

1. Why did you choose to work in this industry initially?

I graduated in a pre-liberalization India where Government was the biggest employer. Insurance sector with its critical societal role drew me towards it and being able to travel internationally, have exposure to virtually every other industry via insurance and work with highly professional colleagues has kept me here. The dynamic & challenging reinsurance environment keeps you striving for more.

2. What has been the highlight of your career so far?

A career of over 30 years has brought many opportunities and resultant highlights for me. Becoming the first woman Chairman cum Managing Director in the public sector insurance industry in India definitely ranks the first. Taking over the reins in a challenging reinsurance market globally and entry of foreign reinsurers domestically has made my journey even more exciting & fascinating. Leading GIC Re through its transformation into a Top 10 Reinsurer and to position it in today's market give me a high.

3. What has been the biggest challenge you have encountered?

The biggest challenge for me is the current one. The industry is in constant flux and GIC Re needs to evolve for a greater play in the market. Bridging the cultural, skill-set & mind-set gaps within my organization to effect that change is richly rewarding & challenging.

4. If you had chosen a different profession/career path, what would it have been?

It would have to be medicine, I was always interested in research & development. I wanted something where I could talk to a huge range of people, be challenged & be humbled by my experiences. I also wanted a dynamic job that changed & improved with time & where my work led to real-life problem solving. On reflection, Reinsurance has been much more challenging & rewarding than a career in medicine would have ever been.