

Shri Rajit Punhani, IAS, takes charge as CEO, FSSAI

Press Release

New Delhi, 1st September 2025: Shri Rajit Punhani, a 1991-batch IAS officer of the Bihar cadre, took charge as Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), a statutory body established under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, on Monday.

He brings with him over three decades of administrative experience across the Centre, states and international platforms, with a proven record of leading reforms in public policy, finance, social security, taxation, health, energy, security and governance.

Until recently, Punhani served as Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, where he oversaw initiatives to align the skilling ecosystem with industry demands and global competitiveness. Prior to that he was Secretary, Rajya Sabha and CEO Sansad TV.

Earlier, he played a pivotal role in launching a pension and insurance scheme for over 450 million unorganised sector workers, spearheaded the world's largest maternal messaging service, and contributed substantially to the Committee on Indirect Taxes, which laid the foundation for India's Goods and Services Tax (GST).

His administrative career spans diverse roles such as District Magistrate and Dy Development Commissioner in the aspirational districts of Bihar. He also served as the Principal Secretary in the Government of Bihar, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs and as a diplomat and representative to the European Union.

With his wide-ranging administrative experience and reformist approach, his leadership will be crucial in bridging policy, enforcement and innovation, ensuring India's food economy grows in a way that is safe, sustainable and inclusive.

An Economics (Hons) graduate from St. Stephen's College, Delhi, Shri Punhani has done MBA in Finance from Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.
