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Prof Nagesh Kumar has a demonstrated track record in shaping the development policy agenda in India and in the United Nations through excellence in economic policy research and advocacy, economic diplomacy, strategic thinking, institution-building, and thought leadership, in a career spanning 40 years. Renowned globally for his research on foreign direct investment (FDI) flows and their quality, he has deep insights into the strategic trade, innovation, and industrial policy interventions for building a competitive manufacturing sector, regional economic integration, multilateral trade negotiations, global economic governance, and policy approaches for inclusive and sustainable development.

Prof Nagesh Kumar is the Director and Chief Executive of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (**ISID**), a New Delhi-based public-funded (ICSSR) think-tank devoted to fostering India's industrial transformation through policy research, advocacy, capacity-building and outreach activities.

Prior to taking up this role in May 2021, Prof Kumar served as a Director at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (**UN-ESCAP**), holding several senior management roles from 2009 to 2021 including as its Chief Economist, Director of Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division, and Director of Social Development Division at the UN-ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok, and as the Head of UN-ESCAP's South and South-West Asia Office located in New Delhi, that he also had the privilege of establishing.

During 2002-09, Prof Kumar served as the Director-General of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (**RIS**), a policy think-tank of the Government of India (Ministry of External Affairs), of which he was Deputy Director-General during 1998-2002, and a Fellow during 1985-93.

During 1993-98, Prof Kumar served on the faculty of the **United Nations University-MERIT** (then UNU-INTECH) in Maastricht, the Netherlands.

In January 2022, Prof Kumar was also nominated as a Non-Resident Senior Fellow of the Boston University Global Development Policy Centre (**BU/GDPC**), Boston, Mass; USA.

Prof Kumar has also served on the **boards** of the Export-Import (**EXIM**) Bank of India, the International Centre for Trade & Sustainable Development (**ICTSD**), Geneva; the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (**SACEPS**), Kathmandu. He has also served as a **consultant** to the World Bank, ADB, UNCTAD, UNDP, ERIA, Commonwealth Secretariat, DFID, ILO, UNIDO, and UN-DESA.

Prof Kumar has extensively researched different aspects of trade and investment, technology and sustainable industrial development, publishing 18 books and over 120 peer-reviewed papers, attracting over 8,400 academic citations on [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=...).

He regularly contributes popular articles to mainstream newspapers such as the *Hindustan Times*, *The Economic Times*, *Business Standard*, *The Hindu*, *Hindu Business Line*, *Financial Express*, and *Jakarta Post*.

A **PhD** in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics, Prof Kumar is the recipient of the Exim Bank's first International Trade Research Award in 1990, and the Global Development Network (GDN) Research Medal awarded by the World Bank and the Japanese Government in Tokyo in 2000. Elected President of the 103rd Session of the Indian Economic Association (IEA) held in Jaipur in January 2022, Prof Kumar received the Distinguished Alumnus Award of the Delhi School of Economics in 2023.