



Dr Manish Kumar  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Economics,  
Delhi School of Economics,  
University of Delhi,  
Email: [manish@econdse.org](mailto:manish@econdse.org),  
[manish14jnu@gmail.com](mailto:manish14jnu@gmail.com)

**Research Area:** Agriculture, Labour, Health, Petroleum, Development

**MPhil:** Pricing Policy and Structure of the Petroleum Sector in Contemporary India

**PhD:** Agricultural Value Networks in Contemporary India: A Comparative Study of Paddy in Punjab and Bihar

**Academic/Professional Membership:**

- # Editorial board member of Agrarian South Network Research Bulletin
- # Assistant editor of Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy
- # Managing Editor, Handbook of Agricultural Economics (Springer)

**Educational Background:**

- # PhD (Economics): 2015- 2019, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- # MPhil (Economics): 2013- 2015, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- # MA (Economics) 2011-2013, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

**Awards:**

- # The Samir Amin Young Scholars' Award, 2020 by Agrarian South Network.
- # Visiting Research Fellow at International Centre for Development and Decent Work (ICDD), funded by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), University of Kassel, Germany (February 2019 – March 2019)
- # Fellow at Agrarian Studies Training Institute (ASTI), Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies (SMAIAS), Harare, Zimbabwe (November 2018)
- # Erasmus+ Scholar at Global and European Studies Institute, Leipzig University, Germany (October 2016 – March 2017)
- # University Grant Commission Junior Research Fellow (2016)
- # University Grant Commission Senior Research Fellow (2018)

**Experience:**

- # India Coordinator for Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) funded Project at ICDD on 'Constraints and Opportunities for Upgrading in the Agricultural Value Chains (Rice)' (May 2018 to July 2018)
- # Guest Faculty at Delhi Technological University (DTU), formerly Delhi College of Engineering (Monsoon Semester 2019).
- # Adjunct Faculty at Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) (Winter Semester 2019).
- # Senior Research Associate, Society for Social and Economic Research, New Delhi (April 2019 to June 2020).
- # Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Kassel, Germany (July 2020 to Dec 2020).

## Administrative Positions:

# Executive Director: Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics (7 Aug 2023 – 31 March 2025)

## Publications:

### Published Articles

1. Winners and Losers of India's Mutating Petroleum Policies, in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 52, Issue No. 28, 15 Jul, 2017.
2. India's Rice Export: What's there in it for farmers?, in *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, SAGE Journals, vol. 8, issue. 1-2, August 2019
3. COVID-19 and the Public Health System in Bihar, in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 55, Issue No. 16, 18 Apr, 2020. (Co-authored with Avinash Kumar)
4. Marginalised Migrants and Bihar as an Area of Origin, in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 55, Issue No. 23, 13 June, 2020. (Co-authored with Avinash Kumar)
5. COVID-19 Lockdown: Impact on Agriculture and Rural Economy, in *Social Scientist*, Vol. 48, Nos. 3–6, March–June 2020. (Co-authored with Vikas Rawal, Ankur Verma and Jesim Pais)
6. Labour in India and the COVID-19 Pandemic, in *The Indian Economic Journal*, Vol. 68, Issue No. 3, (Co- authored with Praveen Jha)
7. The Government's Retreat from Agricultural Policy: Experiences from Bihar, in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 56, Issue No. 4, 23 Jan, 2021.
8. Concept of Development and Hegemonic World Order, in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 56, Issue No. 44, 30 Oct, 2021.
9. Foodstuffs Market Regulation: The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 and After, in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 56, Issue No. 49, 04 Dec, 2021.
10. On Some Aspects of Rural Labour in India at the Current Juncture, in *Labour and Development*, Vol. 28, Issue No. 2, December 2021.
11. Power Asymmetry and Unequal Exchange in the Agricultural Value Systems: Case Study of Paddy, in *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy* 11 (3), 308-332. November 2022
12. Political Aspects of 'Freebies', in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 57, Issue No. 52, 24 December 2022. (Co-authored with Avinash Kumar)
13. Navigating the Nexus of Migration and Development, in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 60, Issue No. 18, 03 May, 2025
14. India After 75 Years of Independence: Reflections on Development and Persistent Challenges. *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, 14(2), 180-207. June 2025. (Co- authored with Praveen Jha)

