contributing to China for decades.
5. Even though Japan severely criticized India for its nuclear tests in 1998, they are now members of the G 4 (along with Germany and Brazil) who are jointly pursuing permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council --- a symbol of great power in the international system.
6. Despite warming Indo-Japanese relations, New Delhi is unlikely to forge a strategic alliance with Tokyo against Beijing.
7. Furthermore, India perceives itself as a regional great power with its own strategic considerations and will not necessarily lock in on the agenda of other great powers (including Japan) against China.