

Discussion on the Book

CHANAKYA
and
SUN TZU

*A Business Lens on Trade, Thought
and Travel*



R GOPALAKRISHNAN



NIRMALA ISAAC



SHASTRI
RAMACHANDARAN



6.00 PM TO 7.30 PM

FRIDAY, 27TH MARCH 2026

MMA MANAGEMENT CENTER

SYNOPSIS

India has always been a major trading nation of the world. Our nation's experience teaches us that trade, travel, and exchange of thoughts are invaluable in bringing nations together through economic interdependence, cultural understanding, and the sharing of knowledge. Trade creates shared economic interests, travel exposes people to different cultures, and the flow of ideas fosters common perspectives and innovation, strengthening relationships between countries. International trade provides access to resources and markets a country may lack, stimulating economic growth. This interdependence means nations benefit from each other's success, creating a shared interest in maintaining stability. In this masterful interweaving by Gopal and Nirmala, they highlight through history, ideas, trade, and culture how India and China should find ways to work together, despite their apparent differences

PROGRAMME

5:15 PM Registration & Hi - Tea

6:00 PM Welcome Address

Gp Capt R Vijayakumar (Retd), VSM

Executive Director

Madras Management Association

Launch of the book and Address by the Authors

Mr R Gopalakrishnan

Author & Former Executive Director

Tata Sons Ltd

Ms Nirmala Isaac

Co- Author

Special Invitee in conversation with the Authors

Mr Shastri Ramachandaran

Independent Journalist, Editor, Writer, Publication & Media Consultant, Editorial Consultant

Q&A

7:25 PM Vote of Thanks

Gp Capt R Vijayakumar (Retd), VSM

7:30 PM End of the Program

PROFILE



Mr R Gopalakrishnan

Author & Former Executive Director

Tata Sons Ltd

R. Gopalakrishnan (Gopal) has observed and done business in India and several countries over the last fifty years through his service with Unilever and in Tata. He has also had a ringside seat while businesses got designed and built up. He has witnessed how business brought people and societies closer. Hence, he believes that travel, trade and thoughts unite people despite their seeming differences. Societies that have enjoyed longstanding associations have a better chance of building closeness through business. In this book, this idea is advocated through the history of trade and exchange of thoughts between India and China.

This is Gopal's twenty-first book.

PROFILE



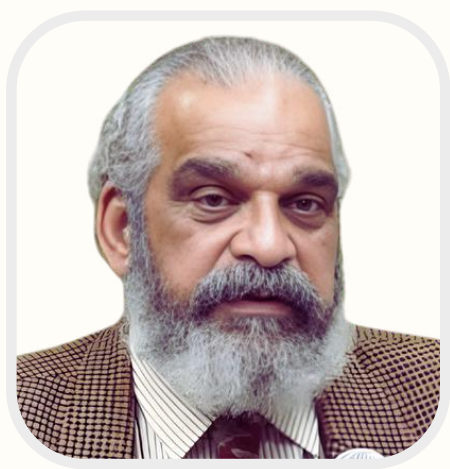
Ms Nirmala Isaac

Co- Author

Nirmala Isaac is a seasoned human resource professional with over a decade of hands-on experience shaping people and organizational practices. She is currently pursuing her doctoral studies in Organizational Behaviour at SPJIMR, Mumbai, an institution she fondly calls her second home, having been a part of its professional community for several years.

Having collaborated with her co-author on earlier projects, Nirmala concurs with his belief that exchange through travel, trade and thought forms the foundation of meaningful human connection. She shares his vision that the lessons of the past must illuminate the path to building future relationships between the two great civilizations, India and China. Nirmala lives in Mumbai with her husband and two children, whose love and support, along with that of her parents, remain her greatest source of strength and inspiration in bringing to life this, her very first book

PROFILE



Mr Shastri Ramachandran

Independent Journalist, Editor, Writer, Publication & Media Consultant, Editorial Consultant

Mr Shastri Ramachandran is a journalist – editor and columnist – writing on national and global affairs with a special focus on Nepal, Sri Lanka and China. He has worked for 50 years in positions from Reporter to Editor with publications (in India, China and Europe). His journalism, in Indian and foreign languages, extends to magazines, journals, documentaries, radio, TV, global wire services and websites in South Asia, China and Europe.

Currently, he is a contributor to WION TV and WIONews.com. Newspapers he worked with include Sunday Mail, The Times of India, The Tribune, Deccan Herald, Indian Express and Newstime, Goteborg Post (Sweden) and Dagbladet Information and Politiken (Denmark). In China, he worked as Senior Consultant and Editor of China-India Dialogue, and Senior Editor & Writer with China Daily and Global Times.

Over the years, he has contributed to AIR, Doordarshan, DNA, Mainstream, thewire.in, Outlook, thecitizen.in, Economic and Political Weekly and Newsclick in India; China.org and CGTN in China; and, IPS, IDN, INPS and BBC in Europe.

Author of books, monographs, papers and book chapters, he is co-editor, State of Nepal; and, co-author of Media, Conflict and Peace and (monograph) Human Rights of Agricultural Labourers in Tamil Nadu. He has worked on documentaries for India's Ministry of External Affairs, Doordarshan and Star TV. He was invited as a Global Personality to Denmark's Images of the World-2000 Festival.

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