











4 February 2025

# Speaker's bio

### Mr Sanjay Kumar



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Sanjay Kumar plays a pivotal role of Secretary for the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education. In his previous capacity, Mr. Kumar held the position of Secretary in the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, showcasing his multifaceted expertise. With an illustrious career, he has notably served as the Principal Secretary of Education in Bihar.

A distinguished member of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Mr. Kumar brings with him a wealth of experience, having joined the service in the 1990 batch. His diverse professional background and prior accomplishments underscore his commitment to advancing education and literacy, positioning him as a formidable leader in the realm of educational governance.

Mr Rahul Singh



Rahul Singh, a 1996-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Bihar cadre, was appointed as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in March 2024.

Prior to this role, he served as the Additional Secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), bringing a wealth of experience in administrative services and a deep understanding of education policies. Shri Singh has an illustrious academic and professional background, coupled with a rich and varied experience in service matters, vigilance, and other administrative domains.

His leadership at CBSE is expected to drive forward key educational reforms and enhance the quality of education across India.







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### Dr. Praggya M. Singh



Dr. Praggya M. Singh is the Director (Academics) at CBSE, with extensive experience in curriculum design and material development for multiple subjects. She has played a key role in CBSE initiatives, including SAFAL, SQAAF, and competency-based assessments under NEP 2020. With over 15 years of university-level experience, she has mentored Ph.D. and M.Phil. scholars and contributed to national seminars, workshops, and faculty development programs, promoting best practices and holistic learning approaches.

Dr. Dhir Jhingran,



Dr. Dhir Jhingran, a former IAS officer (1986 batch), is the Founder & Executive Director of the Language and Learning Foundation (LLF), dedicated to improving foundational learning at scale. With over 30 years in primary education, he has held key policy roles in the Ministry of Education and led major education initiatives in Assam. He has also worked with UNICEF, the Nepal Ministry of Education, and Room to Read, shaping early grade reading and multilingual education programs in India and beyond. A member of the National Steering Committee for the NCF, he also trains IAS officers and has authored multiple books on primary education.

Dr Harry Kuchah Kuchah



Dr Harry Kuchah Kuchah is Associate Professor of Languages, Social Justice, and Education and Director of the MSc. TESOL Programme at the University of Birmingham, UK. He has also served as a consultant on different aspects of language policy and practice for the British Council, the Council of Europe and Windle Trust International in different national contexts.

Harry is Past President of the International Association of Teachers of English as an International Language and currently Chair of the British Council English Language Advisory Group and Chair of the Hornby Educational Trust. His research interests include English Medium Education in multilingual school contexts, Language Teacher Education and professional development and language education in challenging contexts, and he has published widely in these areas.

He is co-editor of International Perspectives on Teaching English in Difficult Circumstances (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018); Ethical and methodological issues in researching young language learners in school contexts (Multilingual Matters, 2021) and Teacher Research in Africa: Voices from the Africa ELTA Mentoring Project (IATEFL 2022).







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# Mr Jacopo Torregrossa



Jacopo Torregrossa has been a Professor of Multilingualism and Second Language Acquisition at Goethe University Frankfurt since 2019. His research explores the impact of bi-/multiliteracy on children's linguistic, metalinguistic, and cognitive development. He actively collaborates on several projects focusing on the implementation of multilingual assessment tools for reading comprehension in bilingual schools across Europe and in English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) schools in India.

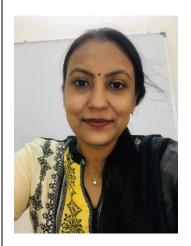
In collaboration with lanthi Tsimpli, he recently secured funding for the project "Multilingual Dynamic Assessment for Content and Language Learning: Addressing Sociolinguistic Diversity in India's Primary Schools" as part of the UK-German Funding Initiative in the Humanities (AHRC-DFG, German Research Foundation).

Prof. Yagnamurthy Sreekanth



Prof. Yagnamurthy Sreekanth is a Professor in Education (Assessment Studies) and Principal of RIE Mysuru, also serving as Chairman and Programme Director of MMTC. He has held key roles at NCERT and NUEPA, overseeing educational assessment, curriculum, and policy initiatives. A 2024 HP Education EdTech Fellow, he has published extensively on teacher education, student assessment, and educational equity. He has served as a reviewer for leading academic journals and is currently on the editorial board of the Journal of Educational and Developmental Psychology, Canada. His research interests include student assessment, school leadership, and education quality. He has authored three books in Telugu and English.

# Prof. Lina Mukhopadhyay



Professor Lina Mukhopadhyay is professor at the Department of Training and Development, School of English Language Education at The English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad, India. She is also the Director, Research Acceleration Center, and Director, All-India English Language Testing Authority (AIELTA) at EFLU. She researches in multilingual education, second language acquisition, and language assessment. At present, she is working on a multilingual education in India project in collaboration with the University of Cambridge, British Council India and a consortium of universities in India and Germany. The project focuses on the impact of training Indian teachers on multilingual and translanguaging pedagogy on primary grade children's reading comprehension skills and performance on multilingualmultimodal reading assessment. Her recent publications are in MLE and translanguaging for pedagogical purposes and multilingual assessment for classroom purposes.















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### **Prof Ramanujam** Meganathan



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Prof. Ramanujam Meganathan is a Professor of English (Language Education) at NCERT and Head of the International Relations Division. His expertise spans language policy, multilingual education, English language teaching, curriculum development, and teacher training. He played a key role in developing the NCF-2005 and led textbook and curriculum reforms in Rajasthan and other states. A prolific researcher and author, he has published extensively on language education and policy, including recent books Language Across the Curriculum (2019) and Knowledge, Education and Curriculum (2022). He has also produced 200+ English language videos for NCERT. A Hornby Scholar, he holds a Ph.D. in ELT, multiple postgraduate degrees, and an MA in TESOL from Lancaster University, UK.

Ms Rama Mathew



Rama Mathew is an English Language Teaching (ELT) consultant and retired as Professor of Education from the University of Delhi where she was also Dean of the Faculty of Education. She taught at the English and Foreign Languages University (formerly CIEFL), Hyderabad for over 23 years. She was Head of the Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of English in Action project in Bangladesh. She has been involved in several teacher development and assessment projects, and published articles and books in the area. She was a lead mentor for ARMS (Action Research Mentoring Scheme) and for ELTRMS (ELT Research Mentoring Scheme), both British Council funded schemes. Her research interests include language assessment, teaching English to young learners, continuing professional development (CPD) of teachers, and multilingual education. She won the British Council's South Asia ELTON award for Outstanding Achievement in 2024.

Ms Priya Iyer



Priya works for the British Council as a 'Senior Academic Manager' for English Programmes in India where she leads on the academic aspects of their online teacher professional development and multilingual education amongst a variety of other projects.

She started her English Language Teaching (ELT) career volunteering for the British Council-Times of India partnership in 2011, and later joined the Aga Khan Foundation to work on ELT projects for their community. Working as a freelance consultant with the British Council, Cambridge, Oxford University Press (OUP) on a multitude of large-scale teacher development projects across the country, Priya joined the British Council as Academic Manager in 2019. Priya has over a decade's experience in managing large scale teacher development projects including monitoring and evaluation and materials development for online and offline modes.

In her free time, Priya loves experimenting with cooking and enjoys interacting with people.

















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