

Upma Chawdhry, Director

Batch : 1983, **Cadre :** 2, **Email :** upma.chawdhry@ias.nic.in

Born on December 28, 1959, she is a graduate in BA Honours (English) with a Masters in (English) being a Gold Medalist in both and was also awarded an MBA degree with Distinction from Australia. Hailing from Jalandhar in Punjab, she joined the IAS in 1983 and was allotted to the Himachal Pradesh Cadre. At the state level, she has held various assignments at different levels of seniority. Field postings included initial postings in remote and difficult areas of Rampur and Chopal of Shimla District before she was posted as Sub Divisional Officer of Shimla city and then as Deputy Commissioner, Solan where she prominently handled the Timber Trail ropeway accident. Secretarial/HOD/ MD/Secretary level assignments included work in Departments of Youth Services & Sports; Tourism & Civil Aviation; Public Relations; Industries; Labor; Social Justice & Empowerment; Rural Department & Panchyati Raj; IT Department; Language & Culture; Agriculture; Fisheries; Animal Husbandry; Urban Development; Tourism, Transport, Industries etc. Amongst others, she has the distinction of having worked as Deputy/Joint Secretary to two Chief Ministers from different political parties over continuous tenure of five years; organising the first ever National Winter Games at Manali and successfully negotiating an industrial package from GOI for HP. While on deputation with the Central Government over two stints and total period of 12 years, she served as Deputy Secretary/Director in DoPT (Personnel Management in Division of Establishment Officer) and later as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture both in Departments of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries and later of Department of Agriculture and thereafter as Executive Director FCI holding charge of both ED Personnel and ED North Zone. She was National Control Officer during first outbreaks of Avian Influenza (bird flu) in the country credited with laying down and implementing protocols for its control and containment. She also attended the course of Senior Managers in Government from Harvard Kennedy School in July-August 2016. Empanelled as Secretary to the Government of India in July 2016, she joined the Academy as its Director in December 2016.