



ACM India
Annual Report
of the
ACM India Council
2025-26

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I. ACM INDIA Basic Information

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2025-26 edition of the annual report of ACM-India. Yet again, we had a year full of activities.

Our regular events and grants including summer/winter schools, PhD clinics, Anveshan Setu and ACM-IARCS travel grants continued as before. We had highly talented researchers and practitioners winning the coveted annual awards including Early Career Researcher (ECR), Outstanding Contributor to Computing Education (OCCE), Outstanding Contribution to Computing by a Woman (OCCW), Doctoral Dissertation Award (DDA) and the Outstanding Applied Innovations in Computing (OAIC) award. Our flagship annual event held on February 14, 2026 at Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad.

Organization Overview

Name	Position	Terms of Office in the Council
Meenakshi D'Souza	President ¹	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2028
Ponnurangam Kumaraguru	Vice President ¹	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2028
Sachin Lodha	Secretary/ Treasurer ¹	July 01, 2022 to June 30, 2026
Lipika Dey	Council Member	July 01, 2025 to June 30, 2026
Ranjita Bhagwan	Council Member	July 01, 2022 to June 30, 2026
Viraj Kumar	Council Member	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2028
Yogesh Simmhan	Council Member	July 01, 2022 to June 30, 2026
Aritra Banik	Council Member	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2026
Maria D'Souza	Council Member	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2028
Amey Karkare	Council Member	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2028
Sudip Misra	Council Member	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2028
Shourya Roy	Council Member	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2028
R. Venkateswaran	Council Member	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2026
Revathi Venkataraman	Council Member	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2028
Vipul Shah	Council Member	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2028
Geetanjali Kale	ACMI-W India Chair	July 01, 2025 to June 30, 2027
Venkatesh Raman	Past President	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2026
Ranga Rajagopal	Chief Operating Officer (from January 01, 2025)	Ex-Officio

¹ The term for Office bearers is from July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Standing Committees

Name	Position	Terms of Office
Executive Committee	Meenakshi D'Souza, Ponnurangam Kumaraguru, Sachin Lodha	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2026
Awards	Ranjita Bhagwan, Venkatesh Raman	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2026
Memberships and Chapters	Yogesh Simmhan, Maria D'Souza	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2026
External Engagement	Shourya Roy, R. Venkateshwaran	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2026
Research Facilitation	Amey Karkare, Sudip Misra	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2026
Education	Viraj Kumar, Vipul Shah	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2026
Communications	Aritra Banik, Revathi Venkataraman	July 01, 2024 to June 30, 2026
ACMI-W	Geetanjali Kale	July 01, 2025 to June 30, 2027

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

ACM India Annual Event 2026

Responsible Committee: Executive Committee

Start Date: February 14, 2026

The flagship Annual Event 2026 of ACM India Council was hosted by Indian Institute of Technology in Hyderabad on 14 February 2026. As in previous years, the Annual Event was preceded by ACM India ARCS and ACM India-W Annual Summit for Women in Computing on 12 and 13 February 2026.

The Annual Event of ACM India is an event that celebrates achievements in the field of Computing in India and abroad, an occasion for the members of the Computing community to come together. This year's event featured a fire-side chat with Turing awardee Prof. Raj Reddy, with Prof. P. J. Narayanan as the host, and three invited talks: (1) Prof. Virginia Dignum, (2) Prof. Abhik Roychoudhury and (3) Prof. Soumen Chakrabarti. Coincidentally, all the talks and the fire-side chat were in the broad theme of Artificial Intelligence, covering ethical issues, information retrieval and AI in Software Engineering.



The annual event was inaugurated by the ACM President, Prof. Yannis Ioannidis, who gave an address covering the highlights of ACM and its goals for Computing. This year's Annual Event also featured an exclusive overview of ACM Special Interest Groups (SIGs), by Prof. Neha Kumar, Georgia Tech, also the Chair of the ACM SIG Governing Body.



Another highlight of the annual event was the awards ceremony. The awardees of the ACM India Doctoral Dissertation Award, Early Career Researcher Award, Outstanding Contribution to Computing Education Award, Outstanding Contributions to Computing by a Woman Award, the newly initiated Outstanding Applied Innovations in Computing Award, and the various Chapter Awards were felicitated during the Annual Event. We wholeheartedly thank the sponsors of all these awards. The ACM India President Meenakshi D'Souza presented a report of the activities of ACM India at the inauguration ceremony. The event also witnessed the



felicitation of a recent distinguished member Prof. Smriti Rangan Sarangi and a Fellow of ACM, Prof. Abhik Roychoudhury. The annual event also witnessed the august presence of several eminent Indian academicians, the ACM India Council members and several industry professionals, faculty and students from many Chapters across India.

PLANS

We plan to streamline the ACM India Awards--- DDA award is the oldest, followed by ECR, OCCE and OCCW awards. The awards guidelines and sponsorships will be reviewed and appropriate revisions will be proposed by a competent committee of senior Indian academicians and Industry leaders. The revised guidelines will be presented to the Council for review and approval.

II. ACM INDIA AWARDS

INTRODUCTION

The mandate of ACM India Awards committee is to honor exceptional technical and professional contributions to computing in India.

Chair

- Ranjita Bhagwan, Google Research (Co-Chair)
- Venkatesh Raman, IMSc Chennai (Co-Chair)

Members

- Venkat Padmanabhan, Microsoft Research India
- Amit Kumar, IIT Delhi
- Srujana Merugu, Amazon India
- Jayant Haritsa, IISc Bangalore
- Shourya Roy, ACM India Council Member
- Lipika Dey, Ashoka University
- Hemant Pande, IIT Madras

PURPOSE / VISION OF THE COMMITTEE

To facilitate the selection and recognition of outstanding contributions by computing professionals and students from India. To determine purpose, procedure and logistics of handing out annual ACM India awards, and also to expand the awards ecosystem and encourage more applications.

Many professional bodies recognize and respect outstanding contributions by individuals in their field. The goal of the ACM India awards is to recognize such contributions to the field of computing, particularly research, innovations and education. In order to recognize outstanding technical and professional contributions to the field of computing from India, the ACM India Council instituted three prestigious annual awards in 2020, while the Doctoral Dissertation award already existed since 2012.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

We created committees and executed the decisions for the following flagship ACM India awards:

ACM India Doctoral Dissertation (DDA) Award

DDA recognizes the best doctoral dissertation from degree-awarding institutions based in India for each academic year, from July 1 to June 30 in the current cycle. The Award is accompanied by a prize of ₹2,00,000. An honorable mention award, if any, is accompanied by a prize of ₹1,00,000. The dissertation(s) are published in the ACM Digital Library. Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. is the founding sponsor of the ACM India Doctoral Dissertation Award.

Chair: Natarajan Shankar

We received 16 submissions for the 2025 ACM India Doctoral Dissertation Award. These submissions spanned a number of areas of computer science including computational biology, computational group theory, AI/Machine Learning, compilers, hardware, algorithms, formal methods, security, and cyber-physical systems. Each submission was reviewed by two jury members. The reviewer's ratings and justifications were used to identify a handful of strong candidates that were then discussed in depth. The jury members ranked their three top candidates. Though there were several excellent contributions in the resulting short-list, Dharaben

Thakkar's dissertation "On Computing Optimal Representations of Finite Groups" clearly stood out for its depth and impact. The jury members expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the overall quality of the nomination packages. They join me in congratulating the winner and the other nominees for their impressive thesis work. Supratik Chakraborty and I thank the jury members for their fair and thorough evaluation of the nominated submissions.

Award Recipient: Dharaben Rameshbhai Thakkar for her dissertation titled "On Computing Optimal Representations of Finite Groups"

ACM India Early Career Researcher (ECR) Award

ECR recognizes individuals in early stages of their careers, who have made fundamental, innovative, and impactful contributions to the computing field while primarily working in India. The award carries a prize of ₹15 lakhs, sponsored by Persistent Foundation.



