Dr. Ajay Kumar

Born on October 2, 1962, Dr Ajay Kumar rose to become one of the senior most bureaucrats of India having retired from the prestigious position of Defence Secretary in October 2022. He was the longest serving Secretary in Ministry of Defence. As Defence Secretary, he was the key architect for several major transformations under Prime Minister Modi including creation of Chief of Defence Staff in 2020, launching of *Agniveer* scheme in 2022- a historic reform in recruitment and retention of Armed Forces; *AtmaNirbhar Bharat*: creating India's defence industry ecosystem including corporatization of two-century old Ordnance Factories Board in 2020; conceptualizing *iDEX in 2018*: Innovation for Defence Excellence Programme- a start-up ecosystem to power Defence, Space, drones Artificial Intelligence etc.

Prior to joining Ministry of Defence, Dr. Kumar served in different capacities in Electronics and Information Technology sector including holding key positions as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and IT, Government of India; Director General, National Informatics Centre; Principal Secretary in Government of Kerala and Managing Director of KELTRON   He is credited to have implemented key initiatives of *Digital India* under Prime Minister Modi in 2014 including *UPI* world's largest digital payment system; *Aadhaar* world's largest biometric digital identity system; *myGov*, Government-e Marketplace; *Jeevan Pramaan* and several others.

He was also the key architect of National Electronics Policy in 2012 under Prime Minister Manmohan Singh which resulted in development of electronics and mobile manufacturing in India and making India world's second largest mobile manufacturing destination. Earlier, while working for Government of Kerala under democratically

elected Left Government of Chief Minister EK Nayanar, he is credited to have revived chronically sick Public Sector Undertaking KELTRON

Dr Kumar also represented Asia Pacific on Address Support Organization (ASO) of ICANN and Government of India on Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) of ICANN during 2015-17.

Dr. Kumar joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1985 and in a career spanning over 37 years served in key policy making positions in Government of India and State Government of Kerala besides having served on the Board of Directors of several Public Sector organizations. He has wide ranging experience of having worked with the three leading political parties of India, namely the BJP, the Congress and the Left parties during the transformational period of 1980s to 2022.

Dr Kumar is PhD in Business Administration from the *Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota. He also has* M.S. in Applied Economics from the *University of Minnesota*, He was awarded Graduate School Fellowship for two consecutive years and holds the rare distinction of having completed his PhD and MS in 3 years from University of Minnesota. Prior to going to US for higher studies, he did his B.Tech. in Electrical Engineering from the *Indian Institute of Technology(IIT), Kanpur*, India.

He was conferred Distinguished Alumnus Award of IIT Kanpur an Honorary Doctorate in Philosophy by Amity University, India and Fellow of Indian National Academy of Engineers for outstanding contributions to engineering and dynamic leadership in engineering domain. He is recipient of several awards including citation by the Prime Minister of India, "Champion of Change" Award, "Electronics Leader of the Year 2013" Award, "Sarabhai Award", Silver Medallion of National Scouts and Guides.

Main Publications

Velasco, M., Kumar, A., Johnson, P.E. (2014). "Gaming: The Logic of Corruption". World Business Ethics Forum, University of Macau., Dec 2014.

Kauffman, R.J., and Kumar, A. (2008e). "Understanding State and National Growth Co-movement: A Study of Shared ATM Networks in the United States," *Electronic Commerce and Research Applications*, 7(1), pgs 21-43.

Kauffman, R. J., and Kumar, A. (2008d). "Impact of ICTs on Country Development: Accounting for Area Interrelationships," *International Journal of Electronic Commerce*, 13(1), pgs. 11-58.

Kauffman, R. J., and Kumar, A. (2008c). "Network Effects and Embedded Options: Decision-Making Under Uncertainty for Network Technology Investments," *Information Technology and Management*, 9(3), pgs. 149-168.

Kauffman, R. J., and Kumar, A. (2008b). "Mapping the Multi-tiered Impacts on the Growth of IT Industries in India: A Combined Scale-and-Scope Externalities Perspective," *International Journal of Information Technology for Development*, 14(3), pgs. 225-252.

Kauffman, R. J., and Kumar, A. (2008a). "On the Company We Keep: Combined Scale-and-Scope Externalities in the Growth of IT Industry Co-agglomerations," In R. Sprague (ed.), *Proc. 41st Hawaii Intl. Conf. Sys. Sci.*, January, IEEE Computer Society Press, Los Alamitos, CA

Kauffman, R. J., and Kumar, A. (2007c). "The New Economic Geography of IT Industries: The Impacts of the Internet on their Market Linkages and Agglomeration," In *Proc. 28th International Conference of Information Systems.*, December, Montreal, Canada.

Kauffman, R. J., and Kumar, A. (2007b). "Modeling network decisions under uncertainty: countervailing externalities and embedded options." In R. Sprague (ed.), *Proc. 40th Hawaii Intl. Conf. Sys. Sci.*, January, IEEE Computer Society Press, Los Alamitos, CA.

Kauffman, R. J., and Kumar, A. (2007a). "Scale and scope externalities in the growth of IT industries in India: An Agglomeration Perspective." In R. Sprague (ed.), *Proc. 40th Hawaii Intl. Conf. Sys. Sci.*, January, IEEE Computer Society Press, Los Alamitos, CA.

Kauffman, R.J., and Kumar, A. (2006). "A Combined Scale-And-Scope Theory of IT Industry Cluster Growth." In the *Proceedings of the 2006 IEEE International Society for Engineering Management Conference*, in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, September 17-20, 2006, IEEE Computing Society, Los Alamitos, CA, in press.

Kumar, A. (2003). "E-Government and Efficiency, Accountability and Transparency." *Electronic Journal on Information Systems in Developing Countries*. 12. Available on the Internet at www.ejisdc.org.

Harris, R., Kumar, A., and Balaji. V. (2003). "Sustainable Telecenters? Two Cases from India." *Information and Communication Technologies for Development—Development Gateway*. www.developmentgateway.org/node/133831/sdm/docview?docid=442648.

Kumar A. (November 29-30, 2001). "Bridging the Digital Divide: Some Efforts from Kerala," in the *Proceedings of the International Conference on Information Technologies, Communications and Development*, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Kumar, A. (September 3-7, 2001). "Knowledge and Decision-making: Some Examples from Kerala," Plenary Talk at the Second Meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI) of the *United Nations Economic Commission for Africa*, Adis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Kumar, A. (June 27-29, 2001). "Interconnectivity for an Enhanced Information Infrastructure in Asia." In the *Proceedings of the 10th Annual AMIC Conference: Asia's Infocomm Future—Building Core Values, Competence and Capacity,* Manila, Philippines, 659.3(5) AMIC Information; Asia C SG-AMIC, 2001-10-26. This paper is available for download from the Internet at the following URL: www.amic-web.org/acrc/search.php?db=AMICBLIB&id=41342&q=Manila+2001+Kumar