

# Dr Manish Kumar

Assistant Professor

Department of Economics  
Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

✉ [manish@econdse.org](mailto:manish@econdse.org)

## Research Areas

---

- Agriculture
- Labour
- Political Economy of the Global South
- Political Economy of Competition
- Development

## Education

---

### PhD in Economics (2015–2019)

Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

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

### MPhil in Economics (2013–2015)

Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

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

### MA in Economics (2011–2013)

Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

## Administrative Leadership

---

### Executive Director

7 Aug 2023 – 31 March 2025

Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics

## Editorial Responsibilities

---

- Editorial Board Member, *Agrarian South Network Research Bulletin*
- Managing Editor, *Handbook of Agricultural Economics* (Springer)

## Professional Experience

---

- Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Kassel, Germany (2020)
- India Coordinator, FAO Funded Project on “Constraints and Opportunities for Upgrading in the Agricultural Value Chains (Rice)”, ICDD, University of Kassel, Germany (2018)
- Guest Faculty, Delhi Technological University (Monsoon Semester 2019)
- Adjunct Faculty, Ambedkar University Delhi (Winter Semester 2019)

## Awards, Fellowships & Distinctions

---

- Samir Amin Young Scholars' Award (2020), Agrarian South Network
- Visiting Research Fellow, ICDD, University of Kassel, Germany (DAAD), Feb 2019 – Mar 2019
- Fellow, Agrarian Studies Training Institute, Harare, Zimbabwe, Nov 2018
- Erasmus+ Scholar, Leipzig University, Germany, Oct 2016 – Mar 2017
- UGC Junior Research Fellowship (2016)
- UGC Senior Research Fellowship (2018)

## Publications

---

### Journal Articles

1. Kumar, M. (2017). Winners and losers of India's mutating petroleum policies. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 52(28).
2. Kumar, M. (2019). India's rice export: What's there in it for farmers? *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, 8(1–2).
3. Kumar, A., & Kumar, M. (2020). COVID-19 and the public health system in Bihar. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 55(16).
4. Kumar, A., & Kumar, M. (2020). Marginalised migrants and Bihar as an area of origin. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 55(23).
5. Rawal, V., Kumar, M., Verma, A., & Pais, J. (2020). COVID-19 lockdown: Impact on agriculture and rural economy. *Social Scientist*, 48(3–6).
6. Jha, P., & Kumar, M. (2020). Labour in India and the COVID-19 pandemic. *The Indian Economic Journal*, 68(3).
7. Kumar, M. (2021). The government's retreat from agricultural policy: Experiences from Bihar. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 56(4).
8. Kumar, M. (2021). Concept of development and hegemonic world order. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 56(44).
9. Kumar, M. (2021). Foodstuffs market regulation: The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 and after. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 56(49).
10. Jha, P., & Kumar, M. (2021). On some aspects of rural labour in India at the current juncture. *Labour and Development*, 28(2).
11. Kumar, M. (2022). Power asymmetry and unequal exchange in the agricultural value systems: Case study of paddy. *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, 11(3), 308–332.
12. Kumar, A., & Kumar, M. (2022). Political aspects of freebies. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 57(52).
13. Kumar, M. (2025). Navigating the nexus of migration and development. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 60(18).
14. Jha, P., & Kumar, M. (2025). India after 75 years of independence: Reflections on development and persistent challenges. *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, 14(2), 180–207.
15. Jha, P., & Kumar, M. (2025). Agricultural diversification in India: Some reflections and current discourse. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 60(48).

16. Jha, P., & Kumar, M. (2026). Neoliberal growth regimes and labour: Some core concerns. *The Indian Economic Journal*.