### Chapters in Edited Books

1. Contours of Food Security Challenges in Neo-liberal India (Co-authored with Praveen Jha, Santosh Verma), in Thiago Lima, Agostina Costantino (eds.) *Food Security and International Relations: Critical Perspectives From the Global South*, ibidem-Verlag, Stuttgart 2021. ISBN-13: 978-3-8382-7481-2.
2. The Government's Retreat from Agricultural Policy: Experiences from Bihar? in Uma Kapila (Ed) *Economic Developments in India Vol 251 & 252*, New Delhi 2021. ISBN-13: 978-93-327-0566-1.
3. Smallholders in the rice value chain of Bangladesh and India (Co-authored with Jakir Hossain and Ismail Karatepe), in Ismail Doga Karatepe and Christoph Scherrer (Eds) *The Phantom of Upgrading in*

*Agricultural Supply Chains: A Cross-Country, Cross-Crop Comparison of Smallholders*, Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden- Baden, Germany 2021. ISBN: 978-3-98542-004-9

4. Contours of Contract Farming in the Asian Region: Studies from India (Co-authored with Praveen Jha, Nivedita Sharma, Gurpreet Singh, Santosh Verma), in Praveen Jha, Paris Yeros, Walter Chambati, Freedom Mazwi (Eds) *Farming and Working under Contract: Peasants and Workers in Global Agricultural Value Systems*, Tulika Books, New Delhi, 2022. ISBN: 978-81-947175-0-8
5. Global Agricultural Value Systems and Women Field Study Lessons from India, in Praveen Jha, Paris Yeros, Walter Chambati, Freedom Mazwi (Eds) *Farming and Working under Contract: Peasants and Workers in Global Agricultural Value Systems*, Tulika Books, New Delhi, 2022. ISBN: 978-81-947175-0-8
6. India's Rice Export: What is in It for Farmers?, in Praveen Jha, Paris Yeros, Walter Chambati, Freedom Mazwi (Eds) *Farming and Working under Contract: Peasants and Workers in Global Agricultural Value Systems*, Tulika Books, New Delhi, 2022. ISBN: 978-81-947175-0-8
7. Agricultural Markets: Constraints and Opportunities, in S K Bhaumik (Ed.) *Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Farmer Incomes in Bihar*, Sage Books, New Delhi, 2022. ISBN: 978-93-5479-542-8
8. Migration, Marginality and Development: The Case of Bihar in S K Bhaumik (Ed.) *Development with Justice: The Bihar Experience*, Routledge, New Delhi, 2024. ISBN: 978-1032626406

#### Monographs

1. Choking the Lifeline of the Rural Economy: MGNREGS during the COVID-19 Lockdown, Society for Social and Economic Research, Monograph 20/2 (2020), ISBN: 978-81-937148-6-7.
2. COVID-19 Lockdown: Impact on Agriculture and Rural Economy, Society for Social and Economic Research, Monograph 20/3 (2020), ISBN (revised edition): 978-81-937148-8-1.
3. The COVID-19 pandemic and the state in Bihar, WIDER Working Paper, No. 2022/51. ISBN 978-92-9267-182-2, The United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), Helsinki.

#### Book reviews

1. "Atsuko Ichijo and Ronald Ranta, Food, National Identity and Nationalism: From Every day to Global Politics", *Political Studies Review*, vol. 15, issue 1., First Published December 1, 2016.
2. "Herbert Obinger, Carina Schmitt and Stefan Traub, The Political Economy of Privatization in Rich Democracies", *Political Studies Review*, vol. 15, issue 2., First Published March 16, 2017.
3. "Ronald Sandler, Food Ethics: The Basics", *Political Studies Review*, vol. 15, issue 2., First Published February 1, 2017.
4. Debdatta Saha. 2020. Economics of the Food Processing Industry: Lessons from Bihar, India. *Millennial Asia*, Vol 12, Issue 2., First Published March 19, 2021.

#### **Presentations/Invited Lectures:**

1. Presented Paper titled "Strangleholds of Sugar Industry: A Comparative Study of Two Major Sugar Producing States in India" in African Institute of Agrarian Studies-Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe, in January 2015.
2. Presented Paper titled "Persistence Crisis of Peasantry in Contemporary India" in African Institute of Agrarian Studies -Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe, in January 2016.

