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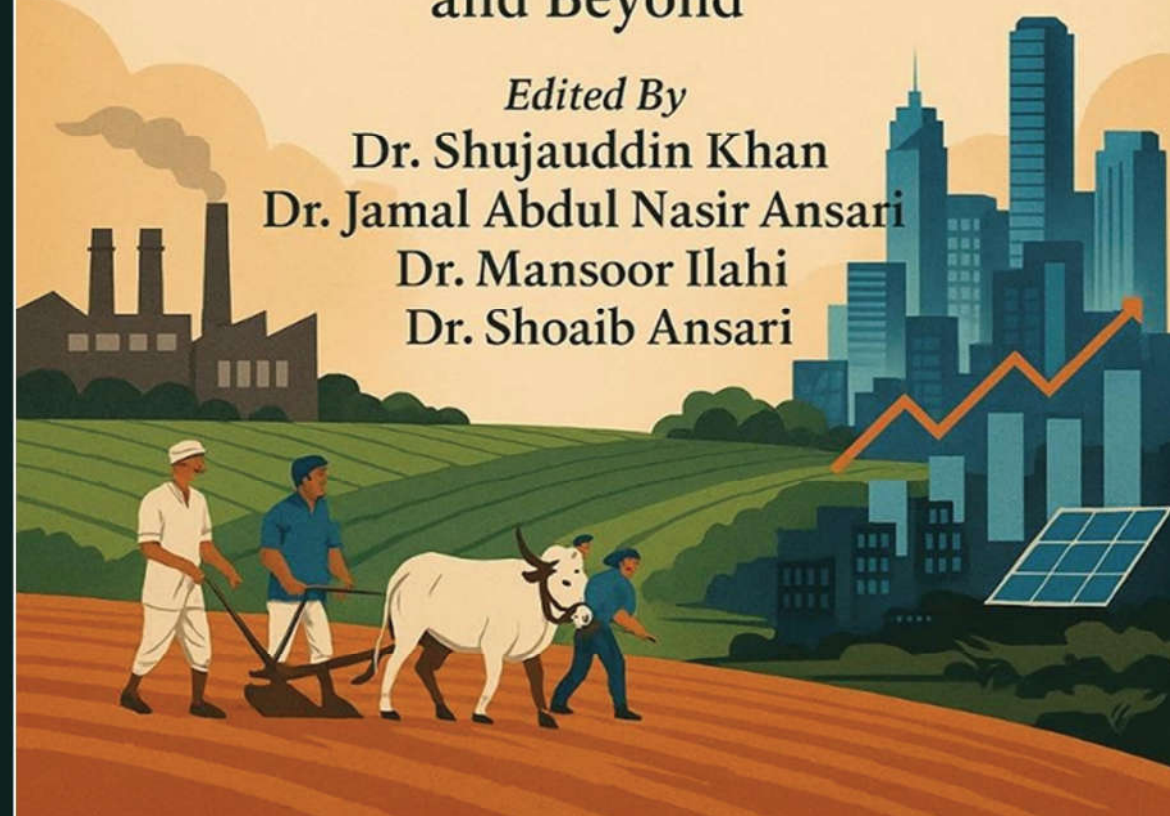
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FOREWORD

India's economic transformation over the decades is a compelling narrative of resilience, reform, and reinvention. *India's Economic Journey: From Planning to Globalisation and Beyond* offers a panoramic view of the country's transition from a centrally planned economy to a liberalised, globally integrated market system. This volume not only traces the major policy milestones and economic paradigms that have shaped India's growth trajectory but also contextualizes these shifts within the broader socio-political and global environment.

From the early years of independence, where self-sufficiency and state-led industrialization guided planning, to the landmark reforms of 1991 that opened India's doors to the global market, the journey has been marked by both challenges and triumphs. The evolution of India's economic policy reflects an ongoing dialogue between tradition and modernity, equity and efficiency, and sovereignty and global integration. As India now emerges as one of the world's fastest-growing economies, questions about inclusive growth, sustainability, digital innovation, and geopolitical influence become increasingly significant.

This work is a valuable contribution for students, scholars, policymakers, and curious minds who seek to understand not just the economic statistics but the ideas, debates, and visions that have driven India's development. By examining the phases of planning, liberalisation, and the contemporary era of globalisation and digital transformation, the text offers rich insights into how India has navigated a complex economic landscape.

I commend the author(s) for their scholarly rigor, clarity of exposition, and balanced analysis. This book will serve as a vital resource for understanding India's past choices, present realities, and future possibilities in the global economic order.

Dr. Shujauddin Khan

Dr. Jamal Abdul Nasir Ansari

Dr. Mansoor Ilahi

Dr. Shoaib Ansari

TABLE OF CONTENT

S. NO.	CHAPTER TITLE	PAGE NO.
Chapter 1	Overview of the Indian Economy and its Strategies for Growth Since 1950 <i>Prof. Adeel Maqbool</i>	1-18
Chapter 2	Transforming India's Economy: Policy Responses from Independence to the 21st Century <i>Dr. Sultan Ahmad, Mr. Niraj Kumar & Dr. Sumbul Shakeel</i>	19-41
Chapter 3	Social Reforms in Post-Independence India: A Pathway to Inclusive Development through Education, Healthcare, and Women's Empowerment <i>Dr. Neda Tasneem</i>	42-51
Chapter 4	Industrialization and Urbanization in India: Evolution, Impact, and Sustainable Futures <i>Dr Monizah Parwez</i>	52-67
Chapter 5	Inequality, Poverty, and Inclusive Growth <i>Dr. Amna Siddiqui</i>	68-76
Chapter 6	Future of India's Economy: Demographic dividend, India's role in global economic governance and Vision for Amrit kaal and beyond. <i>Laiba Izhar</i>	77-91

Chapter 7	Contemporary Economic Policies and Changes: <i>Harshita Singh</i>	92-99
Chapter 8	Role of Fintech in Promoting Financial Inclusion in Rural India: A Case Study of UPI and Mobile Banking in Rural Lucknow. <i>Sheikh Alisha</i>	100-106
Chapter 9	Environmental Sustainability and Economic Development <i>Areeba Fatima</i>	107-111
Chapter 10	The Role of Government and Institutions in Development <i>Sadia Nawaz</i>	112-127
Chapter 11	Green Economy and Digital Transformation: Twin Pillars of India's Economic Resilience <i>Shubham Tiwari</i>	128-147
Chapter 12	Globalization, Technology, and the Digital Economy <i>Saba Fatima</i>	148-162
Chapter 13	India's Economic Evolution and the Emergence of Hospitality: From Planned Economy to Global Destination <i>Dr. Vidit Srivastava</i>	163-185
Chapter 14	Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food Security <i>Dr. Swapnil Sharma</i>	186-200

CHAPTER -3

Social Reforms in Post-Independence India: A Pathway to Inclusive Development through Education, Healthcare, and Women's Empowerment

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Abstract

This chapter explores the transformative role of social reform policies in shaping India's development since independence, with a particular focus on education, healthcare, and gender equality. Through a review of key legislative measures and government initiatives, the chapter highlights how these reforms have contributed to improved access to education, expanded healthcare services, and enhanced opportunities for women's empowerment. Programs such as the Right to Education Act, the National Health Mission, and local governance reservations for women have significantly improved inclusion and equity. However, persistent structural and implementation challenges limit their full impact. The analysis underscores the need for integrated, intersectional, and community-based approaches to ensure that social reforms lead to sustainable and equitable development.

Keywords: Social reform, Inclusive Development, Social justice, Human development