



ANNUAL REPORT

OF MADRAS INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

2024-25





Hon'ble President of India confers the Padma Shri upon Prof K L Krishna for his exceptional contributions to education and literature (27 May 2025, New Delhi).

Annual Report

2024-25



The MIDS Annual Report 2024-25

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This Annual Report covers the financial year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

Published by

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I. Director's Report

The Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) continues to uphold its long-standing tradition of rigorous multidisciplinary research, cultivated over five decades through sustained engagement across the social sciences. The Institute's research portfolio spans an extensive range—from theoretical and empirical analyses to structural and policy-oriented studies—and encompasses regional, national, and global perspectives as well as historical and contemporary themes. While remaining anchored in its established areas of inquiry, MIDS has also continued to adapt its research agenda to emerging national and global challenges, including shifting development paradigms, evolving geopolitical dynamics, sub-national economic transformations, and the socio-economic implications of rapidly advancing technologies.

Although research constitutes the core of the Institute's mission, MIDS places strong emphasis on disseminating its findings to policymakers, academic communities, and broader publics. This is achieved through a combination of publications, seminars, workshops, and training programmes. During the academic year, the Institute organised more than 35 academic events, attracting scholars, students, and practitioners from within India and abroad. Through these dissemination efforts, MIDS continues to affirm its position as a leading social science research institution in the state and the region.

In recent years, the Institute has encountered several institutional challenges. Faculty strength has remained inadequate for over a year, with recruitment hindered by uncompetitive salary structures that have prompted some faculty members to explore opportunities elsewhere. Doctoral admissions have also been adversely affected by constraints in hostel accommodation and uncertainties surrounding fellowship availability, including support from the ICSSR. While certain issues have since been addressed, the Institute remains committed to its foundational objectives of producing high-quality research, generating meaningful publications, and contributing substantively to socially relevant policy debates. The sections that follow present a consolidated overview of the academic and research activities undertaken by MIDS during 2024–25.

Research

MIDS continues to play an important role in shaping development policy and informing programme evaluation in both Tamil Nadu and India. Faculty members serve on several expert committees and contribute to the preparation of policy documents for state and national governments.

Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey (TNHPS)

Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey (TNHPS), sponsored by the Department of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Government of Tamil Nadu, under the TANII scheme. TNHPS is a collaboration between MIDS, the Department of Economics and Statistics (DES), Government of Tamil Nadu, and the Survey Research Center (SRC), University of Michigan. TNHPS is India's first longitudinal household survey designed to track changes in socio-economic conditions over time. A large sample representing all districts and socio-economic groups was surveyed using digital data collection methods, marking a significant advancement for evidence-based policymaking.

A comprehensive Pre-Baseline Survey (PBS) covering 2,01,282 households was conducted in 2018–19. Four rounds of the Tamil Nadu Covid Pulse Survey (TNCPS) in 2020–21 generated timely, high-quality data on critical socio-economic indicators. This was followed by the Baseline Survey (BLS), or Wave 1, in 2022–23. The Baseline Survey, conducted from October 2022 to March 2023, covered 20,408 households across all 38 districts, representing 684 rural and 787 urban PSUs. It collected detailed information across eight themes: employment, livelihoods, income, consumption, education, health, basic infrastructure, and governance and social capital. The report provides insights into socio-economic development patterns and enables pre- and post-pandemic comparisons. The Baseline Survey State Report was submitted to the government.

Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services of 61 Prioritised Wetlands in Tamil Nadu

This project, led by Prof L Venkatachalam and sponsored by the State Planning Commission (SPC), evaluates the ecosystem services associated with 61 prioritised wetlands across Tamil Nadu. Field surveys covering 30 wetlands—encompassing 1,800 households—have been completed, with surveys for the remaining wetlands expected to conclude by November 2024. An Interim Report was submitted in September 2024, followed by the final report in March 2025.

Focus Block Development Programme

MIDS was selected as the knowledge partner for Tamil Nadu government's flagship initiative, the Focus Block Development Programme. MIDS provides research and data analytics support for this programme. Fifty focus blocks have been identified. MIDS faculty organizes knowledge sharing sessions for government officials through this project and conducts research on issues pertaining to the fifty blocks.

Publications

During 2024–25, MIDS sustained its commitment to publishing high-quality and publicly accessible research on economic, cultural, and social development. Over the academic year, the Institute produced a substantial body of work, including nine journal articles, 17 book chapters, of which five of them in government publications, 11 articles in newspapers and magazines, four working papers, one occasional policy paper, one policy brief, and one research report. Notably, five books were authored/edited by MIDS faculty—four by Prof Ananta Kumar Giri and one by Prof Ajit Menon. The faculty’s research continued to receive significant media coverage.

Review of Development and Change (RDC)

The Institute’s flagship peer-reviewed journal, published biannually in collaboration with SAGE, continued its publication schedule in 2024. Now completing its thirtieth year, the journal, *Review of Development and Change* (RDC), promotes multidisciplinary scholarship on development and social change, covering sectors such as industry, agriculture, environment, urbanisation, social policy, poverty, and inequality. In 2024, the journal received 130 manuscript submissions, maintained an acceptance rate of 20 per cent, and published 12 articles and 6 book reviews in Volume 29. It recorded 38,009 full-text downloads in 2024 and an additional 9,485 downloads as of July 2025. The journal currently has 60 institutional and 1,837 package subscriptions, all of which were renewed.

These achievements were possible due to the continued support of the editorial advisory board, reviewers, contributors, and readers.

Books, Working Papers, and Research Reports

An edited volume revisiting *India’s Industrial Policy* by Prof Padmini Swaminathan was published by the Institute. Prof Ajit Menon published a co-edited volume on environmental politics, while Prof Ananta Kumar Giri produced four new works. The MIDS Working Papers series featured contributions from visiting scholars, addressing themes such as industrial plant scale, interpretations of Subramania Bharati, Upanishadic sociology, and care labour. An Occasional Paper on the State of the Indian Economy was authored by visiting fellow Mr. Abhishek Anand. The TNHPS team also completed a comprehensive report on *Income, Employment, and Living Conditions in Tamil Nadu*, accompanied by a policy brief examining state government welfare schemes.

Academic Events

In 2024–25, the Institute organised 39 academic events, including seminars, public lectures, workshops, development dialogues, panel discussions, symposiums, book releases, a doctoral colloquium, a development conclave, a library exhibition, an awards ceremony, and the inauguration of a certification course. In these events, the Institute hosted numerous distinguished scholars who delivered lectures and talks on a wide range of topics, including international trade, state finances and the finance commission, ecological futures, GST revenues, union budget 2024-25, economic nationalism, child rights, social justice, industrial plant sizes, economic development, energy transition, fiscal federalism and regional inequalities, contemporary capitalism and the labour market, longitudinal surveys, and East Asian development. The MIDS library curated an exhibition that attracted considerable public interest.

More than 2,000 students, researchers, and practitioners participated across these events. Collectively, they reflect the Institute’s commitment to fostering rigorous academic exchange and sustained public engagement.

Awards and Recognitions

We are proud to note that MIDS faculty continue to get well-deserved recognition for their work.

Prof K L Krishna, former Chairperson of MIDS, was awarded Padma Shri for his exceptional contributions to education and literature. Known for his outstanding teaching of econometrics and industrial economics, Prof Krishna’s pedagogical brilliance and his contributions to dealing with issues in Indian economy makes him a respected figure among generations of scholars.

Prof A R Venkatachalapathy received Sahitya Akademi Award for his Tamil book *Tirunelveli Ezhuchiyum VOC-yum 1908*. It is notable that the Sahitya Akademi had recognised a research work, after a long gap, outside of fiction in recent times. Prof Chalapathy was bestowed with Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism under the non-fiction category for his book *Swadeshi Steam*. He also received *Vikatan Nambikkai Virudhu* from Ananda Vikatan Media Group. Both Prof Krishna and Prof Chalapathy received their respective awards from the Hon’ble President of India.

Prof Ajit Menon received Visiting Fellowship at Flame University, Pune. Dr K Hafsal received a scholarship under RBI scheme for faculty from academic institutions. Dr K Jafar received Best Paper award at the Fourth Annual International Migration Conference, Sonipat. Prof L Venkatachalam received Distinguished Alumni Award from Annamalai University.

Teaching and Other Academic Engagements

During the year, four research affiliates were hosted by the Institute, three new scholars joined the PhD programme, four scholars submitted their theses, five scholars received their doctoral degrees, and fourteen scholars continued their work toward dissertations.

MIDS has also launched the Certificate Programme in Public Policy (CPPM) with support from the State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu. The inaugural cohort comprised 15 students from diverse backgrounds, and the programme featured lectures delivered by both MIDS faculty and distinguished external experts. The introduction of CPPM marks a significant milestone in the Institute's history, creating opportunities for future expansion into postgraduate teaching.

MIDS remains committed to fostering high-quality research, deepening its engagement with public policy, and contributing to social and developmental transformation through its research, publications, and teaching.

M Suresh Babu

II. Research Projects

Ongoing Projects

	Project Title	Sponsoring Agency	Principal Investigator(s)
1	Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey (TNHPS)	Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department, Government of Tamil Nadu	M Suresh Babu, K Jafar, L Venkatachalam, & Kripa Ananthpur (Retired)
2	Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services: A Study of 61 Prioritised Wetlands in Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board (TNSLURB), State Planning Commission (SPC), Government of Tamil Nadu	L Venkatachalam
3	Focus Block Development Programme (FBDP)	State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu	M Suresh Babu, M Umanath, K Hafsal

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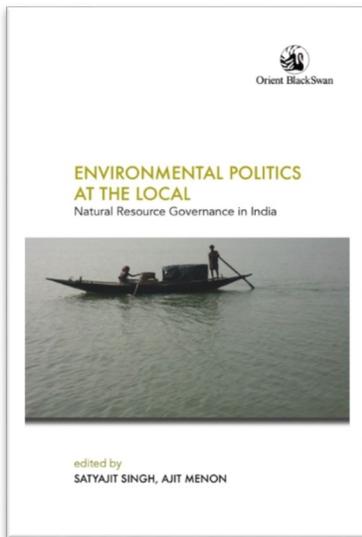
IV. About the Books

Environmental Politics at the Local

Natural Resource Governance in India

Edited by Satyajit Singh and Ajit Menon

Orient Blackswan, 2024, Print ISBN 9789354425721 (Hardback)



The practice of decentralisation and devolution of power to the ‘local’ have become central to public policy discourse. Existing scholarship argues that decentralisation will not only allow local communities to better articulate their needs, but also ensure a move towards sustainable, accountable and equitable governance, since local bodies are closer to the people they represent.

While agreeing with this broad consensus, *Environmental Politics at the Local* takes a critical look at the politics of the local that is central to the wider political economy of decentralisation. Despite its promise to democratise control over natural resources, decentralisation faces socio-political and institutional challenges in situations of unequal property and power relations. This is especially true given the entrenched hierarchies of caste, class, gender and community. These social divisions, and the contestations they lead to, problematise the spatial extent of decentralisation as well as the idea of the local.

The case studies included in the book cut across rural and urban settings. They combine macro critiques of decentralisation with micro explorations of local politics and institutions. The contexts discussed range from issues of land rights in Meghalaya, to the concerns of Koli fishers in Mumbai, and the repercussions of joint forest management in the Sunderbans. Through their nuanced perspectives, the writers ask: To what extent have governments really enabled decision-making at the local level? What kind of gaps emerge between policy vision and implementation? Who represents the ‘local’ when different groups have competing interests?

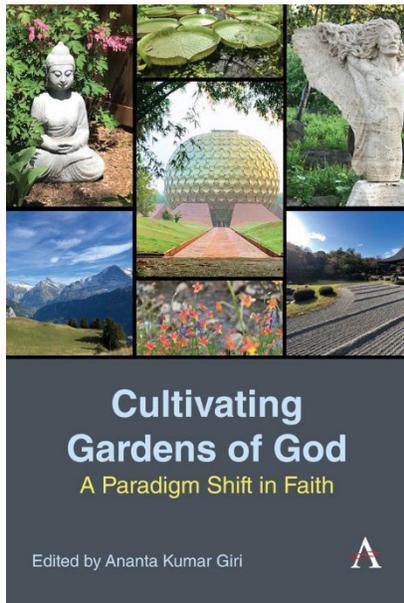
This book is an essential read for anyone interested in public policy, development studies and environmental and socio-economic justice.

Cultivating Gardens of God

A Paradigm Shift in Faith

Edited by Ananta Kumar Giri

Anthem Press, 2024, Print ISBN 9781839991271 (Hardback)



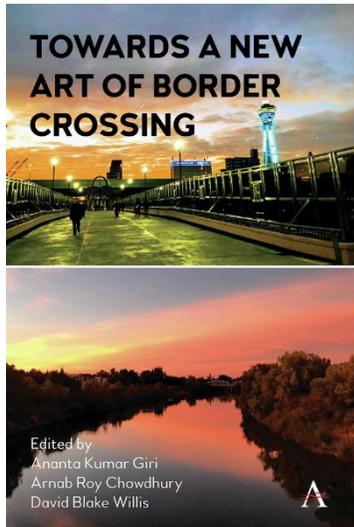
In self, society, religion and politics we are used to the language and discourse of Kingdom of God. But in this God is presented as an omnipotent king who is also angry at slight deviation. We get glimpses of such powerful and angry God in Old Testament as well as in many other religious traditions of the world. In such a discourse and portrayal of God, we fail to realize that God is mercy, rahim, karuna and compassion. God is our ever-awakened nurturer and He and She is continuously walking and meditating with us with mercy as well as firm challenges for self-development, mutual realizations and responsible cosmic engagement and participation.

