

if it is backed by adequate national policies in a conducive social and economic environment. It is time that our planners, academics and activists paid heed to this.

This issue of the Journal carries a variety of papers. A major study on development-induced displacement in Kerala, the first of its kind, offers valuable data and insights and raises a multitude of questions on policies and practices related to development. Part of a national effort, this study will definitely provoke a debate. 'Human Development Reports and Amartya Sen' is a piece by someone who knows the Nobel Laureate at close quarters and offers critical insights into the development discourse. The paper on 'the impact of advertising traditional healers on the health-seeking behavior of women' is from Cameroon and brings along some interesting inter-cultural insights. The study on the 'Cultural connotations in the industrial structure of Kerala' is a fruitful search for the relation between cultural tradition and structural formation of industries in Kerala. Similarly, the study on ageing too provides valuable insights into contemporary Kerala society. The paper 'Bleaching Syndrome Assimilation Pathology' is once again an insightful study based on the US context. All in all, this issue offers a vast amount of material on contemporary society, from a pluri-cultural perspective.

**MK George**  
*Chief Editor*

## ***Editorial***

### **On Amartya Sen**

This is the second editorial that the Journal is carrying on Amartya Sen. While the first was in the context of his being awarded the Nobel prize, the present one is in the context of a fresh debate he generated in Kerala, on globalization, development and related concepts.

In the discourse on globalization one notices two general trends: one, blind support of the process and the other, uncritical denouncing of the same. Nobel Laureate Amartya was able to highlight the folly of such extremes. He had said, "there are major gains to be made in globalisation. So I am pro-globalisation." He also added that if a country had globalisation at the highest possible speed and paid no attention to lack of social opportunity, illiteracy and lack of health care, it was creating problems for itself.

Sen fought against reckless marketization and, at the same time, recognized the inevitability of the processes of liberalisation, privatization, and globalization. He relentlessly sought for a new philosophy of development. His work on famines and the insight that a democratic government and the free press are very important for preventing recurring famines, remains unchallenged. His contributions on social choice, definitions of poverty and welfare indices, nay, the very definition of development itself are a reminder to all social scientists and activists to constantly rework their concepts.

The challenge to the state of Kerala, with its much acclaimed 'experience of development' (Amartya dissociated himself from the more popular use of 'model of development') and the whole of India is to go beyond ideological baggage, stop the uncritical denouncement of globalisation and start a creative interaction with the emerging processes. That, indeed, is the value of Amartya Sen. He asserts unambiguously that globalisation can be a major instrument of prosperity