

Curriculum Vitae



Dr. Abhijit Phukon

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Dr. Abhijit Phukon is an officer of Indian Economic Service (IES 2004 batch), presently serving as Economic Adviser and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) in the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India. He is Government Nominee Director in the Board of India Exim Bank & Bank of Maharashtra.

Academically, he holds PhD in Finance, Master in Economics, and Post Graduate Diploma in HRD & Marketing. He published a number of research papers on various issues related to economics, management and finance in internationally reputed Journals.

Professionally, he brings in over twenty years academic, research and cross-cutting governance experience in public policy. He brings in domain knowledge and expertise in sustainable finance, CSR/SDGs/ESG, corporate governance, regulatory and compliance, energy & power sector, infrastructure & Public Private Partnership (PPP), international trade etc.

Prior to DFS, he served Department of Commerce, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Corporate Affairs at various capacities including as Secretary, National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA). While being in service in the Government, he instituted large scale reforms and policy frameworks in the economic and social sectors.

Skills & Competencies

Leadership & Managerial Skills

- Thought leader, Team Management, Capacity Building, HRM
- Corporate Communications, Brand Building & Reputation Management
- Stakeholder Engagement, Advocacy & Outreach
- Strategic & Corporate Partnership

Technical Skills

- Project Structuring, Designing & Execution
- Contract & Bid Process Management
- Appraisal & Risk Management
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Impact Assessment
- Data Analytics

Sectoral Experience & Domain Knowledge

- Public Policy
- Financial Sector- Project Financing, Financial Services, FinTech, Cyber Security
- Corporate Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Sustainability, Diversity & Inclusion
- Energy and Power Sector including Renewable Energy
- Infrastructure and Public Private Partnership (PPP)
- Trade and Commerce including Market Access

Regulatory Compliance

- Corporate Laws & Anti-trusts Law
- Corporate and Financial Reporting
- Non-financial Reporting- BRR/ BRSR/ SDGs/ ESG/ BHR/ UNGPs
- Ethics including Preventive & Pro-active vigilance

Professional Synopsis

- ✚ Regulatory experience with market regulator- CCI, financial regulator- NFRA, and power sector regulator- CERC/ CEA.
- ✚ Managerial experience with Section 8 Company/ Trusts/ Societies (NSDC, NSDA, NFCG, IICA, NFCSR etc.) and power sector giants.
- ✚ Cross-border experience with countries such as Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Iran, China, Germany, Netherland, South Korea, Japan etc.
- ✚ Program coordinator and key Focal Point for negotiation, coordination, implementation and monitoring of many Technical Assistance (TAs), MoUs and loan programs with multi-lateral development institutions- ADB, World Bank, PPIAF, IFC, KfW German Bank, DFID, JICA, UNDP, UN Women etc. on a range of issues.
- ✚ A person who knows the geography, demography, social fabrics and the political establishments of the Indian sub-continent and how the government machinery functions to meet the legitimate aspirations of people through effective delivery of goods and services.
- ✚ A person who fairly understands the economic and financial nuances of business ecosystem, changing business philosophy, corporate governance framework, new age markets, consumer apatite and the challenges of business operations.
- ✚ An innovator and strategist with excellent communication & negotiation skills, who can cement healthy relationship with different stakeholders including government and industry chambers for generating business and achieving corporate goals.
- ✚ Ability to analyze evidence through impact evaluation, sensitivity analysis and scenario analysis as policy-making tools to form independent judgments on complex issues.
- ✚ Developed competency in project development cycle- identification, conceptualization, structuring, bid process management, project execution, implementation and monitoring.

Employment History

Current Organizational Experience (*Since February 2023*)

Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India

The work profile includes rendering technical advice and initiate policy frameworks on various matters related to banking/ insurance/ pension/ industrial finance etc. Key areas handling includes *Digital Payments, FinTech, IT, Cyber Security, public/consumer/customer grievance redressal, welfare & reservation, risk management, financial stability, macro-economic research* etc.

Previous Organizational Experiences & Accomplishments (*2018-2023*)

Ministry of Corporate Affairs (2018-2023):

As Director, dealt with all policy and compliance matters related to corporate governance, corporate social responsibility (CSR), diversity and inclusion, business and human rights, sustainability issues including sustainable finance, SDG, ESG, UNGPs etc. Also look after issues related to competition & anti-trusts, mergers & acquisitions, legislative and regulatory compliance, preventive and proactive vigilance.

