

# INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Karnataka Regional Branch, Bengaluru

ಭಾರತೀಯ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ

Virtual Newsletter - ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸುದ್ದಿ ಪತ್ರ (For Private Circulation Only)

Views expressed by the contributors are personal and do not represent the views or position of the Editorial Board or the Executive Committee of the Branch.

- Chief Editor



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### A Note from the new Chairman/Chief Editor



S.V. Ranganath, IAS (Retd.)

I have taken charge as **Chairman** of the **Karnataka Regional Branch** with mixed feelings. It is not easy to step into the shoes of my predecessor, **Mr. S. Ramanathan,** who has single-handedly built up the Branch to its current stature and position. We have reluctantly let him go, due to his advanced age, to spend his time in more leisurely pursuits. But the show must go on...

I am happy to place before our readers the **April 2022** issue of our **Virtual Newsletter.** This is our 21st Issue, since we began this initiative.

The **Lead Feature** in this issue is the text of the **Resignation Letter of Mr. S. Ramanathan,** who recalls his long association with the IIPA, New Delhi and with this Branch.

In our **Reports** section, we carry the summary and major findings of the **Performance Audit of the Working of the Road Safety Authority in Karnataka** by the **Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAGI)**, very ably put together by our EC Member, **Mr. T. Sethumadhavan**, IAAS (Rtd.).

We are delighted to inform our readers that **Dr. S.S. Meenakshisundaram**, IAS (Retd.) and myself, were conferred with **Honorary Doctorates by the Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University**, Gadag, at its **Second Annual Convocation** held on 30th March 2022. The Citations are reproduced here, along with a photo of Dr. Meenakshisundaram being honoured on the occasion. I could not be physically present there.

In our Books Section, we carry a story of retired IAS officer **Mr. Madabhushi Madan Gopal's** second book '*Rainbow Years: Conflict to Contentment*' which was released last month in Bengaluru.

We carry brief reports of the activities of our Branch in **March 2022.** And we sign off with a *Feedback* received from a regular reader, **Mr. Hemachandra Basappa**, and with a thought-provoking *Food for Thought*.

I wish to add a disclaimer here that the views expressed by the contributors in this issue are personal and *do not represent the views or position of the Editorial Board or the Executive Committee of the Branch*.

Do write in, with your responses, views and ideas for improvement of the Newsletter.

### **Lead Feature**

## Resignation of Mr. S. Ramanathan as Chairman of Branch



**Bidding Adieu** 

It has been a long journey, filled with dreams, landmarks and achievements, but it is time to finally 'Bid Adieu'!

My association with the Indian Institute of Public Administration has indeed been a long one. I took charge as Secretary of what was then called the Mysore Regional Branch in 1963-64 when I was the Deputy Development Commissioner of the Government of Mysore. The convention then was that the Chief Secretary of the State would serve as the Chairman of the Branch. I had the privilege of working with Shri. K. Narayanaswamy, IAS, who was Chief Secretary then. I continued working as Secretary of the Branch till 1965. We organized several activities, most of them being Special Lectures by experts in Public Administration and release of a book, Organization of the Government of Mysore.

I had a long association spanning more than two decades with IIPA, New Delhi, starting as a Member of the Executive Council in 1981. I have served as Vice-President, Elected and Co-opted Member of the Executive Council and Chairman of the Screening Committee. In between, I had the unique privilege of serving as the Director of the IIPA, New Delhi during 1986-88. Many courses for senior officers of the government and academics were organized. It has been officially placed on record that "there was a distinct improvement in the working of the Institute" during my tenure there.

In 1990, I was elected Chairman of the Karnataka Regional Branch, and I have had the pleasure and privilege of leading the organization, uninterruptedly for nearly 32 years. This has been possible, due to the love and affection, as well as the faith reposed in me, by members of the Branch.

The Branch has come a long way since then. From a time when our bank account was negligible and we did not have office accommodation, furniture or library, we have now office accommodation provided by Government of Karnataka in the Multi-Storied Building No.5. We have office furniture, computers and a library. GoK has been kind enough to provide an annual grant which, over the years, has steadily increased. Thanks to the accommodation and funds, we have been able to fulfil, to a very large extent, our aims and objectives, as well as our vision and mission.

