Candidate for Executive Council Member  
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

Shweta Agrawal  
IIT Madras  
India

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Shweta Agrawal is an associate professor at the Computer Science and Engineering department, at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. She earned her PhD at the University of Texas at Austin, and did postdoctoral work at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her area of research is cryptography and information security, with a focus on post quantum cryptography. She has won multiple awards and honours such as the prestigious national Swarnajayanti award, a best paper award at the flagship conference Eurocrypt, invited speaker at the flagship conference Asiacrypt and the institute award for excellence in research and teaching.

STATEMENT

If elected, I would like to contribute towards three key aspects:

1. Dynamic research environment: The research environment in India, particularly for graduate students, needs to become significantly more exciting. We need to create opportunities to quickly learn emerging areas, build strong collaborations within and without the country, have confidence to tackle fundamental problems and get wide exposure.

   I have already taken several initiatives to further this goal, such as (co)organizing several workshops and/or conferences, typically with massive student travel support and discounts and spearheading initiatives such as “themed semesters” and graduate student internships as part of the IARCS council.

2. Diversity and inclusion: I have worked extensively for improving gender diversity in CS (see my webpage for examples), especially for encouraging female students and young
faculty to see themselves as future leaders. I would like to expand these initiatives to encompass other aspects of diversity.

3. Interface of Computer Science and Society: Computer Science has evolved to become a dangerous tool, if wielded thoughtlessly (like Physics was). I would like to initiate discussions to understand the consequences of areas like machine learning (think Cambridge Analytica) and cryptography (think Snowden) so that these are developed and used in a responsible manner.
Candidate for Executive Council Member
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

Ranjita Bhagwan
Microsoft Research
India

BIOGRAPHY
Ranjita Bhagwan is Senior Principal Researcher at Microsoft Research India. Her work has focused on using data-driven approaches to improve cloud services and has led to several publications (including a best paper award at OSDI 2018), and widely-deployed tools at Microsoft. She is an ACM Distinguished Member and is the recipient of the 2020 ACM India Outstanding Contributions to Computing by a Woman Award. Ranjita has chaired top conferences in the fields of systems and networking. Ranjita received her PhD and MS in ECE from University of California, San Diego and a BTech in CSE IIT Kharagpur.

STATEMENT
I would like to promote systems research and improve diversity in computer science education and research. I think ACM-sponsored workshops, conferences, and talks are a great vehicle to do this in the following ways:

**Systems research** is an extremely rewarding field and yet very few students in India work in this area. I would like to increase the popularity of systems research through organized talks, seminars and workshops that promote systems research. I would also like to showcase papers presented by Indian faculty, researchers and students at top-tier computer systems, database & networking venues through such organized workshops. I wish to also help set up mentor-mentee relationships if there are deserving students who would like to get high-level guidance from top researchers in their field.

I intend to work towards improving diversity and participation in various ACM events. While diversity in terms of gender is important, diversity in the Indian context also includes academic
institutions. I wish to work towards improving the visibility of ACM events and conferences and encourage diverse participation in such events.

I also wish to encourage deserving candidates in India to apply for ACM distinguished membership and fellowship and increase awareness about ACM in India.
Candidate for Executive Council Member
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

Indrajit Bhattacharya
TCS Research
India

BIOGRAPHY
Indrajit Bhattacharya is a Principal Scientist at TCS Research. He is Vice President of the India Chapter of ACM SIGKDD and has been associated with the CODS-COMAD (earlier CODS) conference since its inception. He is also Adjunct Professor at BITS Pilani Goa. Indrajit obtained his MS and PhD from University of Maryland, College Park, and his BTech from IIT Kharagpur. Earlier, he was a Senior Research Scientist at IBM Research India and Assistant Professor at IISc Bangalore. Indrajit’s research has resulted in two best paper awards, multiple book chapters, and regular publications in top tier venues.

STATEMENT
I am Indrajit Bhattacharya, Principal Scientist at TCS Research, India.

I have a long association with ACM India. I have served in various organization roles for the flagship CODS-COMAD (earlier CODS) conference since its inception, including PC Chair, Local Organization Chair, the first Virtual Organization Chair, and currently Steering Committee Member. As Vice President of the India Chapter of ACM SIGKDD (IKDD) since April 2021, I have helped to launch multiple new initiatives, including the ACM India Best Dissertation Award in Data Science, the Uplink Internship Program to connect undergraduate students without a research ecosystem to mentors in top-tier institutes, and a continually updated online repository of A* papers from India in Data Science. Having worked in academic as well as industrial research institutes in India, I have an understanding of both and I also have strong networks in both.

