



## **Shri A.K. Sawhney**

### **Brief bio-sketch**

Shri A.K. Sawhney belongs to (1969) batch of Indian Revenue Service {India's premier civil service responsible for administration of Direct Taxes}. He holds a degree of Bachelor of Arts in History from Delhi University, India. He also has a Diploma from Strathclyde Business School, Glasgow, Scotland in Financial Management.

Since June 2006, he is Member of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), a statutory body constituted under an Act of Parliament in 1997. TRAI regulates the telecom, broadcasting and cable TV sectors. TRAI's mission is to create and nurture conditions for growth of telecommunications in the country in a manner and at a pace which will enable India to play a leading role in emerging global information society. One of the main objectives of the TRAI is to provide a fair and transparent policy environment which promotes a level playing field and facilitates fair competition.

Earlier, he was Member, Telecom Commission and an Ex-Officio Secretary to the Government of India. As Member, Telecom Commission, he was responsible for all matters relating to telecom sector in the country including licensing, public-private sector participation in growth of telecom services, telecom network policies, spectrum management, rural telephony etc. Being designated as Member (Finance), he also exercised powers of the Government of India in financial matters concerning Department of Telecom relating to licence fees, budget formulation and handling of intricate revenue issues pertaining to telecom sector. His stint with the Telecom Commission gave him sufficient exposure and experience in multiple facets of telecom sector.

Shri Sawhney had a very long stint with the Indian Revenue Service and held the coveted post of Chief Commissioner of Income Tax before being appointed as Member of the Telecom Commission. He held several challenging senior level posts during his career span of 35 years with the Revenue Service which gave him enormous opportunities to handle diverse financial and complicated tax related issues involving sustained investigations and intricacies of law and accounts. He has also participated and headed number of international seminars/delegations on

tax administration and telecommunications. He is a regular observer in the ICCP Committee of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).

Shri Sawhney's tenure as Member of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has been marked by TRAI making several recommendations to the Government in regard to the telecom sector as well as broadcasting and cable services which are of far reaching consequences. During his tenure he has been able to further facilitate various policies which have led to accelerating competition, substantial reduction of tariffs, massive increase in subscriber base for cellular mobile services, resolving of interconnection issues and significant improvement in the quality of services both in the telecom sector and also cable industry. In Broadcasting and Cable Services, TRAI has recently implemented Conditional Access System in parts of three metros (Delhi Mumbai and Kolkata) in addition to regulating sector by issuing various recommendations, tariff orders, directions and regulations and making it more affordable to common man.

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