

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Ashwani Kumar

Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
Former Additional Solicitor General of India,
Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha),
Union Minister for Law & Justice
Envoy of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Japan

Birth: October 26, 1952, New Delhi, India

Citizenship: Indian

Address: C-9, Friends Colony (East), New Delhi-110065

Education: Jawaharlal Nehru University (M. Phil - 1976)
Faculty of Law, Delhi University (LL.B -1975)
St. Stephen's College, Delhi (B.A (History Hons.) 1972)

Awards:

- Conferred with the “*Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun*”,(one of the highest civilian honours of Japan)by His Imperial Majesty, The Emperor of Japan in Tokyo, May 9, 2017.
- Honoris Causa in Law, Punjab University, 2005.

Parliamentary Engagements:

- Chairman, *Standing Committee on Science, Technology, Environment and Forests*, Parliament of India, 2015-2016.
- Member, *General Purposes Committee* of Rajya Sabha,2015
- Member, *Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Defence*, January 2015.
- Member, National Literacy Mission,2014
- Member, “*shadow cabinet*” on matters related to the ministries of *Defence, Home and Law and Justice*, by the Congress President in November 2014.
- Member, *Parliamentary Standing Committee-Defence*, Parliament of India, 2013
- Member, *Public Accounts Committee*, Parliament of India, 2013
- Chairman of the Select Committee of Rajya Sabha for “*The Prevention of*

Torture Bill', 2010.

- Member of Standing Committee on External Affairs in 2009

Professional Appointments:

- Appointed as *Additional Solicitor General of India*, Supreme Court of India, 1990
- Designated *Senior Advocate*, Supreme Court of India, 1986

Ministerial Positions:

- Cabinet Minister for Law & Justice, 2012-2013
- Minister of State for Planning, 2011-2013
- Minister of State for Science and Technology, 2011-2013
- Minister of State for Earth Sciences, 2011-2013
- Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs in 2011
- Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, 2006-2009

Party Positions Held (AICC):

- National Spokesperson, Indian National Congress(INC)
- Chairman, Vichaar Vibhag, All India Congress Committee (AICC)

Diplomatic Engagements:

- Prime Minister's *Special Envoy for Japan* in the rank of a cabinet minister, 2013
- Nominated to represent India at the *United Nations General Assembly Session*, New York City, 2013.
- Member, *Indian Ministerial delegation for the 3rd Indo-US Strategic Dialogue* and the *1st Indo-Japan Economic Dialogue*, New Delhi, 2012.
- Led Parliamentary Delegation to Hungary and Russia, 2011-12.
- Represented Government of India at *World Economic Forum*, Davos & Dalian, 2011
- Accompanying Minister to the *President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil* on her State Visit to Vietnam and Indonesia in 2008, to Spain and Poland in 2009.
- Accompanying Minister to *Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan*, *President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan*, *Prime Minister Gordon Brown of UK* and *King Albert II of Belgium*, during their State visits to India. He also had

ministerial engagements with Late President Simon Perez of Israel and President Mbeki of South Africa, 2006-2009.

- Founder President, *the Indo-French Parliamentary Friendship Group* constituted by the Speaker of Lok Sabha, 2003.

Visiting Appointments:

- Visiting Professor, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, 2018-19
- Associate Tenant" *with the Doughty Street Chambers in London*, 2017.
- Member, Governing Board, STS Forum, Japan.
- Distinguished Fellow, Global Federation of Competitiveness Council, Washington, 2017
- Visiting Fellow, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, 2004.

Speaking Assignments:

- Invited to deliver a lecture at the University of Kyoto (Japan) on '*Japan – India Entente: Promise of Stability, Peace and prosperity in Asia and the World*', October 2019.
- Guest Lecture, '*Constitutional Rights, Judicial Review and Parliamentary Democracy*', National Law School of India University, February 2019.
- Guest Lecture, "*Refugee Rights in India*", National Law School of India University, December 2018.
- Speaker, 'The Plight of Rohingyas', Migration and Asylum Trust, The India International Centre, December 2018.
- Speech delivered, '*State of the Nation*', World Policy Conference, Marrakech, Morocco, November, 2017
- Keynote speaker, "*India-US-Japan Trilateral initiative*" US India Business Council Washington, 2016
- Addressed students at the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, October, 2016.
- Addressed students on "*Judicial Activism in India and its Potential Impact on Society*", John Hopkins SAIS, Washington, October, 2016.
- Speaker, "*Seminar on the Advancement of Constitutional Rights and Public Interest Litigation in India*", the Oxford Human Rights Hub, October, 2016.