The vision and discourse of Kingdom of God have many a time been confined within a logic of power where we are prone to valorize God's power in order to valorize our own power on Earth, especially the logic of sovereignty at the level of self and society, rather than realize God's mercy. This has led to varieties of discourses of political theology in which we are much more preoccupied with power of God rather than God's mercy. God here is also a powerful patriarch. Political theology from Thomas Hobbes to Carl Schmidt has been linked to violence in religion and politics as well. In this book, we explore the challenges of rethinking and transforming the existing and conventional discourse of Kingdom of God to Gardens of God.

Towards a New Art of Border Crossing

Edited by Ananta Kumar Giri, Arnab Roy Chowdhury and David Blake Willis

Anthem Press, 2024, Print ISBN 9781839986383 (Hardback)



Boundaries, borders and margins are related concepts and realities, and each of these can be conceptualized and organized in closed or open ways—with degrees of closure or openness. The logics of stasis and closure, as well as cults of exclusivist and exclusionary sovereignty, are reflected and embodied in the closed xenophobic conceptualization and organization of boundaries, borders and margins. But, an open conceptualization of the borderlands, where mixing and hybridity take place at a rapid, even dizzying, pace, gives rise to Creolization—at the threshold of sovereignties, as something that can also be imagined.

At present, our border zones are spaces of anxiety-ridden security arrangements, violence and death. The existing politics of boundary maintenance is wedded to a cult of sovereignty at various levels, which produces bare lives, bodies and lands. We need the new art of border-crossing to be defined by the notion of camaraderie and shared sovereignties and non-sovereignties. Border zones can also be zones of meetings, communication, transcendence and festive celebration of the limits of our identities. Thus, we need a new art and politics of boundary transmutation, transformation and transcendence, in the broadest possible sense, that entails the production of spatial, scalar, somatic, cognitive, affective and spiritual transitions.

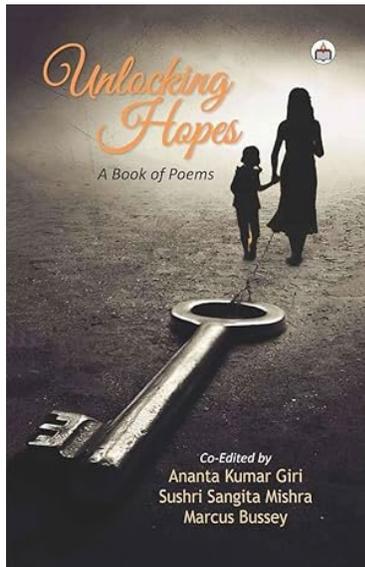
Crossing Borders is a powerful theme and metaphor for all of us in the midst of COVID-19 (since 2020) and the current geopolitics of war that is hovering over Eurasia. We need these modes of knowing and being that shun violence; ontologies that are fluid and seeking instead of aggressive, self-certain, arrogant and violent. Amidst this chaos, we need new modes of knowing, or epistemologies, where knowing of, or about, the other is also a festive and artistic process of knowing with the other. We need an artistic ontological-epistemology of participation for a new art of border-crossing where the boundary between ontology and epistemology is continually redrawn with emergent negotiation and creativity.

Unlocking Hopes

A Book of Poems

Edited by Ananta Kumar Giri, Sushri Sangita Mishra, Marcus Bussey

Authors Press, 2025



Hope is a foundation and continued source of sustenance in our lives. But it is often locked, as during our recent COVID-19 lockdowns and the many wars and destructions preceding and succeeding it, such as in Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan, among others. *Unlocking Hopes: A Book of Poems* brings together more than a hundred poets from around the world to help us not only unlock hope but also cultivate it with our sadhana, songs, and struggles for new worlds of beauty, dignity, and dialogue. It also invites us to realize that hope is a muscle, and we need to exercise it so it does not wither. There are key practices in maintaining hope: forest walking, being with friends, singing and dancing, meditating, participating in social, cultural, political, and spiritual movements, and looking up at the stars at night. Reading poetry is a hope-full practice. It

nourishes the soul when so much in the world seems hopeless. Poets work on hope, seeing the writing and sharing of poetry as a calling to hope in dark times and against the odds. Yet, the work is what we need to do to keep our futures open and alive to our spiritual calling to be better tomorrow than we can manage today. This book contains hopeful poetry. Something for every day and also something for the times when things seem hopeless. Carry it with you, keep it close. It will enkindle sparks of fire, love, and hope.

V. Abstracts of Research Papers

Ajit Menon

Brokering Power: Bureaucratic Contestations in Participatory Forest Governance (with Roshni Kutty)

The success of forest governance reforms aimed at decentralisation, local participation, and sustainable resource use depends on the bureaucracy implementing such reforms. One such case of decentralised forest governance is the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in India, which recognises the rights of traditional forest dwellers to forest resources that they historically used. Most studies on FRA implementation have only highlighted the obstructionist role played by state forest departments. However, the implementation of the FRA is the joint responsibility of the revenue, forest, and tribal welfare departments. This article examines the role and interplay of power among all three departments in determining implementation outcomes. Employing bureaucratic politics theory and an actor-centered power framework, the paper argues that unless power inequalities within a multi-department implementation setting are addressed, failure in implementing decentralized forest policies is a foregone conclusion. Addressing these power inequalities through collateral structural changes in the concerned departments and regular training can help in effective implementation.

Ananta Kumar Giri

Sustainable development goals and Gandhian constructive programs: Pluriversal evolutionary flourishing, transcivilizational dialogues and planetary realizations

The UN Sustainable Development Goals contain 17 goals such as no poverty and realization of peace. The themes and goals have arguably been conceptualized from a predominantly Euro-American perspective. This article opens these themes and goals to trans-civilizational dialogues including dialogue with visions and practices of Gandhi, especially his constructive programmes.

Hafsal K

Testing for Asset Price Bubbles: An Alternative Approach (with S R S Durai)

This paper proposes an alternative way to identify the fundamental and non-fundamental components of an asset. The proposed method is mainly borrowed from Ball and Mankiw's (1995) arguments on extracting core inflation. Unlike other

methods, our approach utilizes cross-sectional returns by extracting the average minimum cross-sectional return distribution from the return series. This extracted series is considered the fundamental or core of the stock return. This proposed method is applied to DJIA and identifies that the stock price deviates from the fundamentals. Furthermore, our method accurately identified the Dotcom bubble and the 2007-08 financial crisis.

Jafar K

Migration and Urban Informal Labour Market: A Study of Labour Addas in the City of Hyderabad

The migration of workers, often pushed by the crisis in rural areas and the farm sector, plays an important role in shaping the urban process in India. For various reasons, migrants become vulnerable in the cities; the majority of them are forced to engage in precarious jobs available in the urban informal sector. They play a critical role in providing a wide range of services in the cities and making cities liveable but face several challenges in the workplace and outside. Using the primary data collected from three Labour Addas in the city of Hyderabad, this chapter attempts to understand the socio-economic and working conditions of Labour Adda workers in Hyderabad, the migration dynamics of these workers, and also the living conditions. The analysis reveals considerable diversity in terms of caste, religion, linguistic composition, and educational status across the Labour Addas. The findings reveal that though the per day earning of the Labour Adda workers is higher than the minimum wage specified for the construction or maintenance of roads and building operations specified by the Government of Telangana, irregularity in getting jobs makes their monthly income lower than that of the prescribed monthly income of unskilled and semi-skilled workers. This survey indicates that the majority of the Labour Adda workers are permanent migrants, and social networks played a major role in finding a job in the city. In terms of living conditions, the survey unfolds that the Labour Adda workers face unfavourable living conditions in terms of poor sanitation, solid waste management, and overcrowding. The study highlights several issues and challenges faced by Labour Adda workers and calls for committed and timely engagement to address them.

Shock Responsive Social Protection in a Decentralised Governance Framework: Lessons from Kerala's Experience in the Post-Disaster Context (with A Radhakrishnan)

Through various instruments, governments are investing in shock-responsive social protection. While disasters may hit the rich and the poor alike, it is often difficult to ascertain the critical needs of the vulnerable population. The experience of Kerala

during 2018 floods and landslides is an interesting context to see the critical role of state in building resilient social protection system. Using primary data evidence about a social protection scheme called 'Ashraya' or 'Destitute Free Kerala' scheme in Wayanad, this paper advocates for rights-based interventions, effective monitoring, and improved public fund investment to eliminate poverty and build resilience for future shocks.

Kalaiyaran A

Inclusion through modernity: Dravidian urbanisation in Tamil Nadu state, India (with Narayan P)

Tamil Nadu state in India boasts high levels of economic growth, human development outcomes and urbanisation. How might we understand these concurring outcomes in this particular region? We propose that the Dravidian Movement's vision for social and economic justice in the state centred a quintessentially spatial imaginary. Recognising that a socio-spatial ordering was central to the upkeep of traditional divisions of labour and associated hierarchies, Dravidian thinkers and leaders emphasised the need to transform the spatial order to create a more egalitarian society. The urban, in particular, was seen as a site of potential transformation, and urbanisation, as a way to break traditional caste-based oppressions and hierarchies. Until the 1980s, inclusion in Tamil Nadu was fostered through intentional, ideologically backed state processes to spatially involve many parts of the state in urban processes, and socially include multiple caste groups in turn, thus influencing urbanisation trends. In a contribution to scholarship on urban trajectories and the role of politics in spatial transformation, this article attempts to locate the role of political and ideological mobilisations in driving particular spatial and urban outcomes in Tamil Nadu state that are relatively different compared to the rest of the country. The critical differences between Nehruvian visions of modernity at the national level and those in Tamil Nadu, historical and geographical specificities of the region and the ideological and implementational bases of Dravidian mobilisation help explain the diffused – but not quite decentralised – urbanisation model in the state.

Suresh Babu M

Can incentives spur industrial growth?

Harnessing manufacturing sector's potential for job creation and economic growth requires a balance between export orientation and employment generation, the emphasis on large-scale industries and the role of micro, small and medium enterprises, and the existing locational advantages and creation of new start-up

ecosystems. The budget could have provided some broad contours of a policy package towards this. Instead, it chose to resort to a system of incentives to accelerate output and employment growth.

Umanath M

Determination of the Factors Influencing Adaptation Strategies of Tank-irrigated Farmers: Empirical Evidence from Tamil Nadu (with Mohanraj, K., Karthikeyan, C., Paramasivam, R., Tamilarasu, A., Anbarasan, P., Rajasekaran, R., & Kumar, T. P.)

Tank-irrigated farmers using tank irrigation systems are implementing adaptation strategies to enhance the sustainability of the agricultural ecosystem. In this particular context. The current research aims to thoroughly examine the various adaptation strategies employed by tank-irrigated cultivators, along with the crucial factors that impact the choice and execution of these strategies. The data was gathered from 300 tank-irrigated cultivators using a multistage random sampling procedure in ten tank intensive districts of Tamil Nadu. The Heckman two-stage procedure was employed to identify the factors affecting tank-irrigated cultivators' adaptation decisions. This research found that 83.00 per cent of tank-irrigated cultivators are aware of climate change and 72.33 per cent of them have implemented adaptation strategies. Soil and water management practices (SWP), changing sowing dates and crop insurance were the popular adaptation methods of the tank-irrigated cultivators in the study locale. The model results indicate that adaptation strategies of tank-irrigated farmers are positively influenced by various variables, including age, gender, level of education, access to climate information, availability of credit and ownership of livestock. Moreover, variables such as age, level of education, number of contacts with extension agents and credit access exhibit a substantial and positive impact on the farmers' level of awareness.

Venkatachalam L

Environmental Economics and Ecological Economics: Historical Evolution and the Current Status

The nomenclatures 'environmental economics' and 'ecological economics' are frequently utilised interchangeably in academic and policy spheres. While purportedly complementary in certain aspects, these disciplines diverge significantly in various fundamental principles. Environmental economics boasts a lengthy lineage, with its conceptual foundations traceable to pre-classical economic thought. On the other hand, ecological economics emerged more recently, particularly in the post-1980s, articulating ecological and energy-related concepts beyond the purview of neoclassical-based environmental economics. Although the distinctions between

these two fields of inquiry in environment–human interactions have been well established in global academia, such delineations remain inadequately articulated within the Indian context. Consequently, the development of environmental curricula in economics departments predominantly revolves around environmental economics, often lacking critical inputs from ecological economics. In some instances, curricula incorporate an amalgamation of theories, concepts, principles and methodologies from both fields, leading to conceptual ambiguity. Furthermore, the lack of awareness among educators and students regarding these distinctions results in the treatment of both fields as synonymous, thereby limiting exposure to critical aspects of the alternative discipline. This article presents a systematic review of the historical evolution of neoclassical-based environmental economics and argues that ecological economics emerged as a ‘reaction’ to reorient the former with relevant inputs from domains such as political ecology and the laws of thermodynamics. The analysis aims to clarify the demarcations between these two significant branches of economic thought in the context of environmental studies.

Venkatachalam L and Hafsal K

Introduction to the Special Issue on the History of Economic Thought (with Alex M Thomas)

Every few years, books on Smith, Marx, Keynes and Hayek are published. Several economics journals publish articles that reassess, reinvigorate and reinterpret their economic ideas and also apply their economic ideas to contemporary issues. In this introduction to the special issue on the history of economic thought (HET), we present the nature and status of HET within the academic enterprise and then provide the background to the papers. We finally conclude with an overview of the contributions of these papers.

