

## MIDS Seminar

# Listening to the Cry of Earth

*The Calling and Challenges of Transformative Visions, Social Science Research, and Transformative Movements on the Earth Day*

### Speakers

#### Ananta Kumar Giri

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#### Ori Z. Soltes

Professor, Georgetown University

#### L. Venkatachalam

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#### Minati Pradhan

Poet and Independent Scholar, Vishwaneedam Center for Asian Blossoming, Bangalore

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#### G. Tarun

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#### M. Suresh Babu

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## 22 April 2024

## Monday 3:30 pm

### Adiseshiah Auditorium

Madras Institute of Development Studies

#79, 2nd Main Road, Gandhi Nagar

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## Earth Day 2024 Planet vs. Plastic

### Abstract

Our Earth is under stress and is weeping. The arrival of the Anthropocene epoch heightens the problems of man-made interventions on Mother Earth. Climate change verging on climate collapse challenges us to realise that human survival is at stake. Earth is being subjected to a variety of violence and violations and we need to listen to its cry. We also need to cultivate transformative visions, actions, and movements—socio-political, socio-economic, and socio-spiritual as well as new movements of consciousness such as Earth Consciousness—so that we can respond to the challenges of degradation of Earth and create new ways of habitation, dwelling and living together. This calls for new initiatives in justice, dialogue, and beauty where we realise the beauty of our interlinked Mother Earth's existence, including all of its children—human and non-human. It also creates what M. S. Swaminathan calls the climate care movement which can now be part of a much wider movement of Earth Care. It calls for a critique of our dominant Euro-American civilisation of modernity and cultivating pluriversal bio-civilisations based upon local ecologies, local economies, autonomous communities, and societies. Listening to the cry of Earth calls for multi-dimensional movements from the violence of contemporary civilisations to a civilisation of Ahimsa—non-violence—where reverence for life, as Albert Schweitzer puts it, challenges us to realise—becomes our way of living and thinking with Earth, human beings, societies and the non-human world.

### Also on Zoom

Meeting ID: 870 1929 4177 Passcode: 231566

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