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Hindi translation of the Four Book 《四书》 by Prof. B. R. Deepak published for the first time in India

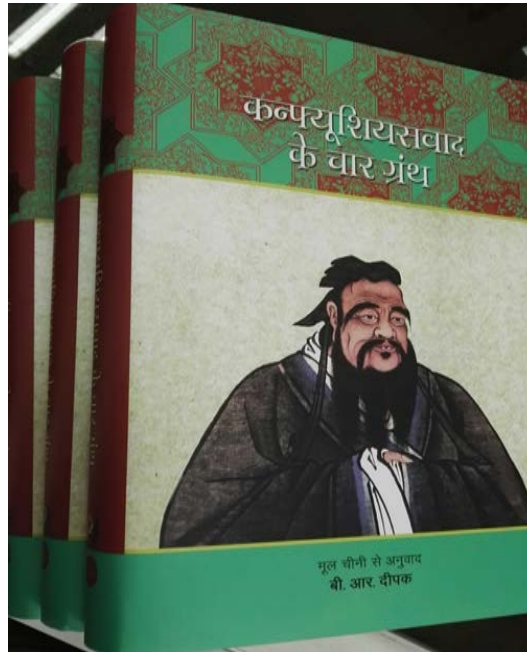
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The first ever Hindi translation of the *The Four Books* of Confucianism by Professor B. R. Deepak has been published recently by the National Book Trust of India. The collection is part of the MOU signed between MEA and The State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, China on '**Cooperation in mutual translation and publication of Classic and Contemporary Works**' in May 2013.



Hindi Edition of the Four Books

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Prof. B.R. Deepak

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The first to initiate translation of the Confucian classics in India was a British missionary named Joshua Marshman (1768-1837). He not only translated and printed the Bible in Chinese in a small Indian town of Serampore, West Bengal, but also brought out first English translation of *The Analects* from original Chinese in 1809, albeit Marshman never visited China. However, it was the

translation of only first nine chapters, the remaining were never translated. The translation was accompanied by a dissertation on Chinese language and characters, no wonder Marshman titled his rendition as *The Works of Confucius, Containing the Original Text, with a Translation to Which is Prefixed, a Dissertation on the Chinese Language and Character*.

West that has no whatsoever civilizational dialogue with China, however, translated and transmitted *Four Books* and *Five Classics* into western languages mostly during Ming (1368-1644) and Qing dynasty (1644-1911) with the arrival of the missionaries. It was around the same time that the *Analects of Confucius* were transmitted to *Sinosphere* world, primarily east and Southeast Asia. In 1594 Matteo Ricci (1552-1610), the Italian missionary translated extensive parts of the *Four Books* into Latin and developed the first system for Romanizing Chinese, he dispatched the translation back but was not published. Almost a century later (1687) Prosper Intorcetta, Christian Herdrich, Francois Rougemont, and Philippe Couplet published the first Latin version titled *Confucius Sinarum Philosophus* that was rendered into English by Thierry Meynard and published by Institutum Historicum Societatis Iesu in 2011. The first English translation of *Analects* was by Randal Taylor in 1691 from a French edition titled *Confucius' Virtue and Chinese Philosophy* translated from Chinese by Philippe Couplet and Pierre Savouet. The Russian edition by Yakov Volkov of the *Four Books* appeared in 1729. Following this, during the 19th century there has been various editions in English and other European languages. The most notable is James Legge's translation of *Four Books* (1861) titled as *The Chinese Classics*, and translation of *The Analects* by L. Giles (1875-1958) and Arthur Waley (1889-1966) into English (1938).

In order to do away the anomalies of cultural misunderstandings, since late 19th century Chinese scholars started to produce their own version of English translations, Ku Hungming was the first Chinese who published *The Analects* in English in 1898. It is quite puzzling that in India even if we had a strong cross-cultural interface with China, the Confucian classics were never rendered into Hindi.

According to professor Deepak, since Confucian thinking runs deep in the Chinese genes, therefore, in order to understand China it is important to understand Confucian classics.

