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## Book Review

**Made in India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise**  
**Amitabh Kant, Rupa Publications India Pvt Ltd (2023)**  
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### ABSTRACT

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The book critically evaluates reforms and economic policies over the years, offering a comprehensive view of India's growing economic landscape. The book ends on a progressive and positive note, highlighting innovative and sustainable strategies for economic growth. Offering both an optimistic viewpoint and a thorough understanding of India's economic history, it is a worthwhile read for anyone interested in learning about the country's economic journey after independence.

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In the book “Made in India,” Amitabh Kant, an eminent Indian bureaucrat, former CEO of NITI Aayog, and India’s G20 Sherpa, offers a very pragmatic and optimistic presentation of India’s economic journey. Spanning over seven chapters, the book methodically traces India’s transformation from colonial rule to becoming the fifth-largest economy in the world, summarizing the evolution of its business environment over the last 75 years. The book critically evaluates reforms and economic policies over the years, offering a comprehensive view of India’s growing economic landscape. Kant discusses the historical course of the Indian economy, emphasizing most of the periods of the post-independence, post-1991 liberalization, and the development that occurred post-2014. The book opens with the chapter “Legacies of the Past,” which lays the historical foundation by examining India’s economic heritage. This section is followed by the chapter “From British Raj to Licence Raj,” which explores the crucial transition from colonial governance to the era of license control, while exploring and discussing its necessity at that time and the challenges it posed. In “Tryst with Reforms”, Kant discusses various economic reforms that have shaped the current modern India. The journey continues in “The World: India Inc’s Oyster”, where Kant underlines India’s growing importance in the global economy, focusing on its international business engagements and their relevance. In the fifth chapter, “A New Paradigm: Revitalizing the Economy”, Kant examines the recent changes in India’s economic approaches, primarily over the past decade since 2014, highlighting it as a period of significant transformation. “The Upstarts: The World of Startups”, the sixth chapter, explores India’s growing conducive startup ecosystem, emphasizing its role in stimulating the economic growth and development of newer startups and unicorns, which are essential for addressing problems and challenges across the various spheres of India and attracting foreign investments. In the last chapter, “Climate Change is Everyone’s Business”, the significance of creating effective economic strategies and plans to improve sustainability is emphasized. This book’s first four chapters address the economic history of India, starting with British colonization and concluding with the nation’s early reforms. While commencing with the fifth chapter, Kant directs more of the discussion on the policies implemented by the government of Narendra Modi over the previous

ten years. Here, he enumerates the most significant reforms implemented and contrasts them with the pronouncements and measures of the preceding governments.

The book examines the effect of numerous reforms and policies very methodically on India’s developing economy. Mentioning a few of them are as nationalisation of banks, GST reform, RERA, and production-linked incentives (PLI). Kant specifically emphasizes the role of PLI in strengthening the manufacturing industry. Furthermore, he explains the significance of boosting the manufacturing sector and raising agricultural productivity, simultaneously nurturing the service industry to ensure sustained and enduring economic growth. The depth and relevance of this book increase still further as Kant has described encounters and interactions with key policymakers and Indian prime ministers in this book which makes his account even more intriguing. Beyond traditional economic policies, he also shares his role in promoting Indian tourism through programs like Incredible India. The book showcases the growth and community contributions of India’s most prominent companies and business leaders by intertwining their histories together. Inspiring tales of successful entrepreneurs like Rahul Bhatia and Sunil Bharti Mittal are additionally included, illustrating challenges that large businesses encounter. Using contrasts of India’s economic growth with those of Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, and Singapore, Kant shares important insights and learnings from India’s past as well as these other countries’ economic progress. Furthermore, the book reports major challenges that India faces, such as achieving industrialization with minimal carbon emissions, and examines the effects and solutions to the global economic slowdown and prevailing negative sentiments.

Another focus of this book is how India’s journey towards digitization has been extremely disruptive. Kant’s vision includes future advancements aimed at boosting agricultural productivity and nurturing startups to contribute significantly to sustainable economic growth. The book illuminates startup success stories in fields like technology, insurance, robotics, supply chain, and agriculture, illustrating the disruptive and transformative potential of India’s emerging startups. Kant advocates for urbanization which is driven by manufacturing

growth and increased agricultural productivity, he proposes a development model where growth is led by the private sector which creates wealth and jobs while the government acts merely as a facilitator, establishing clear and transparent policies to aid this overall progress. Highlighting the importance of ambitious risk-taking, especially among Indian youth, Kant calls for a change in education curriculum that aligns with current and future industry demands, he prescribes comprehensive educational reforms to effectively harness and empower the world's largest working-age population. The

book ends on a progressive and positive note, highlighting innovative and sustainable strategies for economic growth. Offering both an optimistic viewpoint and a thorough understanding of India's economic history, it is a worthwhile read for anyone interested in learning about the country's economic journey after independence. Anyone interested in learning about the stages of India's economic development, as well as management and economics students, may find this book to be a useful resource..

**- Vikas Kumar Tyagi**