

**Candidate for Executive Council Member**  
(1 July 2018 – 30 June 2022)



**Aloknath De**  
**Samsung Electronics, South Korea**  
**Samsung R&D Institute India (SRI-B)**  
**India**

**BIOGRAPHY**

Corporate VP, Samsung Electronics, S. Korea and CTO of Samsung R&D India. Over 30 years of industrial/research experiences including BEL, Nortel (Montreal), Hughes and R&D Director and Country Manager with ST-Ericsson. During 2005-11, served as Visiting/Adjunct Professorship with IIT-Roorkee and IIT-Delhi. B.Tech.- IIT, Kharagpur; M.E.- IISc, Bangalore; and Ph.D., McGill University. Recipient of 'Graham Bell Prize' in Canada. Received 'IETE Memorial Awards' for distinguished contributions in electronics/communication, IDC Insights Award for Innovation in Telecom (2015), Zinnov 'Intrapreneurship of the Year' award (2016) and one of 'Most Influential CIO/CTOs of India'. Senior Member IEEE and Fellows of IE, IETE, INAE. R&D area: (AI+IoT) Intelligence of Things, Cognitive IoT. Active in patenting and building innovative products.

**STATEMENT**

I would like to pursue ACM India activities under five broad missions keeping all practicalities in mind:

\* **Young and Experienced:** Induct youth to membership. Expose current topics. Get them mentored by those experienced in the field. Smooth dialoguing between generations on topics pertinent to Advancement in Computing.

\* **Theory and Practice:** Increase in (post)doctoral activities. Global Exchange programs. Joint research problems resolution. University-Industry Interaction specific programs. Avenues for nurturing theories that can be practiced in conceiving solutions/products.

\* **Creation and Sharing:** Events to encourage new content creation (e.g. 3D, 360 for games/animation, VR). Exploration of Interdisciplinary subjects. Sharing of knowledge thru various ACM conferences and other workshops/forums.

\* **Depth and Breadth:** In India, many developers/researchers pursue broader topics. As corporations are going up in value chain, country needs more Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) with deeper knowledge.

\* **Today and Tomorrow:** Computing architecture, speed and power are continually changing. Hackathon/codathon/webinar for today's systems. But also guest lectures/learning materials on tomorrow's computing (e.g., Quantum Computing).

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**Umesh Deshpande**  
**Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur**  
**India**

**BIOGRAPHY**

Umesh Deshpande earned his B.Tech from VNIT, Nagpur in 1991, M.Tech. from IIT-Bombay in 1993 and Ph.D. from IIT-Kharagpur in 2005 in Computer Science and Engg. For 21 years, he has been a faculty member at VNIT, Nagpur.

His areas of interests are Distributed Systems, Artificial Intelligence, Multi-Agent Systems, Real-Time Systems and Systems Biology.

He has one book chapter and about 35 papers in international journals and conferences.

He is presently the Chair of the Nagpur Professional Chapter. He was the Organizing Chair of the ACM India Annual Event in February 2018 and Compute Conference in October 2014.

**STATEMENT**

There are many activities initiated by ACM India like the ACM India Annual Event, Eminent Speaker Program, Best Dissertation Award, various Conferences, etc. I will work to help organize these events and towards popularizing them as well. Many Indian researchers contribute effectively in different research areas of computing and it would be nice if the researchers collaborate and create Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in India. I would be delighted to be a part of a team that facilitates this collaboration. I will work towards increasing awareness of ACM and its activities (such as ICPC) in Indian engineering institutions so that there is more participation by Indian students.

At the ACM Nagpur chapter, we regularly organize technical events like workshops, training programs, and lectures on current research topics to promote research in Indian engineering institutions. We help engineering institutions in Central India to revise their curricula.

We also help with organizing many CSPathshala activities in various schools of Nagpur. We feel that such activities contribute effectively to increasing the quality of Computer Science and Engineering education in the country. We are working towards increasing the presence of ACM in Central India by starting new student chapters and by encouraging professional and student membership.

**Candidate for Executive Council Member**  
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**Meenakshi D'Souza**  
**International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore**  
**India**

**BIOGRAPHY**

Meenakshi D'Souza is an associate professor at IIT-Bangalore. Prior to joining IIT-Bangalore, Meenakshi worked as a researcher in Honeywell Technology Solutions. Her research interests are in Formal Methods, Software Testing, and Architectures for embedded and complex systems. Meenakshi teaches courses in Discrete Mathematics, Theory of Computation, Algorithms, Automated Formal Verification and Software Testing. Her course on Software Testing is also being offered through the NPTEL portal. Meenakshi has done consultancy projects for Government of Karnataka and various IT and product firms in Bangalore. She is also interested in IT as an enabler for better job opportunities for the differently abled.

**STATEMENT**

If elected, I would like to use my tenure on the ACM India council to pursue the following goals:

(1) Work towards getting ACM India involved with the Swayam programme and NPTEL to increase accessibility of online courses to various undergraduate and postgraduate students from engineering and arts/science colleges and universities across Karnataka and in the south of India. I believe this will make quality education available to small towns and remote villages across the country. My experience with teaching a course in Software Testing for NPTEL will help me to achieve this goal.

