Mrs. Ruchi Ghanashyam is a distinguished Indian diplomat who retired from the Indian Foreign Service in April 2020. Her last diplomatic assignment was as the High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom, where she also served as India's Envoy to the Commonwealth and Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Mrs. Ghanashyam is married to Ambassador A.R. Ghanashyam, a fellow 1982 batch Indian Foreign Service officer. They have two sons.

A Gold Medalist in Psychology from the University of Bhopal (1981), Mrs. Ghanashyam joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1982. Over a remarkable diplomatic career spanning nearly 38 years, she held several key assignments across continents, working in India's missions in Damascus, Kathmandu, Brussels, Islamabad, and at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York.

She became Head of Mission in 2008 and subsequently served as:

- High Commissioner to Ghana (with concurrent accreditation to Burkina Faso, Togo, and Sierra Leone) from 2008 to 2011.
- High Commissioner to South Africa (concurrently accredited to the Kingdom of Lesotho) from 2014 to 2017.
- Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi (2017–2018).
- High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (2018–2020), becoming the first career woman diplomat to hold the post and second woman after Smt. Vijayalakshmi Pandit.

Her diverse portfolio includes expertise in political affairs, consular services, culture, information & press, administration, and trade & commerce, covering both bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.

Some of her notable assignments include:

- Secretary, B.P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation, Kathmandu.
- Coordinator for the India–United Kingdom Round Table and the Indo–German Consultative Group.
- India's representative to the UNDP, UNICEF, and UNFPA Boards during her tenure as Minister Plenipotentiary at the Indian Mission to the UN in New York.

She is fluent in Hindi, English, and has working knowledge of Arabic.

After her retirement, Mrs. Ghanashyam continues to contribute actively in public discourse and academic spaces:

- Delivers lectures on Indian foreign policy, particularly under the India@75 Distinguished Lecture Series of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Contributes regularly to print media. She wrote a weekly column for *Asian Voice*, UK, which also appeared in *Gujarat Samachar*.
- Author of the widely appreciated book: *An Indian Woman in Islamabad* (Penguin Random House).
- Contributed a chapter to *India's Foreign Policy in the Post-Covid World: Through the Eyes of Indian Diplomats*.
- Currently engaged in authoring new books, including one commissioned by the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA)

Affiliations and Recognition

- Board of Patrons, India Centre, University of Southampton, UK.
- Patron, BAPIO Training Academy (British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin).

Mrs. Neena Kumar is a seasoned civil servant who retired as Member (Administration and Revenue) of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, after a distinguished 37-year career in the Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax), which she joined in 1982. She holds an M.A. in English from Lady Shri Ram College (LSR), University of Delhi, and an MBA from the University of Reading, UK. Over the course of her career, she held several key positions, including Principal Director General (Administration and Taxpayer Services), Chief Commissioner of Income Tax in Rajasthan, and Commissioner/Principal Commissioner in Delhi, Ajmer, Gurgaon, and Faridabad, where she oversaw tax administration and enforcement across large and diverse jurisdictions.

She also served on deputation for six years as Chief Vigilance Officer at the functional director level in three major Navratna Public Sector Undertakings: Oil India Limited, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, working in sectors spanning energy, petroleum, and fertilizers. Post-retirement, she continues to contribute to public and corporate governance as an Independent Director on the boards of Gujarat State Investment Limited (GSIL) and Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation (GETCO).

She is married to Mr. Dharmendra Kumar, IPS (Retd.), former Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF). Their daughter, Gayatri Kumar, is a lawyer who studied at the National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS), Kolkata, and completed her Master's from the University of Oxford. She has worked with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), World Bank in Washington D.C., and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva.

Mr. Ajay Kumar Chauhan is a 1984 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer with over 40 years of leadership experience across Government Departments, PSUs, regulatory bodies and the corporate sector. He has a strong track record in finance, audit, taxation, institution building, financial turnaround, IPOs, SPVs/JVs advisory, large-scale infrastructure and industrial projects.

He has held senior policy-making and governance roles, including Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, State of M.P Director General at the Competition Commission of India and is currently serving as an Independent Director at Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI), a strategic CPSE under the Ministry of Defence.

He is also engaged as Senior Advisor at Raigad Pen Growth Centre Ltd., Corporate Advisor (Corporate Affairs & Government Relations) at Tamil Nadu Coke & Power Ltd. and Financial Advisor at Malwanchal University.

At Easy Trip Planners Limited, he is an Independent Director and Chairman of the Audit Committee and Risk Management Committee.