



CCSEAS NEWSLETTER

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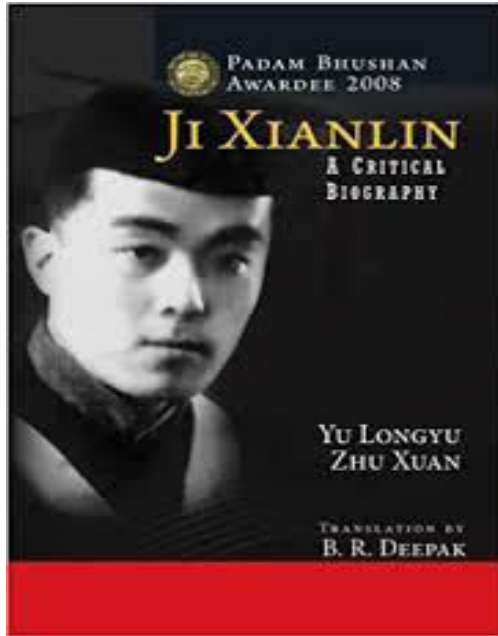
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Ji Xianlin: A Critical Biography 《季羨林評傳》 published in English

The English translation of 《季羨林評傳》 *Ji Xianlin: A Critical Biography* by Professor Yu Longyu and Zhu Xuan both from the Centre for Indian Studies, Shenzhen University has been rendered into English by Professor B R Deepak. Professor Yu Longyu is an eminent Indologist in China, for his contribution towards Indology, the then President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee conferred on him the 2016 “Distinguished Indologist Award.”

Some of his notable translations and authored books include, *Shakuntala*, *Vikrama-uravasheeya*, *Panchatantra*, *Ramayana*, *Collected Papers on the History of Sino-Indian Cultural Relations*, *History of Sino-Indian Cultural Exchange* etc. Jiangxi Education Publishing House has already published 30 volumes of *Collected Works of Ji Xianlin*; a new series titled *Complete Works of Ji Xianlin* would be soon published by the Shandong Publishing House.

According to Prof. Deepak, “*Ji Xianlin: A Critical Biography* reconstructs the academic, professional and personal journey of the doyen of Indology, Buddhism, Orientalism and comparative literature in China. Though his journey of life remains full of trials and tribulations, emotional world laid buried deep under the familial and professional obligations, nonetheless, true to the evaluation the authors, he remains indispensable as far as China’s translation, comparative literature, Dunhuang-Turfan studies and cultural exchanges are concerned. India runs through his veins throughout this journey, whether it is his path breaking textual research on the dissemination of paper and silk from China to India or the sugar from India to China, or the Indian literature in China and translation of *Ramayana*, *Panchatantra*, *Shanakuntla* etc. from Sanskrit, or the reminiscences of his visits to India, one and all have been supplemented with credible primary sources from historical records.



Editor:
Prof. B.R. Deepak

Ji Xianlin was the doyen of Indology, a paleographer, historian, Orientalist, thinker, translator, Buddhist scholar and well versed in dozens of classical languages including Sanskrit and Pali. In 2008 the Government of India conferred on him India's third highest civilian

It is not easy to weave a tapestry of the life and works of a person as versatile as Ji Xianlin, but the authors have done a remarkable job in mirroring Ji Xianlin's journey through the Qing, Republican and the People's Republic. I believe this tapestry will be woven uninterrupted, for Ji Xianlin remains a link between the past and the future."

In his Preface written for the English edition, Prof. Yu has the following to say about the English and Hindi (forthcoming) editions of the book, "Prof. Deepak is not only the man behind the English edition of *Ji Xianlin: A Critical Biography*, but also of the Hindi edition. Ji Xianlin's scholarship is boundless and profound, which we have experienced in the course of writing his biography. To render it into a foreign language is not an easy task. Who could be capable of accomplishing such a task? Professor Deepak offered to shoulder this responsibility on his own volition. During his advanced studies in Peking University, Ji Xianlin once admiringly called him the 'Tianzhu Wonder boy' (tianzhu caijun) Given his relationship with Mr. Ji Xianlin, professor Deepak has put a lot of emotions while translating *Ji Xianlin: A Critical Biography*. His translation not only meets the requirements of faithfulness, expressiveness, and elegance of the Chinese edition, but also demonstrates the sentiments of teacher-student relationship. For me, professor Deepak was the obvious choice for this translation. Apart from having faithfulness, expressiveness, elegance, and emotions in his translation, there is another thing – the 'speed'. Treading on the footsteps of Ji Xianlin, how he wished he could have 48 hours in a day. Moreover, practice has made him perfect; he has already translated and published the *Chinese Poetry: From Book of Odes to Romance of Western Bower*, *The Analects of Confucius*, *The Four Books*, *Core Values of Chinese Civilizations*, and *Xi Jinping on Governance*; in future, I believe, his translation is bound to reach the "acme of perfection".