Chair: Satya Lokam

Candidates: We received 10 nominations for the award from the following candidates (alpha by last name):

Tanmoy Chakraborty, Abir De, Manish Gupta, Aritra Hazra, Arindam Khan, Ashutosh Modi, Praneeth Netrapalli, Vivek Seshadri, Amit Sharma, M. Tanveer.

Conflicts of Interest: Chandu declared a conflict of interest with Praneeth, Nutan declared a conflict of interest with Abir, and Satya declared a conflict of interest with Amit, Manish, and Vivek.

The selection process involved three rounds.

Round 1: Each of us wrote reviews on all candidates with whom we do not have a conflict of interest. Jaideep could not write the reviews due to hectic travel. In a later 1:1 meeting with Satya, Jaideep shared his feedback, and Satya updated the first-round scores. At the end of the first round discussions, we shortlisted five candidates.

Round 2: Before this round, for each of the shortlisted candidates above, we requested a committee member to make a presentation to highlight that candidate's strengths and make a case for that candidate. Committee members gracefully agreed and made presentations on shortlisted candidates. Following the presentations, each committee member ranked the shortlisted candidates except the ones they had a Col with. These rankings are then aggregated in three different ways following the process that Narahari used last time. Two of them are simple averaging of scores assigned to ranks, differing only when a Col exists by choosing either the prefix (i.e., starting with score 1) or the suffix (i.e., ending with 5) of the scores. The third method is to compute, for each candidate, how many other candidates (averaged over rankings that included both) are ranked lower. Interestingly, all three methods revealed the same order for the top 3.

Round 3: Due to his Col, Satya requested Jaideep to chair the committee for Round 3 and recused himself from the voting in this round. During this process, Vivek was recommended for the award by the committee.

Award Recipient: Vivek Seshadri

For his multidisciplinary research leading to the co-founding of the revolutionary data cooperative company Karya (<https://www.karya.in/>), demonstrating an exemplary trajectory of translating high quality research into large-scale societal impact.

ACM India Outstanding Contributions to Computing by a Woman (OCCW) Award

OCCW recognizes women professionals who have made fundamental, innovative, impactful contributions to the computing field primarily working in India. The award carries a prize of ₹7 lakhs. Financial support for this award is provided by Google.

Chair: Shweta Agrawal

We received 8 nominations of which 3 were duplicates. This brought down the number to 6. Of these 6, we discussed and eliminated 3 candidates in the first two rounds and then deliberated extensively on the remaining 3 candidates. Towards this, we used a combination of subjective discussion and objective scores/ranking, where each candidate was assessed on a scale of 1 to 10 for their scientific contributions as well as their efforts in mentoring/outreach. The committee decided, after some deliberation, to weigh 60:40 for science: mentoring. Based on these scores, we further narrowed down the candidates to two. In the end, we chose

Krishna because she showed significant contributions in both aspects. The other two runners up were considered excellent in one out of two aspects. The OCCW committee feels that the ACMI awards committee should convey feedback to the nominator of Arpita Patra that the application should be updated to be in line with OCCW. Currently the application is written as though it is for a pure research award. The low numbers of applications (only 6) is a serious concern. This creates the risk of the award diluting in significance.

Award Recipient: S. Krishna

For making outstanding contributions towards the twin prongs of science/technology and mentoring/outreach.

ACM India Outstanding Contributions to Computing Education (OCCE) Award

OCCE recognizes individuals who have made fundamental, innovative and impactful contributions to computing education in India. The award carries a prize of ₹7 lakhs. Financial support for this award is provided by Microsoft Research India.

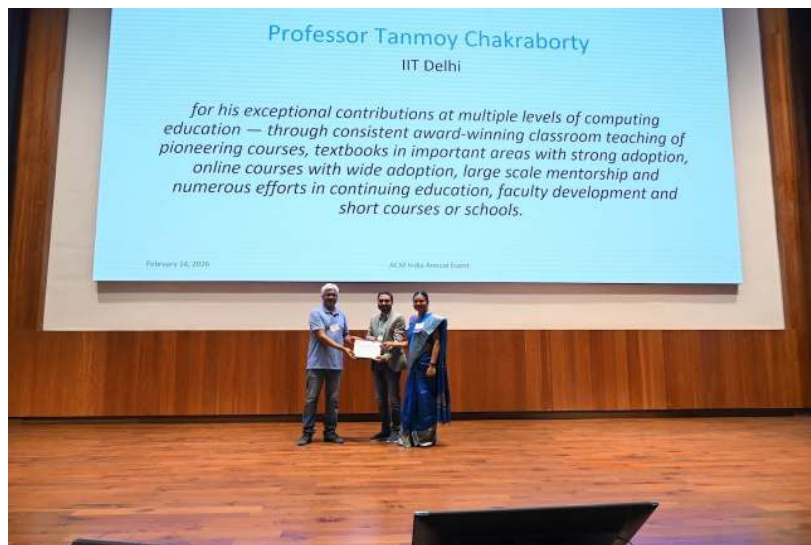


Chair: P P Chakrabarti

Initially everyone rated all the candidates. Then we proceeded for discussions over a video conference call, and had four rounds of shortlisting with three persons eliminated in round 1, three in round 2, three in round 3 and finally one was selected from the top three. The decision was unanimous. We were also happy to see some excellent nominations this time. The two who were in the final shortlist of three but not the selected one will most likely be carried over to the next year.

Award Recipient: Tanmoy Chakraborty

For significant contributions to computing education in India, particularly in the areas of Social Computing and Generative AI.



ACM India Outstanding Applied Innovation in Computing (OAIC) Award

The ACM India Outstanding Applied Innovation in Computing (OAIC) Award aims to recognize organizations to highlight, acknowledge, and reward exceptional examples of applied computing innovation, for profit or non-profit objectives. While the application can be in any domain, the core focus of the innovation should be on computing. The award will be given to the organizations for a submitted innovation (aka project, initiative) including one winner and up to two honourable mentions every year. The winner and the honourable mentions organizations will be felicitated at the ACM India Annual Event along with a cash prize of INR 5 Lakhs and INR 2 Lakhs respectively. The financial support for this award is provided by Zoho Corporation.

Jury Chair: Ananth Krishnan

The jury conducted a rigorous two-stage evaluation process. In the first stage, all jury members independently evaluated every submission across multiple dimensions, followed by collective discussions to arrive at a shortlisted set of five finalists. In the second stage, the shortlisted teams presented their innovations to the Jury in a highly engaging two-and-a-half-hour session. Post-presentation, Jury members provided their updated assessments and final recommendations. Integrating all inputs, Ananth consolidated the final list of winners.



Award Recipients:

- OAIC 2026: watsonX Code Assistant for Z – Accelerating Legacy Code Modernization (IBM Research, India - <https://www.ibm.com>)

Honorable mentions:

- Project iRASTE – Leveraging AI and Data to Improve Road Safety (IIIT Hyderabad - <https://www.iiit.ac.in>)
- National NCD Portal (Tata Trusts - <https://www.tatatrusters.org>)

III. MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTERS COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The ACM India Chapters and Membership Committee focuses on ensuring that the vibrant set of student, professional, SIG and W chapters in India receive the support required to conduct outreach activities, strengthen their membership and engage with the ACM India Council. With the new mandate of Membership included in this committee, we also promote the increase in student and professional membership, both through chapter-based activities and while engaging with the Professional Engagements Committee on strengthening the participation of professional members within ACM India.

This committee has several sub-committees that oversee its various activities, including supporting of activities through the Eminent Speaker (ESP) Program, Activity Based Funding (ABF) and Chapter Portal sub-committees, outreach/recognition through Chapter Summit, Membership and Chapter Awards sub-committees, and ensuring oversight through Chapter Process/Oversight Committee and Professional Chapter Revival.