If elected to the ACM India Executive Council, I will work with ACM India to further nourish and enrich the Computer Science ecosystem in India.
Candidate for Executive Council Member  
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

Aswani Kumar Cherukuri
Institute of Technology, Vellore
India

BIOGRAPHY
Aswani Kumar Cherukuri is Professor of computer Science at Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore. He was awarded the Young Scientist Fellowship from Tamilnadu State Council for Science and Technology and the Inspiring Teacher Award from The Indian Express. He led and worked on several major research projects funded by the DST, DAE, and MHRD and has published over 150 refereed research articles. He serves on editorial boards for few international journals including JIKM, IEEE ITProfessional. He is a Senior Member and distinguished speaker of the ACM, and Vice-Chair of the IEEE Taskforce on Educational Data Mining.

STATEMENT
I would be privileged to serve as ACM India Executive Council member, catering to the members’ needs and adding tangible value to members. Specifically, as an ACM India Executive Council member, I would:

- Enrich and extend ACM India activities and engage actively with professional and student chapters to support them.
- Help to provide members more practical and societal value from our activities such as Summer/Winter schools, CSPathasala.
- Reinvogarate quality of academic research by engaging you with subject-matter experts from both academia and industry. The focus would be on advancing computing research that also addresses the local societal needs.
- Plan and organise the programs that help professionals, academics, and students that help innovate and incubate.
• Strengthen and broaden the much-needed Indian industry-academia nexus, by inviting more members from the industry and organising programs relevant to both.
• Foster collaboration and joint programs among ACM chapters in India, presenting networking opportunities.

I look forward to serving as an ACM India member. Thanks for your support.
Candidate for Executive Council Member  
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

Kiran Deshpande  
Independent Consultant / Advisor  
India

BIOGRAPHY

Entrepreneurship
1. **Director - 14Trees**: Reforestation of uncultivable land
2. **Mojo Networks**: Co-founder, Technology for massively scalable Secure WiFi.
3. **TiE**: Global Trustee, Pune President (2016-19), mentored ~40 startups,
4. **Angel Investment**: BSC, GigIndia, FortuneInfoServe, ExtraEdge, 18th Parallel.
5. IITB AA Board member, eYantra faculty; Chaired Committee for MeitY, NIDHI grants
6. Senior Member, IEEE

Past Professional History
1. **TechM**: CEO (1996 to 2001). Grew the revenue from Rs. 32Crore to ~450Crore
2. **IMR**: Senior VP R&D, Software
3. **TCS**: 14 Years. Application development, business development and R&D.

Social Media: LinkedIn, Blog  
Education: M. Tech. IITB, BE BITS Pilani

STATEMENT

Computer science and computing drive innovation in startups, enterprise, and Government. India is important as a software hub and a startup destination. Startups require dexterity in handling science, technology, and business. While this creates unprecedented opportunities, it also places challenges on ACM members.

I envisage my role to:

1. Inspire members towards entrepreneurship, through efforts and personal experience keeping in mind that computing is at the core of or catalyst for innovations.
2. Leverage experience as Board Member of TiE Global, IIT Bombay Alumni Association (IITBAA) to help the professional development of members or computing practitioners in general.

3. Help ACM India own the industry professional narrative in academic, and government circles. Influence quality of education

My experience as CEO of Tech Mahindra, a large IT service company, co-founder of Mojo Networks, a Silicon Valley-based startup that built a new marketplace for Secure WiFi devices, and as a researcher and group lead at TCS Research form the core of the personal experience as mentioned above.
Candidate for Executive Council Member
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

Prateek Jain
Google Research
India

BIOGRAPHY

Prateek Jain is a research scientist at Google Research India where he leads the ML-Optimization. He obtained his doctorate from UT Austin and BTech from IIT-Kanpur. He has conducted foundational research in the areas of large-scale and non-convex optimization, and resource-constrained ML. Prateek regularly serves on the senior PC of top ML conferences and is an action editor for JMLR, SIMODS. He has also won multiple best paper awards including the 2020 Best Paper by IEEE Signal Processing Society. Prateek also received the Young Alumnus Award from IIT Kanpur and the ACM India Early Career Researcher Award.