3. Presented Paper titled “Neo-Liberal Economic Reform and Informality: A Study of Indian Petroleum Industry” in Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies -Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe, in January 2017.
4. Presented Paper titled “Workers in the Paddy Value Networks of Punjab and Bihar” in Global Labour University Conference at JNU, New Delhi in October 2017.
5. Presented Paper titled “Paddy Value Networks: The Dynamics of Economic Upgrading and Rice Export from India” in Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies -Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe, in January 2018
6. Presented Paper titled “Agricultural Value Networks: An Exploration of Some Conceptual Challenges” in Sam Moyo Memorial Conference, JNU, New Delhi, India, in February 2018
7. Presented Paper titled “Rice Value Chains in India: An Analysis of the Constraints and Opportunities for Economic and Social Upgrading” in Global Labour University Conference at UNICAMP, Campinas, Brazil, in August 2018.
8. Presented Paper titled “Asymmetries of Power and their Distributional Implications: A Study of India’s Rice Value Systems” in Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies - Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe, in January 2019.
9. Presented Paper titled “‘Social Contradictions’ and the Workforce: A Critical Review of Indian Economy” in Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies -Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe, in January 2020.
10. Presented paper titled “Power Asymmetry in the Upstream of Rice Value Chains in India” in conference titled Contemporary Agrarian Systems in the Global South: Emerging Institutional Arrangements, Challenges and Responses, hosted by Jawaharlal Nehru University, 27-29 February 2020.
11. Invited for Lecture on ‘Covid-19 and the Public Health System in Bihar’, hosted by College of Vocational Studies, University of Delhi, 03 May 2020.
12. Invited for presentation of paper on ‘Small Holder Agriculture and Agribusiness’ by Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 09 December 2021.
13. Invited for Lecture on ‘Agricultural Markets in Bihar: Constraints and Opportunities’, hosted by Patliputra School of Economics, Aryabhatta Knowledge University, Patna, 17 December 2021.
14. Invited for Lecture on ‘Political Aspects of Freebies: In the Context of Union Budget 2023-24’, hosted by Shyama Prasad Mukherjee College, University of Delhi, 08 February 2023.
15. Invited to deliver a lecture on “Measuring Informal Sector/Economy” at the Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 23 February 2023.
16. Presented a paper titled “Market power and Efficiency: Public vs private enterprises of the Indian petroleum industry since independence” in the 8th National Conference on Economics of Competition Law, 2023, organised by Competition Commission of India, Government of India, 3 March 2023.
17. Presented paper titled “Agrarian Economy of Bihar: Structural Constraints vs Technological Optimism?” at a conference organised by Development Studies Association, 29 June 2023.
18. Presented paper titled “Agrarian Economy of Bihar: Structural Constraints vs Technological Optimism?” at a conference organised by Jawaharlal Nehru University under the aegis of the Global Partnership Network, 29 – 30 September 2023.
19. Invited for a Lecture on ‘Comprehensive Measures of Economic Growth: GDP and Beyond’, hosted by Department of Economics, Banaras Hindu University, 6 October 2023.
20. Invited for a Lecture on ‘Fostering Economic Growth: Through Fiscal Equality Initiatives’, hosted by Department of Economics, Dyal Singh College, University of Delhi, 27 October 2023.
21. Presented paper titled “Agrarian Economy of Bihar: Structural Constraints versus Technological Optimism?” in Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies -Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe, 5 – 9

February 2024.

22. Invited to deliver a lecture on “Conducting Labour and Agricultural Research: Data, Sampling, and Methods” by Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali, 19 March 2024.
23. Presented paper in the conference on Agriculture through the Lens of Small and Marginal farmers: Challenges and Pathways, hosted by Council for Social Development, New Delhi, 15 – 16 July 2024.
24. Presented a paper titled “Weakening of Public Sector and Labour Vulnerability in Contemporary India” in Global Labour University Conference organised by Jawaharlal Nehru University, 29 September 2024.
25. Presented paper titled “Agricultural Diversification in India: Challenges, Actors, and Pathways”, in Indian Economic Association Conference, organised by Kurukshetra University, 28 December 2024.
26. Presented paper titled “Challenges, Opportunities, and Pathways for Agricultural Diversification in India” in a conference organised by Christ University-NCR, 22-23 January 2025.
27. Presented paper titled “India after 75 Years of Independence: Reflections on Development and Persistent Challenges” in Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies -Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe, 3 – 7 February 2025.
28. Presented a paper titled “Debate of Agricultural Diversification in India” in the Sukhamoy Chakravarty Chair Conference, organised by Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 2 – 3 March 2025.