Some of the key activities conducted by this committee include the Annual Chapter Summit and regional summits, Activity Based Funding over 6 cycles each year, and having a strong panel of Eminent Speakers for chapters to invite.

Sub-Committees

Committee	Members
Activity Based Funding (ABF) Committee	Rutvi*, Ranga, Prashant Nair, Ravindra Naik, Tilottama Goswami, Rajnish Sharma
ESP Speaker Committee	Yogesh*, Ravindra Naik, Renuka Sindhgatta Rajan, Tilottama Goswami, Sagar Juneja
Chapter Summit Committee	Geetanjali*, Seemanthini, Abhijat Vichare, Akhilesh Kumar Sharma, Tilottama Goswami, Nitin Patil, Rahul, Maria
Chapter Awards Committee	Ranga*, Rajnish Sharma, Sagar Juneja, Geetanjali, Akhilesh
Chapter Portal Committee	Vandana*, Rajnish Sharma, Sagar Juneja, Aswani Kumar Cherukuri, Abhinandan, Abhijat
Chapter Process/Oversight Committee	Akhilesh Kumar Sharma*, Geetanjali Kale, Revathi Venkataraman, Maria D'Souza, Rahul Pitale, Rutvi, Shourya, Snehasis, Yogesh
Professional Chapter Revival	Prashant Misra*, Sachin Lodha, Yogesh Simmhan, Ranga Rajagopal, Shourya Roy, Maria D'Souza, Snehasis
Membership committee	Maria*, Sachin Lodha, Yogesh Simmhan, Abhijat Vichare, Ranga Rajagopal, Rajesh Shukla, Rahul Pitale, Abhinandan, Prashant Misra, Rajnish Sharma

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Chapter Summit, 2025

The ACM India Chapter Summit 2025, hosted by SVKM's NMIMS, Indore from 18–20 December 2025, brought together 300+ Faculty members, industry leaders, and student representatives from over 112 ACM Professional and Student Chapters, SIGs, and ACM-W Chapters across India.

The central theme of the summit was “The Human–AI Partnership.” Sessions and discussions explored how advances in AI can be thoughtfully aligned with human skills, ethical responsibility, and workforce

development. Discussions emphasized AI as an enabler that enhances productivity, creativity, and decision-making, while addressing societal and employment concerns.

Day 0: Integration and Icebreaking (18th December).

The day began with registrations and a warm welcome as delegates from across India arrived at SVKM's NMIMS Indore. A themed Tech Housie and a Reel-Making Contest encouraged interaction and creativity among chapters. The day concluded with a dinner and bonfire, fostering informal networking and community bonding.

Day 1 (19th December).

The summit commenced with registration and breakfast, followed by a warm welcome from the NMIMS student representatives and NMIMS Management. Representing ACM India, Yogesh Simmhan and Maria D'Souza welcomed participants and shared an overview of ACM India Chapter statistics, initiatives, and member benefits.

The first keynote was delivered by Prof. Sashikumaar Ganesan, IISc Bangalore, on "The Scientific Foundation Model: Neural Approaches to Engineering Problems." This was followed by a talk from Geetanjali Kale, Chair of ACM-W India, who highlighted the importance of diversity and inclusion in technology and outlined ACM-W initiatives.

Prof. Suhas Joshi, Director, IIT Indore, delivered a keynote on "Human-AI Partnership: Shaping Human Capital for an AI Era," emphasizing the need to align AI advancement with human skills and ethical responsibility.

In the ACM Chapter Initiatives segment, Yogesh Simmhan and Maria D'Souza shared insights into ongoing and upcoming ACM India activities. Minu Ulanat and Geetanjali Kale presented the best practices from award-winning ACM Chapters of 2025, while Seemanthini K. (BMS College of Engineering) presented a retrospective of the previous year's summit. Industry engagement sessions included an introduction to Oracle Academy by Anuradha Sharma, followed by an overview of Activity-Based Funding (ABF) by Abhijit Vichare.



An interactive Ask Me Anything (AMA) session enabled students, faculty, and professionals to engage directly with ACM India representatives.

Parallel student panel discussions, moderated by Abhijat Vichare and Minu Ulanat, addressed student challenges, societal expectations, and sustaining curiosity in a competitive, AI-driven environment.

In parallel, a faculty session by Oracle Academy representatives Anuradha Sharma and Neema highlighted benefits for college faculty members.

The day concluded with a poster competition showcasing student innovation, followed by Cultural performances and a Gala dinner, fostering informal networking.

Day 2 (20th December):

Keynote 3: The day opened with an online keynote by Dr. Sasi Kumar, former Director of CDAC Mumbai, who spoke on the impact of Artificial Intelligence on education, highlighting how AI is reshaping learning models and academic practices.

This was followed by a high-energy panel discussion, “Learn, Unlearn, Relearn,” moderated by Maria D’Souza with Panelists Dr. Srinivas Padmanabhuni, Dr. Abhijat Vichare, Atul Bharat, Dr. Ranveer Singh, and Dr. Vikas Khare. The discussion explored how AI is transforming professional work in ways that were unimaginable just a year ago, how education itself is evolving in the AI era, and how Students and Professionals should approach learning in this rapidly changing landscape. The Panelists emphasized the importance of not only acquiring new skills, but also unlearning outdated practices, such as manual approaches now automated by AI systems. The session reinforced continuous learning, adaptability, and critical thinking as essential capabilities for the modern workforce, and concluded with reflections on Governance and Accountability in effective Human–AI collaboration.

The next keynote, “Testing Agentic AI,” was delivered by Dr. Srinivas Padmanabhuni, Founder of TestAlng, Bangalore. The session outlined key testing challenges with Agentic AI Systems and approaches covering autonomy, workflows, ethics, transparency, and functional evaluation metrics.

The event concluded with an interactive ABF Pitching session focused on student-led activity planning. Participants were organized into region-wise peer groups and tasked with developing and presenting concrete plans for ABF funding utilization. In a lively Shark Tank–style format, student teams pitched their project ideas to a distinguished panel of senior ACM members— Maria D’Souza, Abhijat Vichare, Geetanjali Kale, and Akhilesh Sharma. The panel evaluated and provided feedback to the students on the activities feasibility, expenses and scalability guiding teams to refine ideas that are both practical and meaningful.



The summit concluded with closing remarks by Maria D'Souza and Shruti Sharma, who summarized the key discussions and activities over the three days. They expressed their thanks and appreciation to all committee members, SVKM's NMIMS Indore organizing team, attendees, volunteers and speakers for their participation and cooperation.



YouTube Highlights: [ACM India Chapters Summit 2025](#)

Website: <https://event.india.acm.org/chaptersummit/home/>

Professional Chapters Virtual Summit

The Professional Chapters Virtual Summit was conceived as a means to offer professional chapters and members a means to engage and network with each other, get to know of the latest trends in computing, and get familiar with ACM India activities and benefits, in a virtual setting over a weekend to accommodate their professional time constraints. Two such summits are planned each year with keynotes by distinguished speakers from Academia and Industry and other interaction sessions. The sessions are open to both members and non-members, and also acts as a means to improve the number of professional members.

Summer Summit

The ACM India Professional Chapters' Virtual Summit 2026, summer edition, was held online on March 14th, 2026 from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM IST. The event was attended by 40+ professionals from all over India and elicited several questions and interactions.

Student Chapter Virtual Town Hall

The Student Chapter Virtual quarterly town halls were proposed during the Annual Chapter summit as a means to continuously engage with the ACM Student Chapters across India on a regular basis as an open forum to share their activities, and promote chapter participation through peer feedback and recognition. Volunteers from BMS College of Engineering and their faculty coordinator, Seemantini, have been coordinating this activity through regular engagement with various chapter clusters who attended the Annual Summit, with the townhall serving as a quarterly check-in by the Chapters Committee with all chapters.

