

## Event Report—MIDS Book Release Function on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

As part of its Golden Jubilee celebrations, MIDS organised a Book Release Function on the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022. Hon'ble Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan and Vice Chairman of State Planning Commission, Dr. J. Jeyaranjan graced the occasion as chief guest and keynote speaker respectively. The proceedings began at 7 pm.

MIDS Chairperson Shri. N. Gopalaswami greeted everyone and called the meeting to order. The session began with *Thamizh Thaa Vaazhthu*.

MIDS Director Prof. P. G. Babu addressed the gathering with his welcome note and introduced the distinguished members on the stage. Prof. Babu briefly discussed about the book, the individual authors and each of the chapters presented in the book. He thanked the people who helped with the publication of the books and dissemination of its content.

Chairperson Shri. N. Gopalaswami presented mementos to the special guests of the event: Hon'ble Finance Minister Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan and Vice Chairman of State Planning Commission, Dr. J. Jeyaranjan. Shri. Gopalaswami then addressed the audience and delivered the chair's remarks. In his address, Mr. Gopalaswami paid tribute to the MIDS Founder the late Prof. Malcolm Adiseshiah and his wife Elizabeth Adiseshiah. He discussed the areas of work and research MIDS has been undertaking in collaboration with the State at various levels. He concluded with a request to the state government seeking financial support for the institute and invited the Hon'ble Minister to release the books.

Hon'ble Minister Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan unveiled the English title ***Economic Policy in Covid-19 Times*** published by Orient Blackswan in association with MIDS. Additional Chief Secretary to Government for Planning and Special Initiatives department, Mr. Vikram Kapur, IAS received the first copy of the book. Vice Chairman of State Planning Commission, Dr. J. Jeyaranjan then unveiled the Tamil translation ***Perunthottrum Porulathara Kolgaiyum*** published by MIDS. Hon'ble Minister Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan received the first copy.

Dr. J. Jeyaranjan then delivered his Keynote Address. Among other things, he discussed the lack of availability of data and the process of data collection. Dr. Jeyaranjan also said the State departments should look to collect their own datasets, and opt for their early publications while working in close collaboration with institutions like MIDS that can analyse, interpret and summarize data faster.

Hon'ble Minister Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan then took centre stage and delivered the chief guest's address. He said, "Much of our politics today is shaped and built on differences in philosophies, values and approach, but what gets lost in that process is finding out whether any of the outcomes are fully achieved. (...) Much of our policies are bereft of data packing or thorough analysis." He added that "an institution like MIDS could add a lot of value to the right government with the right kind of mindset and connectivity at the right time of process." He said that a disconnect between intent and outcome among all levels of government was common, but it would help the government if that gap could be bridged with good and independent data such that it can help frame policies.

Dr. Kripa Ananthpur provided a Vote of Thanks at the end. A brief photo-op was arranged for the media before the session concluded with National Anthem.



