

Dr Anuradha Balaram

Dr. Anuradha Balaram served as a member of the Indian Economic Service from 1986 to 2016 in various advisory capacities. As Chief Economic Adviser and Member Secretary, Kerala State Planning Board, she advised the Cabinet on several critical economic issues, introduced several innovative ideas including setting up of a Public Private Partnership Board, finalizing the Kerala Perspective Plan 2030, presenting the State's Memorandum to the 14th Finance Commission, revamping the prestigious Annual Economic Review, among other work. She was able to bring about a significant change in the work culture In the Kerala State Planning Board.

Prior to that she served as an integral part of decision making in several key Central Government Ministries viz. Ministries of Industry and Commerce, Finance, Surface Transport, Power and Food Processing. As an Economic Advisor in the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor of India, she brought out, for the first time Reports which assessed the fiscal performance of individual State Governments.

She also served as an Economist with Asian Development Bank and has acquired competence in multi-lateral lending and dealing with Donor Agencies.

She has believed in continually upgrading her knowledge and skills. Her second Masters in the University of Manchester, U.K. on Development Administration and Management and her doctorate from IIT, Delhi gave her an edge in applying the latest analytical techniques and methods to recommend solutions to various developmental problems.

While serving with The Government of India, Government of Kerala and the Asian Development Bank, she became acutely aware that the education system in India falls short in instilling self confidence, openness to personal and peer learning and original thinking in children and young people. She therefore chose to take Voluntary Retirement from Government in 2016 and serve full time in a voluntary capacity as the Chief Co-ordinator of The Awakened Citizen Program of the Ramakrishna Mission, Delhi, which aims at addressing this gap in formal education.

She is also a Member of the Board of Governors, IIM Indore and lectures often on a variety of developmental subjects in various Institutes of Higher Education.