

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Karnataka Regional Branch
Bengaluru

Report of Special Lecture

The **Karnataka Regional Branch** of the IIPA organized a **Special Lecture** by **Dr. Rahul Sagar**, Global Network Professor of Political Science at New York University, Abu Dhabi on the theme, “*What can Administrators Learn from our Maharajas? Lessons from Raja Sir Tanjore Madhava Rao*”.

Prof. Rahul Sagar’s lecture was based on his recent book, *The Progressive Maharaja: Hints on the Art and Science of Government* (Harper Collins India, 2022). It consists of lectures that **Sir T. Madhava Rao** delivered in 1881 to **Sayaji Rao Gaekwad III**, the young Maharaja of Baroda. Sir Madhava Rao had served as *Dewan* in the Princely Indian States of Travancore, Indore and Baroda which came to be seen as ‘model states’. Prof. Sagar summarised Sir Madhava Rao’s fundamental principles of Good Governance for rulers: Recruitment of experts and specialists; minimal State intervention in the economy; respect for the dignity and human rights of subjects; no favouritism or nepotism in governance; encouragement of dissent/disagreement; practise of austerity and self-discipline and so on.

Mr. K. Jairaj, IAS (Retd.), former Additional Chief Secretary of Karnataka, as **Discussant**, drew a comparison between the Princely States of Baroda and Mysore. Progressive-minded Dewans in Mysore, with the backing of their rulers, ensured both prosperity and progress, based on an enlightened understanding of the *Public Good*.

Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, Chairperson of the Branch, presided over the event. He emphasized the role of land reforms and the transformation of Zamindari to ryotwari systems in the Princely States of Baroda and Mysore, which went a long way in laying the foundations for a strong economy. **Shri S. Ramanathan**, Chairman-Emeritus of the Branch made Introductory Remarks. Present in the audience were former Chief Secretaries of Karnataka, **Dr. A. Ravindra** and **Shri S.V. Ranganath**, retired civil servants, members of civil society organizations and faculty and students of Public Policy and Governance from leading academic institutions in the city. **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar**, Secretary of the Branch introduced the speaker and guests.

