

Sh. Rajesh Sharma is an alumnus of Punjab University, Chandigarh and has also attended the Management Education Programme at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

Sh. Rajesh Sharma joined the state civil services through the Combined Competitive examination in 1999 and was allotted the J&K Revenue Services. After attaining the super-time scale of the J&K Administrative Service, he was inducted into the Indian Administrative Service in the AGMUT cadre.

A highlight of the initial years of his career was being involved in facilitating the transfer of Kashmiri migrants to newly constructed two-room tenements at Muthi, Purkhoo, Nagrota and assisting in planning the Integrated Township for Migrants at Jagti, which was subsequently sanctioned by the Government of India. During his tenure at both the district and regional levels, Mr. Sharma was involved in various aspects of district and regional administration, including implementation of the modernized land records programme, quasi-judicial functions, revenue and land administration, law and order and magisterial functions, disaster management and mitigation, and elections, etc. As Deputy Commissioner of Stamps, Mr. Sharma was involved in preparing the project for implementing E-stamping in J&K and initiating the annual notification of Circle Stamp duty rates in J&K.

Mr. Sharma also held significant state-level positions, including the role of Director of Handlooms, where he spearheaded the Handloom Development Department, responsible for overseeing the handloom sector in all three regions of J&K (before reorganisation). He developed 14 new handloom clusters sponsored by the Government of India to enhance employment opportunities in the handloom sector. As Secretary of the J&K Public Service Commission, he played a key role in the recruitment and promotion processes for various government positions.

While holding the post of Custodian General (J&K), Mr. Sharma chaired the committee to frame rules for SVAMITVA, implemented by the Government of J&K in 2022. This program was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to grant ownership titles of land in populated areas (abadi-deh). Additionally, he provided inputs for rules for the Land Passbook, notified by the Government in 2022, another prestigious programme of the government to provide simplified ownership documents to landowners. Further, he was the Chairman of the User Acceptance Committee for the Land Records Information System. In the Evacuees' Property Department, the Evacuee Property Management System was developed under his suspension which brought the entire records of evacuees' property department online and accessible to the public. This included implementation of e-auction of leases of evacuee property on the Auction portal, facilitating complete transparency in handling evacuees' properties.

In August 2021, the government appointed him as Member of the Board of Revenue, which is the chief controlling authority regarding all matters under the Land Revenue Act.



**Rajesh Sharma, IAS (Retd.)
Member**