Key Accomplishments

- ☞ **Policy Interventions:** instituted India's first-of-its-kind non-financial reporting framework Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR | National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP-BHR) to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs | first National CSR Awards by Government of India| Task-force on Sustainable Finance| Social Impact Companies and Social Stock Exchange.
- ☞ **Human Resource Management:** team management; framing of recruitment rules; hiring & appointment of Board members, officials & consultants; performance appraisal, incentives & rewards; skill development & capacity building; supervision and mentoring of officials, consultants & contract employees.
- ☞ **Operational and Project Implementation:** created an enabling environment to corporates during COVID-19| Digital initiatives including digital payments solution- MCA21 V3, CSR Data Portal, National CSR Exchange Portal, e-RUPI Prepaid Voucher.
- ☞ **Legislative and Regulatory Affairs:** simplified CSR compliances and brought transparency & accountability in CSR eco-system by making necessary amendments in CSR rules| Strengthen disclosures on CSR by leveraging technology| Regulatory easing for business consolidation through mergers & acquisitions | Framing regulatory mechanism for new age markets & digital markets.
- ☞ **Stakeholders Engagement:** regular interaction with State Governments, Corporates, Industry Associations/ Chambers, Professional Institutes, Academia, Non-profit Organizations/ NGOs and international development organizations| Organizing workshops, webinars, conferences, roadshows on different corporate affairs for greater advocacy, sensitization, awareness and outreach to different stakeholders| Developed knowledge products- communication collaterals, user manuals, guidance notes, FAQs, user portals etc.

Employment History

Previous Organizational Experiences & Accomplishments (2004-2018)

National Financial Reporting Authority (2018-2019)

Key Accomplishments

☞ As **Secretary, NFRA**, built the organization from scratch, framed rules and regulations for appointment and other establishment matters, drafted the accounting & auditing standards.

Ministry of Power (2017-2018)

☞ As **Director, Ministry of Power**, was responsible for framing policy & planning in the power sector, capacity additions, generation, transmission and distribution of power supply at a national level including power sector reforms. Initiated path breaking and eye-opener reforms in the power sector for removing log-jam in the appraisal, approval and management of projects. Rigorous planning, monitoring and supervision had led to a capacity addition of 9505 MW during FY 2017-18. Eight hydro power projects were commissioned, resulted in capacity addition of 795 MW. Piloted the New Hydropower Policy to revive the stranded hydro power sector.

Ministry of Finance (2013-2017)

☞ As **Joint Director, Ministry of Finance**, handled all policy matters related to energy security & sustainability, energy coordination committee, energy charter treaty, energy insurance pool, import-parity pricing etc.; sectoral issues related to coal, petroleum & natural gas, chemicals & petrochemicals, fertilizers, new & renewable energy etc.; transfer/ alienation/ lease/ license/ sale of land; and skill development. Dealt with a number of petroleum and natural gas projects both domestic as well as oversees acquisition, and appraisal & approval of over 30,000 MW new and renewable energy projects for grant of viability gap funding under National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF). Initiated many skills development program-setting up Skill Training Centres and Sector Skill Councils, district-wise skill-gap mapping, monetary incentive and certification of training.

Ministry of Finance (2009-2013)

☞ As **Deputy Director, Ministry of Finance**, looked after all matters related to infrastructure policy and Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs). Associated with identification, conceptualization, structuring, appraisal, approval and implementation of over 250 infrastructure projects pertaining to roads, ports, airports, railways, health, education, solid waste management, silos, housing and other urban infrastructure projects implemented on BOT, BOOT, DBFOT, BOO and Hybrid Annuity models.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry (2006-2009)

☞ As **Assistant Director, Ministry of Commerce & Industry**, dealt with issues related to export competitiveness, export diversification, development of trade infrastructure and market promotion, branding India through India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) and India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), new initiatives for market access, and India's Regional Trade Agreements (RTA's) negotiations.

Department of Economic Affairs (2004-2006)

☞ As **Assistant Director, Department of Economic Affairs**, dealt with issues related to on-the-job, administration, training & development, and service matters etc.

Social Outreach & Project Oversight

- ☞ Flagship schemes of Government of India- 'Gram Swaraj Abhiyan', 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan' and PM's Excellence Awards in Public Administration
- ☞ High impact social development projects based on pay-for-success model, pay-as-you-grow model, pay-on-earning-while learning model, success-fee model, user-fee model etc.
- ☞ Formation and working of Self-Help-Groups (SHGs)| operationalization of micro-finance and micro-credit| working of panchayati raj system | development administration and evaluation of centrally sponsored schemes at district level | GVK EMRI: 108 Ambulance services.

Academic Portfolios

Degrees

- 📖 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Management/ Finance, IP University, Delhi (2021)
- 📖 MBA in HRD & Marketing, National Institute of Human Resource Development (2002)
- 📖 Master of Arts (MA) in Economics, Gauhati University (1999)
- 📖 Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Economics, Cotton College (1997)

Certificates

- ☞ University Grant Commission (UGC), 2000
- ☞ World Trade Organization (WTO) in International Trade, 2008
- ☞ International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Financial Statistics, 2009
- ☞ Duke University (USA) in Project Appraisal & Risk Management, 2012
- ☞ Cambridge University & LSE in Executive Programme for Emerging Leadership, 2014
- ☞ College of Europe (Belgium) in Market Regulations and Promotion of Competition, 2018

Publications and Professional Up-gradation

- Published a number of research papers in national and internationally reputed Journals (*Annexure*).
- Presented a number of papers in different national and international workshops/seminars/conferences.
- Professionally become active through association with many professional bodies/ societies/ centers/ networks etc.