During this long journey it has been my privilege to have been associated with Governors, Chief Ministers, Union Ministers, State Ministers, Members of Parliament and Members of the Karnataka State Legislature and a very large number of eminent Vice-Chancellors, civil servants, diplomats, academics in social sciences, public administration and others representing trade, industry, commerce, information technology and stalwarts in various walks of life. Many of them are no more. I recall their association with pride. Their contribution was great.

Our activities today are considerable. Ever since the pandemic, we are holding webinars/book discussions and bringing out Virtual Newsletters regularly every month. We have signed Memoranda of Understanding with a host of institutions in Bangalore which include the Ramaiah Public Policy Centre, Public Affairs Centre, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Jain University and University Law College of Bangalore University. In collaboration with these institutions, we have been organizing seminars, webinars, workshops and special lectures. We have been bringing out publications in the form of monographs, books and proceedings of seminars.

We have organized over the last 32 years, as many as 95 Lectures, 13 Panel Discussions, 42 Seminars, 33 Conferences, 18 Workshops, 6 Symposia, 28 Training Courses, and several Research Studies. Recently, we released two books containing the Reports of Webinars.

In recent years, new issues of Governance have emerged both at the central and state levels. Some of them are well-intentioned and in the digital age may help in improving delivery systems and promoting Good Governance. There are others including legislative measures which are being hotly debated by civil society and social media. Our Executive Committee must take note of these policies and programmes and the proposed legislative measures for discussing their merits and demerits.

I turned 94 in January 2022, and it is time to call it a day. "*The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But I have promises to keep...*" To my wife, to my near and dear ones, and to myself. To lead the rest of my life in quiet contemplation.

I owe a debt of gratitude to a multitude of people, with whom I have had the pleasure of working, both in service and outside. But to those of you who worked with me in building up the Karnataka Regional Branch of the IIPA, I am deeply grateful. I am confident that my successor and Executive Committee will take this body to even greater heights, with the support and cooperation of all of you. While I will remain engrossed in my personal pursuits henceforth, I assure you that I will continue to assist the Executive Committee by enrolling more Life Members of the IIPA and making suggestions for organizing academic programmes and participating in programmes organized online.

I would also like to place on record my personal thanks to the Director-General, IIPA, Registrar IIPA, Faculty Members and Staff of the IIPA, New Delhi for helping the Branch with their advice and suggestions and for responding speedily to our requests for their assistance. I would also like to recall with gratitude the help and guidance I have received from the former Directors, Registrars, Faculty Members and staff of the IIPA and my cordial association with Chairmen and Secretaries of Regional and Local Branches and Members of IIPA in the Annual Conferences, meetings of the Executive Council and other Committees.

Thank you all for your valuable help and support in discharging my duties as Chairman of the Branch.

# Reports ROAD SAFETY MEASURES IN KARNATAKA

Performance Audit of the Working of the Road Safety Authority in Karnataka by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAGI)



Thayyil Sethumadhavan, IAAS (Rtd.)

CAG's Report on Road Safety measures in Karnataka was placed in the Legislature on 16th March, 2022. The report includes a systematic analysis of the database relating to road accidents in the State during the period from 2014 to 2021, as also findings from Joint Physical Inspections (JPI) by auditors along with departmental authorities. Auditors selected 446 sample road stretches for JPI, of which 46 'Black Spots' were inspected, along with National Highway Authority of India personnel.

Road accidents are everyday affairs in our country and hardly a day passes without one or more fatal accidents being reported in the dailies. Accidents are caused either due to the existence of poor road infrastructures or due to unsafe driving habits of the motorists, or both. The report covers both these aspects in depth, but what stands out is that the Karnataka State Road Safety Authority (KSRSA), a creature of the State Road Safety Authority Act, 2017, formed with the objective of reducing road accidents and fatalities in the State, has to pull up its socks to create more congenial conditions to enable motorists to drive on our roads with confidence, without entirely leaving their fate to their own 'karma'.

The foremost objective of the State Road Safety Policy formed in 2015 was to bring down accidents by 25 per cent and fatality by 30 per cent by 2020, as compared to 2015. A dedicated Road Safety Fund (RSF) was created to meet the related expenses. The national auditor's study covered all carriageways, including National Highways (NH), State Highways (SH), Major District Roads (MDR) and, of special interest to us in Bengaluru, the BBMP Roads.

