

Sameer Sharma, IAS (PhD, D.Litt)

Dr. Sameer Sharma is a scholar-administrator who belongs to the 1985 batch of the IAS and has vast experience in public and corporate affairs. He has over 37 years of experience in public and private governance. This includes more than 17 years in the urban sector, where he has held nearly all positions in the urban sector under the State and Central Governments. He has worked as the municipal commissioner of the cities of Vijayawada, Vishakapatnam and Hyderabad. He was responsible for the financial turnaround of the municipal corporations of Vijayawada and Hyderabad. He was the Missions Director of the India: Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT and the World Bank-supported urban capacity building programme.

He has a Master's in Community Planning and a doctorate from the United States. In the Master's course he was adjudged an outstanding graduate student. His Ph.D thesis was in the cross-functional areas of spatial economics, public health and urban planning. He has written two books - "Smart Cities Unbundled" and recently "A Textbook on Urban Planning and Geography". He was chairman of the Committees set up by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to design a National Urban Policy Framework as well as the Policy on Value Capture Finance. Dr. Sharma has also received a D.Litt from the Shankaracharya University, Kanchi, India.

Moreover, he has professional experience in Finance, Commerce and the practice of Corporate Governance. He has worked as Chairman & Managing Director of APCO, a State Cooperative Company and Indian Tourism Development Corporate (ITDC), a Public Sector Unit under the Government of India. In the APCO, he focused on what are now labeled Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) framework, as well crafted and implemented a turnaround

strategy. As a result, APCO became profitable in addition to focusing on the ESGs. In the ITDC, he conceptualized and designed a model for strategic planning and executed the Balance Scorecard System. This led a quick changeover and the revenues of the hotel chain increased by around 30 percent in six months.

He has also worked as Finance Secretary, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Private Secretary to the Federal Commerce Minister of India. At that time, India entered the WTO as well as liberalized the trade regime. As Excise Commissioner in Andhra Pradesh, he has deep experience of resource mobilization and the excise revenues increased by more than Rs. 3000 cr. in a little less than three years.

He has worked as a Consultant for the UNHabitat in Cambodia and International Federation of Red Cross Societies (IFRC) and has delivered lectures at the Global Mayor's Forum organized by Columbia University, NY. He has delivered a talk on his Book at the Bhopal Literature Festival (2021) and the Valley of Words. He has taught statistics and urban spatial structures to graduate students in the United States as well as delivered sessions to build the capacity of civil servants at the national and state academies.

In 2014, he wrote a book on decision-making in VUCA environments entitled "Hourglass Management Paradigm", has contributed chapters in several books and is a regular contributor to journals and leading newspapers. In recent times, he has written a series of articles in *The Pioneer* connected to management of COVID-19 and dealing with its after effects. He has also co-edited a Book, "COVID-19: Exploring the new normal in insolvency".

He has won several awards and appreciations, including the Award for the Best State in promotion of Community Organizations in Slums (2014) given by the President of India;

Certificates of Appreciations by the Prime Minister of India for *JnNURM* reforms in governance in Hyderabad as well as making outstanding efforts enable Hyderabad attain a slum-free status. He was also awarded the V. Ramachandran Award for Excellence in implementation of urban decentralization in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).

Presently, he is the Director General and CEO of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, a think tank under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The IICA has been turned around – from a loss making organization in 2018 to a profit making entity in 2021. Today, IICA is fully self-sufficient. He was a member of the Corporate Social Responsibility Advisory Committee and Business and Human Rights Committee set up by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, as well as the Fresh Start Committee set up by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board (IBBI) of India. He is also the prime mover to start the “Journal of Corporate Affairs” (2021) - a one-of-its-kind journal in corporate affairs in India. His current interests, include assessing the impact of CSR projects using quasi-experimental methods and comparing public governance with corporate governance.

He was the Vice-President of the National Institute of Urban Affairs (N. Delhi) as well as the Andhra Cricket Association (Andhra Pradesh); member of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF - Hyderabad) and advisory member of the SKCV Street Children Project (Vijayawada).

(Contact E-mail: ssameer@ias.nic.in)