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PREFACE

The varied gains from the international trade alignment today require no further emphasis. The drive for development, innovation, and acquisitions of new knowledge and technologies do not leave the developing nations to reckon the benefits of international trade but calls upon them to cautiously embark it. The slogan of free trade largely witnessing an increasing number of proponents from all around the globe is being gradually imbibed by the emerging nations that have already set in to embrace the world economy. However the solemn intentions of free trade can only be realised by abandoning the trade restrictive practices- an essential task that goes without saying. It is with this aim the present work is undertaken in context of the relevance the issue has gained in the post-WTO regime.

The present doctoral research work comprising eleven chapters makes a humble effort to comprehend the procedural and operational problems being faced by the exporters and importers of the country and draws out suggestive measures that would go to unshackle the foreign trade from the inhibitive policies and practices. The post-1996 period is the temporal dimension that is focused upon. The work also incorporates the assessments and forecasts as regards the future trade position of the country at the turn of the century against the backdrop of the ongoing reform process.

The first chapter attempts to portray initially the vital role played by the external trade in the economic structure of a developing nation as that of India. It then stresses upon the pressing need of the Indian economy to integrate with the global economy that is abound with changes. Recapitulations of the post-independence factors and the prohibitive policies are made that set the context in which liberalization was the only way out for the collapsing Indian economy of 1990s.
The second chapter makes a commodity wise analysis while the third chapter devotes itself to the analysis of the direction of the country's foreign trade up till 2003-2004. The fourth chapter studies the trade promotion measures while the fifth chapter draws up the insurance and financing aspects of Indian foreign trade. The activities of the ECGC and the EXIM Bank form the focus areas. The sixth chapter discusses the state trading and the role of prominent public sector enterprises in Indian foreign trade. The state trading is discussed in the light of the enforced related provisions of the WTO. The seventh chapter studies the bilateral and multilateral trading arrangements that India has with major countries and the trade regions. The eighth chapter is especially devoted to encapsulate India’s trading activity with the major trade blocs of the world. The ninth chapter dwells upon the contemporary operational and procedural impediments being faced by the export organizations in the country. The operational hurdles constitute the common trade environmental problems faced by the organizations while they engage in the export operations. The procedural obstacles that are discussed relate to the sector specific problems particularly as regards the policy and procedural matters. The tenth chapter attempts to make the long term projections for the country's export and import trade as they would appear beyond 2001 in consequence to the ongoing reform process. The eleventh chapter concludes the work by making specific and objective related conclusions. It sums up the work with the upshots that emerge from the analysis undertaken by the researcher. The suggestive measures propose to outline the trade-conducive steps that would go to enhance the nation's trade status in the global arena. It also spells the words of caution for the pitfalls consequent to a blatant and blind integration with the international trade.