- Delivered a Public Lecture, “*UK–India Engagement: Partnership for the Future*”, Universities of Birmingham & Nottingham,
- Speaker, IFRI, World Policy Conference, “*Ethics, Technology and Government Business Relations*”, Doha, November 2016
- Speaker, “*Citizenry & Faith*”, the Annual “*Entretiens de Royaumont*” conference, Paris, December.
- Addressed the Chevening Gurukul scholars, The King’s College, London, October, 2016
- Delivered a lecture, Faculty of Management Studies, Delhi University, July 2016
- Speaker, Plenary Session at the Horasis Conference, Cascais/Portugal, July 2016
- Delivered a Lecture on “*The Expansion of Constitutional freedoms in India - The Irish Interface and Future Challenges*”, The Long Room Hub, Trinity College, Dublin, May, 2016.
- Speaker, *the Aix Le Cercle des economists in Aix-en-Provence*, France, 2013
- Keynote Speaker, “*India’s Growth Story: Challenges and Response*”, Harvard Club, New York, June, 2012.
- Delivered a Lecture on “*India’s Quest for Global Leadership in Science, Technology and Innovation*” and on “*the case for Indo-US collaboration in the frontier areas of Science*”, MIT, Cambridge, June 2012.
- Keynote Speaker, *8th Annual Meeting of the Science and Technology Forum (STS)*, Kyoto, Japan, 2011

Publications:

BOOKS:

Human Dignity – A Purpose in Perpetuity, LexisNexis ;(Under Publication to be released in January 2020)

Ehsas-O-Izhar: An Anthology of Urdu Poetry, Nyogi Books, 2018

Hope in a Challenged Democracy: An Indian Narrative, Wisdom Tree; 2017

Law, Ideas and Ideology in Politics: Perspectives of an Activist, HarAnand Publications; 2003

ARTICLES:

- “The Constitutional legitimacy of Abrogating Article 370” *Economic & Political Weekly* Vol 54, Issue no.38. For Summarized version see; “Kashmir, beyond legalities: Modi govt needs to recognize essential dignity of its people”, *The Indian Express*, 10th September, 2019; Also see: “Winning over Kashmiri’s a Litmus Test for the Govt”, *The Tribune and Dainik Jagran*, 14th August, 2019; *The Asian Age and Deccan Chronicle*, 15th August 2019.
- “Modi’s Audacity of Hope: Can he win over J&K” , *Asian Age and Deccan Chronicles*, 15th August, 2019
- “Custodial Torture not yet a specific criminal offence”, *The Tribune*, 26th June, 2019
- “Constitutional Rights, Judicial Review and Parliamentary Democracy”, *Economic & Political Weekly*, Vol. 54, Issue No.14, 13th April, 2019
- “This Election, we must reject the onslaughts on freedom”, *The Indian Express*, 28th March, 2019
- “The Essence of the next mandate”, *The Hindu*, 28th January, 2019
- 'Inequities have Strained our Democratic Polity', *The Tribune*, 3rd December 2018, Also See: *The Ajit, Ajit Samachar*, 4th December 2018;
- “Bench as Beacon”, *The Indian Express*, 29th November 2018; Also see: *Dainik Jagran*, 28th November 2018
- "Let Us Come Together to fulfill the Dreams of Mahatma Gandhi." *Lokmat Times*, 2nd October 2018; Also See: *Jagbani, Punjab Kesari, Navodaya Times, Lokmat Main and Lokmat Hindi*.
- “Protecting the Dissenters”, *The Hindu*, 3rd September; Also See: *Dainik Jagran, The Ajit and The Indian Express 2018*
- “A Tribute to Atal Bihari Vajpayee”, *Punjabi Kesari*, 21st August 2018
- “Dear Prime Minister, We Must Enact” - An Open Letter to the Prime Minister regarding Custodial Torture ; *The Indian Express*, 14th March 2018; Also See: *Punjab Kesari and Jagbani*
- “Evidence vs Perception” *The Indian Express; The Ajit*, 6th January 2018; Also See: *Dainik Jagran*, 26th December 2017
- “Standing up for Human Rights”, *The Hindu*, 8th January 2018
- 'The Moment of Promise' *The Telegraph (Kolkata)*, 8th December 2017; Also See: *the Asian Age, Dainik Jagran, Punjab Kesari*
- "The lesson from Doklam-Peace is the dividend of power”, *Hindustan Times*, 16th September, 2017
- "The resilience of our liberalism: on the right to privacy" , *The Hindu*, 12th September, 2017

- "Searching for an equilibrium" *The Hindu*, 2nd December,2016
- "Theresa May's Visit an Opportunity to Redefine Indo-UK Relationship After Brexit", *The Wire*, 6th November,2016
- "Let us Aim for an Age Irrelevant Society", *The Hindustan Times*, 3rd September 2015
- "Dignity for All", *The Tribune*, 17th August 2015
- "Privacy, A Non-Negotiable Right," *The Hindu*, 10th August 2015
- "Lack of vision for Punjab", *The Tribune*, April 4, 2015;*Also See: the Jagbani and Punjab Kesri (Jalandhar) on March 31, 2015*
- "Failing the fairness test", *The Indian Express*, 20 March, 2015; *Also See: the Jagbani and the Punjab Kesri (Jalandhar) on April 1, 2015*