The Road Safety Policy envisaged creating awareness of the aspects of road safety, developing a wide database, ensuring safe road infrastructure, enforcement of road safety laws and emergency medical assistance etc. A State Council headed by the Minister for Transport was to guide the activities and functions of the KSRSA with supporting organizational structure. However, there was a delay of more than 3 years in framing the Rules to implement the Road Safety Act, 2017 and the Guidelines for establishing Action Plans by the District Committees, which contributed to

sub-optimal implementation of road safety measures.

### Findings of the Performance Audit

Some important findings emerging from the Performance Audit are given below:

- 1. As compared to 2014, the number of accidents came down by 22 per cent in 2020 during the Lock Down (triggered by COVID-19); but there were no perceptible reductions per year prior to that event. In absolute terms, the number of accidents were higher every year, and the National Highways registered 1.8 accidents per km, the State Highways (0.36) and Other Roads (0.36). The ratio of fatal accidents to the total increased to 30 per cent in 2020, as against 17 per cent in 2015. Significantly, the number of accidents started going up after the lifting of the Lock Down.
- 2. During the period 2014-20, there were 1245 accidents in which vehicles involved fell into roadside water bodies, service roads, lower land area etc., resulting in the death of as many as 455 persons and grievous hurt to 2,500, mainly because there were no crash barriers or they were defective. There were also several cases of fatal accidents because there were no pavements or they were deficient, with maximum such cases being in BBMP. Other deficiencies pointed out in the report include unscientific construction and management of road medians, speed breakers, road signs, poor lighting etc. with tell-tale details provided.
- 3. The database of road assets maintained by Road Maintenance Authorities (RMA) was incomplete. There were as many 960 road hazards in a stretch of 130 kms of NH (7.4 hazards per km), 1144 in SH, (9 per km) and 1019 in a 121 km stretch of MDRs (8.5 per km). These indicated the unsafe road infrastructure available to motorists. Auditors also observed that in 640 hazardous locations, crash barriers were not available or were deficient, putting road safety to risk.
- 4. Though the Cess created for Road Safety Fund under the Act accumulated to Rs.480 crores till 2020, there was delay in its release to the RSA till 2021. An amount of Rs.100 crores has since been released from the Fund to the Transport and Police Departments for improving safety measures; but details of the works carried out and UCs are awaited.
- 5. JPIs revealed that the roads under BBMP were the most hazardous for road users, with as many as 20 hazards per km length. In fact, of a total length of 1,400 kms of arterial and sub-arterial roads under BBMP, 44 per cent of the roads did not have footpaths worth the name.
- 6. JPIs also brought out that Road Management Agencies (RMA) miserably failed to rectify even identified road hazards, including so-called black spots, in spite of repeated accidents taking place on them.
- 7. The severe shortage of qualified staff to conduct driving tests (and fitness certification of old vehicles) resulted in dilution of standards which was of concern. While the maximum driving tests that a Motor Vehicle Inspector could carry out per day effectively would be about 25 to 30 (following the prescribed standards), in actuality, one MVI is required to test more than

100 applicants, which is impossible.

8. As many as 22 Districts in the State are awaiting the establishment of Trauma Care Centres (TCC). The database of the Authority showed that as many as 90,000 accident victims did not receive timely and critical assistance due to the poor management of the Ambulance services including wrong base locations and pre-trip delays.

### Case Studies and Information Charts

The Audit Report is replete with statistics, information charts and standard specifications which are a valuable source. The report also includes relevant case studies representing typical cases from the records of the departments concerned, in support of the audit findings and conclusions. In one such case study, auditors point out how 30 passengers of a bus were killed when a bus fell into a water body, as crash barrier was not in position to prevent the fall, due to faulty design. In another instance, at a road junction on a NH, a road stretch of 100 mts was in very poor state with multiple potholes, cracks and sunken shoulders etc. which caused a fatal accident in January, 2016; but remained the same way till March, 2020 during which period, 44 further accidents took place with 7 mortalities and 43 injured.

Callousness, shall we say?

### **Awards Conferred**

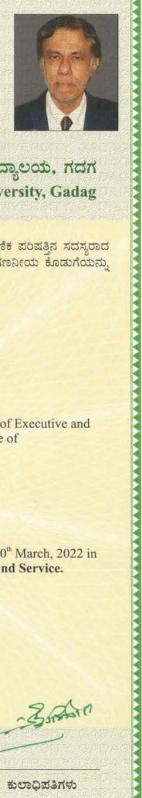


We are delighted to inform our readers that Mr. S.V. Ranganath, IAS (Retd.) and Dr. S.S. Meenakshisundaram, IAS (Retd.) were conferred with Honorary Doctorates by the Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag, at its Second Annual Convocation held on 30th March 2022.