In 2025-2026, we held three such virtual townhall summits on 5th April 2025, 22nd August 2025 and 14th March 2026, with December being the in-person Annual Summit. During these townhalls, we solicited member

concerns and received updates from representative chapters. These brought together over 100 participants in each edition, including students and faculty from across the country. Welcome remarks by Yogesh, Maria and Seemantini highlighted the importance of community, student involvement, and research-led growth in computing. Ranga recognized the achievements of various student chapters and lauded their innovative contributions, particularly highlighting chapters that demonstrated exemplary initiative throughout the year. Presentations on how to run a successful chapter were held. The AMA Session allowed students to directly interact with ACM leaders, and discussions ranged from research careers and project funding to navigating the student chapter ecosystem. The event continued with short 5-min region-wise presentations from all six ACM India regions, showcasing a variety of activities including technical workshops, inter-collegiate events, inclusive outreach programs, and social impact initiatives. We also invited Anveshan Setu participants to one of these.

Eminent Speaker Program (ESP)

The ACM India Eminent Speaker Program (ESP) provides ACM Student and Professional chapters and institutional partners in India with direct access to top technology leaders, innovators and researchers who will give talks on contemporary and engaging issues that are important to the computing community. This outreach program is modelled on ACM worldwide's Distinguished Speaker Program (DSP), but tailored for the Indian context and with Speakers from India. Speakers who are part of the ESP Panel will list several talks in their area of expertise, and be invited by chapters to give these talks as part of events that they hold. ACM India will help with the match-making and cover the costs for travel while the local chapter will handle accommodation and local logistics. We expect speakers to accept and participate in 3-6 visits each year. While most of these should be in-person to encourage direct engagement and interactions with the participants, some of the talks may be done virtually. Nominees complete the Nomination Form, which is evaluated by a selection committee consisting of a diverse set of domain experts. Selected speakers will have a 2-year term, which may be renewed based on the level of engagement and feedback from chapters.

In 2025-2026, we supported 52 ESP speaking sessions by 48 registered speakers. Some chapters hosted more than one such ESP talk in the year, including Symbiosis University Indore Student Chapter, MITB ACM Student Chapter, KARE ACM Student Chapter and TCE IT ACM Student Chapter. Speakers giving the most number of talks include Prashant R. Nair, R. Venkateswaran, Gururaj H L, Abhijat Vichare, Sriparna Saha and Amod Jai Ganesh Anandkumar.

As part of our global outreach, we also forwarded the names of about 8 ESP speakers to the ACM HQ's Distinguished Speakers Program (DSP). These are currently being reviewed and are likely to be invited to be part of the global program.

The committee looks forward to expanding the portfolio of ESP speakers in the coming months.

<https://india.acm.org/education/learning/eminent-speaker-program>

Activity Based Funding (ABF)

The Professional and Student Engagement group of ACM India had launched an initiative towards providing partial financial support for activities conducted by its student and professional chapters in India. This is a means to “give back” to our chapters who were finding it difficult to raise funds to organize local chapter events.

Any activity that adds clear value to ACM members, the student/professional chapter, ACM India and/or the broader computing community are considered for funding. The goal should be outward looking to the community rather than just meant for members of the local college. Typical activities include hosting talks, hackathons, mini workshops, etc. Funding is usually limited to one activity per chapter per year, and partially covers the costs of the activity. Activity funding may also be combined with funding through the Eminent Speaker Program (ESP) and any support offered by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee of ACM

India. Applications for activity funding are solicited every 2 months, to allow for prior planning of activities and also to give sufficient time for the reviews.

In FY 2025-26, over Rs. 18 lakhs has been approved for supporting 100+ activities out of 230+ received proposals over 6 cycles (~40% acceptance rate, ~Rs.18,000 on average per activity). This is a sharp ramp up of ABF and increased 3 times from 37 activities supported last year with a corresponding 3x increase in funding from ~Rs. 6 lakhs.

Some of the activities funded include TECHNO TARANG- A NATIONAL LEVEL HACKATHON by Poornima College of Engineering Student Chapter, Jaipur, Annual Region Meet (ARM) by Kolkata ACM Professional Chapter, HEISENHACK by SRM ACM SIGKDD Student Chapter, Web & App Development Contest – Pulzion'25 by PICT ACM Student's Chapter, CODELYMPICS '25 – The Global Code Carnival by Vellore Institute of Technology University, Chennai Campus ACM-W Student Chapter, and IndiGenius AI Hackathon by NUV ACM Student Chapter.

The funding is competitive, and also inculcates soft skills on writing funding proposals, requiring chapters to do prior planning and provide proper documentation in the proposal for relevant activities/expenses that can be funded.

The ABF review sub-committee has been putting a lot of effort into the review cycles. We also onboarded a new set of reviewers to handle the increased workload through an open call. The Chapters committee appreciates their efforts.

<https://india.acm.org/chapters/funding-guidelines>

Membership Activities

The Membership Committee aims to expand both professional and student memberships by enhancing the value proposition and engagement for each group. Some of the key Initiatives of ACM India that are relevant for professional members include Webinars & TechTalks held every month, and participation in Local Professional Chapters and mentoring Student Chapters.

The committee has been working closely with ACM HQ to introduce long-term membership options for students, along with discounted pricing for extended membership durations. We are pleased to announce that a Multi-year Student Membership option is now available. Students who opt for the multiple-year membership plan will receive a 10% savings on the Student Membership fee.

The committee has also proposed additional outreach and recognition activities to strengthen the ACM India membership, including tapping into the Ambassadors program to recognize chapters that enrol high number of members, creating content such as a standard deck of slides and short videos for showcasing ACM's values and professional growth opportunities to students and professionals. The committee is also working with the Professional Engagement committee on the ACM Industry Day activities to help enhance the value of student and professional membership by directly addressing the evolving needs of industry practitioners and also offering mentorship and foster collaboration with Student Chapter. There are also plans to have faculty roundtables with professionals during these Industry Days to gain exposure to the latest developments in Industry. This can create structured, sustainable bridges between academic institutions and industry partners, enabling mutual growth and meaningful engagement. The Committee is also coordinating with the Research Facilitation Committee on a mentorship program connecting professionals with students.

Awards Committee

The ACM India Chapter Awards are a means to recognize the laudable activities of the ACM Student Chapters across various dimensions. Six awards are given for specific categories of activities, along with an overall outstanding chapter award. These carry a cash prize and a citation, sponsored by various organizations. We

also have an honorable mention for each category to help recognize close second place chapters, which carries a citation. These awards were presented during the ACM India Annual Event 2026 at IIT Hyderabad.

Award Category	Chapter
Outstanding Chapter Award	Winner: BML Munjal University ACM Student Chapter Honorable mention: AISSMS IOIT ACM Student Chapter Award
Outstanding Chapter Activities Award	Winner: Amrita School of Engineering, Amritapuri ACM Student Chapter Honorable mention: MITB ACM_W Student Chapter
Outstanding Community Service Award	Winner: PCCOE ACM-W Student Chapter Honorable mention: AITR ACM Student Chapter
Outstanding Recruitment Program Award	Winner: MUJ ACM SIGBED Student Chapter Honorable mention: Manipal University Jaipur ACM Student Chapter
Emerging Chapter Award	Winner: PCE ACM-W Student Chapter Honorable mention: GGSIPU EDC ACM Student Chapter
Outstanding Chapter Website Award	Recipient: PCCOE ACM Student Chapter Honorable mention: TCET ACM SIGITE Student Chapter

We are also considering a new award for Professional Chapters in the near future.

Other Activities

The Committee helps ensure that the Chapter portal, where all Chapter activities are documented to be considered for the annual awards. This has also been integrated with the ESP invitation and lifecycle portal. A sub-committee handles interactions with Chitkara University, whose volunteers coordinate the development of the portal.

The Committee also approved funding of Rs.10,000 per year for professional chapters as miscellaneous expenses to help organize monthly chapter meetings, etc.

