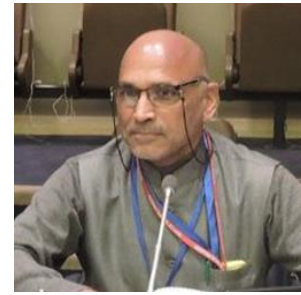


Dr AK Bhattacharya, IFS (R)

(Dedicated to Environment, Forestry, Ecotourism, & Bamboo)



AK Bhattacharya is a retired IFS officer of 1983 batch from Madhya Pradesh cadre. Since December 2015 till February 2019 he had been engaged as **Country Head for the Green Highways Program of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt of India**, for the pan India implementation of the Greening Projects of NHAI, MoRTH, & NHIDCL. Under this assignment, he spearheaded the vision for contributing to the development of the nation through the Green Highways Policy of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, specially contributing towards India's commitment in CoP 21 for creating an additional carbon sink by developing uniform green corridors along national highways.

Prior to MoRTH assignment, he served at various senior positions in MP Forest Department:

- *MD & CEO, MP State Ecotourism Development Mission & Board*
- *Executive Director, MP State Forest Development Corporation*
- *Mission Director, MP State Bamboo Mission*
- *CEO, MP State Bamboo Crafts Development Board*

Dr Bhattacharya has got distinctive recognition for mobilizing activities in areas of development, forestry and academics. Dr Bhattacharya is Doctorate (Ph D) and Post Doctorate in Ecology (Environmental Pollution). He holds 31 years of administrative and research experience. He has contributed more than 30 papers and articles on Environment and Forestry in national and international journals.

Through his pioneering initiatives, MP Forest Department has set many benchmarks: establishment of India's first Ecotourism Development Board, promotion of Public Private Partnership model and institutionalizing bamboo-based entrepreneurship. He has been engaged as expert and consultant with many leading organisations and corporate including TERI, IIFM, Somaiya Group of Industries, Bhopal University, BR Ambedkar University.

He has wide range of overseas exposures, including Visiting Fellow for course in Sustainable Forest Development from University of Tasmania, Australia; Participation in UNFCCC in New York (US); Visits to Universities of Syracuse (US) & British Columbia (Canada); Technical collaboration with Universities of Yale (US) & Washington; Participation in UN Climate Change Conference (CoP 22), Marrakech (Morocco).

Dr AK Bhattacharya has got **Lifetime Achievements Award in 2017** for his contributions in the fields of Environment, Biodiversity & Ecotourism by Environment & Social Welfare Society, a consortium of Academia, Universities, NGOs & Department of Science & Technology. In the same year, he has also been felicitated at national level as a **leading environmentalist** of the country.

Presently, he is on "Mission Giving Back", and working for special projects including mobilising youth for 'Environment & Entrepreneurship Movement' and supporting many concerned organisations for the cause of Environment, Entrepreneurship, and Green Solutions. Has initiated special drive for the 3 Es solutions – Employment, Entrepreneurship, Enterprise at community level, through vernacular knowledge system based on indigenous resources. Currently, advising and facilitating implementation of projects with TERI, ReNew Energy, and VNV consultancy on Carbon Finance in two Tiger Reserves (Kanha & Pench), and Carbon Credits to Farmers for bamboo plantations in MP.