Jafar K, Unnimaya U G, and Umanath M

Flexibility, Vulnerability, and Inclusiveness in the Gig Economy: A Review of India’s Experience in the Context of Informalisation

The emergence of the gig economy, with the growth of technology and increased use of digital solutions, has been transforming the nature of work and its organisation in different ways. The differences in technical infrastructure, access to the internet, availability of cloud computing, and ownership of digital devices influence how countries manage this transition. Besides promoting economic growth and employment opportunities, the expansion of gig work offers wider possibilities for addressing some of the structural problems that the Indian economy has faced in recent years. In this chapter, we review the nature of the gig economy in the context of informalisation, flexibility, and vulnerability associated with gig work. In many

contexts, gig workers are neither formal nor informal; they are independent contractors, enjoying no benefits as formal or informal workers do. We explore the links between gig workers and those workers engaged in the informal economy; both operate with a certain degree of flexibility but are vulnerable to many risks associated with occupation, health, and social problems. The discussion also highlights the importance of making gig work more inclusive by extending its flexible employment options to more women, persons with disabilities, and those from marginalised backgrounds and utilising the gig economy in formalising the economy in general.

VI. Academic Activities: Faculty

Paper Presentations

Ananta Kumar Giri

Giri, A. K. (2024, July 6). *Transforming the subjective and the objective*. Workshop, Indus Business Academy, Bengaluru.

Giri, A. K. (2024, October 17). *New horizons of multidisciplinary studies: Transdisciplinarity and transcivilizational dialogues* (Keynote Address). Third International Conference on Multidisciplinary Studies (ICOMST), Seblelas Maret University, Indonesia.

Giri, A. K. (2024, November 11–15). *Cultivating transformative faith and a new ecology of hope*. World Anthropological Union Congress, Johannesburg.

Giri, A. K. (2024, December 17–21). *Transcultural philosophy*. Indian Philosophical Society Annual Conference, Annamalai University, Chidambaram.

Jafar K

Jafar, K. (2024, August 12–13). *Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey: Use of Data for Decision Making—Strengthening State Statistical System* (Co-presenter). 28th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

Jafar, K. (2024, October 19–20). *Interest-free microfinance models revisiting theory and practice*. National Seminar on Interest-free Microfinance and Sustainable Development, SAFI Institute of Advanced Study, Vazhayur.

Jafar, K. (2024, November 28–29). *Education-led development in Kerala regional experiences*. Second Malabar Education Congress: National Conference on Equity, Equality, and Quality in Education, University of Calicut.

Jafar, K. (2024, December 14–15). *Dollar dreams—International migration and households' economic well-being: New insights from the Tamil Nadu Household Panel*

Survey (Co-presenter). Fourth Annual International Migration Conference, OP Jindal Global University, Sonipat.

Jafar, K. (2025, February 14–16). *Exclusion: Emerging trends in education, mobility and livelihoods in Kerala* (Plenary session in honour of Prof. M. Kunhaman on Issues of Exclusion and Development). Kerala Economic Conference 2025, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT), Thiruvananthapuram.

Venkatachalam L

Venkatachalam, L. (2024, June 12–14). *The philosophy of ecological economics*. Three-Day International Workshop on Philosophy of Economics, Department of Economics, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong.

Venkatachalam, L. (2024, October 7–9). *Institutions for sustainable water management under the climate change regime*. International Conference on Water and Agricultural Sustainability under Changing Climate, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

Venkatachalam, L. (2024, October 28–29). *Environmental economics and ecological economics: Historical evolution and the current status*. First Annual Indian Society for History of Economic Thought (ISHET) Conference, Hyderabad Central University.

Venkatachalapathy A R

Venkatachalapathy, A. R. (2024, April 11–12). *A bouquet of strange emotions: Vinodarasa manjari and its times*. Reading between the Lines: A Homage to David Shulman, Prakriti Foundation, Chennai.

Venkatachalapathy, A. R. (2024, May 15). *Objectivity in history*. Endowment Lecture, Tamil Nadu Archives and Historical Research, Chennai.

Venkatachalapathy, A. R. (2024, June 25). *History and fiction*. Contemporary Tamil History and Culture, Department of Tamil, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Venkatachalapathy, A. R. (2024, July 19). *Keynote address*. Research Perspectives on VOC: The Contribution of A.R. Venkatachalapathy, District Collectorate, Virudhunagar.

Venkatachalapathy, A. R. (2024, August 17). *Sources for the study of Dravidian history*. Workshop on Dravidian History and Historiography, Dravidian History Research Centre, Chennai.

Venkatachalapathy, A. R. (2024, September 4). *Swadeshi movement and V.O. Chidambaram Pillai*. Indira Gandhi Endowment Lecture, Department of History, Stella Maris College, Chennai.

Venkatachalapathy, A. R. (2025, January 8). *On reviewing*. Annual Book Fair Lectures, Chennai Book Fair.

Venkatachalapathy, A. R. (2025, January 10). *New perspectives on south Indian history*. Dr Selvam Govindanar Endowment Lecture, Government College, Chittoor, Kerala.

Venkatachalapathy, A. R. (2025, January 11). *Swadeshi movement in south India with special reference to V.O. Chidambaram Pillai*. M.P. Narayan Menon-Kattilasseri Muhammed Musaliyar Memorial Lecture, Kerala History Congress.

Venkatachalapathy, A. R. (2025, January 17). *The path of the historian* (In Conversation). Chennai International Book Fair, GoTN.

Venkatachalapathy, A. R. (2025, January 30). *From Palmleaf to Pagemaker: A biography of the book in India* (Keynote Address). Jaipur Bookmark, Jaipur Literary Festival.

Vijayabaskar M

Vijayabaskar, M. (2024, May 23–25). *The social subsumes the economic: Periyar's reading of economic power in caste society*. Chicago Tamil Forum: The Social Production of Capital, Inequality, and Labor in Tamil Nadu, University of Chicago.

Participation in Seminars / Conferences / Workshops

Ajit Menon

Special Lecture, *The political economy of spatial fixes: Development and conservation in the forests and fisheries of Tamil Nadu*, as part of a course on Conservation and Society (for third year students), Flame University, Pune, 1 April 2024.

Panelist, Book Launch—*Environmental Politics at the Local: Natural Resource Governance in India*, IIC Annex, New Delhi, 30 August 2024.

Discussant, *Environment and political economy*, Panel Discussion at Second MIDS Doctoral Colloquium on Economics and Development Studies, MIDS, 11–13 November 2024.

Special Lecture, *What does the blue economy look like for small-scale fishers on Pamban Island, Tamil Nadu*, Krea University, Sri City, Andhra Pradesh, 27 November 2024.

Panel Organizer (with Nitin Rai), *The Forest Rights Act in India's tiger reserves: Why is policy not being implemented?* Fifth India Public Policy Network Conference, IIT Bombay, 6–8 December 2024.

Discussant, Panel on *Wildlife conservation and management*, National Seminar on Shaping the Future: Trends and Perspectives in Indian Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development, ICSSR-funded and organised by Flame University, Pune, 10 January 2025.

Ananta Kumar Giri

Invited Lecture on *Utkal Divas*, Srujani Parivar, Chennai, 1 April 2024 (Online).

Two Invited Lectures, *Research as realization: Science, spirituality and harmony*, VIT Chennai, 1–2 April 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Rethinking Satyagraha: Truth, travel and translation*, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bhubaneswar, 15 April 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Good life, good society, and evolutionary flourishing*, ISEC Bangalore, 13 May 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Transdisciplinary and transcivilizational dialogues*, RV University, Bangalore, 13 May 2024.

Presentation, *Purogami chetana o patha: viswabhiku, viswabandhu*, Nabasrusti Study Circle, 18 May 2024 (Online).

Invited Lecture, *New horizons of skill and soulful education*, Odisha Knowledge Corporation Ltd, Bhubaneswar, 29 May 2024.

Panelist, Discussion on *Literature and society*, Karanjia, Mayurbhanj, 7 June 2024.

Presentation, *My Itinerary*, at Synthesis Talk Dinner, Hotel Oberoi, 6 July 2024.

Invited Lecture, *UN sustainable development goals and Gandhian constructive programs*, Xavier University, Bhubaneswar, 9 July 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Rethinking media studies: Media, meditation and communication*, School of Communication, Xavier University, Bhubaneswar, 9 July 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Corporate spiritual responsibility*, CUTM University, Jatani, Odisha, 10 July 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Transpositional subject-objectivity*, School of Communication and Journalism, KIIT University, 10 July 2024.

Invited Lecture, *With and beyond sociology and Indian knowledge*, KISS (deemed to be University), 10 July 2024.

Invited Lecture, *New horizons of ethics, science and society: Transpositional subject-objectivity*, Ravenshaw University, 11 July 2024.

Invited Lecture, *The calling of global responsibility*, CYSD, Bhubaneswar, 12 July 2024.

Invited Lecture, *With and beyond sociology and Indian knowledge*, Fakir Mohan University, Balasore, Odisha, 13 July 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Dharma Shanti*, Citizen Forum, Balasore, 13 July 2024.

Presentation, *Reflections on politics and pathways of walking and thinking together*, at the meet to felicitate the newly elected representatives, Balasore, 14 July 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Social healing*, Walisongo State Islamic University, Semarang, Indonesia, 10 Oct 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Rethinking and transforming development studies; political economy, moral economy, moral sociology and spiritual ecology*, Center for Development Studies, Satavahana University, 11 Oct 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Cultivating transformative faith and a new ecology of hope*, State Islamic University of Salatiga, Central Java, Indonesia, 12 Oct 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Cultivating integral development*, Percik: The Institute for Social Research, Democracy and Social Justice, Indonesia, 12 Oct 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Sustainable development goals and constructive programs*, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 15 Oct 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Trans-religious dialogues, multi-topical hermeneutics and global responsibility*, Muhammadiyah University of Surabaya, 16 Oct 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Integral development*, Development Studies, Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS Surabaya), Indonesia, 16 Oct 2024.

Seminar, *Rethinking and transforming area studies and Indian studies*, Book Workshop—Social Theorizing in Contemporary South East Asia: Cultivating Planetary Conversations, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, 22 Oct 2024.

Dialogue with the faculty of Center for Indian Studies, University of Malaya, 23 Oct 2024.

Seminar, *Social healing and integral development*, Center for Sustainability Transitions, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 22 Nov 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Sustainable development*, Wolaita Sodo University, Ethiopia, 2 Dec 2024.

Invited Lecture, *New horizons of rural development and sustainable development*, Center for Environment, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, 6 Dec 2024.

Invited Lecture, School of Social Sciences, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded, Maharashtra, 10 Dec 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Cultivating gardens of God*, Pontifical Athenaeum, Jnana Deepa Institute of Philosophy and Theology, Pune, 12 Dec 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Sustainable transitions: Social healing and integral development*, Symbiosis School of Economics, Pune, 12 Dec 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Transdisciplinarity and transcivilizational dialogues: Philosophy, economics and literature*, Symbiosis School of Economics, Pune, 13 Dec 2024.

Book presentation and discussion of co-edited book, *Towards a New Art of Border Crossing*, Department of English, Pondicherry University, 27 Jan 2025.

Invited Lecture, *Development economics and the calling of good life, good society and evolutionary flourishing: Economics, philosophy, sociology, literature and beyond*, Department of Economics, Pondicherry University, 28 Jan 2025.

Invited Lecture, *Philosophy, economics and literature*, Department of Economics, Gandhigram Rural University, 10 Feb 2025.

Invited Lecture, *Resisting authoritarianism*, Department of Political Science, Gandhigram Rural University, 10 Feb 2025.

Invited Lecture, Department of Sociology, Gandhigram Rural University, 10 Feb 2025.

Invited Lecture, *Sarvodaya* Seminar on Peace Building, Gandhian Workers' Home, Dindigul, 11 Feb 2025.

Invited Lecture, *Savitri Satyagraha*, Department of English, Allahabad University, 21 Feb 2025.

Invited Lecture, *Makhumbh and the calling of planetary Lokasamgraha*, Department of Sociology, Allahabad University, 22 Feb 2025.

Invited Lecture, *Purusaratha and social movements*, Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute, Jhushi, Uttar Pradesh, 22 Feb 2025.

Invited Lecture, *Rethinking social exclusion and realizing maitree and friendship: Sri Aurobindo and Ambedkar*, Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusion Policy, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, 26 Feb 2025.

Invited Lecture, *Rethinking development and economics*, Department of Economics, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, 26 Feb 2025.

Invited Lecture, *Research as realization: Dialogues with research scholars*, DAV College, Lucknow, 1 March 2025.

Invited Lecture, *Pathways of creative research: Fields, methods, theories and cosmos*, Workshop on Research Methodology, University of Lucknow, 3 March 2025.

Invited Lecture, *Creative intelligence, AI and anthropology: Some reflections*, Presentation in a Seminar at University of Madras, 4 March 2025 (Online).

Hafsal K

Resource Person, *Measurement of efficiency / productivity through DEA with primary and secondary data and panel data analysis*, ICSSR-sponsored ten-day national level workshop on Research Methodology and Data Analysis using Open-Source Software, Central University of Tamil Nadu, 23–24 Oct 2024.

Panelist, Second Doctoral Colloquium, MIDS, 12 Nov 2024.

