

Col. S. Abraham's book is an open and transparent perspective of China - India relations : Gen. Sunith F. Rodrigues

Friday, 28th August 2015

Gen. (Retd.) Sunith Francis Rodrigues, PVSM, VSM, former Chief of Army Staff of Indian Armed Forces officially released 'China's Role in Indian Ocean: Its Implications on India's National Security' a book authored by Col. (Dr.) Saji Abraham. This programme was a Curtain Raiser for Goa Arts & Literary Festival (GALF) 2015 and was organised by The International Centre Goa and Goa Writer's Group in association with UGC Centre for Latin American Studies, Goa University.

"This is an open and transparent perspective of China - India relations, and one that has kept our national interest first" Gen. S.F. Rodrigues commented on the book. He congratulated Col. Saji Abraham for having authored this book while still in uniform and also for having depicted impressive facts and figures in it. He said that the author has very well documented China's role in the region and has also made an analysis of its internal struggles, corruption and weaknesses. He further suggested the need for more serious discussions on aspects of national security presented in the book.

The author Colonel (Dr.) Saji Abraham; an Indian Army Officer and PhD from University of Pune, said that this book is written with the idea to generate citizen awareness about security concerns regarding China, and the crucial role of Indian Ocean region in shaping India's maritime policies. In the book he has endeavoured to give an historical overview, describing how disagreement on The Macmohan Line had given rise to the unresolved territorial disputes between China and India. He also described the significance of the 1962 Sino – Indian war and explained why it is treated separately among all the major events; he has raised questions about what really occurred with an effort to analyse the same. The author explained that the Indian Ocean is a major route for energy security to China and thereby he believes that, with a superior navy having projection capability, India can undoubtedly play a dominant role over its adversary in the Indian Ocean region.

The release function was followed by a discussion with the author; co-chaired by Yatin G Kakodkar – President, The International Centre Goa and Dattesh Parulekar – Assistant Professor, Centre for Latin American Studies, Goa University. Also present at the programme were Admiral Arun Prakash and Admiral Sureesh Mehta both former Chief of Naval Staff.

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