The committee is also considering sending chapter and ESP welcome kits for new chapters, chapters that complete their annual renewal, and for new ESP speakers.

COMMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

The Chapter activities are on a strong footing with several new engagements that have been initiated. The next steps are to streamline these through a clear set of annual and well-coordinated activities. Some of the steps to strengthen this further is through buddy chapters between student and professional chapters in the same region, sending ACM thank you/welcome gifts/appreciation certificates to chapters and their office bearers, improving the chapter portal to help submit annual reports, etc.

The membership activities of the committee will receive special focus in the coming year and there are several additional initiatives that can be considered. These include multi-year membership for students, converting



graduating students to professional members, special opportunities for young professional members, offering networking, career guidance and technical enhancement opportunities for professional members, mentoring opportunities, etc.

IV. EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The main focus of this committee has been to increase awareness and influence of ACM India and striving to enhance the partnership and collaboration with external non-academic entities, in particular the computing industry and the practitioner community in India. A key responsibility of the committee is to nurture existing partnerships and sign up new partners with an objective to bring value to these relationships and contribute to the revenue stream of ACM India. One significant Key Result Areas (KRAs) of this committee can be measured by increase in Professional memberships that also overlaps with the KRA of the Chapter Engagement committee.

Organization Overview

- Co-Chairs - Shourya Roy and R Venkateswaran
- Members - Renuka Sidhgatya, Raj Sharma, Krishnasuri Narayanam, Satyen Abrol, Sidharth Abrol, Ranga Rajagopal

Activities and Responsibilities

The responsibilities for the various activities of the committee are distributed amongst the Co-Chairs and the members of the committee to ensure focus and dedicated efforts to strategize, plan and execute the tasks towards achieving the respective outcomes.

Activity	Owners
Sponsorships	Ranga Rajagopal, Shourya Roy & R Venkateswaran
Chapter Engagement	Prasant Misra, Raj Sharma & Shourya Roy
Monthly Industry Webinars & Fireside Chats	Krishnasuri N & R Venkateswaran
Applied Innovation Award	Satyen Abrol & Shourya Roy
Industry Roundtable	Ranga Rajagopal, Shourya Roy & R Venkateswaran
Industry Bootcamp	Krishnasuri N & R Venkateswaran
Academia Industry Engagements	Dipyaman Banerjee, Sidharth Abrol & R Venkateswaran

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

The activities of the External Engagement committee built up on the successes of various initiatives/events from last year - including the Industry Webinar Series, the quarterly Industry Day event and the Bootcamp. Two new initiatives for this year were the announcement of the first Outstanding Applied Innovation in Computing (OAIC) awards and the new format called fireside chats. While the engagement outcomes in terms of Industry and Academia have been very encouraging, a lot of efforts have been put in to template these activities to help streamline future events.

One major outcome of this year's sponsorship efforts was signing up two Industry partners - OLA Electric (Gold Tier Institutional Partner) and Zoho Corporation (sponsor for the OAIC Awards). Both organizations have committed 3 years of funding towards ACM India.

Industry Webinar Series

The Industry Webinar Series aims to highlight the challenging work happening in cutting edge technology areas to the Student and Professional communities. These webinars have received very good responses from the community. Further, these webinars are recorded and made available for viewing on ACM India's YouTube channel. The Live viewership numbers, the YouTube viewership numbers and continuous feedback are monitored to ensure that the topics and the speakers stay relevant to the community.

A list of Industry Webinars conducted in this year are given below.

Date	Title	Speaker	Recording Link
23-AUG-2025	Observing LLM Agents and their Tool Calls	Renuka Sindhgatta and Asaf Adi, IBM Research	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzqeLJv6Jlg
19-JUL-2025	Decision Making for Physical Systems	Arunchandar Vasan, TCS Research	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOYTVNFI7PA
21-JUN-2025	Machine Unlearning for GenAI	Dr Mayank Vatsa, IIT Jodhpur	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dD5yXR7e-g
19-APR-2025	Responsible AI in Practice	Dr Srinivas Padmanabhuni, aiEnsured	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olgNyTJb1Sk&t=673s

Complete list of Industry webinars are available on the [Industry Webinars page of ACM India](#).

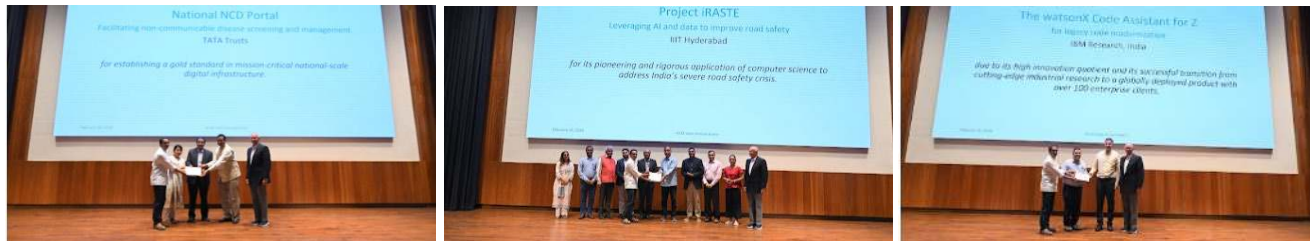
ACM India - TCS Joint Webinar Series

Date	Title	Keynote	Fireside Chat
22 September 2025	AI in the Physical World: Intelligence Beyond the Screen	"Introduction to Physical AI and its future impact" by Prof. K Madhav Krishna (IIIT Hyderabad)	"The Future of Physical AI" Moderated by Snehasis Bannerjee (TCS Research) Panelists: Prof. Mohan Sridharan (University of Edinburgh), Dr Alok Mukherjee (President, The Robotics Society), Dr Krishna Murthy Jatavallabhula (AI Research Scientist, Meta), Dr Ranjan Dasgupta (Principal Scientist, TCS Research), Bipasha Sen (CEO, Tangible Robots)
24 March 2026	Beyond Screens: Spatial Intelligence and the Rise of XR-Augmented Human Cognition	"The Future of Interactive XR Authoring" by Prof. Karthik Ramani (Purdue University, USA)	"Egocentric AI for XR" Moderated by Ruddra Dev Roychoudhury (TCS Research) Panelists: Prof. Shanmuganathan Raman (IIT Gandhinagar), Dr Jitendra Shukla (IIIT Delhi), Dr Debaditya Roy (IIT Kharagpur), Dr Brojeshwar Bhowmick (Principal Scientist, TCS Research)

Applied Innovation Award

This year marked the successful launch of the inaugural ACM India Outstanding Applied Innovation in Computing (OAIC) Award — a new category introduced by the External Engagements Committee to recognize exceptional computing-driven innovation for commercial or non-profit goals. The award received an

outstanding response from the community, drawing high-quality nominations from across India. The winner and honourable mentions are felicitated at the ACM India Annual Event with cash prizes of INR 5 Lakhs and INR 2 Lakhs respectively, generously sponsored by Zoho Corporation. The inaugural winner was IBM Research India for watsonX Code Assistant for Z, a pioneering AI solution that modernizes legacy COBOL applications on IBM Z mainframes. Two honourable mentions were awarded: Project iRASTE (IIIT Hyderabad) for its AI-driven road safety platform, and the National NCD Portal (Tata Trusts) for its transformative national-scale digital health infrastructure. The award has firmly established itself as a prestigious recognition of applied computing excellence in India.



More details at <https://india.acm.org/awards/oaic-nominations>.

Industry Day

ACM India Industry Day has emerged as a flagship initiative, bringing together academia and industry for a full-day exchange of ideas, insights, and inspiration. The first two editions happened in Q1 2025 that were met with tremendous enthusiasm. Building on the success and positive reception of these events has inspired ACM India to make Industry Day a recurring quarterly event.

Three editions of the Industry Day happened successfully in 2025-26 as detailed below. All the events were met with great response from the student and professional communities in respective local geographies. ACM India continues to actively invite chapter applications to host future editions.