Resource Person, *Data analysis for development*, Block training session for block fellows, MIDS and State Planning Commission, GoTN, 3 Jan 2025.

Jafar K

Discussant, *Economy: Rural livelihoods and migration*, Second MIDS Doctoral Colloquium on Economics and Development Studies, 11–13 November 2024.

Discussant, International Conference on *Digital Health Literacy among Elderly Populations: Levels, Influencing Factors, Barriers and Health Outcomes*, Mittal School of Business, Lovely Professional University, Punjab supported by ICSSR, 15 February 2025.

Panelist, Roundtable on *Validating and strengthening gender metrics for the gender gap index*, Confederation of Indian Industry Office, Chennai, 5 March 2025.

Discussant, *Labour welfare: Traditional and emerging sectors*, MIDS Annual Development Conclave on Changing Dynamics of Labour Market in India: Challenges and Opportunities, 10–11 March 2025.

Kalaiyarasan A

Invited Speaker, *Social production of capital, inequality, and labor in Tamil Nadu*, South Asian Conference, University of Chicago, 24 May 2024.

Invited Speaker, *Political economy of industrial policy in Tamil Nadu*, Political Economy Lab, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 3 June 2024.

Invited Speaker, *Industrial policy in Indian states*, The Program for Economic Analysis of Mexico, El Colegio De Mexico, Mexico, 18 June 2024.

Invited Speaker, *Federal dynamics of industrial policy in India and the global south*, Political Economy of Global South, The American University in Cairo, 28 September 2024.

Umanath M

Resource Person, *Indian Agriculture—Economic system, size of farm and land fragmentation and its implications; Green revolution technologies and policy measures*, Guest Lecture, Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), Chennai, 3 April 2024.

Resource Person, *Understanding market failure: Management of public goods and common properties*, Guest Lecture, Department of Social Science, Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture, Manakkadavu, Pollachi, 29 April 2024.

Resource Person, *Sampling techniques and data sources for social science research*, ten-day National Workshop on Research Methodology and Quality Writing Skills for Social Science Research, Centre for Economic Studies and Policy, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru, 19 August 2024.

Resource Person, *Basics of STATA for analyzing the data*, ten-day National Workshop on Research Methodology and Quality Writing Skills for Social Science Research, Centre for Economic Studies and Policy, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru, 19 August 2024.

Resource Person, *Basic econometrics concepts*, Five-day faculty development programme on Econometrics and Research Methodologies, Post Graduate and Research Department of Economics, Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur, 19 September 2024.

Resource Person, *Monitoring and evaluation techniques*, Focus Block Training Session for Block Fellows, MIDS, 20 December 2024.

Resource Person, *Multivariate analysis: Principal component analysis and factor analysis*, Training Programme, Mastering Data: Techniques and Tools for Research Excellence, ICAR–Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi, Kerala, 6–10 January 2025.

Resource Person, *Hands-on exercises on Multivariate analysis: Principal component analysis and factor analysis*, Training Programme, Mastering Data: Techniques and Tools for Research Excellence, ICAR–Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi, Kerala, 6–10 January 2025.

Resource Person, *Factor analysis and multivariate analysis*, National Workshop on Basic Statistical Data Analysis Using SPSS, SRM College of Agricultural Sciences, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chengalpattu, 8 Feb 2025.

Resource Person, *Hypothesis testing, p-values*, National Workshop on Basic Statistical Data Analysis Using SPSS, SRM College of Agricultural Sciences, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chengalpattu, 8 Feb 2025.

Venkatachalam L

Guest Speaker, *Survey methods in social science research: Validity and reliability issues*, Guest Lecture Series, Indian Research Scholars Association, 9 April 2024 (Online).

Endowment Lecture, *Environment, sustainable development and human wellbeing*, Dr. K. Rajaratnam Memorial Lecture, Centre for Research on New International Economic Order, Chennai, 10 April 2024.

Panelist, *Earth Day 2024—An economic perspective*, Panel Discussion on Earth Day, MIDS, 22 April 2024.

Participated and presented the work progress, Special Review Meeting of the RBI Professorial Chairs, RBI, Mumbai, 30 April 2024.

Resource Person, *Strategies for managing environmental infrastructure*, Training Programme on Infrastructure Issues including for Indian Economic Service Officers, Indian Maritime University, Chennai, 27 June 2024.

Keynote Address, *Environmental basis of economic growth*, ICSSR-Sponsored two-day National Seminar on Vision India 2025, Department of Commerce, St. Joseph's College, Trichy, 28 June 2024.

Resource Person, *Greening the GDP*, Summer Training Programme in Public Finance, Madras School of Economics, Chennai, 3 July 2024.

Special Lecture, *Why study economics?* Orientation Programme to BSc Economics Students, Department of Economics, VIT, Chennai Campus, 12 July 2024.

Economic Valuation of Wetland Ecosystem Services, One-Day Seminar on Wetlands, MIDS, 18 July 2024.

Inaugural Address and two lectures on the *Essentials of doing research in social sciences*, ICSSR-sponsored ten-day Research Methodology Workshop, Department of Studies in Social Work, Rani Channamma University, Karnataka, 22 July 2024.

Invited Speaker, *Role of wetland ecosystem services in enhancing social welfare*, Chief Minister's Green Fellowship Programme: Knowledge Series, Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission, GoTN, 26 July 2024.

Inaugural Address and two Lectures on *Identification of research gap and publishing in reputed journals*, ICSSR-sponsored Research Methodology Workshop, Department of Population Studies, Annamalai University, 30 July 2024.

Valedictory Address, *Quantitative research—Some cautions*, National Workshop on SPSS and Data Analysis, Indian Research Scholars' Association, 31 July 2024 (Online).

Moderator, *Panel Discussion on Union Budget 2024-25*, MIDS Scholars' Forum, 6 August 2024.

Inaugural Address, *Economic value of ecosystem services: Lessons for sustainable development*, National Conference on Eco-Economics, Department of Economics and School of Life Sciences, St. Aloysius (Deemed) University, Mangaluru, 13 August 2024.

Special Address, *Institutions and the GIG economy*, National Seminar on Evolving Gig Economy in India: Opportunities, Challenges and Way Forward in Vision Viksit Bharat @2047, Department of Economics, Gurunanak College, Chennai, 14 August 2024.

Resource Person, two Lectures on: a) *Philosophy of science and research methodology*; and b) *Research design*, ICSSR-sponsored ten-day Research Methodology Workshop, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru, 19 August 2024.

Inaugural Address, *Does economic growth bring wellbeing? Evidence from economic theory*, one-day Seminar on Economic Growth and Banking Sector, Department of Economics, Indira Gandhi College, Trichy, 30 August 2024.

Endowment Lecture, *Individual behaviour in economics*, D.R. Christopher Endowment Lecture, Department of Economics, St. Joseph's College, Trichy, 30 August 2024.

Resource Person, *Career opportunities for economists*, Capacity Development Programme, Department of Economics, Gurunanak College, Chennai, 4 September 2024.

Lead Speaker, *Ecosystem services and economic wellbeing*, National Conference on Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Mitigation, Centre for Climate Literacy and Campaign, Hindu College, Chennai, 13-14 September 2024.

Inaugural Address and Lectures, *Philosophy of social sciences: Popper, Kuhn, Feyerabend and Lakatos philosophies*, Research Methodology Workshop, Department of History and Tourism, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, 14 October 2024.

Resource Person, *Green GDP: Concepts and applications*, National Training Programme on Natural Resource Accounting for Practicing Auditors, International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development, Jaipur, 22 October 2024.

Panelist, *Energy and environment session*, Second MIDS Doctoral Colloquium on Economics and Development Studies, 13 November 2024.

Speaker, *Development needs in focus blocks*, Focus Blocks Development Programme, CSO Conclave, SPC, GoTN, Chennai, 6 December 2024.

Chair and Moderator, *Panel Discussion on Energy Transition and Inequality*, Policy Roundtable on Energy Transition and Industrial Development, by MIDS, UNDP and SDGCC, Chennai, 6 December 2024.

Invited Speaker, *Green GDP for sustainable growth*, National Conference on Green Economy – An Approach to Sustainable Economic Growth, Department of Economics, Lady Doak College, Madurai, 9 December 2024.

Discussant, Workshop on *Using LPG in Rural India: Behavioural, Economic and Governance Factors*, HSS, IIT Madras, 11 December 2024.

Inaugural Address, *How to redirect economics?* Annual Conference of the Association of Economists of Tamil Nadu, G.T.N. College, Dindigul, 15 December 2024.

Panelist, *Environmental capital and sustainable development goals*, 107th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association (IEA), IEA and Kurukshetra University, Haryana, 28 December 2024.

Invited Lecture, *Public policy for environmental governance-1*, Professional Certificate Programme in Public Policy Management, IIM Kozhikode, 5 January 2025.

Panelist, *How to apply economic valuation methods in the Indian context*, Project Initiation Seminar on Ecosystem Value of Forest Resources in Tamil Nadu, ISEC, Bengaluru, 6 January 2025.

Invited Lecture, *Public policy for environmental governance-2*, Professional Certificate Programme in Public Policy Management, IIM Kozhikode, 12 January 2025.

Invited Lecture, *Public policy for environmental governance-3*, Professional Certificate Programme in Public Policy Management, IIM Kozhikode, 12 January 2025.

Resource Person, *Fundamental aspects of research*, Training Programme for the School Teachers of Social Sciences, School Education Department, GoTN, 25 January 2025.

Endowment Lecture, *The environmental basis for a trillion economy*, Dr. S. Narasimhan Endowment Lecture, Department of Economics, DG Vaishnav College, Chennai, 27 January 2025.

Inaugural Address, *Behavioural changes towards responsible energy use*, Seminar on Viksit Bharath 2047 and SDG-7, Department of Economics, PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore, 30 January 2025.

Invited Speaker, *Sustainability by design: Embedding environmental consciousness into business strategy*, Masterclass Session for Young Entrepreneurs, FICCI Young Leaders Forum, 31 January 2025.

Resource Person, *Writing successful research proposals*, Faculty Development Programme, SRM College of Agricultural Sciences, Maduranthagam, 1 February 2025.

Invited Speaker, *Behavioural changes for sustainable development*, Annual Academic Conference 2025, Humanities and Social Sciences Department, IIT Madras, 3 February 2025.

Inaugural Address, *The philosophy of social sciences*, Refresher Course in Social Science and Humanities, Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Kannur University, Kerala, 11 February 2025.

Chair, Session on *MSMEs for Viksit Bharath 2047—Opportunities and challenges*, Seminar on MSME and Viksit Bharath 2047, New College, Chennai, 18 February 2025.

Panelist, *Current environmental challenges*, Conference on Development Paradoxes of Global South, MOP Vaishnav College, Chennai, 13 March 2025.

Chair, Session on *Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI)*, National Workshop on Longitudinal Surveys in India: Challenges and Opportunities, MIDS, 19 March 2025.

Invited Speaker, *Income and Expenditure Pattern of the Households in Tamil Nadu*, National Workshop on Longitudinal Surveys in India, Challenges and Opportunities, MIDS, 19 March 2025.

Invited Speaker, *Austrian economics and internalisation of externalities*, The MCC-ISHET Workshop on Politics, Philosophy and Political Economy, Madras Christian College (MCC) and Indian Society for History of Economic Thought (ISHET), Chennai, 21 March 2025.

Panelist, *Peri-urban areas and the environmental impacts*, one-day Consultation Workshop on Sustainable Peri-urban Growth and Climate Resilience in Tamil Nadu, State Planning Commission (SPC) and World Resources Institute India (WRI), Chennai, 24 March 2025.

Venkatachalapathy A R

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, 3 April 2024.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Jadavpur University Press, Kolkata, 16 April 2024.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Centre for Studies in the Social Sciences, Kolkata, 17 April 2024.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Gandhi Peace Museum, Madurai, 19 May 2024.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Coimbatore.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Kalam, Trichy, 27 July 2024.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Pune, 12 August 2024.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER), Pune, 13 August 2024.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, National Law School University of India, Bangalore, 28 August 2024.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, 5 September 2024, M.D.T. Hindu High School, Tirunelveli, 28 August 2024.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, V.O. Chidambaram College, Tuticorin, 5 September 2024.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Dakshinchitra, Chennai, 13 September 2024.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Tuticorin Book Fair, District Collector, Tuticorin, 6 October 2024.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology University (CEPT University), Ahmedabad, 21 October 2024.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, School of Liberal Arts, Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad, 22 October 2024.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Makkal Chinthanai Peravai, Thanjavur, 9 November 2024.

Special Lecture, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Palakkad, 11 January 2025.

In Conversation, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Kerala Literary Festival, Calicut, 23 January 2025.

In Conversation, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Jaipur Literary Festival, 1 February 2025.

In Conversation, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, Dibrugarh Literary Festival, 5 February 2025.

In Conversation, *Swadeshi Steam: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and the Battle against the British Maritime Empire*, History Literature Festival, 1 March 2025.

Vijayabaskar M

Chair, *Valedictory session*, MIDS Annual Development Conclave, MIDS Scholars Forum, 10–11 March 2025.

Panelist, *Tamil Nadu's industrial development: Subnational interventions, Gaps and Challenges*, Workshop on East Asian Development Experience: Lessons for Tamil Nadu, 24 March 2025, MIDS and IIT Bombay.

