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BOOK REVIEW ON PERSPECTIVES ON INDIAN CONSTITUTION AND DEVELOPMENT

AUTHORED BY: PRIYADARSHINI

The name of the book is self-explanatory towards its theme. It is an enriched bundle of absolute observations and perspicacious insights that are offered by various renowned speakers. “Perspectives on Constitution and Development” stands as a timely, scholarly volume that brings together diverse perspectives on how India's constitutional framework interacts with and shapes its developmental agenda. It excels in rigorous analysis and expert insight, though it may feel daunting for those outside the legal-academic milieu. For professionals and scholars, it's a valuable reference; for newcomers, it's best approached alongside more introductory texts. Introducing the vision of our honourable Prime Minister and highlighting the quotes by Rabindra Nath Tagore and Matama Gandhi this book asserts the true essence of freedom on the occasion of the celebration of the seventh decade of Indian Independence and imbibed with a diverse set of themes to incite an automatic revisit towards our history and an advanced imagination of years to come by, resulting into a culmination of a book namely, *India At 75: Reminiscences And Reflections*, compiling the main ideas, deliberations & thoughts emerged during the occasion. Precisely, it led to the genesis of this book.

This compendium brings together insightful essays and lectures delivered during the special Constitution Day Lecture Series held in 2022–23. It reflects upon the interplay between constitutional principles and developmental goals, presenting legal, institutional, and societal reflections from sitting and former judges, senior advocates, policymakers, and academics.

The book is divided into several sections, each capturing a specific dimension of constitutional governance and its influence on India's developmental journey.

First, the Foundational Principles of this book explore the spirit of the Constitution, focusing on the Preamble, federalism, separation of powers, and constitutional morality and recognises the contributions, like those by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi emphasise the evolving nature of constitutional interpretation.

Secondly, a clear spirit of the Judiciary and Social Justice is shown through the Articles by

Justice Indira Banerjee and others reflect on judicial activism, access to justice, and affirmative action. Moreover, the discussions focus on how courts have addressed gender justice, environmental concerns, and the rights of the marginalised.

Thirdly, the section on democracy and development evaluates how the Constitution enables or restrains India's developmental initiatives. Including the deliberations on decentralisation, urban governance, and the role of local bodies.

Further, a detailed analysis of Constitutional Institutions like the Election Commission, CAG, Parliament, and Law Commission. Stresses the importance of institutional accountability and transparency in development.

Lastly, addressing the Contemporary Challenges that are pressing issues such as climate change, digital privacy, AI and law, and tribal rights.

These topics place India's constitutional development within a 21st-century global context.

Summing it up, this book is an insightful reflection of illustrious academicians and jurists expressing their vision, thoughts, and views about the constitutional democratic set-up of India, its work over the years and challenges. Furthermore, possibilities of reforms are included in the collection, to relight the true spirit of the constitution, gearing up for the government's vision of 2047. This collection is an expression of our constitutional values and acts as a reminder of the objectives that India wanted to achieve when the journey was initiated.

The deliverance covers a diverse array of themes ranging from the history of the Constitution and its evolution over the years, the role of law, legal education and research, potential sites for law reforms, international perspectives on human rights and business, sustainability and environment, the interface of technology and law as well as the ethos of the constitution. Such deliberations foster a philosophy of period reflection, reimagination and rejuvenation for the long-term endurance of our constitution. Each presentation in this collection bears the mark of a matchless style of these eminent academicians and doyens in their fields. Thus, it is an attempt to provide vast, enriching and stimulating literature to its audience.

Broadly, bifurcated into two parts this book is an intellectual read to students and the public of

all professions as the purpose of this manuscript is not to target any particular group of readers rather it is an artwork of notable jurists contributing to the enhancement of knowledge and providing a glimpse to Indian journey towards freedom and constitutional independence.

This book is a timely and intellectually rigorous volume that captures the dynamic interface between India's legal framework and its developmental trajectory. While not a beginner-friendly read, it is an essential resource for serious scholars, policy thinkers, and legal minds invested in India's constitutional journey.

Certainly, it comes with some limitations as well, like its academic language with dense legal prose may be inaccessible to lay readers or early law students. Its fragmented flow, as a compilation, the book lacks a unifying editorial voice or concluding synthesis, and with limited case law engagement, principles are discussed broadly, but some chapters are light on in-depth case analysis.

Focusing on the matrix of reviewing the literature, it is prominent to embrace this book with an assessment of 9.8 out of 10 and deducing the rest on account of its design and layout, which is kept moderately simple and could upset the audience to an extent. Thus, overall, this book is about the expedition of the glorious document constituting the bedrock of the Indian state, with countless hopes and daunting challenges abound and it's a good recommendation for law students (especially in constitutional law or public policy), Civil service aspirants seeking depth in polity and governance, Academics and researchers studying constitutional evolution, Legal practitioners and judges interested in jurisprudential trends and Policy professionals aiming to align development with constitutional values.