

Prof P. G. Babu, Former Director of MIDS passed away on 12th November 2026

Prof P G Babu, former director of Madras Institute of Development Studies, passed away yesterday (12 Nov 2026). He was 65. He has been serving as the Vice Chancellor of Vidyashilp University, Bengaluru, since 2023.

An experienced academic and administrator, Prof Babu served for over three decades at IGIDR, Mumbai, where he was also the Dean of Graduate Studies and coordinated the Law and Economics Programme. He was the Director of MIDS from 2019 to 2022. At MIDS, he brought out a series of books in both Tamil and English, most notably on economic policy during the pandemic.

His research and teaching interests are deeply interdisciplinary, focusing on Microeconomic theory and Game theory with applications across Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, Law and Economics, and Politics-Philosophy and Economics. His research contributions include work on the decision-making framework for climate change as part of the IPCC working group, which earned him a citation from the Prime Minister of India.

Prof Babu held the prestigious Adam Smith Chair Professorship in Philosophy and Economics at the University of Bayreuth, Germany, during summer semesters from 2008 to 2013. He has been the Mumbai Coordinator for the Erasmus Plus European Masters and Doctoral Programmes in Law and Economics since 2009. He has held prominent editorial positions, serving as the Managing Editor of the Journal of Quantitative Economics, official journal of the Indian Econometric Society, and at MIDS as the Editor-in-Chief of Review of Development and Change. An alumnus of the IISc, where he earned his PhD, Prof Babu was also a member of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi.

He has held visiting positions at the Universities of Aix-Marseille, Bayreuth, Hamburg, IIM Ahmedabad, Madras School of Economics, Erasmus University at Rotterdam, Warsaw School of Economics and Yale.

Prof Babu also had a keen interest in music, art, comic books and graphic novels.