PREFACE

For more than forty years preceding the transfer of power, the Indian political scene was dominated by forceful and charismatic personalities. Jayaprakash Narayan was one of those leaders who played a significant role in the political emergence of India by carving out a unique role for himself. Through his untiring efforts, Jayaprakash Narayan emerged as an outstanding leader of independent India. Though there are several studies on Jayaprakash Narayan covering his multifarious activities and his participation in mass movements, the fact is that there are few objective and academic studies of his political ideas.

In the present thesis, an attempt has been made to analyse Jayaprakash Narayan's significant political ideas like Marxian Socialism, Servodaya, Total Revolution, Communitarian Polity etc. in a critical and dispassionate manner. It is the purpose of this study to put Jayaprakash Narayan's political ideas and activities in a proper perspective with a view to develop a theoretical framework about his political ideas. The discussion in the study is based on a critical analysis of unpublished and published source material collected from the JP Papers at the Nehru Memorial Museum and library, New Delhi. It is hoped that this frame of reference would make this a useful study.
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