

# GOLDEN TIES

INDIA'S CULTURAL LEGACY IN SIAM

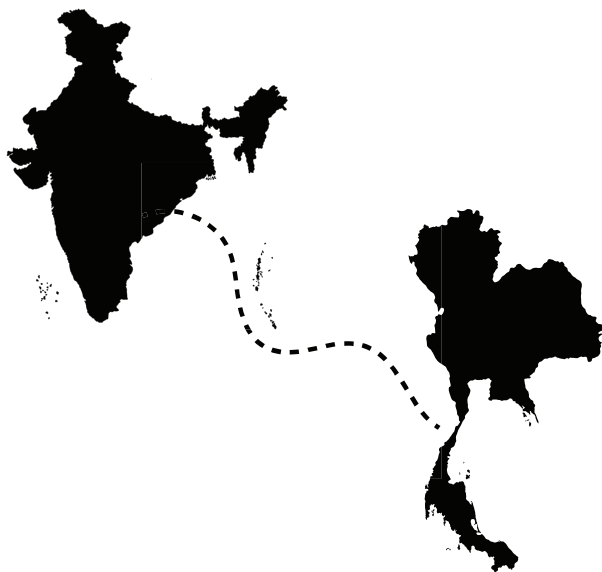


AMARJIVA LOCHAN



# **GOLDEN TIES**

**INDIA'S CULTURAL LEGACY IN SIAM**



**AMARJIVA LOCHAN**





**Professor Amarjiva Lochan**

**GOLDEN TIES: India's Cultural Legacy in Siam**

*1. History 2. Religions (Buddhism-Hinduism)*

*3. India-Thailand art & architecture*

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## ***Samarpaṇa...***

**To all my ancestors and successors of the Udaipura,  
The Lineage of Magadha**



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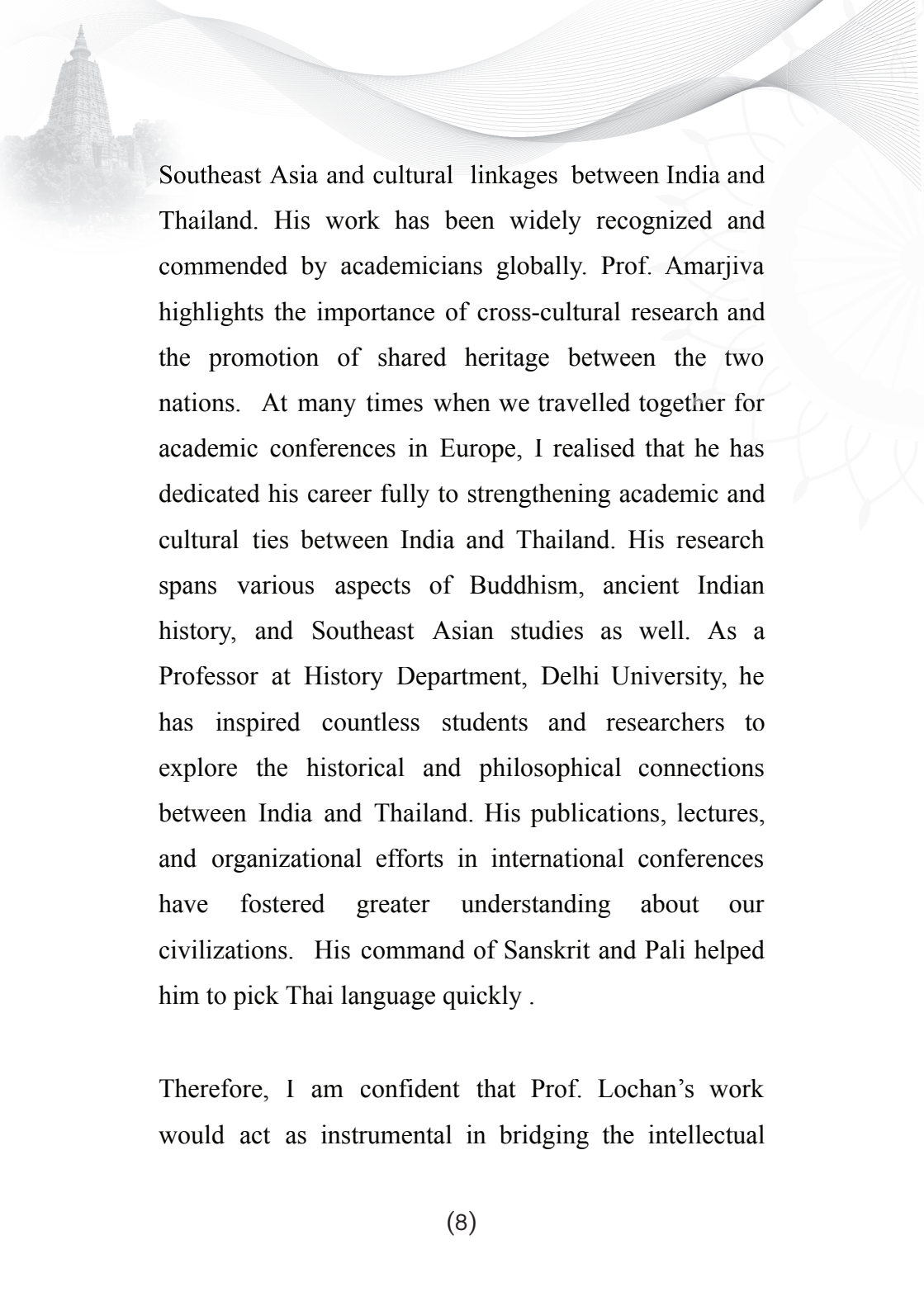




