

FOREWORD

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations encourages, among other things, the academic examination of legacies shared by India with other countries. In June 2010 it sponsored such an exercise at Charles University, Prague, where nearly twenty scholars of different disciplines from India and mainly from Central and Eastern Europe reviewed the study of Indology in all its different facets. I am happy to see the results of the exercise in print in this volume. That there were divergent perceptions of Indology among the participants was to be expected; happily, there were also several overlapping concerns, together leading to some very useful discussions.

This volume is more than a collection of the papers presented at the Conference; it embodies the essential spirit of the deliberations, where consensus emerged from divergence and disputation. A major item of consensus was the need to cherish, redefine and expand received knowledge about India through the prism of Indology in view of the very dynamic India of the twenty-first century compared to the somewhat static image that early Indologists had bestowed upon it. The Conference and the resultant volume reinforce the resolve of the ICCR to undertake such exercises with greater frequency and in more areas of academic endeavour.

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