

# SEERAM SAMBASIVA RAO

IAS, Special Secretary for the Electronics & Information Technology Department and the Excise Commissioner for the Government of Kerala

**Indian Administrative Service officer** belonging to the Kerala cadre. Combining a rigorous technical background with over fourteen years of administrative experience, he operates at the forefront of public policy, digital transformation, and industrial governance. He currently serves as the **Special Secretary for the Electronics & Information Technology Department** and the **Excise Commissioner for the Government of Kerala**, driving strategic initiatives that bridge public administration and enterprise innovation.

Before entering the civil services, Shri Sambasiva Rao completed his **Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech.) in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras**. This deep engineering foundation has heavily influenced his administrative philosophy, allowing him to approach complex civic, social, and infrastructural challenges with a highly data-driven, analytical, and tech-first mindset.

**Driving Kerala's Digital & IT Ecosystem**

In his capacity as the Special Secretary for Electronics & IT, he is the primary architect behind Kerala's rapidly expanding digital economy. He oversees the strategic growth of the state's key IT corridors—including Technopark, Infopark, and Cyberpark—positioning them as premier destination hubs for global enterprises and Global Capability Centers (GCCs).

As a driving force of several mission-mode programs—including those for the Local Self Government, Public Works, Agriculture Departments, Information Technology as well as Ente Bhoomi (Digital Land Survey Mission), Nammude Kozhikode (District Governance Innovation), Extreme Poverty Eradication Program, various City experience initiatives and state-wide digital platforms such as e-Health, KFON, and ILGMS—he has redefined the scope of governance transformation in Kerala. His leadership has consistently bridged technology with purpose—creating data-driven mission programs across various development sectors while driving initiatives that have positioned Kerala as a national model for citizen-centric and technology-enabled governance.

Widely recognized as a thought leader in Mission oriented Multi Sector Development Programming and Digital Transformation of Governance he has been honoured with the Chief Minister's Innovation Award, Digital India Award, Gems of Digital India Award, and CSI e-Governance Award.

Shri Sambasiva Rao's career is highlighted by exceptional leadership in field administrative roles, most notably during his tenures as the **District Collector of Kottayam (2017–2018) and Kozhikode (2018–2021)**. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, he displayed remarkable crisis-management skills by launching the critically acclaimed **"Udayam" Project** in Kozhikode. This award-winning initiative successfully rescued, sheltered, and medically rehabilitated over 1,500 displaced and homeless citizens, establishing a national benchmark for compassionate civil governance.

**Diverse Portfolio & Broad Administrative Impact**

Beyond technology and district management, his administrative versatility is reflected in several high-level assignments. He has served as the **Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Chief Minister of Kerala**, coordinating high-priority inter-departmental state policies. Additionally, his tenures as the **Director of Survey and Land Records**, Joint Secretary for the Public Works Department (PWD), and Project Officer for the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) have given him deep operational expertise in land reforms, GIS mapping, infrastructure procurement, and grassroots tribal welfare.