## FOREWORD

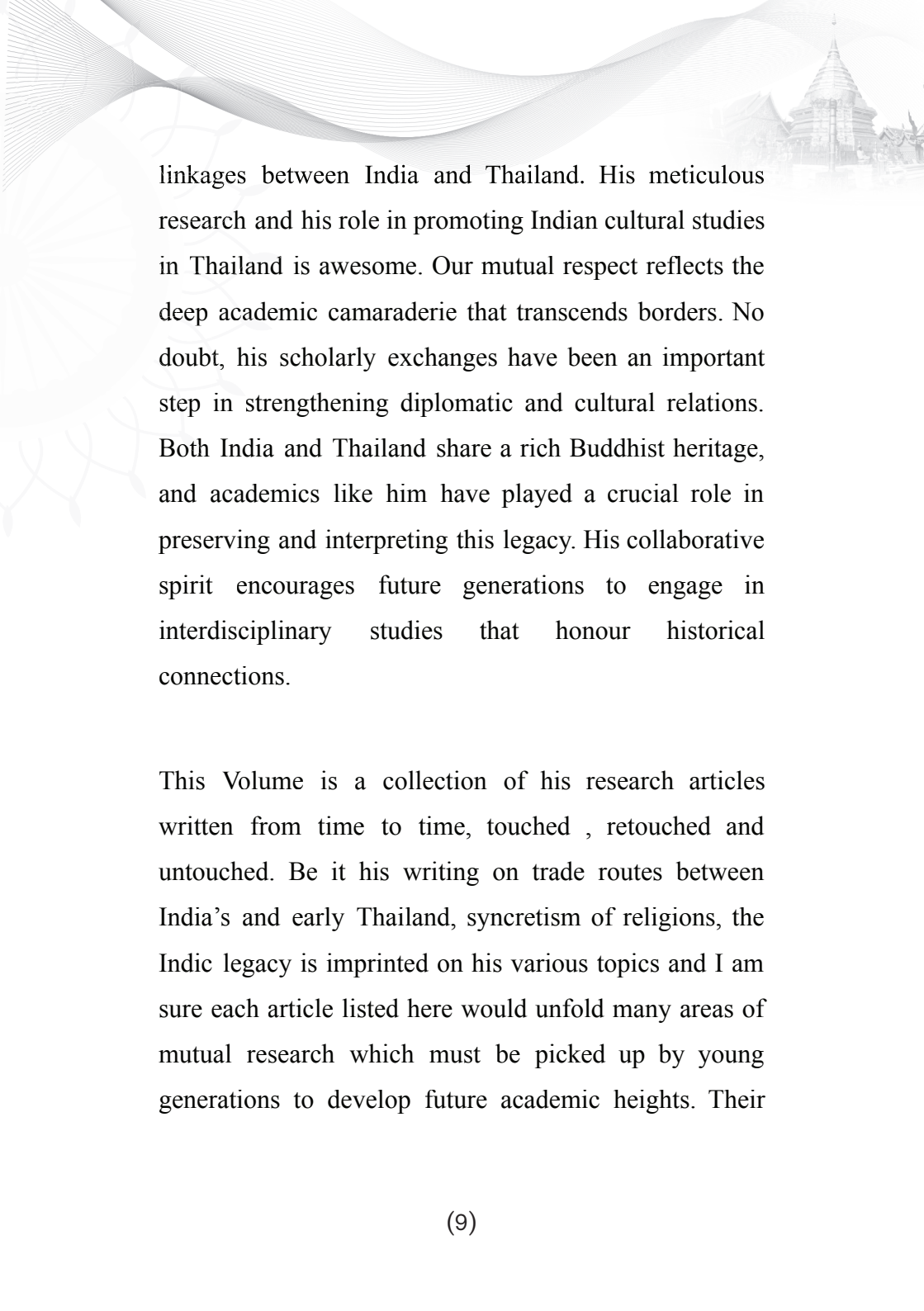
Prof. Dr. Amarjiva Lochan, who is fondly known as Acharn Amorn in Thailand, has been my friend, philosopher and guide for over three decades. I remember meeting him at Silpakorn University when Prof. Phasook Indrawooth introduced him. He was then a lanky boy in his early thirties imbibing with great confidence reflecting in his eyes! He was affiliated to us on the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Subhadradis Diskul, the President of my University. His knowledge on the subjects of early Thailand, epigraphy, maritime Asia was amazing. Through talks and discourses over meals, we became close friends. We continued to be in constant touch. Following his umpteenth number of visits to Thailand and Southeast Asia. Prof. Amarjiva kept growing steadily and soon became a distinguished scholar who has made significant contributions to the fields of Indology, Thai Studies (in fact he was one of the ICTS founder members!), Buddhist Studies, vestiges of Hinduism in Thailand and