Seminars

An International Conference on the 100th Anniversary of Lu Xun's *A Madman's Diary*

An International Conference on the 100th Anniversary of *Lu Xun's A Madman's Diary* was co-organized with Centre for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies (CCSEAS), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and India International Centre (IIC), Delhi on 5-6 October. As part of this event, a panel discussion of eminent scholars from India and abroad was organized at IIC, Delhi on 5 October. The panelists were Prof. Senno Takumasa, Head of the Department of Chinese Literature and Linguistics, Waseda University; Dr. Roman Shapiro; Mr. Taku Kurashige, Lecturer, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Tsinghua University, Beijing; Dr. Emily Mae Graf, Assistant Professor, Heidelberg University; and Dr. Raman Sinha, Centre of Indian Languages, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The panel was chaired by Dr. Hemant Adlakha, Honorary Fellow, ICS and Associate Professor, Centre for Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

India & Southeast Asia: One Indic Belt, Shared Culture & Common Destiny

A 3-Day International Conference India & Southeast Asia: One Indic Belt, Shared Culture & Common Destiny was organized by the Division of Bahasa Indonesia, the Centre for Chinese & Southeast Asian Studies, JNU in collaboration with Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi, NHPC, ERASMUS + program of the European Union and International Collaboration Cell, JNU. The purpose of this conference was to converge on the shared cultural heritage between India & Southeast Asia and make a paradigm to evolve a legitimate cultural grouping to be named as "India & SEA: One Indic Belt". The conference attracted Indian scholar and politician; Tarun Vijay, Chief/ Representatives of Missions of SEA countries, and eminent experts in the field and contributed immensely on the subject.



His Excellency Mr Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia in India, said 'let India be a source of learning'. Clearly, the focus is on mutual learning and understanding. Mr Suryodipuro emphasized the importance of initiatives like the eponymous conference which according to him helps in nurturing a 'close and growing relationship', by the process of 'integration through academia'.



Convener of the conference Dr. H. Adlakha delivering his speech



Keynote address delivered by Mr Tarun Vijay (former Member of Parliament, *Rajya Sabha*) was highly instructive and inspirational. He while highlight the potential cultural power said that it is 'on the edifice of



cultural foundation that we can build economic and security architecture'. His address was interlaced with the mentions of mutual influences, cultural monuments, especially Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and largest temple in the world, having Indian roots. However, he lamented the fact that 'it is ironical that with the region we must be having strongest ties, we still are trying to have reasonable ties'. Not all is lost, as he said that the world is shifting to the East, the world economy is shifting to the East, and it is the region of future economy. There cannot be a better time for India and Southeast to fortify its ties. The process has already started with India having signed multiple bilateral agreements, defence and military agreements etc. ASEAN- India Free Trade Area (FTA) which came up in July 2015. Mr Vijay called 'one Indic belt' an apt phrase to define the region.

Report prepared by Dr. Gautam Kumar Jha

Conferences

Prof. B R Deepak

1. Attended an international conference on India China relations In Vishva Bharati University on Sept 29-30 2018. Spoke on '*Silk Road Spirit*' and *juxtaposed India and China in the unfolding new international order*.
2. Attended The Third Lifeology and Sinology Forum in Wuhan and spoke on *Building Community of Shared Future: Can India and China re-enact the history?* on 15th September
3. International Conference on Belt and Road Initiative: Opportunities and Implications for Nepal and the Region, spoke on *China's Global Rebalancing and the New Silk Road* on 13th September
4. Participated in China's belt and road initiative:

Implications for India and the neighborhood on 9th October 2018 and spoke on *China's Global Rebalancing and India's Options*

Articles

Prof. B R Deepak

1. Book review of Tansen Sen's *India, China, and the World: A Connected History*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017. xviii, 541 pp. Paperback \$39.00, ISBN 978-1-5381-1172-7 published in *China Review International* issue 23.3 published by The University of Hawaii Press.
2. China's BRI is unlikely to fail
https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/chinas-bri-unlikely-failchinas-bri-unlikely-fail?fbclid=IwAR0HYaX0rbNxu_Qt_I7D_abghf2UQEEWF3RIgJBuYWzWYNDTP39J8ulX-v4
3. China watching India-US 2+2 dialogue with keen interest
<https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/china-watching-india-us-22-dialogue-keen-interest?fbclid=IwAR2tvp1R1cSUTmDSa3Yz4WheyRbFkh28lou07KRmOgskHRaSjl5AAg-x6EI>
4. Five years of the Belt and Road Initiative, retrospect and prospects
https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d3d774d3555444d7a457a6333566d54/share_p.html?fbclid=IwAR0VOEWECKVzSk_aB2qqvVtm4a4e_veTZ87EbDDUyuXQeDJNM97pnuGZ8I
5. Made in China 2025: Cause for a Cold War between China and the US?
<https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/made-china-2025-cause-cold-war-china-us?fbclid=IwAR1utAWDEkvMsKMmcxNvDjJci3oamr93oUyb06-yec2cbkd-0vg9bA8de8Q>

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