

## **Shri A. K. Sharma assumes charge as Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**



Shri A. K. Sharma today assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in New Delhi. Shri Sharma took over the charge of Secretary after superannuation of Shri Arun Kumar Panda (IAS:1984:Odisha) on April 30 this year. Prior to this appointment, Shri Sharma was serving as Additional Secretary, Prime Minister's Office. He is 1988 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre.

Shri Sharma has worked in the Government of Gujarat for long at various positions including field and policy level and as Secretary to the Chief Minister of Gujarat. He has extensive experience in grass root regulatory and developmental administration. He was recognized with the best District Development Officer when he worked in Vadodara District. He was known for his contribution in industrialization of Gujarat as Managing Director of Industrial Extension Bureau and as a pioneer of the Vibrant Gujarat experiment. His experience in infrastructure is equally noteworthy since he held the position of CEO of Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board (GIDB) for a long time. During these years, GIDB was acclaimed as the most admired infrastructure agency of the country. His contribution in setting up the Gujarat section of dedicated freight corridor and Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor as well as Dholera special investment region is also highly talked about. He created on-line administrative processes which are internationally acclaimed. His experience of more than a decade in industry and infrastructure sectors would particularly bring lot of value in his present assignment of rejuvenating and championing the MSME Sector.

While taking over, Shri Sharma appealed and emphasized upon the officers of Ministry of MSME to be vigilant on hourly basis and work hard to see that the businesses, their owners, their vendors and workers are able to sail through this unprecedented COVID resultant economic crisis. He also added that we have to work on a war footing in the coming days with this purpose.

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