

Short CV of Dr. RS Sharma

Dr. RS Sharma is Former Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). He worked there during August 2015 to September 2020.

As Chairman of TRAI, Dr. Sharma worked with a consumer centric focus to reach telecom and broadcasting services to all pockets of the country at an affordable price. Advocated policy changes to the government where regulatory action may have been insufficient.

He provided thought leadership in adoption of net neutrality principles in India; established the use of crowdsourced data to measure service quality and adopted cutting-edge technologies (e.g. blockchain) to achieve regulatory outcomes.

He also pushed for the development of indigenous technologies keeping country's needs in mind, e.g. to establish a grid of Wi-Fi hotspots or to make interoperable set-top boxes for television broadcast.

Prior to this appointment in August 2015, he was working as Secretary to Government of India in the Department of Electronics and Information Technology. Before that, he worked as Chief Secretary to the State Government of Jharkhand.

During 2009-2013, Dr. Sharma was the first Director General & Mission Director of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) where he was responsible for over-all implementation of this ambitious and challenging project undertaken by the Government of India for providing Unique Identities – called Aadhaar - to all its Residents.

As DG&MD of UIDAI, Dr. Sharma, working closely with Mr. Nandan Nilekani, the first Chairman of UIDAI, was responsible for over-all design and implementation of Aadhaar. Today Aadhaar, with more than a billion ID numbers, is the largest digital identity infrastructure in the world and is central to India's service delivery reforms. The project had run into all kinds of troubles in the initial years and Dr. Sharma has been in the thin and thick of those experiences. He has also authored a book: "The Making of Aadhaar", documenting the experiences of implementing this gigantic project. Nandan Nilekani has described this book as "an essential reading for anybody looking for a guide on how to reimagine the future."

He joined the IAS in the year 1978 and has held important positions both in the Government of India and State Governments in the past and has been deeply involved in the administrative reforms and leveraging IT to simplify the administrative processes.

Dr. Sharma's contributions to the IT and e-Governance have been widely recognized both within India and outside. He has been responsible for implementing a number of Projects relating to ICT Infrastructure, Process Re-engineering and Service Delivery in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

Dr. Sharma holds a master's degree in mathematics from IIT, Kanpur (India), another master's in computer science from the University of California (USA) and a PhD from IIT Delhi. He has recently published his experiences of initiating the Aadhaar project as a book titled 'The Making of Aadhaar: World's Largest Identity Platform'.