STATEMENT

AI/ML have proven to be a game changer world-over, and it has immense potential for positive impact on the Indian society. If elected, I would focus mainly on further invigorating the Indian ML community by more workshop activities, including outreach to Indian diaspora and to historically underrepresented genders. Furthermore, I intend to bring more focus on the AI-for-social-good sub-area and initiate more programs around this area.
Candidate for Executive Council Member
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

Venkatesh Kamat
IIT Goa
India

BIOGRAPHY
Has more than 33 years of teaching experience in the field of Computer Science. In September 2020, he superannuated as Professor from Goa University and joined IIT Goa as a Visiting Professor. In 2018, he received the best teacher award from the Government of Goa. He is an elected member of ACM India Council for the term 2018-22.

Venkatesh completed his Ph.D in Computer Science from Goa University and an M.Phil from JNU Delhi. His area of interest is Computer Graphics and Education Technology. He is life member of Computer Society of India and a senior member of IEEE.

STATEMENT
I have spent my lifetime, teaching at a State University. I am aware of the problems faced by the teachers and the students from Tier 2 institutes. My objective is to represent the voice of these students and teachers and address their concerns and aspirations. Many of them aspire to do research but have limited exposure and little access to high-quality research conferences and workshops. As part of ACM India, we have been working towards overcoming these barriers by organizing Summer/Winter Schools with high quality content, holding premium conferences in small towns and cities and by offering PhD clinics as a service. Personally, I would like to work towards integrating ACM Computer Curriculum using competency-based framework with UGC/AICTE’s Outcome-based curriculum framework.

Currently, many students from allied branches of Engineering, desire to make their career in IT and aspire to learn the subject of Data Science and Machine Learning. However, many of them
need help to improve their programming and problem-solving skills. Often, the institutes where they study, have limited carrying capacity. ACM India can address this need, by offering service courses through NPTEL network. These courses to be offered need to have an application focus.
Candidate for Executive Council Member  
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

Sachin Lodha
Tata Consultancy Services, Pune  
India

BIOGRAPHY
Sachin Lodha is a Chief Scientist at TCS and heads their Cybersecurity and Privacy research working on diverse problems pertaining to trustworthy AI, de-risking cloud, securing IoT, privacy-by-design, and human aspects. He did his B.Tech. in Computer Science & Engineering from IIT Bombay and received Ph.D. in Computer Science from Rutgers University. He has co-authored over sixty research papers and has received thirty-five unique patent grants. Importantly, his use-inspired research focus has resulted in multiple innovations that are available as commercial TCS products. He is a senior member of ACM and IEEE, and a member of COMSNETS Association and DSCI.

STATEMENT
I have been actively involved in ACM-India’s education initiatives targeted at diverse groups right from the very beginning. I am a co-author of ACM’s first Minigraph intended for senior undergraduates, postgraduates, and young professionals, a co-organizer of ACM-India’s first school exclusively for women, a thinktank member for the Industry Bootcamp concept for professionals, and an ACM-India Eminent Speaker. As a Council member, I’d be continuing to contribute to their success.

Further, I’d like to help launch computing challenges of varying difficulty levels, sourced from government, industry, and/or academia, and intended for a wide spectrum of audiences. This should help increase ACM’s visibility and national presence and establish it as THE organization for advancing computing as a science and profession in India. I hope to utilize my experience as a
Steering Committee member of the first of its kind India-wide Lightweight-Cipher-Design-Challenge-2020 launched by DSCI and ISI.

I’d also like to use my position on the Council to promote and stimulate greater activity in the cybersecurity and privacy domain with the intent of creating and sustaining a large, vibrant, knowledgeable, and ethical cyber community in India that can play a pivotal role in ensuring that the benefits of digitalization reach all Indians.
Candidate for Executive Council Member  
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)  

Sudip Misra  
IIT Kharagpur  
India  

BIOGRAPHY  
Sudip Misra is a Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at IIT Kharagpur. His area of research is IoT. He has published 460 papers (around 300 in distinguished journals including ACM/IEEE transactions) and filed 15 patents, with citation count 12,952 and h-index 55. Prof. Misra received several international research awards like IEEE TCSC Award for Excellence in Scalable Computing. He is a Fellow of IEEE, INAE, NASI, IET, BCS, RSPH and IETE. He is also a Member of ACM India Learning Initiatives Committee and an ACM Distinguished Member. Further details available at http://cse.iitkgp.ac.in/~smisra/  

