

Bharat Lal

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Mr. Bharat Lal joined civil service in July 1988 and recently completed his tenure as the Secretary General and CEO, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India. Before joining NHRC, he has worked as Director General, National Centre of Good Governance (NCGG), an apex-level autonomous institution of the Government of India involved in public policy and good governance. He holds Post Graduate degrees in Biochemistry and Forestry & Environment and has done research work at All India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi.

Prior to joining NCGG, he was working as Secretary to Lokpal of India, the anti-corruption body of the country. Earlier, he has worked as Founder Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission – a flagship programme started in August 2019 to ensure clean tap water to every household of the country. He has a long experience of working in water and sanitation sector both at the Centre and state of Gujarat. For a long time, he was responsible for investment promotion in Gujarat and its diplomatic outreach. Since March 2020, he also worked in the core team of the government, managing Covid-19 pandemic caused by Corona virus in the country. His special interest has been ensuring human rights of people, creating opportunities, addressing environmental and climate issues with special interest in water security, sustainable development and sustainability. He is extensively involved in handholding and mentoring young professionals, young civil servants and civil society and academic/ research organizations.

Way back in 2006, he also conceptualized a unique public-private partnership programme namely 'Chiranjeevi Yojana' to provide institutional delivery to tribal women during their pregnancy and delivery using information technology. With the success of this initiative, a nation-wide programme was launched for maternal healthcare in the country. He worked extensively to improve the lives of poor especially women through several initiatives. He has been involved in developing 'responsible and responsive community especially women leadership' through Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC), popularly known as Pani Samitis with more than 50% women members and 25% from weaker sections of the society in every village of the country.

Mr. Bharat Lal's life-long focus has been on elimination of poverty, improving quality of life, and enhancing ease of living of people. In this endeavour, his emphasis on and adoption of digital technology, which has paid rich dividends in 'assured public service delivery'.

Earlier, he has also worked as Additional Secretary to the President of India. He has a long experience of working with India's Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, since he took over as Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2001. He has a vast experience of policy making at the highest level, both in the state of Gujarat as well as at the Centre. He is known for 'out of box' thinking and finding solutions to solve complex problems. He is known for building partnership and working together to impact people's lives.