

24 July 2024



With profound grief, I would like to inform you that Professor C T Kurien, former Director and Chairperson, MIDS, passed away yesterday night. He was 93.

Professor Christopher Thomas Kurien (CTK) is one among the few economists in India who has made a lasting contribution to economic research and policy. He is a researcher of distinction and a teacher par excellence with an academic career spanning over six decades. Graduated from the Madras Christian College and Stanford University, he joined the faculty of Madras Christian College. Later, he joined the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) as its Director, and later as its Chairperson, developing it as one of the topmost national institutes for social science research in India. He has been a passionate thinker and prolific writer publishing over 13 books and innumerable professional articles on various facets of the Indian economy. He was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the UGC. It can be noted that his first book *Our Five Year Plans* was published in 1966 and his last and the 13th book *Wealth and Illfare: An Expedition into Real Life Economics* was published in 2012, when he was 80 years old, testifying that his passion and commitment for research had overcome his age.

Prof. Kurien through his teaching and research highlighted the need for paying greater attention to the reality of the society and economy in social science research. Prof. Kurien's lectures have influenced generations of economists and social scientists as they distilled the lessons and experience of decades of work as an academic and teacher. His analysis of social and economic issues will remain as an important reminder to teachers and researchers of economics that the reality of the society and economy is as important as an appropriate analytical or theoretical framework in their research.

MIDS fraternity offers its respects and deepest condolences to the family members, students and colleagues of dear CTK.

M Suresh Babu
Director, MIDS