Awards and Honours

Ajit Menon

- Visiting Fellowship, January–April 2025, Flame University, Pune

Hafsal K

- RBI Scholarship Scheme for Faculty Members from Academic Institutions, December 2024, RBI

Jafar K

- Best Paper (3rd) co-presented, December 2024, 4th Annual International Migration Conference organised at O.P Jindal Global University, Sonipat

Venkatachalam L

- Distinguished Alumni Award, September 2024, Annamalai University

Venkatachalapathy A R

- Sahitya Akademi Award (Tamil, 2024), Sahitya Akademi, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi, 8 March 2025
- Ramnath Goenka Excellence Award (Non-fiction, 2024), Indian Express, New Delhi. Award given by Hon'ble President of India, 18 March 2025.
- Vikatan Nambikkai Virudhu, Ananda Vikatan Media Group, December 2024

Various Academic Activities

Ajit Menon

- Editor (part of the editorial collective), *Conservation and Society*, since 2020
- Associate Editor, *Maritime Studies*, since 2014
- External Member, Board of Studies, Department of Applied Research, the Gandhigram Rural Institute, 2024-25
- Member, Course Curriculum Evaluation Committee for Environmental Studies, Flame University, 5–6 March 2025
- Projects:
 - Baseline Survey on Implementation of Human-Wildlife Conflict Measures, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (Administered by Care Earth).

- Relocation from Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, Flame University (Co-PI, Abhineety Goel is a faculty at Flame University)
- Teaching:
 - Two lectures on *Research and Publication Ethics*, 12 lectures on *History of Development Thought*, as part of PhD coursework at MIDS
 - 42 lectures on Conservation and Society, co-taught with Abhineety Goel at Flame University, January–April 2025
 - Two lectures on Environment and Society, 20–21 February 2025, IIT Hyderabad
- Chairperson, MIDS Library Committee
- Evaluated two PhD theses: one each from TISS Mumbai and JNU
- Member of Doctoral Committees, mostly at IITM, for a number of students

Ananta Kumar Giri

- Organized seven seminars and two symposiums at MIDS throughout the year.
- Working on a co-edited volume, *Quest for Planetary Well-Being* (Essays in Honour of M.V. Nadkarni), with R. S. Deshpande, an outcome of one of the symposiums organized at MIDS
- Coordinated a hybrid Symposium on *Dharma, peace and the challenges of rethinking business and management*, Indus Business Academy, Bengaluru, 11 May 2024.
- Coordinated a workshop with Ranjan K. Panda, *Good life, good society and evolutionary flourishing*, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Mumbai, 28 May 2024.
- Member, the Club of Rome, an organization of intellectuals and business leaders whose goal is a critical discussion of pressing global issues.

Hafsal K

- Co-editor for a special issue of *Review of Development and Change* (RDC) on the History of Economic Thought.
- Teaching:
 - Three lectures on *Statistics* as part of MIDS PhD Coursework
 - 26 lectures on *Macroeconomics* at IIT Madras
- Publications:
 - Submitted a paper titled ‘How safe are the safe haven assets? Insights from a novel cross-frequency analysis’, co-authored with Anoop S Kumar and Anandarao Suvvari, for publication in the journal *Energy Research Letters*.
 - Submitted and under review: four articles in different journals, including *International Review of Financial Analysis*, etc.

- Work in progress on the RBI occasional paper as part of the RBI scholarship scheme for faculty members from academic institutions.
- MIDS Internal Administration:
 - Coordinator of CPPM programme, 2024 onwards
 - Member of PhD committee, 2023 onwards
 - Coordinator, 2nd MIDS Doctoral Colloquium on Economics and Development Studies, 11-13 November 2024
 - Part of the project, Focus Block Development Programme, funded by Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission, August 2024 onwards
- Guided five interns from Christ University Bangalore, Central University of Tamil Nadu, and MCC, Chennai.
- Evaluated three masters projects at Madras School of Economics.
- Prepared and moderated the question papers for the TRB, Government of Tamil Nadu.
- 10 Google Scholar citations in 2024-25.

Jafar K

- Associate Editor, *Review of Development and Change*, MIDS Journal
- Refereed one manuscript for *Review of Education*, Wiley, October 2024
- Refereed one manuscript for *Journal of Cyber Policy*, Taylor & Francis, September 2024
- Projects:
 - Principal Investigator, Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey (TNHPS), Government of Tamil Nadu, 2016-17 onwards
- Teaching:
 - Six lectures on *Research and Publication Ethics* and one lecture on *Introduction to Development Studies*, as part of MIDS PhD Coursework
 - 25 lectures on *Institutional Economics*, Madras School of Economics
- MIDS Internal Administration:
 - Member, PhD Committee
 - Member, Publication Committee
 - Member, Committee for Purchase of Assets / Maintenance and Disposal of Scrap of Old Assets, Dec 2024
 - Coordinator, National Workshop on Longitudinal Surveys in India: Challenges and Opportunities, 18-19 March 2025
 - Coordinator, 2nd MIDS Doctoral Colloquium on Economics and Development Studies, 11-13 November 2024
- Evaluated three masters dissertations for Madras School of Economics, May 2024

- Evaluated one PhD thesis for the University of Trans-disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, Bengaluru, November 2024
- Served as the external mentor for the report: *A Critical Appraisal of the Gender Budgeting Policy in Kerala* submitted under C Achuthamenon – T R Chandradath Fellowship by Ashraf Pulikkamath, VIT-AP University, Amaravati, November 2024
- Guided 13 students as part of their internship from various colleges
- Doctoral Committee Member: MIDS (4), MSE (2), Stella Maris College (1)

Kalaiyaran A

- Publications:
 - Submitted a chapter titled ‘Care and Welfare: Sub-National Responses to COVID-19 in India’ (with Patrick Heller), for publication in the book *Pandemic Inequality: Citizenship and Covid-19 in India edited by Poulami Roychowdhury*, Oxford University Press, due to be published in early 2026.
 - Submitted a paper (with Louise Tillin) titled ‘Introduction—Indian Federalism under One-party Dominance: Ideas and Institutions in Transition’ for publication in the *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal*.
 - Was interviewed along with Rathin Roy, by Louise Tillin on the *Political Economy of Federalism*. The interview is due to be published in late 2025.
- Teaching:
 - As part of MIDS PhD Coursework, two lectures on *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Indian Development*, eight lectures on *History of Social, Political and Development Thought in India*, five lectures on *Introduction to Development Studies/Development Thought*, and 15 lectures on *Economics for Public Policy*
 - 20 lectures on *Macroeconomics*, IIT Madras
- MIDS Internal Administration:
 - Member, PhD Committee
 - Organiser, Workshop on *Fiscal Federalism and Regional Inequalities in India*, 27 February 2025
 - Co-organiser (with United Nations Development Programme), Workshop on *Energy Transition and Industrial Development*, 6 December 2024
 - Co-organiser, Workshop on *East Asian Development Experience: Lessons for India*, IIT Bombay, 24 March 2025
- Co-organiser, Ideas of Indian Federalism and their Discontents, Kings College London, 12 September 2024

Umanath M

- Submitted a paper titled ‘Does access to agricultural credit affect the performance of sugarcane production in India’, co-authored with Paramasivam R, Karthick V, Jafar K, and Hafsal K, for publication in *Cureus Journal of Business and Economics*.
- Member of Editorial Board, *Greenaria*, since 2023
- Reviewed a paper for *Review of Development and Change*, SAGE Publishing, March 2025
- Projects:
 - Focus Block Development Programme, SPC, GoTN, August 2024 onwards
 - Economic Impact of Jal Jeevan Mission on Women’s Empowerment and Spillover Effect on Health, Education and Employment in Aspirational Blocks of Tamil Nadu, ICSSR, New Delhi, January 2025 onwards
- Teaching:
 - Eight lectures on *Research Methodology - Quantitative Research Methods* as part of MIDS PhD Coursework
 - 30 lectures on *Econometric Methods*
- MIDS Internal Administration:
 - Coordinator, PhD programme
 - Member, Research Ethics Committee
 - Member, Research Advisory Committee
 - Member, Library Committee
 - Coordinator, PhD Students Biannual Seminars
 - Coordinator, Annual Development Conclave: Changing Dynamics of Labour Market in India, 10–11 March 2025

Venkatachalam L

- Managing Editor, *Review of Development and Change*, MIDS Journal published by SAGE
- Refereed a paper for journal, *Human Ecology*, 10 May 2024.
- Reviewed a research paper submitted to *ANVESAK Journal*, 18 June 2024.
- Projects:
 - Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey, GoTN, 2017 onwards
 - Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services of 61 Wetlands in Tamil Nadu, SPC, GoTN, March 2024 onwards
- Teaching:
 - 90 hours, Environmental Governance and Sustainability, IIM Kozhikode, Semester IV, 2024-25
 - 30 hours, Environmental Studies, MSE, Chennai, Semester V, 2025

- 15 hours, Introduction to Public Policy, CPPM programme, MIDS, March 2025
- MIDS Internal Administration:
 - Member, Governing Council, 2019–26
 - Member, Finance Committee and Executive Council, 2019–26
 - Member, Academic Council, 2017 onwards
 - Member, PhD Committee, 2006 onwards
 - Member, Research Advisory Committee, 2019 onwards
 - Member, Publication/Editorial Committee, 2019 onwards
 - Member, Investment Committee, 2019 onwards
 - Member, IT Infrastructure Committee, 2019 onwards
 - Coordinator, Certificate Programme in Public Policy and Management, March–August 2025
 - Organiser, one-day Seminar on Wetland Management: Current Status and the Way-forward, 18 July 2024
- Coordinator, three-day training workshop for the staff of Gujarat Ecological Education and Research Foundation, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, *Economic Valuation of Wetland Ecosystem Services: Methods and Empirical Applications*, 25–27 April 2024.
- Member, Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority, Government of Tamil Nadu.
- Expert Member, Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Government of Tamil Nadu, 2024.
- Member, Sub-Group on Tamil Nadu Heat Mitigation Strategy, Government of Tamil Nadu
- Member, Academic and Administrative Audit (2023-24), SRM University, Chennai.
- Member, Selection Committee, Faculty Selection, Somaiya University, Mumbai, 18 December 2024.
- Member, Research Advisory Committee, Institute of Health Management Research, Bengaluru, Oct 2024 to Oct 2027.
- Member, Board of Studies, Department of Economics, MOP Vaishnav College, Chennai, 2022–24.
- Member, Board of Studies, Department of Economics, Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore, 2023–25.
- Member, Board of Studies, Department of Economics, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, 2022-23.
- Member, Board of Studies, Department of Economics, St. Berchmans College, Changanassery, 2021–24.
- Member, Board of Studies, School of Economics, R V University, Bengaluru, 2024-25.

- Member, Board of Studies, Department of Economics, Annamalai University from February 2024 to January 2027.
- Member, Research Advisory Committee (RAC), Jonathan Adjin Quaye, Amrita School of Business, Amritapuri, Kerala.
- Member, Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAV), Sreelakshmi V R, PhD student, School of Social Sciences and Languages, VIT, Vellore.
- Member, RAC, Samyuktha, PhD student, Stella Mari's College, Chennai
- Member, RAC, Aryama Sarkar, PhD student, HSS, IITM.
- Member, RAC, Gauri Sreekumar, PhD student, HSS, IITM.
- Member, RAC, J. Gajalakshmi, PhD student, Department of Economics, St. Peter's College, Chennai.
- Member, RAC, Sruthi Kesh, PhD student at MSE.
- Member, RAC, Vineesh, NIT, Tiruchirapalli.
- Member, RAC, Anees, Department of Economics, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore
- Member, RAC, Aditi, Department of Economics, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore
- Member, RAC, Smrithi Rajya, Department of Economics, Madras Christian College, Tambaram.
- Member, RAC, Rida Wanbha Nongbri, HSS, IIT-M.
- Member, RAC, Sreshtha Mukherjee, HSS, IIT-M.
- Member, RAC, TSK Durgesh Nandini, Department of Economics, Madurai Kamaraj University.
- Guided 20 interns from Madras Christian College (MCC), Stella-Maris, Loyola colleges, IITM, Azim Premji University and University of Madras.
- Evaluated a PhD thesis from School of Economics, Hyderabad Central University, 18 April 2024
- Evaluated a PhD thesis from School of Management, Amrita University, Coimbatore, 1 November 2024.
- Evaluated a PhD thesis from HSS, IIT Patna, 7 December 2024.
- Conducted viva-voce exam for three MA students at MSE, 20 May 2024
- Conducted viva-voce exam for C. Jayapalan, PhD student, Department of Management Studies, IIT-M on 3 June 2024
- External Examiner, PhD pre-submission Seminar by Sriram, a PhD student at School of Management Studies, Amrita University, Kollam, 2 May 2024.

Venkatachalapathy A R

- Member, Tamil Nadu Council of Historical Research, 2025 onwards
- Advisor, Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy, 2013–2025
- 5 lectures on *Research and Publication Ethics*, and 6 lectures on *History of Development Thought*, as part of MIDS PhD coursework.
- General Editor of all Tamil publications, MIDS.

Vijayabaskar M

- Member, State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu, June 2021 to May 2025
- Member, Board of Studies, Department of Economics, Hyderabad Central University, 2023–26
- Member, Board of Studies, Department of Economics, PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, 2024–26
- Member, Board of Studies, Department of Economics, Stella Maris College, Chennai, 2024–26
- Member, University Nominee, Board of Studies, Department of Economics, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai, 2022–25
- Member, Advisory Board, Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Coimbatore, October 2023 onwards
- Member, Technical Committee, Preparation of the Third Master Plan for Chennai, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, July 2024 onwards
- Refereed a book manuscript for Oxford University Press
- Refereed papers for journals: *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, *Journal of Agrarian Change*, *Urban Studies*, and *South Asia Multi-Disciplinary Journal*.