As regards the 'speed' mentioned by Prof. Yu Longyu, it would not have been possible without the help rendered by my students asserts Prof. Deepak. He has acknowledged their names against specific chapters. In Translator's Preface, he

mentions that "I was helped by some of my students such as Imlinungla, Shubhda Gurung, Deepakshi Rawat, Saheli Chattaraj, Uma Shankar, Anukriti, Swami Kundan Kishore in rendering some of the chapters into English. I wish to record my heartfelt thanks to all of them. Some others such as Sarmi Sinha, Aashish Kumar and Prakriti Mukherjee rendered parts of Chapter Seven. I hope it also provided them with an opportunity to learn and hone their Chinese skills. This also made me realise that we really need to develop capacities in Chinese language and studies in India."

Prof. B R Deepak participated and delivered keynote speeches during the High Level Mechanism on People to People and Cultural Exchange between India and China

Prof B R Deepak delivered two keynote speeches during the first ever high level mechanism on people to people and cultural exchange between India and China on 20th December in New Delhi and on 22nd December during the Dialogue of Civilizations between India and China at Marathwara University. State counselor and Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi also graced the occasion.



Prof. Deepak with Foreign Minister of China Wang

Chinese scholars like Wang Bangwei of Peking University, Huang Xianian from the Chinese Academy of Social sciences, Zhao Shengliang from Dunhuang Academy, Liu Hongyi and Yu Longyu from Shenzhen University and a galaxy of many Indian scholars represented by Lokesh Chandra and others also participated in the proceedings.

On 20th afternoon the Chinese delegation visited JNU. An MoU of academic exchange was also signed between JNU and Shenzhen University.



Chinese delegation with Rector, Prof. Chintamani Mahapatra and Director of International Collaboration, Prof. Sharad Soni.

CCSEAS China Perspective Lectures

CCSEAS and Centre for South Asian Studies jointly organized a lecture on “Nepal, China and India relations in the 21st century” by Amb. Shambhu Ram Sinkhada.



Amb. Shambhu Ram Sinkhada at the Centre

CCSEAS organised an interaction on 'The role of cultural exchanges in Sino-Indian relations' by Cultural Counselor Zhang Jianxin and his colleagues. The occasion was also graced by Prof. Pankaj Mohan from Nalanda University. On the occasion Mr. Zhang's colleague Ms Sun Meixing donated books on HSK to be used by our students.



Cultural Counselor Mr. Zhang Jianxin delivering his lecture

CCSEAS organised a lecture by Professor Wang Yongzhong, Institute of World Economics and Politics on 'Facts and risks of China's Overseas Investment under the BRI' two of Prof. Wang's colleagues Prof. Wang Jun and Zhang Chunyu also made some interventions during the Q and A session.



Prof. B R Deepak's Books released

Prof. Deepak's edited book *China's Global Rebalancing and the New Silk Road* and the Hindi Translation of the *Core Values of Chinese Civilization* were released by eminent scholar Prof. Vimal Prasad, Prof. Jagdesh Kumar, VC JNU, Dr. Pramod Kumar, Registrar JNU and Prof. Swaran Singh.



In *China's Global Rebalancing and the New Silk Road* a galaxy of eminent academicians from India, China, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Southeast Asia have critically analyzed each and every aspect of this mammoth project including the six major economic corridors identified by China for policy coordination, infrastructure connectivity, unimpeded trade, monetary circulation, and people to people exchanges, and attempted to interpret China's peripheral, regional as well as global diplomacy both over land and sea. 'One Belt One Road', a trillion dollar initiative is an alternative to conflicts and wars, is China's new world order for global peace and prosperity, however, it also remains exposed to political, economic, security, environmental and legal etc. risks.



