

MIDS celebrates the 90th Birthday of Professor C.T. Kurien

Professor Christopher Thomas Kurien (known as C T Kurien to his students and friends) has made a lasting contribution to economic research and policy. He is a researcher of distinction and a researcher par excellence with an academic career spanning over six decades. Graduated from the Madras Christian College (MCC) and Stanford University, he joined the faculty of MCC as Professor in 1962. Later, he joined the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), with which he was associated from the conceptual stage, as its Director in 1978 and led the Institute for a decade. Under his stewardship, MIDS developed as one of the top national institutes for social science research in India.

His research has highlighted the issues of equity in society and economy and the policies to make economic development inclusive. The research advisory committee of ICSSR recognized the importance of Professor C. T. Kurien's work on the Dynamics of Rural Transformation in Tamil Nadu and asked MIDS to help design and coordinate similar studies in other Indian states. As a result of this, several studies on Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh were completed.

He was the recipient of the Life time Achievement Award from the University Grants Commission in 1996. He was appointed the first chairman of the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust in 1999. His association with MIDS has continued as its Chairman from 1997 to 2003 and as Trustee to the present day. He was President of the Indian Economic Association in 2000.

He has been a passionate thinker and prolific writer publishing over 13 books and innumerable professional articles on various facets of the Indian economy. If you thought his book *Wealth and Illfare: An Expedition into Real Life Economics* published in 2012, when he was 80, is testimony to his passion and commitment for research, think again about *Economics of Real Life: A New Exposition* in 2018. MIDS family wishes Professor C. T. Kurien a very happy and nostalgia filled 90th Birthday today, July 2, 2021.