VII. Academic Activities: Research Scholars

Publications

- Aishwarya, G. V. N. (2025). *Rethinking care labour in the Indian context: Through an expanded notion of urban care infrastructure* (MIDS Working Paper No. 247). Madras Institute of Development Studies. https://www.mids.ac.in/assets/doc/WP_247.pdf
- Jafar, K., Unnimaya, U. G., & Umanath, M. (2024). Flexibility, vulnerability, and inclusiveness in the gig economy: A review of India's experience in the context of informalisation. In A. Vinodan, S. Mahalakshmi & S. Rameshkumar (Eds.), *Informal economy and sustainable development goals: Ideas, interventions and challenges* (pp. 259–272). Emerald Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1108/978-1-83753-980-220241014>
- Monish, S. K. A. (2024). Understanding social changes and transformations through imprecatory verses in Telugu inscriptions: A study. *Quarterly Journal of the Mythic Society*, 115(4), 96–104. <https://doi.org/10.58844/OQJJ5195>

Papers Presentations

- Aishwarya, G. V. N. (2024, June 26–28). *Public canteens as spaces of care in the urban holding the promise of social justice*. Development Studies Association Conference, SOAS University of London (online).
- Aishwarya, G. V. N. (2024, November 20–22). 'Good' work in oppressive conditions: A qualitative study of women's work in the public canteens of Chennai. NZGS Conference 2024—Fluid Geographies, University of Waikato, Tauranga Moana, New Zealand.
- Ajisha, K. V. (2024, November). *Catamaran belt evolution: Transitioning from wind to engine power*. Kerala Maritime Communities Project, SPARC, KMCP, Penn Global India Research and Engagement Fund, IUCSSRE MG University, KCHR, CIOS, Tamil University, Tanjavur.
- Arya Sankar, R. (2024, August 6). *Presentation on Budget*. Panel discussion on Union Budget of 2024-25, MIDS Scholars Forum.

Monish, S. K. A. (2025, January 4). *Producing a very big book: The making of Telugu encyclopaedia*. Andhra Pradesh History Congress 47th session, Gudur.

Prashant, K. (2025, March 20–22). *Institutional challenges and social production of water in rural water supply: An institutional analysis of the Jal Jeevan mission in India* (Poster Presentation). Crossroads—PhD Colloquium, CDS Trivandrum.

Biannual Presentations at MIDS

1–2 July 2024

Ajisha K V	An enquiry into the marine fishing technology and the approach of market towards sea: The case of Kerala
Gargi Sridharan	Gender perception vs reality – Domestic labour dynamics in single and dual-earner couples
Arya Sankar R	A PES-driven agroforestry in wastelands: A strategy for climate adaptation and mitigation in India
Zakiyya K	The culture of self-help and Indian modernity: An investigation through spiritual self-help
Niranjana C J	Reviewing studies on railways in India
Seena K M	Value in economics: A historical Analysis within economic theories
Rahul Reghu	Tribal development in Kerala: Discourse, the everyday state and Kadars in the Vazhachal-Malakkapara region
Ajisha K V	Marine fishing technology
Jijin P	Investments, labour supply and inequality effects of international remittances: An analysis of emerging economies
Brinda G Krishnan	Climate change and regional farming systems: A study of spice production in Kerala
Anitha P C	Convergence of solidarity between ‘ethnic’ and solidarity through the Kudumbashree programme in Kerala
Aishwarya G V N	Meals and the melting pot – A qualitative study of the Amma canteens in Chennai foregrounding the welfare and gender implications of socialising care

Unnimaya U G The labour transformation and rising precarity in on-demand delivery gig work

19 December 2024

Aishwarya G V N Understanding state-society relations in the context of urban governance

Unnimaya U G Labour economics

Ajisha K V Transition in the socio-technical ensemble of artisanal fishing

Anitha P C Social and cultural change among tribal community

Seena K M Intersection of gender, poverty and climate change

Zakiyya K Gender and popular culture

Arya Sankar R Payment for ecosystem services

VIII. Events @ MIDS

Seminars

- 22 April 2024 Listening to the Cry of Earth, by Ananta Kumar Giri
- 26 June 2024 Rot and Repair: Crafting Ecological Futures in the Face of Ruin, by Anand Pandian
- 12 July 2024 The Palestinian Question: Past and Present, by MIDS Scholars Forum
- 18 July 2024 One-day Seminar on Wetland Management: Current Status and the Way-Forward
- 28 August 2024 Realizing Child Rights beyond Eurocentrism, by Deepak Kumar Behera
- 19 September 2024 From Capabilities to Social Justice, by P B Anand
- 24 October 2024 Sustainable Tourism and Creative Responses to Climate Change in Bali, by Sidhi Bayu Turker
- 6–7 January 2025 International Hybrid Seminar on Cultivating Transformative Faith and a New Ecology of Hope
- 7–8 January 2025 International Hybrid Seminar on Good Life, Good Society and Evolutionary Flourishing
- 21 January 2025 From Deschooling Society to New Visions and Pathways of Planetary Co-Learning Conviviality, Critique and Calling of Transformations with Ivan Illich and Chitta Ranjan Das, by Paul Schwartzentruber
- 24 January 2025 Walking for Peace Together: Led by Indigenous Voices, by Kathrin Winkler
- 27 February 2025 Fiscal Federalism and Regional Inequalities in India, by Rathin Roy

Public Lectures / Talks

- 9 July 2024 Founder's Day Lecture—Seven Years of GST Revenues, by Arvind Subramanian
- 14 August 2024 British Colonialism and Economic Nationalism in Tamil Nadu, by N Rajendran
- 25 October 2024 Does 'AJR' Have a Theory of Economic Development? by Pulapre Balakrishnan
- 11 November 2024 Keynote Address—Revisiting the Idea and Practice of Decolonising Development Studies, Neoliberal Rationality, and Methodological Predicaments, by K P Rajesh

- 13 November 2024 Doing Social Science Research in India, by Reetika Khera
- 11 December 2024 Reading Subramania Bharati under Progressive Eye: Literary Criticism and the Cultural Left in Tamilnadu, by Rajesh Venkatasubramanian
- 10 March 2025 Caste, Contemporary Capitalism, and the Labour Market, by Satish Deshpande

Workshops

- 10 July 2024 One-day Intensive Workshop on Effective Usage of E-Resources for Social Science Research
- 24–26 July 2024 Three-Day Workshop on Academic Writing and Reference Management
- 18–19 March 2025 Longitudinal Surveys in India: Challenges and Opportunities
- 24 March 2025 East Asian Development Experience: Lessons for India

Panel Discussions / Roundtable

- 6 August 2024 Union Budget 2024-25
- 6 December 2024 Policy Roundtable on Energy Transition and Industrial Development
- 10 February 2025 State of the Economy and Budget 2025-26
- 18 March 2025 Longitudinal Surveys in India: Lessons and Challenges

Development Dialogues

- 26 April 2024 Episode #1, International Trade and Developing Economies, Conversation with Saikat Sinha Roy
- 23 May 2024 Episode #2, State Finances and the 16th Finance Commission, Conversation with Pinaki Chakraborty
- 3 October 2024 Episode #3, Multiplying Multi-Plants: Three New Facts about Large Plant Size in India and their Consequences

Symposiums

- 6 May 2024 Quest for Planetary Well-being: Rethinking Economics, Philosophy and Literature, by Ananta Kumar Giri
- 28 March 2025 Integral Development, Social Healing, and a New Upanishad of Life: Dialogues with Ananta Kumar Giri

Book Releases

- 14 June 2024 *The Great Nicobar Betrayal* by Pankaj Sekhsaria, Published by Frontline
- 4 July 2024 *A Remembered Village, A Remembered Town* by S Neelakantan, Published by Primus Books and MIDS

Colloquium / Conclave

- 11–13 Nov 2024 Second Edition of MIDS Doctoral Colloquium on Economics and Development Studies
- 10–11 March 2025 First edition of MIDS Annual Development Conclave Changing Dynamics of Labour Market in India: Challenges and Opportunities

Celebrations

- 21 June 2024 International Yoga Day Celebrations
- 5 September 2024 Teacher’s Day Celebrations at MIDS
- 7 March 2025 Women’s Day Celebrations at MIDS

Exhibition / Award Ceremony / Inauguration

- 14–16 August 2024 Three-Day Book Exhibition to commemorate the 78th Independence Day
- 18 October 2024 Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Awards 2024 for Distinguished Contributions to Development Studies
- 12 March 2025 Inauguration of Certificate Programme in Public Policy and Management

Summary

- 12 Seminars
- 7 Public Lectures / Talks / Keynotes
- 4 Workshops
- 3 Development Dialogues
- 3 Panel Discussions
- 2 Symposiums
- 2 Book Releases
- 1 Round-Table, 1 Colloquium, 1 Conclave
- 1 Library Exhibition
- 1 Awards Ceremony
- 1 Course Inauguration
- 3 Celebrations
- 42 Events

IX. MIDS Publications

Books

- Adishesiah, M. (2024). *Adishesiah Writings on Economy and Development, Vol. 1*. Madras Institute of Development Studies. ISBN: 978-81-947533-9-1.
- Adishesiah, M. (2024). *Adishesiah Writings on Education, Vol. 2*. Madras Institute of Development Studies. ISBN: 978-81-947533-4-6.
- Swaminathan, P. (2025). *Industrial Policy towards Growth and Employment since Colonial Times*. Primus Books and MIDS Publication. ISBN: 978-93-7033-649-0

Journals

Review of Development and Change (RDC), the MIDS journal, is published in association with SAGE Publishing, New Delhi. ISSN: 0972-2661. Two issues were published in 2024.

1. RDC Volume 29 Issue 1 (June 2024)
2. RDC Volume 29 Issue 2 (December 2024)

RDC June 2024

- Krishna, N. R., Sivakumar, P., Subramani, S., & Rajan, S. I. (2024). COVID-19, Internal Transitions and Vulnerable Citizens: Narratives of the Migrant Crisis in India during the Pandemic. *Review of Development and Change*, 29(1), 5-24. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09722661241246837>
- Suresh Babu, G. S. (2024). Unequal Educational Opportunities and Challenges in Online Learning during the Pandemic in India. *Review of Development and Change*, 29(1), 25-43. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09722661241248932>
- Darshini, J. S., & Gayithri, K. (2024). Indian Fiscal Federalism and Resource Gap of State Governments: Measurement and Analysis. *Review of Development and Change*, 29(1), 44-66. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09722661241260627>
- Mahapatra, S. K., & Sahu, P. (2024). Social Expenditures in Odisha: Populism Versus Human Capital Formation. *Review of Development and Change*, 29(1), 67-85. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09722661241252948>

Shameer, K. M., & Durai, S. R. S. (2024). The Political Budget Cycle: Evidence from Indian Municipal Corporation Elections. *Review of Development and Change*, 29(1), 86-105. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09722661241256713>

Krishna Nair, J., & Mishra, P. (2024). What Matters in Choosing School for Children's Education? Experiences from Kottayam, Kerala. *Review of Development and Change*, 29(1), 106-128. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09722661241259212>

RDC December 2024

Kumar, V. (2024). Data, Development and Democracy: The Political Economy of the Indian Census. *Review of Development and Change*, 29(2), 145-155. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09722661241303743>

Balakrishnan, U., & Hari Kurup, K. K. (2024). Does Social Capital Matter for the Development of Scheduled Tribes in Kerala? An Inter-tribal Analysis. *Review of Development and Change*, 29(2), 156-175. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09722661241297268>

Sumalatha, B. S., Bhat, L. D., & Chitra, K. P. (2024). Employment Status and Working Conditions: A Situational Analysis of Female Domestic Workers in India. *Review of Development and Change*, 29(2), 176-197. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09722661241299506>

Ghosh, P. (2024). Factors Responsible for Environmental Sustainability in G-20 Nations: A Panel Data Analysis. *Review of Development and Change*, 29(2), 220-241. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09722661241295518>

Subramanian, B. (2024). Beyond Enrolment: How Urban Poverty Affects Educational Experiences. *Review of Development and Change*, 29(2), 242-260. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09722661241291164>

Tamil Nadu Economy in News (TEN)

Tamilnadu Economy in News (TEN) is a carefully chosen list of news items spotlighting the state's economy published in the recent press. A monthly issue of the Madras Institute of Development Studies, *TEN* brings forth notable current economic affairs of the State for wider attention of economists, researchers and policymakers. Began in May 2024, *TEN* sees regular publication of its issues every month.