### Chapters in Edited Books

1. Jha, P., Kumar, M., & Verma, S. (2021). Contours of food security challenges in neo-liberal India. In T. Lima & A. Costantino (Eds.), *Food Security and International Relations: Critical Perspectives from the Global South*. ibidem-Verlag, Stuttgart.
2. Kumar, M. (2021). The government's retreat from agricultural policy: Experiences from Bihar. In U. Kapila (Ed.), *Economic Developments in India* (Vols. 251 & 252). New Delhi.
3. Kumar, M., Hossain, J., & Karatepe, I. D. (2021). Smallholders in the rice value chain of Bangladesh and India. In I. D. Karatepe & C. Scherrer (Eds.), *The Phantom of Upgrading in Agricultural Supply Chains*. Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden, Germany.
4. Jha, P., Kumar, M., Sharma, N., Singh, G., & Verma, S. (2022). Contours of contract farming in the Asian region: Studies from India. In P. Jha, P. Yeros, W. Chambati, & F. Mazwi (Eds.), *Farming and Working under Contract*. Tulika Books, New Delhi.
5. Kumar, M. (2022). Global agricultural value systems and women: Field study lessons from India. In P. Jha, P. Yeros, W. Chambati, & F. Mazwi (Eds.), *Farming and Working under Contract*. Tulika Books, New Delhi.
6. Kumar, M. (2022). India's rice export: What is in it for farmers? In P. Jha, P. Yeros, W. Chambati, & F. Mazwi (Eds.), *Farming and Working under Contract*. Tulika Books, New Delhi.
7. Kumar, M. (2022). Agricultural markets: Constraints and opportunities. In S. K. Bhaumik (Ed.), *Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Farmer Incomes in Bihar*. Sage Books, New Delhi.
8. Kumar, A., & Kumar, M. (2024). Migration, marginality and development: The case of Bihar. In S. K. Bhaumik (Ed.), *Development with Justice: The Bihar Experience*. Routledge, New Delhi.
9. Jha, P., Kumar, M. (2026). India's economic trajectory and some major concerns at the current juncture. In P. Jha, P. Pal, & B. Majumder (Eds.), *India's Political Economy @75*. The Political Economy of the Asia Pacific. Springer, Singapore.

### Monographs

1. Kumar, M. (2020). *Choking the Lifeline of the Rural Economy: MGNREGS during the COVID-19 Lockdown*. Society for Social and Economic Research.
2. Kumar, M. (2020). *COVID-19 Lockdown: Impact on Agriculture and Rural Economy*. Society for Social and Economic Research.
3. Kumar, M. (2022). *The COVID-19 Pandemic and the State in Bihar*. UNU-WIDER Working Paper No. 2022/51, Helsinki.

### Presentations / Invited Lectures

---

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

3. Kumar, M. (2017, January). Presented paper titled “Neo-Liberal Economic Reform and Informality: A Study of Indian Petroleum Industry” during Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe.
4. Kumar, M. (2017, October). Presented paper titled “Workers in the Paddy Value Networks of Punjab and Bihar” during Global Labour University Conference, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
5. Kumar, M. (2018, January). Presented paper titled “Paddy Value Networks: The Dynamics of Economic Upgrading and Rice Export from India” during Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe.
6. Kumar, M. (2018, February). Presented paper titled “Agricultural Value Networks: An Exploration of Some Conceptual Challenges” during Sam Moyo Memorial Conference, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
7. Kumar, M. (2018, August). Presented paper titled “Rice Value Chains in India: An Analysis of the Constraints and Opportunities for Economic and Social Upgrading” during Global Labour University Conference, UNICAMP, Campinas, Brazil.
8. Kumar, M. (2019, January). Presented paper titled “Asymmetries of Power and their Distributional Implications: A Study of India’s Rice Value Systems” during Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe.
9. Kumar, M. (2020, January). Presented paper titled “Social Contradictions and the Workforce: A Critical Review of Indian Economy” during Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe.
10. Kumar, M. (2020, February 27–29). Presented paper titled “Power Asymmetry in the Upstream of Rice Value Chains in India” during Conference on Contemporary Agrarian Systems in the Global South, organised by Jawaharlal Nehru University.
11. Kumar, M. (2020, May 03). Invited lecture titled “Covid-19 and the Public Health System in Bihar” hosted by College of Vocational Studies, University of Delhi.
12. Kumar, M. (2021, December 09). Invited presentation titled “Small Holder Agriculture and Agribusiness” hosted by Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.
13. Kumar, M. (2021, December 17). Invited lecture titled “Agricultural Markets in Bihar: Constraints and Opportunities” hosted by Patliputra School of Economics, Aryabhata Knowledge University, Patna.
14. Kumar, M. (2023, February 08). Invited lecture titled “Political Aspects of Freebies: In the Context of Union Budget 2023–24” hosted by Shyama Prasad Mukherjee College, University of Delhi.
15. Kumar, M. (2023, February 23). Invited lecture titled “Measuring Informal Sector/Economy” hosted by Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.
16. Kumar, M. (2023, March 03). Presented paper titled “Market Power and Efficiency: Public vs Private Enterprises of the Indian Petroleum Industry Since Independence” during 8th National Conference on Economics of Competition Law, Competition Commission of India.
17. Kumar, M. (2023, June 29). Presented paper titled “Agrarian Economy of Bihar: Structural Constraints vs Technological Optimism?” organised by Development Studies Association.