STATEMENT  
If elected to the Executive Council of ACM India, I would commit myself fully to the cause and principles of the Council by taking the confidence of all stakeholders. In addition to improving the many exciting existing programs of the Council and ACM India, I aim to further the activities of our organization towards implementing solutions that will benefit the societal, economical and environmental challenges of India from the standpoint of computing technology. I am highly interested in furthering the cause of green sustainable technologies and all-time reliable connectivity, specifically in the light of the online revolution due to COVID-19 pandemic through various activities of ACM India. My focus will be on penetration of computing to the grassroot levels of our society, promoting open coursewares for computing education, and promoting computing research for resolving rural/remote connectivity issues. As a member of the EC, my focus will be multidimensional and related to the academic, research, knowledge transfer and outreach activities of ACM India. With my deep expertise in academia and experience in industry, I am extremely
confident that, if elected to the ACM India Executive Council, I will leave no stone unturned in furthering and strengthening the activities of ACM India.
Candidate for Executive Council Member
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

Sanjiva Prasad
IIT Delhi
India

BIOGRAPHY
Sanjiva Prasad is Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at IIT Delhi. He headed the CSE Department and Khosla School of IT. Earlier he worked at ORA Corp., Ithaca, and ECRC GmbH, Muenchen. He earned his B. Tech. in Computer Science at IIT Kanpur (1985) and Ph.D. from Stony Brook University (1991).

His research interests lie in formal methods, languages, security, and verification, and computing applications in healthcare, design and policy.

Prasad is Editor-in-Chief of ACM Books. He has chaired research conferences and designed curricula for 6 universities. He serves on advisory committees of the Ministries of IT and Health.

STATEMENT
I will strive to widen and deepen ACM’s mission of “advancing computing as a science and profession” among students and professionals, inducting them into ACM’s culture of community, collaboration, mutual respect, inclusiveness, and spirit of volunteering. I will encourage education and research mentorship programmes that provide opportunities to our extraordinary talent.

ACM India must set the highest professional standards of integrity and quality, creating responsible computing professionals who understand the opportunities, limitations, and threats of computing technologies. I will advocate that ACM India take a proactive role in influencing public policy regarding safety, reliability and security, data privacy, and fairness.
I aim to further ACM India’s educational initiatives in spreading computational thinking by developing innovative curricula that balance theoretical rigour with effective praxis. As Editor-in-Chief of ACM Books, I believe in affordable access to the best pedagogical material, and an open access model that is fair for resource-constrained researchers.

I will work to increase the frequency and variety of ACM flagship conferences in India, to help our researchers and students engage with cutting-edge research. Building on ACM’s initiatives regarding gender, I will work towards greater diversity and inclusiveness in participation in such events, especially from under-represented groups.
Candidate for Executive Council Member  
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

Ranga Rajagopal  
Acenet Technologies P. Ltd  
India

BIOGRAPHY

- B.E (Hons.) EEE BITS Pilani (Rajasthan), Ph. D (MIS), Anna University (Chennai)
- Overall experience of 35 years in the IT industry starting with HCL Ltd. in 1986
- Entrepreneur since 2000. CEO of Acenet Technologies P. Ltd. specializing in Networks, Enterprise Security, Cloud Technologies.
- National Student Coordinator and National Treasurer of Computer Society of India (CSI) 2011-15
- Convener of ACM-India National Online Coding Contest 2020
- Active Member of ACM-India Internal Engagements Committee 2021-22
- Chief of Jury, ACM-India Student Chapter Awards 2021-22
- Organizing Committee member, ARCS and ACM-India Annual event 2021 and 2022

STATEMENT

- Bringing a better value proposition to members would be my key objective as part of the ACM India Council
- Having played an active role in several prestigious conferences and conventions including ARCS and ACM-India Annual event (2021 & 2022) would help in organizing large events

- Leveraging my experience of over 35 years in the industry would bring in better knowledge sharing from the perspective of technologies that are market relevant and evolving. Areas where I could contribute include Network infrastructure, Enterprise security, Knowledge management and Cloud technologies

- Having been a member of ACM-India internal engagement committee, I would work towards building closer linkages between Student chapters, Professional chapters, SIGs and the Research community (both Industry and Academic)

- With my vast experience in professional bodies including as National Treasurer of Computer Society of India (CSI), I would be glad to contribute to improving current administrative procedures and practices of ACM-India

- Have successfully curated several National level events including Quizzes, Programming and Project contests for students both at ACM and CSI involving thousands of students. I could support ACM-India to build an innovation ecosystem to support students and budding technopreneurs with mentoring from academia and industry
Candidate for Executive Council Member  
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

B. Ravindran  
IIT Madras  
India

BIOGRAPHY

B. Ravindran heads the Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science & Artificial Intelligence (RBCDSAI) at IIT Madras. He is the Mindtree Faculty Fellow, TCS Affiliate Faculty and Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at IIT Madras. Currently, his research interests span the areas of geometric deep learning and reinforcement learning. He received his PhD from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and his Master’s degree from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He is a senior member of the Association for Advancement of AI (AAAI) and an ACM Distinguished Member.

