



Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh
Defence Secretary

Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, an Indian Administrative Service officer of 1989 Batch from Kerala cadre has been appointed as Defence Secretary on 31 October 2024.

Earlier, he was holding the charge of Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry from April 2023 to August, 2024. Prior to that, he served as Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries.

He has held many important positions in the Union Government as Director, Works and Urban Transport in the Ministry of Urban Development, Commissioner (Lands) in the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Joint Secretary in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare and Chief Vigilance Officer of the Food Corporation of India. He has also held important positions in the State Government of Kerala as Secretary, Urban Development and Finance Secretary.

During his stint as Director, Works and Urban Transport in the Ministry of Urban Development, he was responsible for putting in place the legal framework for the Delhi Metro Phase-I from Shahdara to Tis Hazari. That framework has become the template for all other Metro Rail systems in the country. During his stint as Commissioner (Lands) in DDA, he was responsible for the monetization of almost all of the major district centres in Delhi including the large shopping malls of Vasant Kunj, Saket & Shahdara etc. He also ensured that in the run up to the Commonwealth Games all the hotel plots in Mayur Vihar, Dwarka, Shahdara etc. were sold, and in each of these auctions, the bids that were obtained were some of the highest ever received in India, and in one case the highest ever in Asia.

During his stint as Joint Secretary (Seeds) in the Department of Agriculture, he was responsible for putting in place a system of price control for BT cotton seeds in the country to ensure that monopoly profits are not cornered by multinational companies. As Finance Secretary of Kerala, he ensured financial stability and sustainability of the State at a time when due to Covid 19 Pandemic, revenues were almost zero for 3 months continuously and he also ensured that the entire state plan allocations are fully utilized during his two- and half-year stint as Finance Secretary in Kerala. During his short stint as the Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in Government of India, he ensured that the Vaccination programme for Foot and Mouth disease in particular was saturated throughout the country for the first time and ensured that the pipeline for vaccine roll out and administration was streamlined. Finally, his recent tenure as Secretary, DPIIT also saw many major initiatives and reforms being completed including the passage of the Jan Vishwas Bill, approval for 12 new industrial smart cities in the country, further growth of India's start up ecosystem, the abolition of Angel tax on Start up funding, Patent approvals in India reaching the highest ever figure of over 1 lakh and the completion and inauguration of India's largest MICE space at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka.
