



Dr. Ajay Kumar, IAS
Vice Chairman & CEO



GUJARAT MARITIME BOARD
The Maritime Brand of India

Dr. Ajay Kumar is a 2006-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Gujarat cadre and presently serving as Secretary to the Chief Minister, Government of Gujarat. He has also been assigned the role of Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB).

With an administrative career spanning near two decades, Dr. Ajay Kumar brings with him a rich blend of experience across policy formulation, public administration, institutional governance, and inter-governmental coordination, gained through diverse role at the state, and central government levels.

Prior to his current role, Dr. Ajay Kumar served as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, New Delhi, where he played a significant role in defence procurement related matters and development of trade and infrastructure. His exposure to complex national-level decision-making and high-stake governance has further strengthened his leadership credentials.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Ajay Kumar served as Private Secretary to Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, across the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Ministry of Steel and Ministry of Education where he gained valuable experience in national policymaking, programme implementation, and stakeholder engagement at scale.

At the state level, Dr. Ajay Kumar has held several key field and policy assignments in Gujarat. As District Collector of Amreli and Gir Somnath, and earlier as District Development Officer, Jamnagar, he has actively led the district administration, development planning, disaster management, and delivery of public services. He has also served as Special Commissioner of state tax in the Finance & Commercial Taxes Department, Government of Gujarat, and oversaw the implementation of GST in its initial phase in the state.

A doctorate in Agriculture with specialization in Agronomy underscores Dr. Ajay Kumar's strong academic foundation, which complements his practical administrative acumen. His command on English, Hindi, and Gujarati languages allows him to interact seamlessly with stakeholders across sectors and geographies.

As Vice Chairman and CEO of Gujarat Maritime Board, Dr. Ajay Kumar has assumed leadership at a pivotal moment, when GMB is undertaking several next-generation, transformative initiatives aimed at redefining Gujarat's maritime and logistics ecosystem. These include Port City Development projects, strengthening and expansion of Gujarat Maritime University, comprehensive modernization and transformation of GMB-managed ports, and a renewed strategic focus on the logistics sector to reinforce Gujarat's role as a national and global trade gateway. With his extensive experience across district administration, state governance, and central ministries—coupled with deep exposure to complex policy environments and large-scale institutional reforms—Dr. Ajay Kumar brings a well-rounded, strategic, and execution-oriented perspective to GMB's leadership. His understanding of infrastructure development, financial governance, inter-departmental coordination, and stakeholder-driven execution is expected to be instrumental in steering GMB's ambitious initiatives toward timely, sustainable, and impactful outcomes. Under his leadership, Gujarat Maritime Board is poised to further strengthen its institutional capacity, accelerate port-led development, and align Gujarat's maritime and logistics ambitions with the State's long-term economic vision and national priorities—reinforcing Gujarat's position as India's leading maritime state.