STATEMENT

I work in the area of AI and Machine Learning. I was one of the founding executive committee members of the India Chapter of ACM SIGKDD (IKDD) and have actively worked to establish the joint conference CoDS-COMAD as the premier data science conference in India. I worked extensively as a consultant for start-ups and on various industry projects. I have also contributed to various documents on AI published by the NITI Aayog, and chaired a taskforce on cybersecurity and AI for the PSA. During the course of these interactions I have come to realize the importance of increasing the awareness of the possibilities of new age technology among the various stakeholders. There is a lack of awareness in the industry on expertise available in India and among academia of the exact needs of the industry. The external engagements committee of ACM India is geared towards addressing these issues. If elected to the ACM India council, I would play an active role in this committee. One of the projects that I would like to initiate is a portal to
showcase significant deployment of emerging technologies by the Indian industry and a sister portal showcasing achievements of Indian academia.
Candidate for Executive Council Member
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

P. Sakthivel
Anna University
India

BIOGRAPHY
Professor P. Sakthivel is presently serving as Professor (CSE), ECE Department, Dean of the University College of Engineering Kancheepuram, Anna University, Chennai, Chairman of the ACM Chennai Professional Chapter and IEEE Computer Society Madras Chapter. He has qualified with PhD (CSE) Degree. He has more than 25 years of Academic, Administrative and Research Experiences and have very good experience with the administration of Professional Societies. He has guided 15 Students for PhD Degree and published more than 50 Research Papers. He is actively involved in the promotion of ACM and its activities for a long time at various levels.

STATEMENT
If I am elected as the Executive Council Member of the ACM India Council:

- My focus would be on promoting Computer Science Teaching and Research in all the Educational and Research Institutions in India by all possible means.
- Conduct awareness programmes across India to promote ACM and its activities.
- Enrolment of more Student members and Professional Members.
- Starting more number of Student Chapters and Professional Chapters.
- Organize more number of Workshops, Conferences, Short Courses, etc. for the benefit of Student Members and Professional Members.
- Conduct of Paper Contest and Project Contest for UG and PG Students.
- Try to get support for ACM from various industries and Government bodies.
• Try to provide financial support to students at all levels (UG, PG and PhD) to participate in various activities of ACM through industrial partners.
• Try to promote good industry – institute interaction through ACM for enhancing employability of students at various levels.
• Encourage more experts to become ACM Distinguished Lecturers and organize large number of ACM Distinguished Lecture programme in remote areas to create awareness and exposure about modern day computing.
• To involve more Professional members and Student members in various activities of ACM including the promotion and overall growth of ACM.
Candidate for Executive Council Member
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

Saket Saurabh
IMSc, Chennai
India

BIOGRAPHY
Saket Saurabh received his PhD in Computer Science (2008), from The Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc), Chennai. Saurabh spent two years (2007-2009) as a Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Bergen, Norway, and is now a professor at IMSc and at the Department of Informatics at the University of Bergen. His main research interests are in graph algorithms, parameterized algorithms and complexity.

He is a SwarnaJayanti Fellow in Mathematical Sciences (2018), Fellow of Indian Academy of Sciences (2020), Academia Europaea (2020), and European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (EATCS, 2021). He received the inaugural ACM India Early Career Researcher Award in 2020, and Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (SSB) for Science and Technology 2021 (Mathematical Science).

STATEMENT
My main focus will be to communicate the joy and know-how of doing research. In particular, I would like to organize research clinics that will lay emphasis on the following aspects: (a) research = problem solving, (b) importance of discipline in research, and (c) breaking down research into a jigsaw puzzle. As an end endeavour, we hope to develop a small booklet containing comprehensive action items for doing research in Indian scenarios. We hope this will make research enjoyable and fruitful at all levels.
Candidate for Executive Council Member  
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

Rijurekha Sen  
IIT Delhi  
India

BIOGRAPHY
Rijurekha Sen is an Assistant Professor at CSE, IIT Delhi. Prior to this, she was Humboldt post-doctoral fellow at MPI-SWS, Germany (2014-2017). She received her PhD from CSE, IIT Bombay in 2014. She is a recipient of Google India AI/ML Research Award 2018, ACM India Doctoral Dissertation Award, 2014, and Google Anita Borg Scholarship Asia Pacific, 2013. Her research interests lie in building distributed, networked and privacy-aware systems, focused on problems of environmental sustainability like air pollution measurement, road traffic congestion measurement and management. She has built systems and deployed them at scale with urban authorities in Indian cities.

