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Earlier he served in the Indian Government as Minister of State in various taxation fields (2011-15), as Chief Economist, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), United Kingdom (2008-11); and as Adviser (Secretary) to the Indian Finance Minister (2004-08). He received the highest civilian honour of the Brazilian Government, *Commander of the Order of the Southern Cross*, 2000, for contributions to Brazilian tax reform. He was among the 2012, 2013 and 2015 Global Tax 50 of the *International Tax Review*, "individuals and organisations that made a substantial impact on tax practice and administration in the past 12 months". He served at the IMF (1983-2004) in various capacities including Chief of Tax Policy (1992-95) and Director, IMF Singapore Institute (2001-03). He has provided technical assistance in the fiscal field to over 30 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

He rose to a tenured Professorship at The American University, Washington D.C. (1975-83). His Ph.D. is from Southern Methodist University, Dallas (1975), and Masters degrees from the University of Rochester (1973) and Delhi School of Economics (1972). He received the Jeanne S. Mattersdorf Award of the National Tax Association of America as "an outstanding student in the field of taxation and public finance" for his Ph.D. thesis on the incidence of the corporation income tax (1975). He has published several books and research in peer reviewed journals.