Participation in Seminars

Prof. B R Deepak participated in the "Sino-Indian border Issue in New Perspective track 2 dialogue" at the center for South Asian Studies, Fudan university, Shanghai on 10th December 2018



Students

CCSEAS students participated in the "4th Xuanzang Chinese Speech Competition" held at Cheena Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal (9-12 November 2018)

With great enthusiasm, a team of three students namely, Doddi Chandu (M.A I Year Chinese), Mangu Purty (B.A (Hons. Chinese II Year) and Saurav Kumar (B.A (Hons. Chinese II Year) represented JNU at the "4th Xuanzang Chinese Speech Competition" held at Cheena Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University (Santiniketan, West Bengal) on 11 November 2018 and bagged one 2nd Prize (Senior Level) and two Participation Prizes (Junior Level) respectively.

The trio left New Delhi for Kolkata in the evening of 9 Nov by Sealdah Durgam Express and reached the destination the next day afternoon. Passing through bustling traffic of Kolkata, the team reached Howrah railway station to catch Visva-Bharati Fast Passenger. Unfortunately they arrived late, failed to catch the train and left with no option but to travel in the next train to Santiniketan (Howrah-Gaya Express) in a general class crowded compartment. Day 2 concluded with their late arrival at Purbapalli University Guest House located in the Visva-Bharati Campus.

The big day (11 Nov) finally arrived. Despite two day's tiresome journey, the trio participated in the national level Chinese speech competition with great zeal. 40 students from various universities across India namely, Aligarh Muslim University,

Doon University, Central University of Jharkhand, Central University of Gujarat, Jamia Milia Islamia, Jawaharlal Nehru University and the host university Visva-Bharati participated in this prestigious competition.

At the opening ceremony, acting Consul General of Chinese Consulate in Kolkata, Yu Xiong (余雄) said that China and India as the two ancient civilizations and the two major economies in Asia and the world have broad prospects for cooperation. He anticipates that the young students, who participated in the competition, will work hard to learn Chinese and understand Chinese culture, and contribute to the promotion of Sino-Indian friendship and exchanges and cooperation in the future.

The competition was divided into two parts: Speech (extempore) and Art performance. The students participated in impromptu speeches in Chinese, and interspersed with Chinese songs. They were intense and exciting, reflecting the participants' high level of Chinese and their love for Chinese language and culture. After the end of competition, acting Consul General Yu Xiong gave prizes and awards to the winners, and presented books to Cheena Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University.

Doddi Chandu was given the topic "India and China: A Family" (中国- 印度是一家) in Senior Level. He stood second and was awarded Swiss Military adventure camera. Mangu Purty and Saurav Kumar, who participated in Junior Level, were given "What is your hobby?" (你的爱好是什么?) and "What is your most longing place to visit?" (你最想去的地方) respectively and both received participation prizes for their impressive performance. The competition ended with a happy note, followed by lunch.

On day 4, the trio visited Amar Kutir, a few miles away from Santiniketan and after lunch at guest house, they boarded Santiniketan Express to Howrah and finally boarded New Delhi-bound Duroto Express at Sealdah in the evening, after travelling in local city bus to reach the railway station. The team reached JNU Campus safely the

next day (13 Nov) at around 1330hrs. (compiled by Doddi Chandu)

Articles in Media Prof. B R Deepak

1. Watch out for Kyaukpyu port and China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, *Sunday Guardian* 24 November 2018 https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/watch-kyaukpyu-port-china-myanmar-economic-corridor?fbclid=IwAR20Kx13dMaC0SRRS18lg36LxC25wTptltD2QM4uLW_PsRUcIC8v4kw7LEA
2. US-China Economic War gets colder, *Sunday Guardian* 15 December 2018 https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/us-china-economic-war-gets-colder?fbclid=IwAR0baRPEUtv6YO2dCoyfwk_9cG7k1flrxdpMC9flhKqpVWfZC1nI4FDmVr8
3. Resolution of thorny issues must accompany India-China people to people dialogue, *Sunday Guardian* 29 December 2018 <https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/resolution-thorny-issues-must-accompany-india-china-people-people-dialogue?fbclid=IwAR3hmJRmlgiNEkPaKnMcfQCW89naji8w2bF6MB3u6ISCPXxL5205nbM8IA4>

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