STATEMENT
I wish to (a) aid Indian PhD students in CSE realize their potential during and after PhD, (b) actively engage in teaching and research of the exciting areas of Computer Systems and (c) support female students in CSE. I want to share my experience in Systems Research with my junior PhD researchers in India. On the non-professional side, I lost twins to premature birth in 2019, and took care of my father with pancreatic cancer 2018-2020, when he passed away from covid. This journey through personal tragedies and grief, and open discussions with fellow women of what career and motherhood means to us, motivates me to share my experience with many more women who will walk my path in future. These are efforts I do anyway since PhD:

(a) compile PhD stories https://www.cse.iitd.ac.in/~rijurekha/papers/phdstorybook.pdf
(b) organize women events in ACM conferences like Mobisys,
As a council member, I will work more on these lines.
Candidate for Executive Council Member
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

Yogesh Simmhan
Indian Institute of Science
India

BIOGRAPHY
Yogesh Simmhan is an Associate Professor and Swarnajayanti Fellow at the Indian Institute of Science. His has published over 100 articles on scalable platforms, algorithms, and applications on distributed systems. He received the IEEE TCSC Award for Excellence in Scalable Computing in 2020. He serves as an Associate Editor-in-Chief for JPDC and was an Associate Editor for Transactions on Cloud Computing. Yogesh has a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Indiana University and was previously a Research Faculty at USC and Postdoc at Microsoft Research. He is a Distinguished Member of ACM and a Distinguished Contributor of IEEE Computer Society.

STATEMENT
In recent years, ACM India has grown into the premier forum for computing professionals in the country. I was a member of ACM India’s Learning Initiatives and Assessment committees that initiated the Minigraph articles series for young professionals and broaden the travel grants for students. As a General Co-chair of the CODS-COMAD 2022 conference, I helped introduce a diversity track to make data science and systems more inclusive. I hope to sustain and amplify such activities by serving on the ACM India Council.

Coming from academia with strong linkages to the industry, I recognize the opportunity for ACM India to engage more actively with students and working professionals and cross-pollinate ideas across research and practice. COVID has accelerated the push towards online education by decades. There is a greater emphasis on continuous learning and upskilling rather than just securing degrees. ACM India can play a vital role in curating the best approaches for online
delivery that can help scale to billions, and in revising computer science curriculum to be modular and agile to adapt to rapid advances in technology.
Candidate for Executive Council Member
(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2026)

R Venkateswaran
Persistent System
India

BIOGRAPHY
Dr Venkateswaran is currently the Chief Information Officer at Persistent System and brings a vast IT experience gained through various leadership roles. He has also worked for 7 years as a researcher at Bell Laboratories.

He earned his PhD from Washington State University after graduating with a Bachelors and Masters degree from IIT Bombay. He is passionate about building a strong industry-academia connect and serves on the board of studies of several academic institutes.

An ACM member for over 10 years, he is very actively associated with the ACM India Eminent Speaker and the Teacher Partnership programs.

STATEMENT
My ideas and thoughts are centered around three themes that connect both industry and academia. I believe that ACM India can be a catalyst to accelerate and scale these ideas.

1) Strengthening the academic community.

I firmly believe that ACM India should bring together the vibrant community in enhancing the industry and academia interactions. ACM’s education related initiatives need strengthening and scale to foster and nurture the engagements between industry and academia. A stronger participation from industry professionals in ACM Chapter initiatives can accelerate this.
2) Increasing the Innovation quotient.

I am convinced that ACM India can provide a good platform to enable the ideas emerging from incubation or innovation cells of academic institutes to reach to a wider community. ACM can play an important role in scaling up these ideas through awareness, mentoring and shaping to solve business problems.

3) Helping improve Academic research

The focus on good research in the academic community is often ignored or gets minimal attention. I believe that the ACM platform with its wide reach and resources should focus on faculty development and help bring in rigor and raise the standards of academic research.