

SPOTLIGHT

'Deception key part of Chinese strategy'

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Former Indian foreign secretary Shyam Saran has said that much of the misunderstanding and lack of communication that has characterised Indo-China relations can be attributed to the failure on India's part to be conversant with China's thought processes.

Explaining this remark, he said that deception is an integral part of Chinese strategic culture and realisation of this may have spared India much angst in the past.

While acknowledging that deception has been



Shyam Saran

practised in India too while referring to the

Mahabharata, the former top diplomat said that in the case of China though, "it is accorded a value that's much more significant than in other countries".

Mr Saran made these remarks while delivering the second K. Subrahmanyam memorial lecture on the theme "China in the 21st century: What India needs to know about China's World View", here on Wednesday.

In his lecture, he also observed that it's in the area of maritime security that China considers Indian capabilities as pos-

sessing the greatest credibility. He also said that China's attitude towards India is marked by ambivalence, "dismissive" on the one hand and "watchful" and "respectful" on the other.

The former diplomat also said that currently, there are two strands in Chinese perceptions of India. On the one hand he said there are "strong, lingering attitudes that dismiss India's claim as a credible power" while the other strand recognises India's growing military and technological power even though they feel that it does not match that of China's.