21-MAR-2026 - Adamas University, Kolkata



08-NOV-2025 - Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, Delhi.



19-JUL-2025 - COEP Technological University, Pune.



Industry Fireside Chat

The idea behind introducing fireside chat is to create an interactive, in-person session, hosted in conjunction with the ACM Student Chapter of an Institute and the ACM Professional Chapter of the city, to provide an opportunity for students and faculty of the Institute and nearby colleges to engage with Industry leaders working on cutting edge technologies of the future. ACM India has conducted two Fireside Chats and has developed a template of repeating the same in other institutes.

28-MAR-2026 - "Transforming Solar PV Manufacturing with Industrial AI" - Kedar Kulkarni, Head, AI for New Energy, Reliance Industries Ltd. Host: Sameep Mehta, Distinguished Engineer, IBM Research India. Venue: Manipal Institute of Technology, Bengaluru



28-FEB-2026 - “Social Empowerment through Inclusion using AI as a Catalyst” - Dr Kalika Bali, Microsoft Research. Host: Sameep Mehta, Distinguished Engineer, IBM Research India. Venue: BMS College of Engineering, Bangalore.



Industry Bootcamp

An Industry Bootcamp around the theme of AI Development Lifecycle was conducted successfully from May 22-25, 2025 at the IIIT-B campus. This Bootcamp was jointly organized by ACM India, IBM Research India and IIIT-Bangalore. A well-curated set of sessions and speakers across Industry and Academia were the highlights of the bootcamp that saw 35 participants across Faculty members, Research students and Industry professionals.





V. RESEARCH FACILITATION

INTRODUCTION

The Research Facilitation Committee (RFC) of ACM India Council is dedicated to enabling research activities and improving the quality of research for students and industry professionals. The main aim of the committee is to support research activities and assist students and industry in enhancing the quality of their research. The RFC achieves this through a comprehensive portfolio of initiatives, including Research Opportunities in Computer Science (ROCS), PhD Clinics, Anveshan Setu, and the ACM-I IARCS Travel Grants Committee. It also manages the Research Mentoring Portal (RMP) and handles Conference/Workshop Approvals and the Research Facilitation Grant.

Organization Overview

Name	Role
Sudip Misra	Chair
Amey Karkare	Chair
Venkatesh Raman	Member
Abinaya R	Member
Aritra Banik	Member
Arijit Roy	Member
Ayan Mondal	Member
Chandrashekhar Sahasrabudhe	Member
Chester Rebeiro	Member
Chitra Babu	Member
Dip Sankar Banerjee	Member
Hemangee Kapoor	Member
Hitkul	Member
Jibi Abraham	Member
Karthik Ramachandra	Member
Karthik Vaidhyanathan	Member
Keerti Choudhary	Member
Mainack Mondal	Member
Manas Thakur	Member
Mayank Singh	Member
Niharika Sachdeva	Member
Ponnurangam Kumaraguru (PK)	Member

Name	Role
Rishabh Kaushal	Member
Samaresh Bera	Member
Satendra Kumar	Member
Saurabh Kumar	Member
Sougata Sen	Member
Suganya R	Member
Supratik Chakraborty	Member
Tamoghna Ojha	Member

Name	Role
Research Opportunities in Computer Science (ROCS)	ROCS (pronounced as ROCKS) is an ACM India initiative to expose undergraduate students (mainly aspiring) in colleges to exciting research happening in the country in various areas of computer science. The hope is to inspire at least a few of them to choose a career in research in industry or academia. It is a one-day event, typically on a Saturday, with 4-5 talks on multiple areas of computer science. It also may have an “Ask me Anything” session to discuss questions from the participants, talks outlining entry procedures in various institutions, and a panel discussion among the speakers.
PhD Clinic	To facilitate CS PhD students from all over the country to obtain inputs and advice from expert mentors in premier academic institutions and industry. Mentors spend a few hours each month talking to students and giving concrete and constructive suggestions on their work. Each clinic session is a one-on-one engagement, and a student gets to choose a mentor who works in his/her area from the available list of mentors.
Research Facilitation Grant	This grant is targeted at supporting PhD students, Postdocs, early career faculty members from institutions in India with limited research support funding, and Masters (with thesis work) students by funding expenses related to publication in open-access journals & conferences, attending top-quality invitation-only research seminars/workshops/summer schools (e.g., Dagstuhl Seminars), and costs for additional pages for journal and conference papers. All applicants must be studying or pursuing their careers in India at the time of application. However, they need not be an ACM member.
IndiCS	The IndiCS (a play on Computer Science Seminars in India) seminar series is a new initiative of ACM India that aims to facilitate high-quality research interactions and discussions between expert researchers, practitioners, and advanced students on topics at the frontiers of computer science through focused, immersive, and

Name	Role
	participative research seminars located in India. This is modeled after similar programs in other geographical areas with a strong research culture in CS.
Research Mentoring Portal (RMP)	The RMP platform ensures confidentiality of mentee and mentor information, with only the assigned mentor having access to the mentee's identity and registration details. Similarly, only information that a mentor chooses to be viewable by mentees is accessible to mentees. Research mentoring through this portal facilitates a structured, long-term relationship, allowing mentees to benefit from sustained guidance and expertise. While ongoing mentorship is encouraged, the platform may also be used for short-term consultations based on specific needs.
Conference Approval Committee	To evaluate the conference/workshop proposals, give feedback, and accept/reject the proposals
Anveshan Setu	To provide CS/IT PhD students in India: • An opportunity to get up close and personal with the best research practices outside their parent institutes. • A longer and more intense mentoring experience beyond the ACM India PhD Clinic. To develop Anveshan Setu into a premium-value program over the next three years, something every CS/IT PhD student in India would aspire to participate in their PhD career.
IARCS Travel Grant	To evaluate the grant proposals, give feedback, and accept/reject the proposals
ARCS	To plan and organize the annual ARCS conference.

ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities for the various activities of the committee are distributed amongst the Co-Chairs and the members of the committee to ensure focus and dedicated efforts to strategize, plan and execute the tasks towards achieving the respective outcomes.

Activity	Owners
Research Opportunities in Computer Science (ROCS)	• Sudip Misra • Venkatesh Raman • Ponnurangam Kumaraguru • Suganya Ramamoorthy • Satendra Kumar
PhD Clinic	• Ponnurangam Kumaraguru (PK)

	• Mainack Mondal • Sudip Misra • Ayan Mondal • Arijit Roy • Tamoghna Ojha • Aritra Banik • Jibi Abraham • Shelly Sachdeva • Mayank Singh • Hitkul
Research Facilitation Grant	• Karthik Vaidyanathan • Dip Sankar Banerjee • Manas Thakur • Hemangee Kapoor • Chandrashekhar Sahasrabudhe • Amey Karkare • Satendra Kumar • Abinaya K • Saurabh Kumar
IndiCS	• Supratik Chakraborty • Aritra Banik
Research Mentoring Portal (RMP)	• Supratik Chakraborty • Tamoghna Ojha
Conference Approval Committee	• Amey Karkare • Arijit Roy
Anveshan Setu	• Hitkul • Sudip Misra • Ponnurangam Kumaraguru (PK) • Ayan Mondal • Arijit Roy • Tamoghna Ojha • Aritra Banik • Chester Rebeiro • Jibi Abraham • Shelly Sachdeva • Mayank Singh • Dip Sankar Banerjee
IARCS Travel Grant	• Amey Karkare • Samaresh Bera

	• Chester Riberio • Chandrashekhar Sahasrabudhe • Karthik Vaidhyanathan • Niyati Chhaya • Supratik Chakraborty
ARCS	• Ayan Mondal • Chitra Babu • Karthik Ramachandra • Mainack Mondal • Ranga Rajagopal • Ponnurangam Kumaraguru • Venkatesh Raman