Dr. S. S. Meenakshisundaram is seen (above) receiving the Honorary Doctorate from His Excellency, the Governor of Karnataka, Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot. To his left is the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of KSRDPR University, Prof. Vishnukant Chatpalli.

## Citation of Mr. S.V. Ranganath, IAS (Retd.), conferring the award of **Doctor of Laws** (LL.D.)





ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಗದಗ Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag

ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಕುಲಾಧಿಪತಿಗಳು, ಸಹಕುಲಾಧಿಪತಿಗಳು, ಕುಲಪತಿಗಳು, ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಮತ್ತು ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾದ ನಾವು, ಶ್ರೀ ಸಕಲೇಶಮರ ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ರಂಗನಾಥ್, ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ನೀತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸೇವೆ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿನ ಗಣನೀಯ ಕೊಡುಗೆಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ, 30ನೇ, ಮಾರ್ಚ್ 2022 ರಂದು ನಡೆದ ಘಟಿಕೋತ್ತವದಲ್ಲಿ,

> ಡಾಕ್ಟರ್ ಆಫ್ ಲಾಸ್ (ಎಲ್ಎಲ್.ಡಿ.) (HONORIS CAUSA)

ಗೌರವ ಪದವಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರದಾನ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

We, the Chancellor, the Pro-Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor and the Members of Executive and Academic Councils of the University confer the Honorary Degree of

> Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) (HONORIS CAUSA)

on Shri Sakleshpur Visveshwaraiya Ranganath, at the Convocation held on 30th March, 2022 in recognition of his noteworthy contribution to the cause of Public Policy and Service.

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಚೇತನ

ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಲಾಂಛನದೊಂದಿಗೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. Given under the seal of the University.

ಗದಗ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಭಾರತ. Gadag, Karnataka, India.

Vice Chancellor



-350

ಕುಲಾದಿಪತಿಗಳು Chancellor Citation of **Dr. S.S. Meenakshisundaram**, IAS (Retd.), conferring the award of **Doctor of Literature** (D.Lit.)





ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಗದಗ Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag

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> ಡಾಕ್ಟರ್ ಆಫ್ ಲಿಟರೇಚರ್ (ಡಿ. ಲಿಟ್.) (HONORIS CAUSA)

> > ಗೌರವ ಪದವಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರದಾನ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ.

We, the Chancellor, the Pro-Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor and the Members of Executive and Academic Councils of the University confer the Honorary Degree of

# Doctor of Literature (D.Lit.) (HONORIS CAUSA)

on Dr. S. S. Meenakshisundaram, at the Convocation held on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 in recognition of his noteworthy contribution to the Advancement of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj System.

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಚೇತನ

ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಲಾಂಛನದೊಂದಿಗೆ ನೀಡಿದೆ. Given under the seal of the University.

ಗದಗ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಭಾರತ. Gadag, Karnataka, India.

23 05 2022

ಕುಲಪತಿಗಳು Vice Chancellor



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ಕುಲಾಧಿಪತಿಗಳು Chancellor

### **Books**

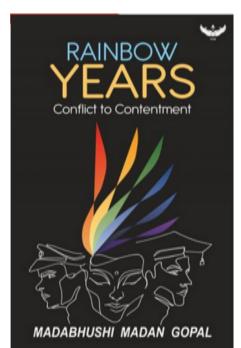
### Youth, Unrest and the Rainbow Illusion

Retired IAS officer **Madabhushi Madan Gopal's** second book 'Rainbow Years: Conflict to Contentment' was released last month in Bengaluru.

Courtesy: Tini Sara Anien, Deccan Herald, March 22, 2022



Seen at the launch of the book (from left to right) are former Education Minister, Mr. Suresh Kumar; Dr Ajay Kumar Singh, IPS (Retd.); Dr. Chiranjeevi Singh, IAS (Retd.); current Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, Mr. P. Ravi Kumar, IAS; former Karnataka Lokayukta Justice N Santosh Hegde; and the author.



The book is available on Amazon, Flipkart, and garudabooks.com. It is priced at Rs 399.

