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PREFACE

In today's rapidly evolving world, we face an urgent challenge: how to preserve the profound legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar while making it resonate with the new generation. His vision for an inclusive, modern India remains one of the most powerful blueprints for social justice and equality. Yet, in an age of digital disruption and constant transformation, we need to rethink how we present these ideas in a way that is not only relevant but also engaging for the youth.

As Chair Professor of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chair at Andhra University, I have been fortunate to witness firsthand the potential that lies within today's students. Their energy and curiosity are boundless, but it is our duty to ensure that they are connected to the roots of India's journey toward equality and social progress, led by stalwarts like Dr. Ambedkar. This book is a reflection of that commitment—an attempt to bridge the gap between the wisdom of the past and the demands of the present. Over the past two years, we have undertaken various initiatives to create a dynamic environment for students and scholars to engage with Ambedkar's ideals. These initiatives were designed not just to educate, but to inspire action, creativity, and deeper understanding. I have seen students come alive with new perspectives on social justice, and I have witnessed how modern formats of learning and interaction can make the principles of Babasaheb Ambedkar resonate more strongly than ever. **“Modernising Dr. Ambedkar's Ideology”** is more than just a recounting of events—it is a call to action. It is an invitation to universities, educators, and students across the country to take the lead in revitalizing the ideals that Ambedkar fought for. Through innovative approaches, we can ensure that his vision continues to light the path toward a more equitable and just India. This work is a product of collective efforts, collaboration, and the sincere belief that Dr. Ambedkar's philosophy holds the key to addressing many of the social and economic challenges we face today. I hope that this book serves as a resource and an inspiration for those who believe in the transformative power of education and inclusion.

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

The motivation behind writing “**Modernising Dr. Ambedkar’s Ideology**” stems from a striking moment on the popular Telugu TV show “Everu Meelo Koteswarudu”, hosted by renowned actor Akkineni Nagarjuna. During the show, a simple yet significant question was posed: “Who among the following is popularly known as Babasaheb?” The options were A) Vallabhbhai Patel, B) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, C) Rajendra Prasad, and D) Subhas Chandra Bose. A young contestant, playing to win a large prize, hesitated when faced with this question. Instead of identifying the correct answer—Dr. B.R. Ambedkar—she dismissed Ambedkar as a possibility and sought help through two lifelines. Unfortunately, even the audience poll steered her in the wrong direction, with the majority voting for Vallabhbhai Patel. After using the 50-50 lifeline, narrowing the options to Ambedkar and Patel, she still chose the incorrect answer, highlighting a troubling disconnect between today’s generation and Ambedkar’s legacy. This incident clearly reveals that many young people are unaware of the profound contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, not only as the chief architect of India’s Constitution but also as a visionary philosopher who championed modernization, urbanization, and industrialization. It underscores a growing gap between contemporary society, especially the Zee Generation, and the rich legacy of Ambedkar’s ideology, which is more relevant than ever in the modern world.

In response to this disconnect, the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chair at Andhra University, under the leadership of Prof. James Stephen Meka, took up the responsibility of re-connecting this generation with Ambedkar’s principles through a series of innovative events. These initiatives were designed to make students active participants, engaging them in ways that resonate with the digital age and contemporary sensibilities. Through interactive, creative, and inclusive formats, these events have proven successful in effectively communicating Ambedkar’s message to a modern audience. The central message remains unchanged—the advocacy for equality, social justice, and inclusion—but the methods of dissemination have been adapted to suit the evolving needs of society. By adopting modern approaches and leveraging student participation, these initiatives have bridged the gap between Ambedkar’s timeless ideology and the digital-savvy youth of

today. It is the sincere hope of the author that this book, “Modernising Dr. Ambedkar’s Ideology”, will serve as a model for universities across India, encouraging them to implement similar initiatives to address the disconnect between today’s youth and Ambedkar’s enduring legacy. With a deeper understanding of his vision, this generation will be better equipped to carry forward the values of social justice, equality, and progress that Ambedkar envisioned for India.