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

- Research Opportunities in Computer Science (ROCS)
 - Women Institute of Technology, Apr 26th 2025, 155+ students
 - Institute of Engineering & Management (IEM), Kolkata, Aug 2, 2025, 200+ students
 - Chitkara University, Chandigarh, Sept 19, 2025, 195+ students
 - RAIT, Mumbai, Jan 17, 2026, 150+ students



ACM ROCS, Chitkara University



ACM ROCS, Institute of Engineering & Management (IEM)

- PhD Clinic
 - Number of mentors: 44
 - Number of mentors added: 6
 - Number of Sessions between Mentors & Students conducted (including offline PhD Clinic Sessions): 70 (Offline: ARCS: 30; FIRE: 10; Online: 30)
 - Total Number of mentees in the program: 60
- Research Facilitation Grant (RFG)
 - January - May, 2025
 - Applications received: 12 (including extra pages and reputed events)
 - Applications selected: 3
 - Total amount granted: ₹1,79,000
 - May - August 2025
 - Applications received: 2 (both reputed events)
 - Applications selected: 3
 - September - December 2025
 - Applications received: 18 (including extra pages and reputed events)
 - Applications selected: 5
 - January - February 2026
 - Applications received: 10 (including extra pages)
 - Applications selected: 2

Overall

Total Applications Received: 42

Total Applications Accepted (Selected): 13

- IndiCS



The IndiCS Seminar Series
An ACM India Initiative

acm India Council

Focused & Immersive Research Gatherings

At Select Venues Across India

► **In-depth discussions** on topics at the frontiers of CS research

► **Invite-only participation** of senior and junior researchers in equal proportion

► **Open to researchers** from across the world

Proposal Submission Deadline
July 31, 2025

Seminar Duration
3-5 DAYS (Optional 1-2 days instructional school)

For more details, please see

QR code linking to more details

- Completed Seminars:
 - IndiCS Seminar 3: Algorithmic Game Design
 - Date: December 8-13, 2025
 - Coordinators: Debasis Misra, Swaprava Nath, Arunava Sen, Rohit Vaish
 - Location: Amritha Vishwa Vidyapeetham Coimbatore Campus Host
 - Organization: Amritha Vishwa Vidyapeetham

- Abstract: Mechanism design is an important subfield of economics that focuses on creating protocols to achieve desired outcomes in environments where multiple self-interested agents interact. Algorithmic mechanism design (AMD) builds on this concept by addressing computational and algorithmic challenges, utilizing tools from theoretical computer science, artificial intelligence, and economics. This seminar focused on unresolved, high-impact questions in mechanism design, both with and without monetary transfers. A pre-seminar school provided a comprehensive overview of these critical issues, while the seminar had expert talks and encouraged collaborative problem-solving in smaller, focused interest groups. By bringing together experts in the field, the seminar served to drive meaningful progress on these socially significant challenges.
- IndiCS Seminar 2: Automated Synthesis

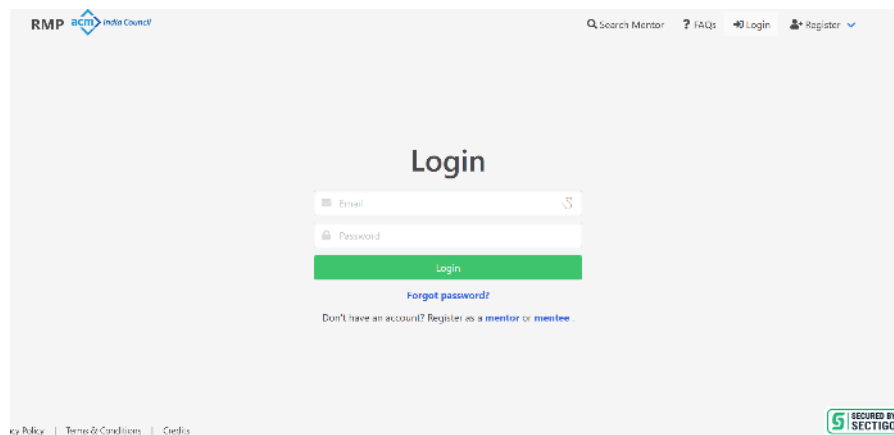


- Date: November 3-7, 2025
- Coordinators: Supratik Chakraborty, Priyanka Golia, Kumar Madhukar, Aalok Thakkar
- Location: Infosys Mysore Campus
- Host Organization: Infosys
- Abstract: This seminar explored the theory and practice of automatically constructing systems, programs, and functions from high-level specifications. Situated at the intersection of logic, algorithms, formal verification, and programming languages, automated synthesis has advanced rapidly in recent years, propelled by innovations in symbolic methods, solver technology, and learning-based approaches. The event convened 46 participants, comprising faculty members, industry practitioners, postdoctoral fellows, and students. By integrating tutorials, invited talks, deep-dive lectures, and open-problem sessions, the seminar provided a cohesive platform for participants to exchange ideas and address the field's most pressing challenges. The five-day program consisted of a pre-seminar school where the fundamentals of reactive synthesis, functional synthesis, and program synthesis, including neuro-symbolic synthesis, were covered. Subsequently, there were three deep-dive tutorials, and multiple talks by experts (from academia and industry) on various aspects of each of these topics. The seminar also included open problem sessions that led to lively discussions.

- Upcoming Seminars:
 - IndiCS seminar 5: Designing Private and Secure Systems for Humans
 - IndiCS seminar 4: Frontiers in Verification and Analysis for Concurrency



- ACM India Research Mentoring Portal (RMP)
 - The Research Mentoring Portal (RMP) became fully functional and was officially launched at <https://rmp.acmindia-studentchapters.in/>.



RMP Portal

- Pre-launch demo given to ACM India officials on Apr 18, 2025.
- The portal is designed to enable filtered matching of mentor and mentee interests.
- It also facilitates centralized management of meeting notes and schedules.
- Students developed the portal from IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi under the supervision of Prof. Supratik Chakraborty.
- Chitkara University is hosting it.

- This launch marked a significant step forward from the earlier testing phase.
- Initial documentation for the portal has been completed.
- The formation of an administrative committee for long-term management is underway.
- The pilot phase has been in progress for the past two months.
- Some students are actively using the platform, and a few of them are being mentored by mentors.
- Certain student information can be viewed without registration.
- Conference Grants Approval Committee
 - Granted
 - FIRE 2025
 - CODE 2025
 - VLSI 2026
 - COMPUTE'26
 - ICDCN'26
 - COMSNETS'27
 - ISEC 2026
 - SERI 2025
 - IndoML 2025
 - FSTTCS 2025
 - Under Review
 - ICCSS 2025
- Anveshan Setu

- A total of 53 fellowships were awarded during the year, with 35 fellowships allocated in Phase I and 18 in Phase II.
- Approximately 65%–70% of the total fellowship recipients, corresponding to nearly 36 fellows, successfully completed their visits during the current financial year.
- As the financial year has now concluded, it is expected that all scheduled visits for this cycle have been completed within the reporting period. Any pending or newly proposed visits will be undertaken in the next financial year.