(2) Initiate new programmes to enable differently-abled students who have finished high school to pursue further education in the field of Information Technology (IT). IT is an accessible technology that can make a differently abled student qualify for a niche professional job.

(3) Work with IT companies in Bangalore and in the south of India to create new initiatives and participate in existing initiatives that promote participation of women students in higher education in Computer Science and Information Technology domains.

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**Manish Gupta**  
**VideoKen, Bangalore**  
**India**

**BIOGRAPHY**

Dr. Manish Gupta is a co-founder and CEO of VideoKen and the Infosys Foundation Chair Professor at IIT Bangalore. Previously, Manish has served as Director of Xerox Research Centre India, Director of IBM Research - India, and Senior Manager at IBM Research in Yorktown Heights, New York. He holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. He has coauthored over 75 papers and has been granted 19 US patents. He is an ACM Fellow, a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, and a recipient of Distinguished Alumnus Award from IIT Delhi.

**STATEMENT**

Computing is becoming a powerful enabler for transforming every industry and aspect of human life. I will work towards expansion of ACM membership in India and promote greater awareness of the exciting opportunities for computer scientists among students and industry professionals (if they have the right skills) and help change the discourse away from worrying about loss of jobs due to automation. In order to promote excellence in research as a key driver of progress, I will push for bringing top international ACM conferences and researchers to India, pursuing grand challenges, recognizing high quality research in India and involving more start-ups in ACM activities. I will seek to promote greater diversity in people's participation along multiple dimensions, encouraging greater participation of women in all ACM activities, and reaching out to social scientists, doctors, lawyers, and policy makers in interactions with computer scientists on topics related to societal impact from computing technologies.

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**Jayant Haritsa**  
**Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore**  
**India**

**BIOGRAPHY**

Jayant Haritsa is on the faculty of the Department of Computational & Data Sciences and the Department of Computer Science & Automation at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, where he has been a professor of database systems since 1993. He received a BTech degree from the Indian Institute of Technology (Madras), and the MS and PhD degrees from the University of Wisconsin (Madison). He is a Fellow of ACM and IEEE, and a recipient of the Bhatnagar Award, the Infosys Prize and the JC Bose Fellowship.

**STATEMENT**

In India, theoretical computer science has traditionally enjoyed a hallowed standing, and deservedly so. Research on the nuts and bolts of computing, that is, the internal plumbing of Computer Systems, covering areas such as computer architecture, operating systems, programming environments and database systems, which are far more applied in nature, has received comparatively little visibility. However, their knowledge is essential for the Indian software industry to develop world-class products, and extend their horizons beyond the current focus on services. On a related note, the production of software prototypes and tools has not been a common practice or stated priority in Indian academia, with publications typically being the only metric of performance. But in today's world, it is often such tools that have a lasting impact on the computing world at large, rather than mere "paper-ware". So, I would use a position on the Council to promote and stimulate greater activity in the Computer Systems area with regard to developing both foundational research concepts and software implementations.

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**Pankaj Jalote**  
**Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi**  
**India**

**BIOGRAPHY**

Pankaj Jalote is Director of IIIT-Delhi. Earlier, he was a Chair Professor at IIT Delhi, Professor at IIT Kanpur, Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland, Vice President at Infosys for two years, and Visiting Researcher at Microsoft for a year. He has a B.Tech. from IITK, and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. He has authored four books including the highly acclaimed CMM in Practice, which has been translated into Chinese, Japanese, Korean, etc., and the best-selling textbook *An Integrated Approach to Software Engineering*. He is a Fellow of the IEEE and INAE.

**STATEMENT**

ACM India has helped the R&D ecosystem in India in Computing. I would like to help in strengthening this support. Towards this, I can help in these:

- Continue bringing good international conferences to India and encourage organizers to organize some build-up events locally to get the maximum benefit (I helped bring ICSE to India in 2014 and organized many events around it.)
- Evolve yearly conferences in emerging and important areas (e.g., ML and AI), so researchers can meet and collaborate. These may require starting some SIGs. (I helped start ISEC in India as well as iSOFT – chapter of SIGSOFT.)
- India has a large software industry and a fairly large startup system. I would like to see ACM India engaging with them more through suitable events.

- In CS, top conferences are the preferred venues for presenting good research, which also helps in motivating researchers. In India, it is hard to get travel support for international conferences. I would like to build a special fund to support travel of academicians and Ph.D. students to international ACM conferences.
- Computer science education is another important area for India. ACM India already has initiatives in this. I would like to help to further these.

**Candidate for Executive Council Member**  
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**Venkatesh Kamat**  
**Goa University**  
**India**

**BIOGRAPHY**

Has more than 30 years of teaching experience in the field of Computer Science. Since 2006, he has worked as a Professor at the Department of Computer Science & Technology, Goa University. He is the founding member of the department and has a number of initiatives to his credit.

