

Apurva Chandra
Principal Advisor, Ministry of Defence
Former Secretary, Government of India
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Professional Summary

Apurva Chandra, a retired IAS officer from the 1988 batch of the Maharashtra cadre, served for over 36 years in public administration, policy formulation, and industrial development. He held leadership roles in key ministries such as Defence, Labour & Employment, Information & Broadcasting, and Health & Family Welfare, contributing to various reforms and strategic initiatives across sectors. He superannuated on 30.09.2024. Currently engaged as Principal Advisor in the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.

Key Roles & Achievements

- **Principal Advisor, Ministry of Defence:**
Advising Ministry of Defence on Defence Procurement reforms and leading the Review of Defence Acquisition Policy (DAP), 2020.
- **Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare:**
Led significant policy initiatives, including increasing the National Health Mission budget by 25%, launching the U-WIN vaccination portal, and easing the import of life-saving drugs.
- **Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting:**
Spearheaded the creation of the AVGC National Centre of Excellence and launched the Broadcast Sewa Portal to streamline broadcasting approvals.
- **Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment:**
Formulated rules for labour codes, launched the e-Shram portal for unorganized workers, and updated occupational safety guidelines after 50 years.
- **DG (Acquisition), Ministry of Defence:**
Managed key acquisitions, including Rafale jets and S-400 missile systems, and promoted domestic manufacturing through the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020.
- **Principal Secretary (Industries), Maharashtra:**
Attracted major investments from global firms like Mercedes, General Electric and Fiat Chrysler, and established Maharashtra as a leading FDI destination. Led the development of Aurangabad Industrial City (AURIC), India's first greenfield industrial Smart City.
- **Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas:**
Led key reforms such as deregulation, ethanol blending, free LPG gas connections for poor households, and gas allocation policies over two stints spanning seven years.

International Roles

- Chair, Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) during COVID-19. (2020-21)
- Chair, Committee A dealing with policy issues in World Health Assembly. (2024)
- Head, Indian delegation in arms procurement negotiations with USA, Russia, and Israel during tenure at the Ministry of Defence. (2017-2020)

Board Positions Held

- GAIL (India) Limited
- Petronet LNG
- Mahanagar Gas Limited
- MOIL Limited
- Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation
- SICOM Limited.
- Maharashtra Airport Development Corporation
- Maharashtra Maritime Board

Educational Qualifications

- Master's in Structural Engineering, IIT Delhi
- Bachelor's in Civil Engineering, IIT Delhi
- Diploma in Business Finance, Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India
- Accountancy Certificate, London School of Economics

Notable Contributions

- Facilitated ease of doing business and regulatory reforms across various sectors.
- Led initiatives promoting innovation, private sector investment, and policy reforms to drive national development.