Working Papers

Anand, A., Subramanian, A., & Thomas, N. (2024). *Multiplying multi-plants and large plant size: Consequences, costs and rationale* (MIDS Working Paper No. 244). Madras Institute of Development Studies. https://mids.ac.in/assets/doc/WP244_R.pdf

Rajesh, V. (2025). *Reading Subramania Bharati under progressive eye: Literary criticism and the cultural left in Tamilnadu* (MIDS Working Paper No. 245). Madras Institute of Development Studies. https://www.mids.ac.in/assets/doc/WP_245.pdf

Giri, A. K. (2025). *With and beyond sociology and Indian knowledge: Bharat hind India vishwa, upanishadic sociology and planetary conversations* (MIDS Working Paper No. 246). Madras Institute of Development Studies. https://www.mids.ac.in/assets/doc/WP_246.pdf

Aishwarya, G. V. N. (2025). *Rethinking care labour in the Indian context: Through an expanded notion of urban care infrastructure* (MIDS Working Paper No. 247). Madras Institute of Development Studies. https://www.mids.ac.in/assets/doc/WP_247.pdf

Occasional Papers

Abhishek, A. (February 2025). *State of the economy—Breaking the cycle: Reviving growth amid structural and cyclical challenges* (Occasional Paper). Madras Institute of Development Studies. https://www.mids.ac.in/assets/doc/State_of_Economy_MIDS_Feb_2025.pdf

Research Reports

Jafar, K., Ananthpur, K., Venkatachalam, L., & Suresh Babu, M. (2025). *Income, Employment, and Living Conditions in Tamil Nadu: Report of the TNHPS Baseline Survey 2022–23*. Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey (TNHPS), Madras Institute of Development Studies & Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Tamil Nadu.

Policy Briefs

Jafar, K., Ananthpur, K., Venkatachalam, L., & Suresh Babu, M. (2024). *Welfare in action: Translating policies into benefits*. Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey (TNHPS).

X. Support Services

Administration

The Administration section reported the following activities:

Grants: Correspondence with the funding agencies—ICSSR and Government of Tamil Nadu; submitting proposals towards sanction and release of salary and maintenance grants; monitoring the grants received as per the sanction order; ensuring the grant-in-aid bill and audited utilisation certificate are periodically submitted to the funding agencies.

Projects: Supporting the faculty for preparation of detailed project report (DPR) / project proposal and vetting of MOU before execution and signing of the projects. Preparation and maintenance of all project-related appointments, issue of relieving orders, experience certificates, etc. Submission of Audited Utilisation Certificate, Statement of Expenditure, returning of unspent amount and final report of the project to the clients.

Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah (M&EA) Trust: Handling of all correspondence requesting support for the Research and Academic activities, PhD fellowship, Founder's Day Lecture, and other academic programmes.

RBI Chair and other Endowments: Supporting the RBI Chair for conduct of academic events as per the MOU with RBI; Assisting in periodical submission of progress report; forwarding of Audited Utilisation Certificate and Statement of Expenditure periodically; Maintenance of records pertaining to the endowments fund of Ford Foundation and Union Planning Commission.

Affiliation: Dealing with Affiliate-related issues, including obtaining approval, preparation of academic certificates, and updating of details of Affiliate (joining, academic performance and exit, etc.) in the website of Foreigners Regional Registration Officer from time to time.

Appointment of Fellows: (ICSSR Senior Fellow, Visiting Professor/Fellow, Post-Doctoral Fellow): Preparing the approval note and issuing appointment letters, forwarding of joining reports, forwarding six-month reports, and submitting grant-in-aid bill to ICSSR.

PhD programme: Facilitated the PhD programme, by issuing the advertisement for admission; assisting the PhD Committee in admission (shortlisting of candidates, conduct of written test and oral interview, publication of results, issue of admission letters); coordinating with candidates to get their University admission, registration and formation of Research Advisory Committee; conducting biannual seminars; and assisting scholars in submission of synopsis and thesis, facilitating viva-voce exams, etc.

Establishment: Handling the service-related matters of academic and non-academic employees of MIDS, conducting the process of recruitment, preparation of minutes, issue of appointment letters, fixation of pay, coordinating DA-related matters, obtaining sanction of annual increment, promotion, maintenance of leave records, correspondence with LIC of India for periodical remittance of premium for Employees Group Gratuity and Encashment of Leave and following up for getting funds for settlement of the terminal benefits of the employees, monitoring the superannuation of employees and timely settlement of their terminal benefits, etc. Maintenance of personal files and service records of all the employees. Proposing for CAS for faculty, constitution of IQAC, conduct of interview and promotion thereon.

Maintenance and Logistics: Carrying out routine Repairs and Maintenance works such as civil, electrical etc.; booking of air and train tickets for delegates; making arrangement for accommodation, transport; providing logistics and coordinating with the vendors for all the institute meetings and academic events; renewal of insurance for office buildings and cars; floating of tender for outsourcing services such as housekeeping, security etc., and selection thereon.

Conduct of Statutory Meetings: All statutory meetings of the Institute for the year 2024-25 are conducted as per the schedule.

Finance

The Finance section reported the following activities:

Sources of Finance: Handled funding from ICSSR, matching grant from Government of Tamil Nadu, Corpus endowed by RBI, Corpus endowed by Planning Commission, Corpus fund of the institute, M&EA Trust (for Fellowship and Founder's Day Programme), UGC fellowships to students and Other receipts (such as affiliation charges, user charges for the use of auditorium for public affairs events by other agencies).

Accounting: Accounting all receipts and monitoring the proper utilisation of receipts; Payroll for regular staff and project staff; maintaining separate accounts for each funding agency; preparing the detailed financial statement for each account and consolidated financial statement; preparation of budget estimates for 'Plan' and 'Non-Plan' under Institute's main accounts for approval by the FC/EC/GC/BOT; preparation of Cash Flow and Funds Flow Statement.

Statutory Compliance: Ensuring statutory compliance, return filing, and remittance are within the due date for PF, ESI, GST, TDS, IT Return, and FCRA.

Projects: Preparing the utilisation statement for the funding agency as per their prescribed format; sending the monthly utilisation statement of project accounts to the Project Director to intimate the funds position and availability of funds under each budget head.

Coordination: With academic, non-academic, and project staff; with EC/FC/GC/AC/BOT (meeting detail preparation); with funding agencies; With auditors (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Local Fund Audit department of Government of Tamil Nadu, and Statutory auditor) related to Finance matters; Use of Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

Investment: Maintaining the investment and ensuring the plough back deposit as per the condition of the endowments. Monitoring the maturity date of the investment to intimate the management to take an appropriate decision.

IT Infrastructure

Information Technology

The Institute maintains a comprehensive and modern IT infrastructure that supports its academic, research, and administrative activities. It continues to modernize these systems to meet evolving institutional needs.

IT Resources

As of March 2025, the Institute has two servers, 50 Intel-based desktop computers, 40 laptops, 30 multifunction laser printers, scanners, LED projectors, digital displays for presentations, network devices (such as switches, wireless controllers, access points, etc.), and a gateway-level firewall security device.

All desktops and laptops operate on the Windows platform, while the servers run on the Linux operating system under a virtual server (VMware) environment. The Institute utilizes a range of software to meet diverse functional needs, including:

- Office Automation: OpenOffice, Microsoft Office, Adobe Reader
- Statistical Software: SPSS, Stata, EViews
- Library: LIBSYS and KOHA
- Desktop Publishing: Adobe Creative Cloud for Teams
- Accounting: Tally ERP

IT Services

The Institute maintains reliable and secure IT services to support daily operations:

- A Linux-based web server, hosted on a virtual server platform (VMware), operates 24x7, providing uninterrupted access to institutional resources.
- The campus is equipped with a structured Ethernet-based Local Area Network (LAN) and campus-wide Wi-Fi connectivity.
- A Linux-based library automation server using LIBSYS software hosted on campus. It supports library operations.
- MIDS has two Internet Service Providers (ISPs), each with 100 Mbps bandwidth—the National Knowledge Network (NKN), Government of India, and Tata Tele Business Services Ltd.—ensuring high availability of email and internet services.
- A centralized antivirus EPO server using McAfee Endpoint Protection Suite safeguards the internal network from security threats.
- The Systems Department provides continuous IT support to faculty, staff, and students, ensuring smooth operation of all digital and communication systems.

IT and Security Enhancements

During the year, the Institute implemented several key upgrades to its IT infrastructure:

- *Internet Bandwidth:* Upgraded to 100 Mbps Internet Leased Line from Tata Tele Business Services.
- *Computing Resources:* Six HP 280 G9 Intel i7 computers were purchased for newly recruited faculty, and one Dell Optiplex i5 All-in-One PC was acquired for the Director. For the Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey Project, two Lenovo Ideapad Slim i5 laptops and Dell Inspiron i7 laptops were procured.
- *Printers:* Seven HP M329dw multifunction printers were purchased to support the new faculty members.
- *Attendance System:* The Institute's attendance management system was automated using an ESSL Biometric Attendance System, ensuring accurate and efficient tracking of staff attendance.
- *Security:* The campus is fully under security surveillance, with seven CCTV cameras and supporting equipment installed at strategic locations.
- *Smart Classroom:* A Smart Classroom for the Certificate Course on Public Policy and Management was established, featuring a 75-inch interactive flat panel display and an online UPS for uninterrupted power supply. An LED projector was also procured for meetings and presentations.
- *Auditorium Upgrades:* A 43-inch digital standee was installed to display conference events, schedules, and notifications. The auditorium now features a new public

address system with amplifiers, mixers, Podium/desktop/wireless microphones, and speakers, and the acoustic system has been improved to support a wide range of meetings, seminars, and conferences.

- *Administrative Support:* A 6 KVA online UPS was installed in the Administration and Accounts section, ensuring an uninterrupted power supply to all connected computers.
- *Licenses and Maintenance:* The annual subscriptions and maintenance for firewall licenses, antivirus licenses, Tally ERP subscription, Adobe Creative Cloud for Teams license, and the Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for the server room UPS were renewed to ensure continued system reliability and security.

Development Activities

- The Institute's website (www.mids.ac.in) is continuously maintained using PHP, HTML, and JavaScript, and has been made compatible with current-generation devices.
- About library automation, the Institute has migrated along with LIBSYS software to KOHA, an open-source library automation software widely used by other libraries. A separate Linux (Ubuntu) server has been configured under VMware. Library staff are currently customizing library routines, and online catalog access has been provided.

IT Support

The Systems Department provides extensive IT support across academic, administrative, and research activities:

1. *Web Management:* Manages the campus web server, which operates round the clock without any annual maintenance contract, and updates the Institute's website regularly.
2. *Email Services:* Manages mailing solutions using G-Suite.
3. *Library Support:* Oversees the library automation server and performs regular backups of library data.
4. *Network Security:* Maintains the McAfee EPO Server and ensures daily updates to prevent virus threats.
5. *Hardware and Software Support:* Provides assistance with PCs, laptops, tablets, printers, operating systems, application software, and network (LAN/Wi-Fi) troubleshooting for faculty, staff, and students.
6. *Website Updates:* Regularly updates content on the Institute's website.
7. *Event Support:* Provides technical support for workshops, conferences, seminars, and meetings, both offline and online, using video conferencing tools such as Zoom and Google Meet.

Library

The MIDS Library is an integral part of the institute administered to meet the information and research needs of its faculty and students. It is one of the leading libraries in the South for social science research and it caters to the study and reference requirements of research scholars and, where possible, the general public in their intellectual pursuits with a unique collection of books, extensive archives of journals old and new, working papers, government publications and reports. The Library has over 63,000 printed documents and subscribes to 105 journals.

1. Services Available

A. Online Services

- ❑ Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) Service
- ❑ *E-Journals*: MIDS library subscribes to 105 academic journals, out of which 58 journals are available online and the members can access these journals in the campus. The ICSSR, through NASSDOC, provides remote access to JStor, IP-based Econlit and Indiastat on an annual consortium basis.
- ❑ *Databases*: MIDS library procures electronic databases such as Census of India, NSSO, ASI etc on a regular basis. The library subscribes to Economic Outlook from CMIE and EPWRF time series databases. The ICSSR supports the library in subscribing to Indiastat annually. The Library Collection also includes DLHS, NSSO (mainly consumer expenditure, employment and unemployment, household assets, morbidity and health care, etc).
- ❑ *Digital Archives*: The library provides documents, reports, journal articles, etc. in electronic format from the Institute's archive, public domain and from other libraries to its users on request.

B. Customised Services

- ❑ *Reference Services*: The library provides reference services to the readers in the library. The library staff assist the users in locating their reference materials from the archive.
- ❑ *Document Delivery*: The library arranges to provide documents on request from other libraries to its faculty members and students. The Library facilitates this by networking with other institutional libraries in and around Chennai.
- ❑ *Reprography*: The library provides photocopying services to its members and other library users.
- ❑ *Updates*: An update on the arrival of new books/reports added to the library collection is emailed to the students and faculty periodically.
- ❑ *Bibliographic Information*: The library provides bibliography details to its faculty and students based on their specific requirements.

- ❑ *Inter-Library Loan Services (ILS)*: The MIDS Library is a member of Anna University Central library and British Council Library. With this facility, the library arranges inter-library loan facilities to the faculty and research scholars in the Institute.

2. Software / Digitization

MIDS Library is using Libsys software for its in-house operations while steps are also being taken to implement Koha. The documents and databases available in the library are digitized from time to time and made available electronically on request to cater to the requirements of students and faculty.

3. Collection of Back Volumes of Journals / Periodicals

MIDS library has not added any back volume collection during the year.

4. Subscription of Journals

MIDS Library currently subscribes to 55 International journals and 50 Indian periodicals.

5. New Additions

MIDS Library has added 333 new books to its collection in 2024-25.

6. Orientations

The Library regularly conducts orientation programmes for databases such as EPWRFIT, CMIE, Prowess IQ, Census of India, EBSCO, Econlit, EOL, etc. to enrich the knowledge base of research scholars at the Institute.

7. Exhibitions

In order to display the rare documents and books in the archive, the Library conducts exhibitions to mark important occasions. A three-day book exhibition to commemorate the 78th Independence Day was organized on 14-16 August 2024. The exhibition received coverage in press and media and saw significant footfall from researchers, students and the general public.

