

Resume

Ms **VINI MAHAJAN** is serving as Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, and has been leading its Department of Health and Family Welfare since April 2012. She concurrently served as Principal Secretary Department of Medical Education and Research, Punjab from December, 2012 to August, 2014 and Principal Secretary Department of Finance from May, 2014 to June, 2015.

During her tenure, major policy initiatives have been taken by the Department towards Universal Health Care through measures such as free essential drugs and consumables, free lab tests and free emergency services in all Punjab Govt. hospitals. The Free Annual Preventive Health Checkup Scheme for all those over 30 years of age was started. Strong measures to reduce IMR and MMR led to good outcomes. In order to address the adverse sex ratio in the state, free treatment was introduced for the girl child up to 5 years of age. Special attention was given to the problems of cancer and substance abuse. The CM's Cancer Relief Fund Scheme was made cashless for all patients, infrastructure in the public sector was strengthened, awareness and early detection, and palliative care, promoted. Cancer registries were started for evidence based policy interventions. Punjab became the first state in the country to introduce HPV vaccination. Facilities were put in place for deaddiction and rehabilitation in the public sector, and an epidemiological study initiated. The Punjab State Cancer & Drug Addiction Treatment Infrastructure Fund Act, 2013 was enacted. Strong efforts were made to reduce tobacco usage. The CM's Hepatitis C Relief Fund Scheme was started in June 2016 to provide free treatment. Stroke treatment was made available in select District Hospitals, apart from all the Government Medical College hospitals. Efforts were made to make the state Corneal Blindness Backlog Free in campaign mode. Work was initiated on an Institute for Autism Treatment and Research. A toll free 24X7 medical helpline was started. A Portal was started to provide information to the citizens regarding public and private healthcare services in the state. New policies for hiring and rational deployment of HR were put in place.

Prior to this she served for eight years in the Government of India, including seven years in the Prime Minister's Office. As Joint Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, she handled, inter alia, matters relating to Finance, Industry and Commerce, Telecom, IT, and the transport sector. Earlier as Director in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, she was involved with India's external assistance program, as well as infrastructure issues including Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).

She has earlier served as M.D. of the Punjab Infrastructure Development Board, where she played a key role in promoting PPPs in physical as well as social infrastructure. She served as the first Director Disinvestment in the state. In a brief stint as Secretary, Power she was involved with power sector reforms in the state. As Special Secretary, Expenditure, she drafted the state's Fiscal Responsibility legislation and White Paper on the state's finances. She has over 8 years' experience in cutting edge positions at the field level, including as Deputy Commissioner (the first woman to be posted as such in Punjab in 25 years). She is a recipient of the Hubert Humphrey fellowship (2000 –2001).

Ms Mahajan is a member of the Indian Administrative Service (Punjab Cadre, 1987 batch). She is an Economics graduate from Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University and post graduate from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta, where she was placed on the Roll of Honour. She is the recipient of numerous academic awards, including the National Talent Search Scholarship.