

# Foreword

It gives me immense pleasure to know that some selected papers presented by various scholars at the ‘*National Conference on Contribution of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar to Modern India*’ held on February 1-2, 2020 at Lipika, Visva-Bharati University are going to be published in a book form.

As India is transforming itself from a traditional society to a knowledge-and-value based society, so the relevance of research and study in Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and his ideas and ideals is growing in the country in recent days. It will widen the horizon of knowledge about Dr. Ambedkar and his life and works. It is very important and necessary for India.

Dr. Ambedkar believes that education is the most effective tool for bringing about a change in the mind of man and in society at large. He chooses Buddha – not Marx – as his ideal teacher for such a change in Indian society. He says, “*Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence.*” And we believe that this can be done by promoting human values like morality, universal compassion and right knowledge in educational institutions through proper educational planning.

Dr. Ambedkar is a social engineer who tries to re-construct modern India with the principles and values of democracy, human rights and social justice for inclusive development, wellbeing and happiness of all sections of society. He works hard particularly for the empowerment of the marginalized and disadvantaged groups of the society. So, he provides provisions in the Constitution of India for protection of their political, economic and social interests. The Constitution of India framed under his leadership is an epitome of his life and struggle and his ideas and ideals.

Dr. Ambedkar is not only a leader of the marginalized and disadvantaged groups. He is a national leader who has given a roadmap, a Constitution to India for its development as a democratic republic which functions on the basis of the principles of social justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

Dr. Ambedkar is an icon of equality and social justice. He thinks that discrimination against others on the basis of race, religion, color and gender mothers inequality among human beings. It causes injustice and suffering in society. He fights against irrational social constructs like blind faith, superstition, dogma, discrimination, inequality and untouchability for building a society on the basis of equality, social justice and rational thinking where all people – irrespective of their caste, religion, color, status and gender

– freely enjoy their rights and consciously carry out their responsibilities for their common good. People who believe in inclusiveness, universal brotherhood and global human wellbeing will always remember him.

I believe this book will be useful for academicians and research scholars engaged in research in social sciences and in the process of building a new India.

**Prof. B. A. Chopade**  
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# Preface

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was a national leader of India. He drafted the Indian Constitution to re-construct the country as a democratic republic on the basis of the principles and values of social justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. He raised the issues of century-old discrimination and exploitation practised by the so-called ‘upper castes’ against the marginalized and disadvantaged groups of the Indian society such as, SC, ST, Dalits and women for their development and social justice. He launched public movements for the untouchables’ right to equal access to public water resources. He publicly burned the Manusmriti, an ancient Indian religious text that sanctions ‘*caste system*’ and institutionalizes inequality among the people of four varnas. He inspired millions of Dalits with his slogan – ‘*Educate, Agitate and Organise*’ – for their social, economic and political empowerment.

This book contains scholarly papers presented by various academicians, research scholars and professionals at a national conference on ‘Contribution of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar to Modern India’ held on 1-2 February, 2020 in Visva-Bharati University. It highlights various dimensions of Dr. Ambedkar’s leadership and his contribution to modern India in the fields of scientific education, economic policy, planning and development, banking, river-basin projects, gender equality and women empowerment, labour welfare, social legislation, reservation (positive discrimination) for marginalized and disadvantaged groups in education, employment and political representation, cultural revolution and universal brotherhood.

After reading this book readers will realize how Dr. Ambedkar tried to transform India from a religion-based society to a constitution-based secular democratic republic.

This book will be a useful resource for academicians, research scholars, professionals and policy-makers working for the empowerment of SC, ST, OBC and women and inclusive development in India.

– **Editors**

# Acknowledgement

It is our great pleasure and honour to note that the SC, ST, OBC Employees Welfare Association of Visva-Bharati has successfully organized a National Conference on “*Contribution of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar to Modern India*” held on February 1-2, 2020 at Lipika, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan.

We are very much thankful to the administration of Visva-Bharati, especially Prof. Bidyut Chakrabarty, Honourable Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati for providing support in organizing the Conference.

We express our deep sense of gratitude to Prof. C.D. Naik, former Vice-Chancellor and Dean of School of Dr. Ambedkar Thought and Philosophy, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh for delivering a Keynote Address in the Conference as Chief Guest.

We sincerely express our gratitude to Prof. Y.S. Alone, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi for delivering his speech in the Conference as Special Guest.

Our heartfelt gratitude is also extended to Dr. Sumeet Mhaskar; Associate Professor and Associate Dean (Student Affairs), Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat for delivering his speech in the Conference as Guest of Honour.

We are also indebted to Dr. Sunil Kumar Suman, Faculty & In-Charge, Kolkata Regional Centre, Mahatma Gandhi Hindi International University for delivering his speech in the Conference as Guest of Honour.

We are also thankful to the representatives of various Associations, teaching and non-teaching staff of Visva-Bharati for attending the Conference and encouraging us. We also thank the students’ community and media persons for their active participation in the Conference.

We extend our thanks and appreciations to the cultural troupe of Sangit-Bhavana, Visva-Bharati for its musical enchantment in the Conference.

Finally, last but not the least, we would also like to put on record our thanks and appreciations to all members of our Association for their spontaneous contribution to the Conference and publication of this book.

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