Publication

The Publication section provides editorial and documentation support to the institute faculty and coordinates academic events at the institute.

Review of Development and Change (RDC)—The MIDS Journal

The Publication section copyedited and proofread all the articles and book-reviews published in RDC issues of June and December 2024 and continued to handle correspondence with the publisher SAGE on plagiarism check, editorial, technical support, and billing. The Publication ensures that the RDC issues are published on time continuously, without any delay.

Books, Working Papers, Newsletters, and Reports

Three new books and four new working papers were brought out during the year. The section handles editorial and production of these publications in both print and online. An Occasional Paper on *State of the Economy* was published. Eight monthly issues of *Tamilnadu Economy in News (TEN)* were published.

The section compiled and submitted the institute's *Annual Report, Annual Report to ICSSR* and continues to provide its support in preparing official documents and reports of the institute. The Publication works with the faculty in copyediting research reports and manuscripts from time to time and also coordinates their printing requirements.

Events / Programmes

The Publication section works with the faculty members in organizing the academic events from preparing content for posters, to copyediting abstracts and speaker profiles, individual session summaries while providing overall coordination and ensuring smooth proceedings of events. The section disseminates information about all the events organized at the institute.

XI. Mission

Malcolm S. Adiseshiah and Elizabeth Adiseshiah founded the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) in 1971 with the following objectives:

- To undertake studies and research pertaining to development problems with special reference to the agro-rural aspects of Tamil Nadu, and the problems of the economically and socially backward sections of the population throughout the country.
- To conduct seminars and conferences on development problems and programmes of Tamil Nadu.
- To foster inter-university cooperation among social scientists of the universities of the four southern states.
- To promote interdisciplinary research and bring out publications relating to the above three functions.

In 1977, MIDS was reconstituted as a National Institute jointly funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi and the Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN).

The research foci of the faculty are wide-ranging, from the concerns of development economics, such as agriculture, rural development, industry, urbanisation, and labour, to interdisciplinary areas, such as gender, environment and climate change, human development, social and political movements, and social criticism.

Through its seminars and workshops, MIDS has become a centre for critical thinking on development issues relating to India in general and Tamil Nadu in particular. The services of faculty members are sought by state and central government departments, autonomous agencies, universities and colleges, and non-governmental and international organisations.

XII. MIDS Trust

Ex-officio Chairperson

N. Gopaldaswami
Chairperson, MIDS

Members

C. T. Kurien
Former Chairperson, MIDS
(Passed away on 23.7.2024)

Ajit Ranade
Vice Chancellor
Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Pune

M. Govinda Rao
Member, 14th Finance Commission
Former Director, National Institute of Public
Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi

Girija Vaidyanathan
Former Chief Secretary
Government of Tamil Nadu

P. Duraisamy
Former Vice-Chancellor
University of Madras

Ex-officio Invitee

M. Suresh Babu
Director, MIDS

XIII. Governing Council

Ex-officio Chairperson

N. Gopalaswami
Chairperson, MIDS

Representatives of
Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN)

Principal Secretary
Department of Finance, GoTN, Chennai

Additional Chief Secretary
Department of Planning, Development
and Special Initiatives, GoTN, Chennai

Representative of the
Indian Council
of Social Science
Research (ICSSR)

Nitin Kumar
Deputy Director and
In-Charge, RIC Division
ICSSR, New Delhi

Representatives of
four Southern Universities

Saji Gopinath
Vice Chancellor
Kerala University of Digital Sciences
Thiruvananthapuram

Phanindra Goyari
Professor, School of Economics
University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad

S. Pushparaj
Head, Department of Econometrics
Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai

T. S. Somashekar
Professor, National Law School of India
University, Bengaluru

Co-opted Social Scientists

Pami Dua

Former Director, Delhi School of Economics
University of Delhi, Delhi

Sugata Marjit

First Distinguished Professor
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata

Trustees

M. Govinda Rao

Member, 14th Finance Commission
Former Director, National Institute of Public
Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi

Girija Vaidyanathan

Former Chief Secretary
Government of Tamil Nadu

Ajit Ranade

Vice Chancellor
Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Pune

Representatives of MIDS Faculty

L. Venkatachalam

M. Vijayabaskar

Ex-officio Member-Secretary

M. Suresh Babu

Director, MIDS

XIV. Academic Council

Ex-officio Chairperson	M. Suresh Babu Director, MIDS
External Members	Ram Singh Professor, Delhi School of Economics University of Delhi, Delhi
	Brinda Viswanathan Professor, Madras School of Economics, Chennai
	Chandan Gowda Shri Ramakrishna Hegde Chair Professor Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru
MIDS Faculty	Ajit Menon Ananta Kumar Giri K. Hafsal K. Jafar A. Kalaiyarasan M. Umanath L. Venkatachalam A. R. Venkatachalapathy M. Vijayabaskar
MIDS Student Representative	A. Monish Shanmukh Kasyap

XV. Academic Staff

Ajit Menon, Professor	Political ecology; Environmental politics; Environmental history; Agrarian studies.
Ananta Kumar Giri, Professor (Retired on 31.3.2025)	Social movements and social transformation; Social theory; Criticism; Creativity.
K. Hafsal, Assistant Professor	Financial economics, Macroeconomics, Applied econometrics, Efficiency and Productivity analysis.
K. Jafar, Assistant Professor	Education and development; Migration; Financial inclusion; Local planning; Informality; Intellectual property rights; Gender.
A. Kalaiyarasan, Assistant Professor	Labour markets and their link with poverty and inequality; Regional political economy in India.
M. Suresh Babu, Professor & Director (Joined on 1.4.2024)	Applied Macroeconomics; Trade and Industrial Economics; Development Economics.
M. Umanath, Assistant Professor	Agricultural production; Natural resource management; Institutional arrangement for sustainable development.
L. Venkatachalam, RBI Chair Professor	Environmental economics; Ecological economics; Behavioural economics; Institutional economics.
A. R. Venkatachalapathy, Professor	Social and political change; Social history; Cultural history; Intellectual history.
M. Vijayabaskar, Professor & Member (part-time) State Planning Commission (w.e.f. 1.3.2025)	Political economy of regional development; Agrarian change; Rural-urban interactions; Industrialisation; Value chains; Labour processes.

XVI. Non-Academic Staff

Administration

Administrative Officer	B. Narasimhan
Assistant	E. Lakshmanakumar
Receptionist	N. Cibi (Relieved on 10.5.2024)
Junior Assistants	C. Anitha
	G. Karpagam
	R. Sumathi
Drivers	P. Pargunan
	S. Srinath
Record Clerk	A. Sampathkumar
Sweeper	K. Pencilamma

Finance

Finance Officer	S. Janakavalli
Junior Assistant	B. Azhagarsami

Information Technology

System Analyst	R. Dharumaperumal
System Assistant	P. Thyagarajan

Library

Librarian	R. Murugan
Library Assistants	A. Tamil Selvi
	G. Murugan
	S. Ramakrishnan

Publication

Publication Officer	M. R. Prasanna
Publication Assistant	A. Arivazhagan

XVII. Research Scholars

Scholar Name	Title of Research	Supervisor
Full-time		
1 Monish Shanmukh Kasyap A	Linguistic movements, the emergence of sub-nationalism and growth of identities in Madras Presidency	Venkatachalapathy A R
2 Praveen Subramanian N	Historical methods and perspectives of EVR Periyar	Venkatachalapathy A R
3 Nikhitha S	Women's participation in Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Tamil Nadu	Jafar K
4 Seena K M	Development economics	Venkatachalam L
5 Niranjana C J	Colonial infrastructure and uneven urbanisation: The making of railways in Madras Presidency	Venkatachalapathy A R
6 Arya Sankar R	Environmental economics	Venkatachalam L
7 Prashant Kumar	Political ecology of groundwater abstraction in India	Ajit Menon
8 Zakiyya K	Gender and popular culture	Venkatachalapathy A R
9 Aishwarya G V N	Understanding state-society relations in the context of urban governance	Karen Coelho
10 Ajisha K V	An enquiry into the marine fishing technology and the approach of market towards sea: The case of Kerala	Ajit Menon
11 Anitha P C	Social and cultural change among tribal community	Vijayabaskar M (guide) Kalavathi S (co-guide) (Queen Mary's college)
12 Unnimaya U G	Labour economics	Umanath M
13 Muhammad Shafeeque Aliparambil	Institutional interventions and transaction costs in agriculture: A study of the weekly market programme in Kerala	Venkatachalam L
14 Rituparna Borah	Ecotourism in Majuli: Glocal assemblages in the changing political ecology of a river island	Ajit Menon Kalavathi S (co-guide) (Queen Mary's college)
15 Anjaly Baby	Poverty: A behavioural economics approach	Venkatachalam L

Scholar Name	Title of Research	Supervisor
Synopsis Submitted		
1 Titu Mahanta	Institutions, upgrading and livelihoods: Study of small tea growers of Assam	Vijayabaskar M
2 Rahul Reghu	Tribal development in Kerala: Discourse, the everyday state and Kadars in the Vazhachal-Malakkapara region	Ajit Menon Lakshmanan C (co-guide)
Thesis Submitted		
1 Saravanakumar R	Diffusion of new technologies in agriculture: An analysis of system of rice intensification	Vijayabaskar M
2 Gargi Sridharan	Division of labour and subjective well-being: A household-level study in Tamil Nadu, India	Venkatachalam L
3 Jijin P	Investment impact of remittances: The case of India	Vijayabaskar M
4 Brinda G Krishnan	Climate change and regional farming systems: A study of spice production in Kerala	Vijayabaskar M
Degree Awarded		
1 Anee Bhattacharya	Transgender space, subject formation and new forms of discrimination in contemporary Assam	Karen Coelho
2 Chandrasekar D	Dalits and access to common property resources	Ajit Menon
3 Balamurugan S	Economic analysis of trade-offs between ecosystem services: A case study of Veeranam Lake, Tamil Nadu, India	Venkatachalam L
4 Muhammed Aslam E S	Social history of Mappilla muslims	Anandhi S
5 Boddu Srujana	Mobility and segmentation in urban informal labour markets: The case of Hyderabad city	Vijayabaskar M

XVIII. Visiting Scholars

Scholar	Affiliation	Research Topic	Guidance	
Affiliates				
1	Preetha Laxmi Mani	Assistant Professor Rutgers University New Brunswick New Jersey, USA	Tamil New Poetry, Indian Literature, Poetic Modernism	A R Venkatachalapathy Professor, MIDS
2	Rajesh V	Associate Professor and Head, Department of Humanities and Social Science, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Mohali, Punjab	Literacy Progressivism in Tamilnadu and Sri Lanka	A R Venkatachalapathy Professor, MIDS
Post-Doctoral Research Affiliate				
3	Kannan T	Assistant Professor (Sociology), National Academy of Legal Studies and Research University, Hyderabad	Legal-Ideological Struggles of the Dravidian Political Formations towards achieving 'Reflexive Social Justice' in Tamilnadu	M Vijayabaskar Professor, MIDS
Post-Doctoral Fellowship				
4	Manikandan D, IAS	District Collector, Karaikal, Puducherry	Navigating the Future Blue: Hopes and Challenges towards Sustainable Coastal Economy and enabler Public Policy	L Venkatachalam RBI Chair Professor, MIDS

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025

Expenditure	Amount Rs. P.	Amount Rs. P.	Income	Amount Rs. P.	Amount Rs. P.
Salary and other allowances		4,96,42,506.51	Direct Income		6,04,12,014.88
Salaries	4,21,50,051.51		Grant—ICSSR	2,31,69,000.00	
Fellowship	1,40,000.00		Grant—GOTN	2,86,85,366.00	
Project staff remuneration	73,52,455.00		Grant—ICSSR-Fellowship	4,35,000.00	
			Project Grants	81,22,648.88	
Other administrative expenses		2,59,29,377.10	Other Income		2,56,38,769.36
Library	14,50,796.86		Dedicated funds	55,45,519.00	
Research Programmes	18,60,830.00		SB Interest	12,29,337.00	
Maintenance—Computer	8,60,166.96		Interest on sweep account	1,75,815.00	
Research Publications	2,05,880.00		Interest on funds, FD		
			and bonds (excl. accrual)	1,67,28,061.46	
Printing & Stationery	5,14,849.00		Write Back	93,934.24	
Postage & Telephone	90,926.07		Other income	18,66,102.66	
Travelling Expenses	6,89,846.08				
Campus Maintenance	45,93,254.00				
Vehicle Maintenance	2,24,307.00				
Other Admin. Expenses	85,81,236.37				
Research Project Expenses	25,39,853.44				
Unspent returned to funding agency	9,64,161.48				
Written off Assets & Bad Debts	33,53,269.84				
Excess of Income over Expenditure		1,04,78,900.63			
TOTAL		8,60,50,784.24	TOTAL		8,60,50,784.24

For Kalyanasundaram & Associates
Chartered Accountants
FRN 005455S
sd/-
K M Sethu, B. Com, FCA
Partner, Membership No. 231703

sd/-
M. Suresh Babu S. Janakavalli
Director Finance Officer
For Madras Institute of Development Studies
79, Second Main Road, Gandhi Nagar
Adyar, Chennai 600020

Place: Chennai
Date: 25-09-2025



Prof A R Venkatachalapathy receives Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism (non-fiction) from the Hon'ble President of India (19 March 2025, New Delhi).



Prof A R Venkatachalapathy receives the Sahitya Akademi Award (8 March 2025, New Delhi).



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