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Professor B R Deepak invited to lecture on India-China relations by leading Chinese universities in Beijing, Tianjin

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In May-June 2016, Professor B R Deepak was invited to deliver a series of lectures on India-China relations by the leading Chinese universities like Minzu University, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Tianjin Foreign Studies University and Beijing Political and Law University.

In Minzu University on 2 June, Professor Deepak



Professor B R Deepak at Minzu University, Beijing

Spoke on India-China relations during the colonial period. Some of the issues that were highlighted were the cooperation between the Indian and Chinese nationalists in Japan and China; revolutionary activities of the Ghadr Party in China; India and China amidst the War of Resistance against Japan and the Second World War etc.

In Tianjin on June 22, and Beijing Political and Law University on June 23, Professor Deepak delved into the issue of 'Belt and Road' and 'India-China

Relations: Present predicaments and future trends' respectively. Professor Deepak argued that the developmental strategies India and China have initiated recently as a matter of fact are geared towards re-globalization and offers immense opportunities for both the countries. He argued that trust could be built by way of aligning our developmental strategies and having greater economic stakes in each-other's economic systems.



Professor Deepak at Tianjin Foreign Studies University; Beijing Political and Law University

At Beijing Foreign Studies University, Professor Deepak talked about his experiences in translating the *Analects of Confucius* into Hindi. He said that it had been very challenging yet rewarding enterprise as the *Analects* had never been translated into Hindi in India ever in the entire history of India-China cultural exchange. The challenges emanated

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from the archaic classical Chinese, socio-historical conditions of the times and complex feudal structure that went back to 2500 years.

According to him, it is very intriguing that there have been very few translations of the ancient Chinese literature in India, notwithstanding the fact that the scholarship represented by Kumarajiva of 4-5th century and Xuan Zang of 7th century were the pioneers in the field of translation. Conversely, the lopsided tradition of translating Indian literature in China including contemporary times has continued. For example, translation and publication of Kalidasa's *Abhijñānashākuntala* and *Meghadūta* in the 1950s and 1960s, the *Rāmāyana* from Sanskrit in the 1980s, Rabindranath Tagore's works in 24 volumes in 2000, and the complete *Mahābhārata* from Sanskrit in 2005.

He said that the earliest Chinese classic that was rendered into Sanskrit was *Daodejing* of Lao Zi by none other than Xuanzang at the request of the Kamarupa King Bhaskara Varman. But alas, this translated text in Sanskrit is lost to us. Notwithstanding the loss of text in ancient times, presently we see many editions of *Dao Dejing* including Hindi, but mostly rendered from English versions. The Confucian philosophy enshrined in *The Analects of Confucius* intriguingly has never been rendered into Hindi, albeit some editions in other languages such as Gujarati have been rendered from English. In India, the first ever translation of *The Analects of Confucius* was done by a missionary named Joshua Marshman (1768-1837) who translated first nine chapters of the Analects into English in 1809. The 2016 Hindi edition of *The Analects* by Professor B. R Deepak from original Chinese is perhaps unprecedented after Marshman's English edition in India.

According to Professor Deepak, in order to understand China better, it is essential for us to understand the Chinese civilization, philosophy and culture. Confucianism that runs deep into the Chinese psyche is a must to this understanding. The present regime in China has attached even more importance to Chinese tradition with the growing prosperity in China. President Xi Jinping, who has been regarded as a Confucianist has been quoting Confucian classics extensively in his speeches. Today, when China is projecting its soft power globally, Confucius has been projected as the mascot of this power. Today, China has established over 500 Confucius Institutes all over the world, over 100 in the US alone. These are aggressively engaged in the teaching of

Chinese language and literature, training of Chinese teachers, and offering globally.

Faculty Focus

Participation in Seminars

Professor B R Deepak participated and presented papers in two international seminars in China

On 13 June 2016, Professor Deepak presented a paper titled 'India-China Himalayan Connections' during an international conference on Lu Xun and Tagore at the Beijing Foreign Studies University



On 18 June, Professor Deepak attended the 8th Asia Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum in historic city Xi'an that had wonderful connections with India during ancient times. The title of his paper was 大数据与翻译——我首次将《论语》翻译成印地语版的经历 (Big database and Translation: A case study of First ever Hindi Edition of the Analects of Confucius)



Professor B R Deepak engaged by the CCTV in its three Prime Time Shows (25-26 May) during President Pranab Mukherji's China visit



Professor B R Deepak meets the State Council Counselor, Director General of the Hanban, Dr. Xu Lin at Hanban Headquarter, Beijing

On 15 June, Professor B R Deepak met Dr. Xu Lin, The State Counselor, Chief Executive and Director of the Confucius Institutes worldwide and the Director General of the Hanban the the Hanban headquarters in Beijing. In his conversation with Dr. Xu, the latter revealed that China remains committed to building capacities in Chinese language learning, teaching and research in India. She said China committed to offer 10,000 scholarships, training opportunities for 5,000 people and an exchange and training program for 5,000 youth, and train 5,000 Chinese language teachers for South Asia in the next five years proposed by President Xi Jinping during his India visit in 2014.

In this context Professor Deepak also met concerned people from the College of Preparatory Education of the Beijing Language and Culture University. The programme to offer scholarships and language training had kick started two years back that ranges from short term courses to Bachelor, master and Ph.D degrees all funded by the university to South Asian Countries. The Admission officers promised Professor Deepak that from this year onward they offer selective scholarships to the promising Indian students too, which hitherto had students primarily from Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Maldives.



Professor Deepak with Dr. Xu Lin



At the College of Preparatory Education of the Beijing Language and Culture University

Articles in Books/Journals/web

CCSEAS and media

亚太翻译论坛热议语言大数据 汉学家：对翻译《论语》

有帮助 <http://www.wtoutiao.com/p/102Y229.html>

印度著名汉学家狄伯杰教授访问北语

<http://news.blcu.edu.cn/c/2016-06-17/467282.shtml>

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