Southeast Asia and cultural linkages between India and Thailand. His work has been widely recognized and commended by academicians globally. Prof. Amarjiva highlights the importance of cross-cultural research and the promotion of shared heritage between the two nations. At many times when we travelled together for academic conferences in Europe, I realised that he has dedicated his career fully to strengthening academic and cultural ties between India and Thailand. His research spans various aspects of Buddhism, ancient Indian history, and Southeast Asian studies as well. As a Professor at History Department, Delhi University, he has inspired countless students and researchers to explore the historical and philosophical connections between India and Thailand. His publications, lectures, and organizational efforts in international conferences have fostered greater understanding about our civilizations. His command of Sanskrit and Pali helped him to pick Thai language quickly .

Therefore, I am confident that Prof. Lochan's work would act as instrumental in bridging the intellectual



linkages between India and Thailand. His meticulous research and his role in promoting Indian cultural studies in Thailand is awesome. Our mutual respect reflects the deep academic camaraderie that transcends borders. No doubt, his scholarly exchanges have been an important step in strengthening diplomatic and cultural relations. Both India and Thailand share a rich Buddhist heritage, and academics like him have played a crucial role in preserving and interpreting this legacy. His collaborative spirit encourages future generations to engage in interdisciplinary studies that honour historical connections.

This Volume is a collection of his research articles written from time to time, touched , retouched and untouched. Be it his writing on trade routes between India's and early Thailand, syncretism of religions, the Indic legacy is imprinted on his various topics and I am sure each article listed here would unfold many areas of mutual research which must be picked up by young generations to develop future academic heights. Their

shared commitment to academic excellence and cultural preservation highlights the enduring intellectual bond between India and Thailand.

This essay celebrates Lochan's achievements and the scholarly appreciation he has received, emphasizing the broader significance of academic collaboration in strengthening cultural diplomacy.



***Dr Chirapat Prapandvidya***

*Padma Shri Awardee*

*Former Director,*

*Sanskrit Studies Centre*

*Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand*

*Fellow of the Royal Society of Thailand*

*(Mākha Buchā) Māgha Purnimā*

*February 12, 2025*



## About the Author

Prof. Amarjiva Lochan was born in Gaya, the city closely associated with the Enlightenment of the Buddha. He earned his PhD in Indian–Thai acculturation from the University of Delhi, where he currently teaches in the Department of History, focusing on Asian civilizations and religions, particularly Indic elements in Southeast Asia.

He serves as Dean of Foreign Students, Director of the Centre for Global Studies, and Joint Dean of International Relations at the University of Delhi. A member of the editorial boards of five international journals, Prof. Lochan writes extensively on the syncretic nature of Southeast Asian religions, the role of *Brāhmaṇa* priests in Thailand (for which he was awarded a Ford Foundation scholarship), Hindu–Buddhist art, and the evolving forms of Buddhism. He also has a deep academic interest in the Indian diaspora.

His scholarly contributions include 13 books and 51 research articles. Widely traveled for academic engagements across the globe, Prof. Lochan is the first Asian to be elected Vice President of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), affiliated with CIPSH–UNESCO. He is also a Visiting Professor at three international institutions and serves on the boards of several religious and cultural study centers in India and abroad.

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