Clicke here to Read more

Retired IAS officer Madabhushi Madan Gopal's second book 'Rainbow Years: Conflict to Contentment' was released last month in Bengaluru. Unlike his first book, 'Kangchenjunga Diary', which was an account of a trek in the Himalayas (published by Pilgrims Publishing), his latest is a historical fiction. The idea of the new book came to him in 2018 but he was able to put it together only during the pandemic.

The story starts in the '60s, which was a period of turmoil across the world. "There were revolutions and assassinations, the hippie movement (was raging), and the mood was rebellious. Everything was bubbling with new energy. I wanted people to know what happened then and how youth get attracted to certain ideologies," Gopal elaborates.

The book is divided into three parts: Spring Thunder covers the '60s, Dark Clouds is set amid India's Emergency, and Misty Horizon unfolds from 1984, seven years after the Emergency ended. The characters were built on incidents cited by five of Gopal's friends. "I would speak to them on a daily basis and jot down everything.

I wrote sentences at first. Later I wrote about 10-15 pages every day. Some moments were painful and emotional for them to recollect," he says.

He has alluded to Bengaluru in the book multiple times without naming it though. "I wanted to keep the context universal. Readers will be able to understand what I am referring to. The Marxist-Leninist Party's network depended a lot on Bengaluru. Incidents from Mangaluru and Raichur also find a mention," he says.

He says this book was tougher to write than his debut title. "To write historical fiction, one has to immerse in that period. You cannot write a lie as there will always be someone to counter it. Since I am not a historian, I decided to stick to the genre of fiction. It allows flexibility and space," he says.

Lastly, what's the story behind the title? "Rainbow is an optical illusion yet everyone loves it. It is enchanting and scintillating. Moments of youth are also like the colours of a rainbow," Gopal explains. With the book, he wants to address "the youth who is caught in the illusion of a rainbow". Commenting on the current times, he says, "Unrest is natural and can lead to creativity many a time. But my book says that if unrest is endless and disoriented, it will take one nowhere."

Mr. Madan Gopal is currently the Chairman of the Executive Committee of Karnataka Ecotourism Development Board, and Chairman of the NEP Implementation Task Force in Karnataka.

### **IIPA-KRB**: Collaborative Activities

Mr. V. Balasubramanian, IAS (Retd.) spoke at the BMS College of Law on "The Adversarial and Inquisitorial Systems of Law" on 11th March 2022.



Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar spoke at the BMS College of Law on "Challenging Corruption: The Lok Pal and Lok Ayukta in India" on 17th March 2022.





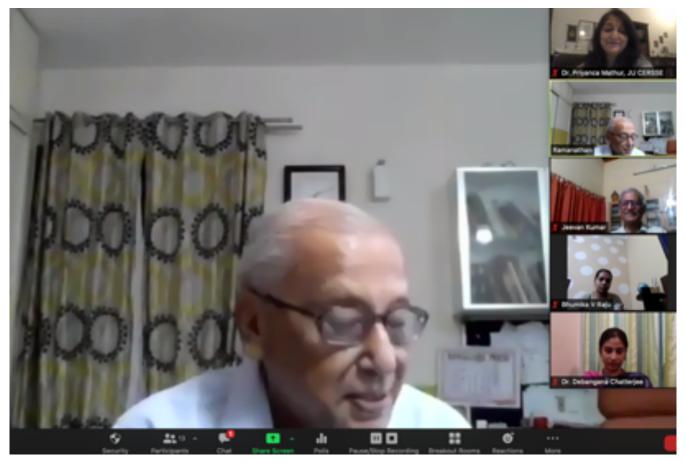
Mr. V. Balu and Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar (above) with the Principal, Faculty and Student Council representatives of the BMS College of Law, Bengaluru, on 11th March 2022. Seen from left to right are Ms. Pratibha Singh, Asst. Professor; Mr. Ankit Sripatwar, Asst. Professor; Dr. Anitha D'Souza, Principal; Mr. V. Balu; Dr. Jeevan Kumar; Ms. Gurvinder Kaur, Asst. Professor; Mr. J. Aaryan, President, Student Council; and Mr. P. Nandhan, Member, Student Council.

The Certificate and Award Distribution ceremony of the 35-hour Certificate Course in Public Policy conducted by the Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CeRSSE), Jain (Deemed-to-be) University, in collaboration with the Karnataka Regional Branch of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA-KRB) was held on 30th March 2022, in virtual mode.

