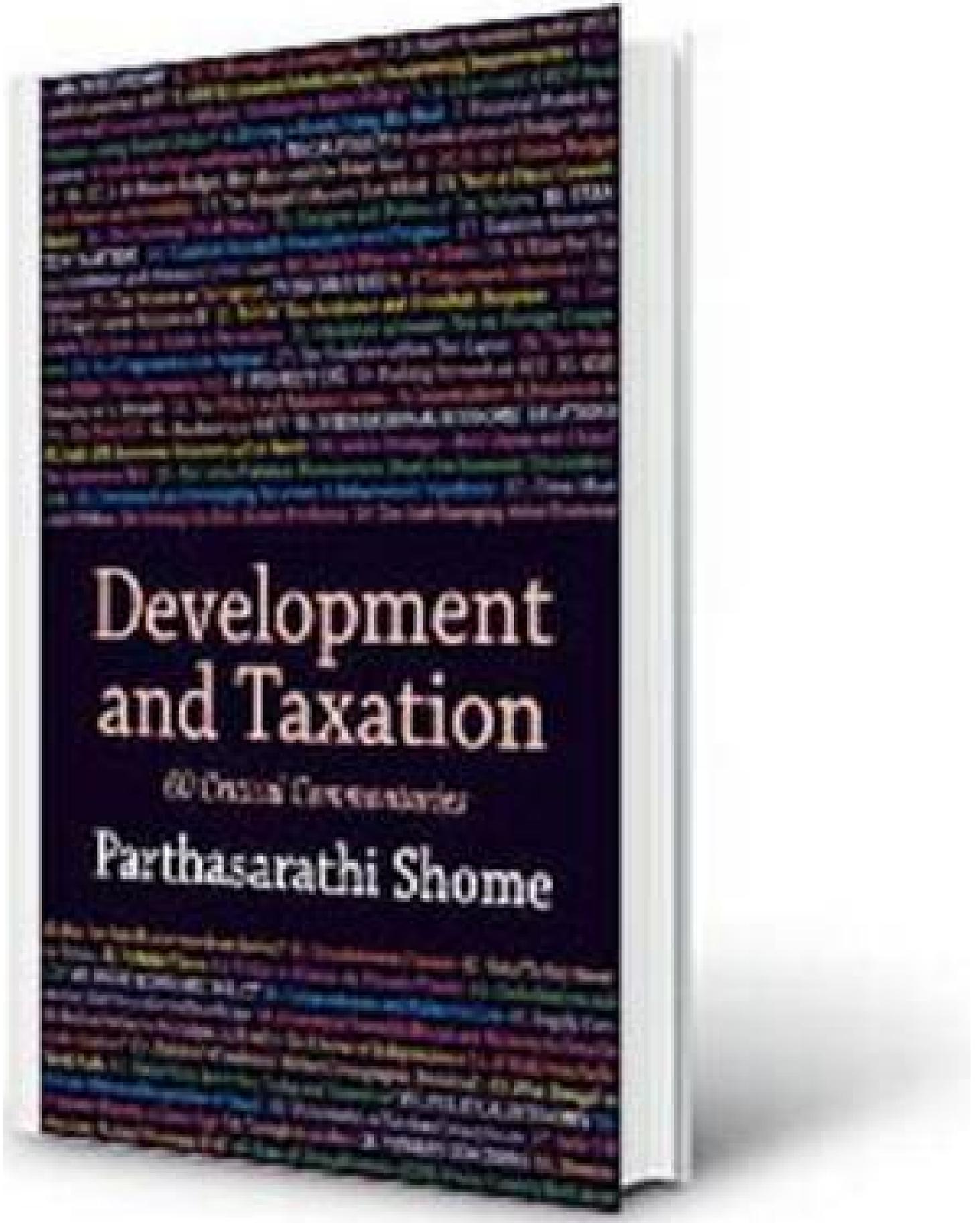


BOOK REVIEW

An economic appraisal



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A compilation of essays on socio-economic issues, from infrastructure to demonetisation

It must be hard for a writer commenting at regular intervals, on socio-economic events as they happen, to decide what pieces of one's output should go into a compilation in a book form, should he choose to bring out one. There would obviously be some pieces which must have given the author greater satisfaction than some others. That would naturally predispose him towards its inclusion. Yet, he must be equally conscious of the fact that for all the joy that a particular piece of writing may have given him at the time of its composition, its relevance to the general public, who must of necessity read it at some distant time in the future, may be open to debate.

It becomes even more difficult if a selection has to be made from a universe that consists of articles written for a newspaper where choice of subjects is vast and a decision on leaving out some is a challenging one. It is to the credit of Parthasarathi Shome, the author of such a compilation (*Development and Taxation-60 critical commentaries*, Academic Foundation, 2017), that he has put together a set of articles in book form, that have not only stood the test of time but also provide a flavour to the reading public about events of the recent past.

Variety of subjects

The 60 essays that form the compilation have been classified under different heads ranging from socio-economic policies for India ('A walk from Kolkata to London': On the challenge of improving urban infrastructure in Kolkata) to articles that deal with international economic relations (China Must Look Within: On what must China do to rebalance its investment-led economic growth of the last few decades).

In tune with his abiding interest in matters of taxation, three sections have been devoted to aspects of tax policy, specific issues in direct and indirect taxes.

Expectedly, the subject of demonetisation (Demonetisation: An (un) Necessary Evil) and the challenge of easing conditions for setting new businesses in India (Ease of Doing Business Cross-Country Indicators) have also been included.

Altogether an extensive compilation on economic issues affecting India with just the right flavour of things international.

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