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

**STATEMENT**

I would like to represent the voice of students and teachers from Tier 2 institutes in the country and address their concerns and aspirations. Currently there is an urgent need to update the curriculum in Computer Science & Engineering offered at UG and PG levels. Keeping in view the fast developing field of Data Science, I see the need to strengthen foundational courses in Mathematics. Instead of encapsulated courses like Mathematics-I, II, III, full-fledged courses in Linear Algebra, Optimization and Probability and Statistics should be part of every Computer Science curriculum, in addition to Discrete Mathematics. Under ACM India, I would like to take initiatives to organize workshops for the benefit of the teachers in formulating curriculum in Data Science. I have already taken the initiative to organize a summer school in Data Science in June 2018. One of the objectives of the summer school is to

recommend model curriculum in Data Science. Currently, I see tremendous interests amongst students in the field of Machine Learning/Deep Learning. Much of it is due to media hype. I see a need to demystify the magic of Deep Learning and help students in choosing project/thesis topics through informal study groups in blended mode.

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**Hemangee K. Kapoor**  
**Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati**  
**India**

**BIOGRAPHY**

Hemangee Kapoor received BE, from College of Engineering Pune; MTech from IIT Bombay; and Ph.D. from London South Bank University, UK. Presently she is a Professor at the Department of CSE, IIT Guwahati.

She has publications in the areas of multiprocessor computer architecture, network-on-chip design, SoC interconnects and process calculi. Her current research focus is in the area of cache architectures for optimising processor performance and power.

She has experience in administration; is the Associate Dean of Students; has experience working on sponsored research projects; and is a senior member of the ACM and IEEE.

**STATEMENT**

Inter institutional research interaction helps in quality research. Newer ideas and information exchange gives quicker results. Interaction with established personnel and peers encourages students and builds their confidence.

To achieve these goals, as an ACM India council member, I will focus on initiating the following activities:

- (a) Enabling research area-wise mentor networks for research students to help in discussing ideas and direction of progress.
- (b) Enabling joint supervision of PhD students across institutions and encouraging them to

attend and interact at ACM conferences.

(c) Helping the development of CS curriculum for colleges in the local region.

(d) Initiating activities to create forums for information availability related to higher studies, postdoctoral and networking opportunities for fresh graduates.

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**Mini Ulanat**  
**Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi**  
**India**

**BIOGRAPHY**

Mini Ulanat is a Technology evangelist with a career spanning 29 years of experience in Software & infrastructural development, implementation and management of enterprise IT projects.

Recipient of several awards and accolades including three prestigious international fellowships - Chevening Fellowship(UK), Fulbright scholarship (USA) and CICC Scholarship (Japan).

Active in Professional organisations, she held leadership positions in local and national committees. She is currently the chair of Women in Engineering (WIE), IEEE Kerala Section. Prior to that she was the chair of Computer Society, IEEE Kerala Section and National Student Coordinator of Computer Society of India.

**STATEMENT**

ACM is the leading professional society in computing, organising the best of Computer related conferences and represents the best publications in the world. The reach of ACM in India is small compared to the number of professionals and academic and research institutions.

As a council member:

- I will strive to improve the visibility and national presence of ACM, promoting it as a major forum of exchange of ideas in advancing the educators, practitioners, researchers, and students in core computing.

- In my recent leadership roles, I have been involved with student community development and chapter outreach events. I will be committed to promoting the ACM Distinguished Speakers Program (DSP) to hear from the experts and encourage more local technical events.
- I will be working with the Cspathshala team whose mission is to teach computing as a science to every child in the local community.
- Encourage events to promote more inclusivity and gender diversity in the field of computing.
- I consider this nomination a privilege and an honor. I will continue volunteering and extending all support for the growth of ACM in India.

**Candidate for Executive Council Member**  
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**Vasudeva Varma**  
**International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad**  
**India**

**BIOGRAPHY**

I am a professor and the Dean (Research & Development) at IIIT Hyderabad. I am also the CEO of IIIT Hyderabad Foundation, which runs one of the largest academic incubators in the country. My research Interests are in the broad areas of Information Retrieval, Extraction and Access. More specifically: social media analysis, cross language information access, summarization and semantic search. I completed my education and training at University of Hyderabad, IIT Kanpur, Goa University, and Bombay University and worked at large companies and start-ups in the US before joining IIIT Hyderabad in 2002.

**STATEMENT**

I was a founding member of two ACM India SIGs - iSoft (runs ISEC conferences) and IKDD (runs CoDS conferences). I am very actively involved in various ACM India events and SIGs since the beginning. I believe as a professional body we are ready to take on bigger challenges. The time has come to initiate inter-institutional large scale high impact initiatives combining the strengths of various individuals and organisations. I would like to make a serious attempt for ACM to define the grand challenges and enable all capable researchers in addressing those grand challenges. I want to take up initiatives where the raw intellectual capabilities of our young (through ACM student chapters) can be sharpened in the process of addressing complex societal problems of the country with appropriate mentorship from the senior professional members, thus creating a win-win opportunity for all ACM members. I believe this will help in increasing the footprint of the organisation in an effective manner.