

## **India's approach to border management**

Type de contenu : Texte

Type de médiation : sans médiation

Type de support : Volume

Titre(s) : India's approach to border management : from barriers to bridges / Pushpita Das

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Publication : London New York (N.Y.) : Routledge New Delhi : Manohar Parrikar Institute for defence studies and analyses : KW publishers, 2023

Description matérielle : 1 vol. (XX-366 p.) : ill., cartes ; 23 cm

ISBN : 978-1-0324-3011-9

1-03-243011-7

1-03-243012-5

978-1-0324-3012-6

EAN : 9781032430126 br.

Classification décimale Dewey : 355.033 054

Note sur la responsabilité : Pushpita Das is Research Fellow and Coordinator of the Internal Security Centre at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi. Her areas of research include border security and management, coastal security, drug trafficking, migration, and India's Northeast. At MP-IDSA she has been studying India's approach towards the management of its international borders. She has been co-opted as an expert by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) as well as the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on projects on Coastal Security. Dr. Das has written extensively on her areas of research including: monographs titled *Illegal Migration from Bangladesh: Deportation, Fences, Work Permit* (2016) and *Coastal Security: the Indian Approach* (2013); and a number of articles and commentaries in journals and books. Dr. Pushpita Das holds a Doctorate from the Jawaharlal Nehru University

Note sur les bibliographies et les index : Bibliogr. p. [332]-356. Notes bibliogr. Index

Résumé ou extrait : This book attempts to provide a comprehensive understanding of the circumstances which have shaped India's approach towards its international borders and the framework it has developed to better manage its borders. The book argues that persistence of various cross-border threats and challenges and an absence of robust intra-regional trade among its neighbouring countries forced India to employ a security-centric and unilateral approach to border management with emphasis on hardening the

borders to cross-border trade and travel and keeping the border areas underdeveloped to act as a buffer against external conventional threats. Besides discussing the threats and challenges that India faces along the borders, the book aims to develop an understanding of India's border management practices by analysing various programmes and initiatives such as the raising of border guarding forces; building of physical and electronic fences; the establishment of modern facilities for smoothening legitimate cross-border travel; the development of the border areas through special programmes; and increasing trade and connectivity as well as other cooperative bilateral mechanisms. Print edition not for sale in South Asia (India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Bhutan).

Sujet - Nom commun : Police des frontières -- Inde -- Gestion

Sécurité des frontières -- Inde

Frontières -- Inde

Relations extérieures -- Inde