

## **"Cinasthana Today" - Viewing China from India**

**A new 2012 book on China from Tata McGraw Hill by P. S. Deodhar**

Over the years, China has become a hot topic of discussion in India. While it has been pursued in varied light on numerous occasions, China has been largely misconstrued by the Indian masses. Even though China and its economy has changed dramatically during the last 60 years, the clouds of suspicion harboured due to the brief 1962 conflict do linger, blurring Indian vision of China, making Indians wary and distrustful of the Chinese.

***Cinasthana Today*** – *Viewing China from India* by P. S. Deodhar, the former Technology Advisor to PM Rajiv Gandhi, presents for the Indians a refreshingly new perspective of China covering its people, culture and economy, its exemplary progress and the need for both the countries to maintain good bilateral relations. In his epilogue, he warns both of the fault lines in their development.

*Cinasthana Today* is backed by the author's keen observation and long association with China since 1983. In 1988, as Technology Advisor to the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, he briefed him about China's fast export-led growth via Special Economic Zones in South East China highlighting Chinese leader's professionally planned approach to development. Ever since he has enriched his research constantly through his innumerable visits to that country and interactions with friends, acquaintances and colleagues on both sides of Himalaya.

He presents China, dating back from the regime of Chandragupta, when it was known as 'Cinasthana (pronounced sinasthan), to its current status as an economic power. It covers China without bias and without fear, by focussing on the people of China and their life today and tracing back to its ancient historic moments and progressing towards its current scenario, with constant referencing of contemporary India. With each successive visit to China, the author noticed that the common people of both countries are alike in many ways, in spite of our long isolation and the fact that we speak and write so differently. Our beliefs are so similar, our life philosophies so alike and our cultures so entwined – all of which is little known to many Indians. He points out that even though we have rather warm and friendly bilateral diplomatic relations, we need to improve our civil society interaction – people-to-people contact.

Articles in *Cinasthana Today* are grouped into five segments, each focussing on a specific aspect of China – our historical and cultural links with China, the people, business and industry, current affairs, the architects of the People's Republic of China and finally the Epilogue that cautions both of the fault lines.

Innumerable books have been published on modern and ancient China, but most of them are authored by Europeans and Americans, who come from a distinctly different background. Even those written by Indians are primarily about business, or our 60 year old border conflict. *Cinasthana Today* presents China differently helping Indians to get a right perspective of that country, helping both to share a new, mutually progressive tomorrow.

There is yet another strong backdrop to author's study on China. He is of the strong belief that post 1970, the United States started its overall decline by allowing big businesses to bring about a cultural change, thereby creating a lifestyle that promotes thoughtless consumption of resources without any sensitivity to its global consequences. He warns us about the repercussions of such unsustainable development.