Professional Excellence

- ☞ Closely associated with roll out of GST program and the 'Champions of Change' event of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.
- ☞ Developed innovative financial instruments for project financing such as take-out finance, blended finance, infrastructure debt funds, infrastructure bonds, social impact bond, NCEF for clean & renewable energy; financing infrastructure projects through viability gap funding (VGF), India Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IIPDF), GoI-ADB Pilot Project Projects Initiatives (PPI), financing skill development projects through National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) etc.
- ☞ Executed large number of projects in energy and infrastructure sectors implemented on BOT, BOOT, DBFOT, BOO and Hybrid Annuity models.
- ☞ Piloted the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022, Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework, National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP-BHR), New Hydro Power Policy for Revival of Hydropower Sector, National Skill & Monetary Certification Scheme (STAR Scheme), Land Alienation Policy of the Government of India, National PPP Capacity Building Programme, PPP Rules & Manuals, Trade Policy Review of India etc. at various capacities in the Government of India.
- ☞ Represented many inter-Ministerial and inter-Governmental Committees on trade, infrastructure and energy related issues.
- ☞ Nominated as member to various Committees constituted by the Government of India including Task Force on Sustainable Finance, India-UK and India-EU FTA negotiation team, India-US Clean Energy Finance Task Force, Committee on Management of Water Resources in the NER, Committee on Implementation of Official Language, Advisory-cum Technical Committee for Development of CSR Exchange Portal, Steering Committee for National Action Plan on Business & Human Rights, Core Group of National Foundation for Corporate Governance (NFCG) etc.

Personal Profile

Date of Birth:
30.11.1975

Language Proficiency:
English (Fluent), Hindi (Fluent), Assamese (Mother Tongue), Bengali (Basic)

Marital Status: married

Gender: male

(Abhijitphukan)

Contribution to Government Reports/ Publication/ Papers

Sl No.	Title of the Report	Year of Issue	Concerned Ministry/ Department	Web Link, if any
1	High Level Committee (HLC) on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	2019	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	www.mca.gov.in
2	Competition Law Review Committee (CLRC) on review of Competition Law	2019	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	www.mca.gov.in
3	Committee on Business Responsibility Reporting (BRR)	2020	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	www.mca.gov.in
4	Advisory-cum-technical Committee on CSR Exchange Portal	2021	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	www.mca.gov.in
5	Group of Joint Secretaries (GoJSs) on proper management of water resources in the NER region of India	2018	Ministry of Power	
6	Export Diversification of China- A Sectoral Analysis	2008	Ministry of Commerce & Industry	
7	FDI in India 1999-2007-A Survey of Experiences with Special reference to Export Sector	2008	Ministry of Commerce & Industry	

Contribution in Individual Capacity to Articles/ Journals/ Working Paper/ Others

Sl No.	Title of the Article/ Working Paper etc.	Year of Issue	Concerned Newspaper/ Others	Journal/ Portal/	Web Link, if any
1	Perils of public sector enterprises in India: Is privatization of central public sector enterprises a sustainable strategy?	Oct, 2020	PSU Research Review, Emerald		https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/PRR-07-2020-0021/full/html
2	Effectiveness of Private Participation Through Technology and Innovation on the Performance of Central Public Sector Enterprises in India	Sep, 2020	Solid State Technology, Vol-63, Issue-1		http://solidstatetechnology.us/index.php/JSST/article/view/930
3	Does Change in Ownership from Public to Private Affect Firm's Performance? An Empirical Analysis of Select Central Public Sector Enterprises in India	Jun, 2020	Global Journal of Enterprise Information System, Scholastic Seed Inc., Volume-12, Issue 2		https://gjeis.com/index.php/GJEIS/article/view/565
4	An Empirical Investigation of the Causal Relationship amongst Energy Consumption, Net Fixed Capital Stock and Economic Growth in India	May 2019	International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Invention, ISSN: 2349-2031, Vol. 6, Issue 05		https://valleyinternational.net/index.php/theijsshi/article/view/2139/1716

5	Impact of Mergers and Acquisitions on Financial Performance of Select Airline Companies in India	Jan, 2019	Journal of Public Administration, Volume 1, Issue 1, PP 37-47	https://www.scinapse.io/papers/2934220077
6	From Welfare to Wealth Creation: A Review of Empirical Studies on Privatization of State-Owned-Enterprises	March 2018	International Journal of Public Sector Management, Emerald, Vol. 31 Issue-2, pp.265-286	https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/IJPSM-03-2017-0096/full/html
7	In Search of Structured Business Model for Renewable Energy Expansion in India	January 2016	International Research Journal of Management IT and Social Sciences, Scopus ID: 269F058D1B3EF38B, ISSN: 2395-7492, Volume 3, Issue 1	https://www.researchgate.net/publication/3044454586_In_Search_of_Structured_Business_Model_for_Renewable_Energy_Expansion_in_India