Abhirup Sarkar obtained his bachelor's degree in economics from Presidency College and a master's from the University of Calcutta. He did his Ph.D. from the University of Rochester and has spent most of his academic career at the Indian Statistical Institute from where he has recently retired. He has also taught and researched at various other places in India and abroad including the University of Florida, USA, Brigham Young University, USA, Concordia University, Canada, International Centre for Economic Research, Italy, and the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta. The primary areas of his research are International Trade and Economic Development. Apart from contributing to scholarly journals like The International Economic Review, The Journal of Development Economics, The Journal of International Economics, The Journal of Public Economics, Economica and The Economic and Political Weekly, he regularly writes popular pieces in dailies and periodicals. He was the Chairman of the Fourth and the Fifth State Finance Commissions as well as the Sixth Pay Commission of West Bengal. He currently chairs the West Bengal Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation and the West Bengal Financial Corporation. He was a member of the Technical Advisory Committee on Surveys of the Reserve Bank of India and the Group of Advisors to the Union Finance Minister on G20 matters.