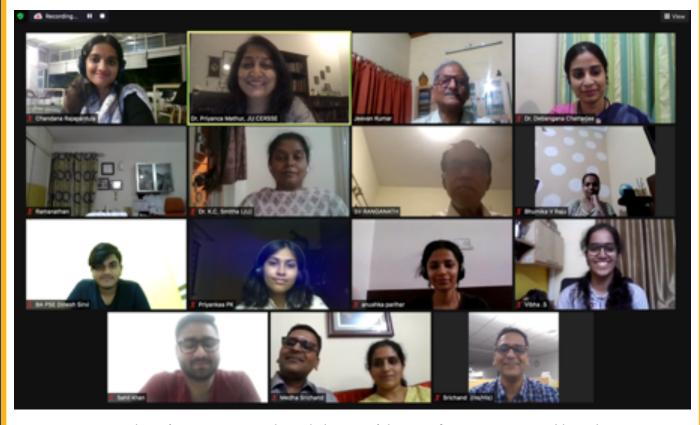
Inaugural Remarks were made by Mr. S. Ramanathan. Mr. S.V. Ranganath delivered the Presidential Address. Dr. Priyanca Mathur welcomed the dignitaries, colleagues and participants, and moderated the programme. Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar proposed a vote of thanks. Present on the occasion were Dr. K.C. Smitha and Dr. Debangana Chatterjee, Faculty of Jain University, and Resource Persons/Mentors at the Certificate Course.

12 participants were present on the occasion. Cash Awards for the top three Policy Briefs were announced. **Ms. Vibha Srichand** and **Ms. Chandna Rajapantula** shared the First Prize. **Ms. P.K. Priyanka** secured the Second Prize. **Ms. Bhumika** and **Mr. Dinesh Sirvi** shared the Third Prize.

# **Valedictory Programme of the Certificate Course in Public Policy**



Shri S. Ramanathan at the Valedictory of the Certificate Course in Public Policy.



Screenshot of Participants at the Valedictory of the Certificate Course in Public Policy.

### Feedback

Dear Sir,

Thank you for one more edition of your IIPA Newsletter. **Karnataka Administrative Reforms Commission-2** has carefully gone through various aspects and situations and has come up with its recommendations for Administrative Reform. But until and unless its recommendations are implemented in a specific time-bound framework, these reports will be just circulated and gather dust in some cupboard or shelf and soon be totally forgotten. Can the IIPA ensure that a larger debate and discussion on these proposals be evolved towards their implementation? To begin with (if the report is public), to forward the same to every government department and minister, MLAs & MLCs and voluntary groups. Unless some pressure is brought to bear, they will be forgotten.

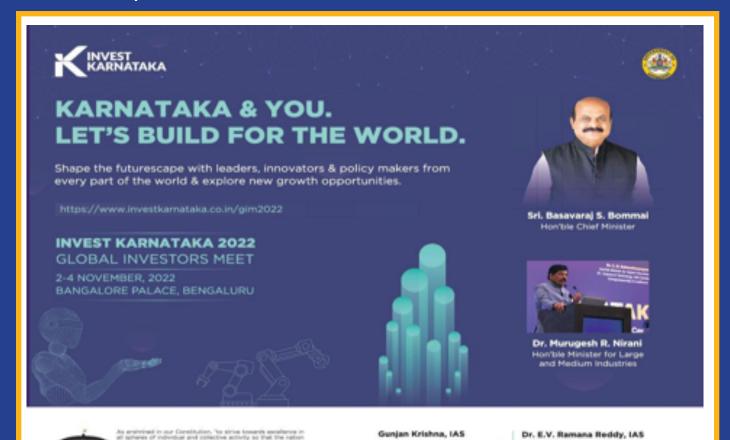
-Hemachandra Basappa

### **Food for Thought**

# He asked this girl: Are you Hindu, christian or muslim ? She answered: I am hungry.



**Make Humanity your Religion** 





Commissioner for industrial Develops Director of Industries & Commerce

#### **IIPA-KRB Virtual Newsletter**

ಭಾ.ಸಾ.ಆ.ಸ – ಕ.ಪ್ರಾ.ಶಾ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸುದ್ದಿ ಪತ್ರ

#### **Editorial Board**

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