18. Kumar, M. (2023, September 29–30). Presented paper titled “Agrarian Economy of Bihar: Structural Constraints vs Technological Optimism?” organised by Jawaharlal Nehru University under the Global Partnership Network.
19. Kumar, M. (2023, October 06). Invited lecture titled “Comprehensive Measures of Economic Growth: GDP and Beyond” hosted by Department of Economics, Banaras Hindu University.
20. Kumar, M. (2023, October 27). Invited lecture titled “Fostering Economic Growth: Through Fiscal Equality Initiatives” hosted by Department of Economics, Dyal Singh College, University of Delhi.
21. Kumar, M. (2024, February 05–09). Presented paper titled “Agrarian Economy of Bihar: Structural Constraints versus Technological Optimism?” during Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe.
22. Kumar, M. (2024, March 19). Invited lecture titled “Conducting Labour and Agricultural Research: Data, Sampling, and Methods” hosted by IISER Mohali.
23. Kumar, M. (2024, July 15–16). Presented paper during conference on “Agriculture through the Lens of Small and Marginal Farmers: Challenges and Pathways”, organised by Council for Social Development, New Delhi.
24. Kumar, M. (2024, September 29). Presented paper titled “Weakening of Public Sector and Labour Vulnerability in Contemporary India” during Global Labour University Conference organised by Jawaharlal Nehru University.
25. Kumar, M. (2024, December 28). Presented paper titled “Agricultural Diversification in India: Challenges, Actors, and Pathways” during Indian Economic Association Conference organised by Kurukshetra University.
26. Kumar, M. (2025, January 22–23). Presented paper titled “Challenges, Opportunities, and Pathways for Agricultural Diversification in India” during conference organised by Christ University-NCR.
27. Kumar, M. (2025, February 03–07). Presented paper titled “India after 75 Years of Independence: Reflections on Development and Persistent Challenges” during Sam Moyo African Institute of Agrarian Studies Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe.
28. Kumar, M. (2025, March 02–03). Presented paper titled “Debate of Agricultural Diversification in India” during Sukhamoy Chakravarty Chair Conference organised by Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University.
29. Kumar, M. (2025, December 14). Presented paper titled “Agricultural Diversification in India at the Current Juncture” during International Workshop on “Prospects and Challenges of Development in the Global South” organised by Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Global Partnership Network.
30. Kumar, M. (2026, January 20). Presented paper titled “MGNREGA: A Common Interest of Indian Farmers and Agricultural Workers” during International Conference of Indian Society of Labour Economics organised by Symbiosis University Pune.
31. Kumar, M. (2026, February 20). Presented paper titled “Converging Interests of India’s Farmers and Agricultural Workforce: The Role of Employment Guarantee” during National Seminar on “State of Agriculture and Allied Activities of the Indian Economy” organised by Department of Economics, Banaras Hindu University.
32. Kumar, M. (2026, February 26). Presented paper titled “Advancing Agrarian Prosperity through Non-Farm Employment: Policy Options and Pathways” during 2nd International Conference on Advancing Economics organised by Christ University and V.V. Giri National Labour Institute.

33. Kumar, M. (2026, March 17). Presented paper titled “Questioning the Productivity Paradigm: Agrarian Distress and Surplus Appropriation in Bihar” during 4th Annual Conference on “Dignity Question, Rural-Agrarian Development and Welfare State in India” organised by Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.
34. Kumar, M. (2026, March 20). Presented paper titled “COVID-19 Pandemic and the State in Bihar” during “WIDER Development Conference on Green industrialization and inclusive growth in a fractured world order” organised by the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research at Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, Delhi.
35. Kumar, M. (2026, April 30). Participated on the panel discussion titled “Constitutional Guarantee of the Right to Work” organised by the Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

## Teaching Experience

---

- Economic Development and Policies in India (MA Economics Programme)
- Agricultural Economics (MA Economics Programme)
- Political Economic Development of the Global South (MA Economics Programme)
- Contemporaray Research Questions in Agricultural Economics (PhD Economics Programme)

## Academic Service

---

### Peer Reviewer for Journals

- *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*
- *Economic and Political Weekly*
- *Millennial Asia*
- *The Indian Economic Journal*
- *Ecology, Economy and Society – The INSEE Journal*
- *Economic Modelling*

## Research Supervision: PhD

---

### Currently Supervising PhD Scholars in the Following Areas:

- Agricultural Diversification
- Rural Credit Market

## Ongoing Research

---

- Competition, Mark-ups, and the Squeeze on Labour: The Political Economy of Global South Economies
- Non-farm Rural Employment and its Impact on Agricultural Households
- Agricultural Diversification in India
- Livelihood Conditions of Agricultural Households and Agricultural Productivity

## References

---

Available upon request.