

Dr. Malini V Shankar is an officer of the Indian Administrative Service, currently posted as the Director General, Shipping, Government of India

Dr. Malini V Shankar obtained her doctoral degree in Public Policy/ Institutional Economics from the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (India) and Management degree from the Asian Institute of Management, Manila, Philippines. She also holds a Master's Degree in Chemistry from Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts, USA.

She had her professional mid-career training at the IIAP (Institut Internationale d'Administration Publique), in Paris, France, from where she obtained a diplome in International Economics. She was also nominated by the government of India to the Harvard University for training programmes on two occasions.

Dr. Malini Shankar has had an illustrious career spanning over 3 decades both at the field and at the policy level. Her key assignments have been in industry, electricity and water sectors. Her postings include - Collector & District Magistrate of Nagpur; Joint Development Commissioner of Madras SEZ (Ministry of Commerce); Commissioner of Industries in Maharashtra; Principal Secretary Water Supply and Sanitation; Principal Secretary Irrigation (Maharashtra); and Additional Chief Secretary Environment (Maharashtra).

Her first attempt at introducing reforms was in 1989 in Chandrapur District where, as the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad, Dr. Shankar led a team that introduced the cultivation of soya bean in the rain-starved areas of the district, a crop that sustained thousands of farmers over the years.

In each of her assignments, her main focus has been on the introduction of technology and modern management systems and practices, as well as on citizen-friendly initiatives. At MEPZ Special Economic Zone where she was posted in 1999, she introduced digital signature-enabled online facility for submission of applications and reports, a pioneering venture at that time. As Development Commissioner, Industries in Maharashtra, she introduced real-time transfer of grants to industries, the first State in the country to do so. She also kick-started the cluster industries in Maharashtra, which went on to be a most successful intervention in creation of employment and strengthening of entrepreneurship.

She considers her most noteworthy contributions to have been in the water sector, among them the *Maharashtra Sujal Nirmal Abhiyan* in the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, the *Integrated River Basin Plan* (for Godavari Basin) and the e-jalseva (integrated computer information system) in the Water Resources Department.

Dr. Malini Shankar has been a recipient of several academic recognitions - National Merit Scholarship of the Government of India; International Fellowship for Exchange Studies in the USA; the Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship for Higher Education; and the CIDA Scholarship (Canada) for Management Studies. In recognition of her professional achievements, she has been invited by academic and professional organizations to contribute to policy making - she was a member of the Government of India Task Force for Water Policy, and a member of sub Task Force on Urban Water Management. She was invited by the ADB, Manila as a keynote speaker in the 2nd Asian Irrigation Forum held last year.