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- ◆ Nourishing the Tiger
- ◆ Initial Reactions



The Title

- ◆ The title signifies the theme or the main message that is sought to be conveyed.
- ◆ Kerala has quietly but clearly moved from being a laggard to a leader in economic development, building upon its historical lead in social achievements.
- ◆ The true story of Kerala lies in the future, by virtue of its enormous potential. Kerala's economy may be likened to a *crouching tiger*, whose strengths seem to be concealed.
- ◆ This tiger needs to be nourished. The discussions in this volume touch upon many aspects, primarily relating to physical and human infrastructure, that need to be addressed to accelerate the state's economic development.
- ◆ Along with these, certain assumptions that served the state well in the past, that have now taken on the inviolable nature of *sacred cows*, need to be revisited, recalibrated and sometimes even abandoned .



The Contents- The Essentials

- ◆ The 11 chapters are spread over 234 pages.
- ◆ All the chapters use a mix of primary and secondary source material and have been presented earlier in an international conference (*Kerala in the Global Economy: Opportunities and Challenges*, Thiruvananthapuram, December 2005) and refereed.
- ◆ The papers are by academic economists, management specialists and practicing industrialists; thus having a nice blend of *theory and practice*.
- ◆ It is an excellent example of cross-border collaboration.
- ◆ *We hope that this rare confluence will make the arguments less bookish!*
- ◆ The book deals with some issues of current importance, such as roads, that have not hitherto merited systematic empirical scrutiny.
- ◆ The cover picture is of a sculpture titled *Global Migration* by one of Kerala's foremost sculptors, KS Radhakrishnan.
- ◆ It is published by a leading publisher from Kerala, to international standards, and is reasonably priced.



The Contents -Demystified

- ◆ There are *three* broad sub themes.
 - *First*, the *external environment* impacting the state (the TN Srinivasan, Pushpangadan-Parameswaran, and MNV Nair papers).
 - *Second*, the *physical* (roads, info communications, electricity) and *human* (primary and tertiary education) *infrastructure* sectors.
 - *Third*, given the external environment and the infrastructure, Balagopal discusses three projects (broadly defined) that have succeeded. These are from eco-tourism, an international airport and this very Technopark.
- ❖ Arun Kumar's introduction provides a context to the arguments in the book, surveys and summarises the main findings of each of the chapters and posits the crouching tiger characterization.
- ❖ Finally Narayanan's concluding chapter takes the arguments further and makes some informed guesses about future courses of action for releasing the tiger.



Its Place in the Discourse on Kerala


- ◆ The book is not just yet another addition to the literature on Kerala's growth and development.
- ◆ Although it does not pretend to have the last word on the issues, is likely to lead to more informed discussions on the chosen issues.
- ◆ Most of the authors have not written previously on Kerala. They attempt to see the issues with an unclouded pair of lenses.
- ◆ All the chapters are written in a comparative perspective-
"Kerala in the Global Economy."



Nourishing the Tiger

- ◆ The book would have succeeded if:
 - It generates sustained and continued conversations on the issues.
 - It provides increased focus on Kerala's successes and its potential and steps to achieve its potential.
 - It helps to re-characterize Kerala as a dynamic economy and modestly helps to enhance its dynamism.

Initial Reactions

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- ◆ *"Kerala, long a showcase for human development in India, did not have a stellar record in economic growth. But now in the last few years it has started moving decisively in the latter direction as well. This book brings out in some details the remarkable potential that Kerala has in terms of the new economy, and some of the pitfalls it has to avoid. Economic success in Kerala in these new directions will be exemplary for much of the rest of India, and this book is a major attempt at exploring the possibilities and challenges"*

Pranab Bardhan, *Professor of Economics, University of California, Berkeley*

- ◆ *"This book is a refreshing addition to the understanding of Kerala's economic development, with a clear focus on the future. What makes the book so special is that the contributors come from diverse fields and bring fresh insights and understanding to the problems of development of the state. The three excellent case studies presented are really the icing on the cake and show in a fascinating manner how impossible missions can be made possible if there is will and commitment."*

Leela Gulati, *Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, Kerala*

- ◆ *"This book takes a critical look at the recent chapters of Kerala's growth story that continues to fascinate. Has Kerala joined the fast growing States? How sustainable is its recent high growth? How replicable are its successes with Technopark, Cochin airport and earth tourism?"*

Kirit Parikh, *Member, Planning Commission, Government of India*

Kerala's Economy: Crouching Tiger, Sacred Cows

"Kerala, long a showcase for human development in India, did not have a stellar record in economic growth. But now in the last few years it has started moving decisively in the latter direction as well. This book brings out in some details the remarkable potential that Kerala has in terms of the new economy, and some of the pitfalls it has to avoid. Economic success in Kerala in these new directions will be exemplary for much of the rest of India, and this book is a major attempt at exploring the possibilities and challenges"

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Kerala's Economy: Crouching Tiger, Sacred Cows

Kerala's Economy: Crouching Tiger, Sacred Cows

Edited by

Sunil Mani
Anjini Kochar
Arun M. Kumar

