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Rupa Chanda is a Professor in the Economics and Social Sciences Area at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB). She has a Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University, with a specialization in International Trade, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Harvard University.

She was the recipient of the Best Teacher Award for 2006 from the Association of Indian Management Schools. Prior to joining IIMB, she worked as an Economist at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, DC. She has been a consultant for international and Indian organizations, including the ILO, WHO, UNDP, UNCTAD, OECD, ICRIER, and the Ministry of Health, among others.

She is a Member of the Planning Commission's High Level Group on Services and the Ministry of Commerce's Expert Group on Services and the Board of Approval for Special Economic Zones. She has authored a book titled, Globalization of Services: India's Opportunities and Constraints, and edited a book titled, India's Trade in Services: Prospects and Strategies. She has published in international and Indian journals, written reports, discussion and working papers, and media articles.