

Brief CV of Arun Kumar

Arun Kumar, joined JNU in 1984 and retired as the Sukhamoy Chakravarty Chair Professor in the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University in 2015. He is currently the Malcolm Adiseshiah Chair Professor in Institute of Social Sciences.

He has a Ph.D. in Economics from JNU and a Masters in Physics from Princeton University USA and Delhi University. He is a gold medalist of Delhi Higher Secondary Board and Delhi University. He has specialized in Development Economics, Public Finance and Public Policy and Macroeconomics. He was a part of the team to study the black economy for CBDT (1982-85).

He has had visiting assignments in Pavia University, Italy and Humboldt and Leipzig Universities, Germany. He has delivered lectures at Yale Univ., Columbia Univ. and Carnegie Mellon Univ. in USA and UNAM, Mexico. UNAM, Mexico awarded him the Ricardo Prize in Economics for work in Development Economics.

His Ph.D. thesis (1982) on Inflation and Terms of Trade gave a new understanding of the role of trade and government in inflation in India. His book 'The Black Economy in India', published by Penguin (1999, 2002 and 2017) has broken new ground in thinking about the Indian Economy. He has published a book titled 'Challenges Facing Indian Universities' (2004) and written extensively on issues pertaining to Higher Education in India. He was President of JNU Teachers' Association for 2014.

His book titled 'Indian Economy since Independence: Persisting Colonial Disruption', (2013) presents a holistic analysis of current Indian Society's developments by taking a long term view and combining together the historical, political, social and international developments. In Feb., 2017, he has published 'Understanding Black Economy and Black Money in India: An Enquiry into Causes, Consequences and Remedies'. In December 2017 he published 'Demonetization and the Black Economy' analyzing demonetization and in February 2019 'Ground Scorching Tax' analyzing GST. Both are published by Penguin Random House.

He has written extensively on globalization and its impact on Indian society and on issues of public policy. He has published articles both in academic journals and in the popular press and contributed to public discussions on policy since 1980. He was the Vice Chair of the manifesto drafting committee of National Front in 1989 and the Convener of the Economics & Ecology Committee of AAP in 2013.

He authored the Alternative Budgets for 1993-94 and 1994-95 which proposed alternative economic policies for the country. These were presented before a Citizen's Assembly

of eminent citizens of the country. He was a member of the Group producing the Alternative Economic Survey for the 2 decades which provided an alternative analysis of the official data. He was the group leader of the Committee for the pricing of SU30 MKI. He was a member of the First Pay Commission of the Tibetan Government in Exile. He has participated in various social movements from time to time, like, on Housing Rights.