- IARCS Travel Grant

- Application Received Data:

- Number of Applications Between Apr 2025 – Aug 2025: 435
 - Number of Applications September 2025: 67
 - Number of Applications October 2025: 61
 - Number of applications November 2025: 58
 - Number of Applications December 2025: 49
 - Number of Applications January 2026: 68
 - Number of Applications February 2026: 84
 - Number of Applications March 2026: 89

Application Received Total: 911

- Approved Data:

- April 2025 to August 2025:
 - Approved Amount INR 60K: 34
 - September 2025:
 - Approved Amount INR 60K: 8
 - October 2025:
 - Approved Amount INR 60K: 7
 - November 2025:
 - Approved Amount INR 60K: 5
 - December 2025:
 - Approved Amount INR 60K: 4
 - January 2026:
 - Approved Amount INR 60K: 10
 - February 2026:
 - Approved Amount INR 60K: 6
 - March 2026:
 - Approved Amount INR 60K: 6
 - Total Applications Approved: 80

Total Funds Approved: INR 47.8 Lakhs

- ARCS 2026

- Brief Overview

- ARCS plays a crucial role in facilitating meaningful interactions between PhD scholars, faculty, and industry leaders, offering a much-needed space for intellectual exchange. The ARCS 2026 symposium featured contributed talks, poster presentations, and special sessions, including presentations by the ACM India Doctoral Dissertation Award recipient, the Early Career Research Awardee, and a distinguished keynote speaker. Attendees engaged in dynamic panel discussions, interactive sessions with ARCS speakers, and Ph.D. clinics. The audience, composed of students, academics, and industry professionals from across India, had the opportunity to network and learn from notable invitees. This year, the program was held at IIT Hyderabad between February 11-13, 2026.

- Conference Program Overview

- Day 1 began with participant registration, followed by a welcome note introducing the objectives of the event. The afternoon featured an engaging panel discussion on writing high-quality research papers and conducting effective research. Experts from leading institutions and industry, including IIT Kharagpur, IIT Bombay, IIT Hyderabad, and Adobe Research, shared

valuable insights and practical guidance with attendees. Later, the event showcased demos along with discussions on opportunities in both academia and industry, helping students explore future career paths. The day concluded with a student mentorship session that encouraged interaction and networking, followed by a banquet dinner where participants and speakers connected in an informal setting.



ARCS 2026 Panel Discussion

- Day 2 commenced with registration and the inauguration of ACM ARCS 2026, followed by opening remarks from the organizers. The day featured an insightful keynote talk by Prof. Nitin Saxena from IIT Kanpur on “Algebra powers computation.” Participants then engaged in poster presentations, refreshments, and lightning talks by invited PhD students. Sessions by Mahindra University and ACM-W India highlighted academic initiatives and opportunities for women in computing. Prof. Krishna S from IIT Bombay delivered an inspiring keynote on verifying concurrent programs. The afternoon included panel discussions and workshops on research, networking, and leadership in technology. The evening showcased a fishbowl session on generative AI, ACM OAIC award talks, and concluded with a beautiful cultural show followed by snacks alongside an interactive science slam session.
- Day 3 began with a keynote talk by Prof. Mausam from IIT Delhi on “Artificial Intelligence: Past, Present and Future,” offering participants a broad perspective on AI advancements. The schedule included poster sessions, refreshments, and lightning talks by invited PhD students, encouraging research exchange and networking. Sessions from institutional and academic sponsors highlighted collaboration opportunities, while the ACM India Early Career Researcher Award talk inspired young researchers with lessons from academia and industry. The afternoon featured doctoral dissertation and early career researcher talks covering topics from finite groups to system guarantees and AI bidding markets. The day concluded with sponsor interaction sessions, RFC activities, an AMA and feedback session, followed by dinner and informal discussions among participants and speakers.



ACM ARCS 2026

COMMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

- Research Opportunities in Computer Science (ROCS)
 - Extend ROCS to colleges in underrepresented regions to broaden outreach and inspire more aspiring researchers across India.
 - Organize ROCS events focused on specific subfields of computer science (e.g., AI/ML, cybersecurity, theory, systems) to provide deeper insights and cater to students with targeted interests.
 - Promote more
- PhD Clinic
 - To offer students a more comprehensive array of perspectives and expertise, it is imperative to actively recruit mentors from a broader range of research areas and institutions, including international academia and industry.
 - Enhance Outreach and Awareness
 - In order to enhance the quality and efficacy of the interactions, establish a formal system for obtaining feedback from both mentors and mentees following each session.
- Research Facilitation Grant (RFG)
 - Increase Outreach and Awareness
 - The programme's mentoring component could provide constructive remarks or suggestions for future submissions for unsuccessful applicants to assist academic advancement.
 - Get more applications
- IndiCS
 - Enhanced Student Engagement and Support
 - Expansion of IndiCS Seminar Topics and Locations

- Promote Awareness and Engagement
- Research Mentoring Portal (RMP)
 - Expand the Mentor-Mentee Network
 - Add Performance Tracking Features
 - Promote Awareness and Engagement
- Conference Approval Committee
 - Improve Turnaround Time for Decisions
 - Implement a Structured Feedback Mechanism
 - Streamline and Enhance the Application Process
- Anveshan Setu
 - Strengthening Mentor Network
 - Program Evaluation and Feedback Loop
 - Increase Outreach and Awareness
 - Showcase and Alumni Engagement
- IARCS Travel Grant
 - Development of an online portal for better management and tracking
 - Enabler for Periodic Reporting and Transparency Measures
 - Enhancement of Funding Structure and Budget Allocation - reach out to industry sponsors
 - Encourage this grant more to increase the number of applications.
 - Expanding Outreach and Awareness
- ARCS
 - Increase outreach and visibility
 - Encourage greater participation and enrollment through the PhD Clinic
 - Recruit more mentors to support the PhD Clinic

VI. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

Purpose /Vision of the committee: Advancing the Science and Profession of Computing Education.

Organization Overview

#	Name	Role
1	Viraj Kumar	Co-chair
2	Vipul Shah	Co-chair, CSpathshala
3	Venkatesh Raman	TPP
4	Sriparna Saha	Summer and Winter school
5	Chitra Babu	Education Webinars
6	Amey Karakare	COMPUTE
7	Revathi Venkataraman	Communications
8	Sonia Garcha	CSpathshala

The Education Committee conducts the following activities. Almost each has its own committee and organization, and is detailed in subsequent sections.

- Summer and Winter Schools
- CSpathshala and CTiS Conference
- COMPUTE Conference

SUMMER AND WINTER SCHOOLS

Introduction

The ACM India Summer and Winter School Committee is responsible for organizing ACM India summer and winter schools across various institutions throughout the country. The committee selects the locations, topics, organizing chairs, and academic chairs for each school. They actively collaborate with subject matter experts to deliver high-quality programs on a wide range of topics in different regions of India. Notably, one of the schools is exclusively designated as a women-only program.

The ACM India Schools initiative, conducted under the ACM India Council, is a flagship outreach program aimed at advancing computing education across India. From April 2025 to March 2026, the initiative organized multiple Summer and Winter Schools at premier institutions including IITs, IISc, IIITs, and other leading universities.

The program bridges the gap between formal undergraduate/postgraduate education and current research frontiers in computer science, offering students exposure to advanced topics, hands-on learning, and direct interaction with researchers and practitioners. Domains covered included Artificial Intelligence, Edge AI,

Robotics, Cryptography, Quantum Computing, Natural Language Processing, Compiler Design, Digital Twins, and Systems for Machine Learning.

Demand remained consistently high. Several Winter 2025 programs received over 500 applications, while Summer Schools in 2025 and 2026 saw strong interest, particularly in AI and systems. Inclusivity was a deliberate focus, with multiple programs designed exclusively for women participants.

Organization Overview

Name	Role	Email
Sriparna Saha	Current Lead since January 2025	sriparna.saha@gmail.com
Venkatesh Raman	Past Lead / Lead till December 2024	vraman@imsc.res.in
Aritra Banik	Member and Past Lead	aritrabanik@gmail.com / aritra@niser.ac.in
Meenakshi D'Souza	Member	meenakshi@iiitb.ac.in
Shekhar Sahasrabudhe	Member	shekhar.sahasrabudhe@gmail.com
Nipun Batra	Member	nipun.batra@iitgn.ac.in
Jaikumar Radhakrishnan	Member	jaikumar.radhakrishnan@gmail.com
Abhijat Vichare	ACM Operation Team	abhijatv@india.acm.org
Ranga Rajagopal	ACM Operation Team	ranga_rajagopal@india.acm.org
N G Venkat	ACM Operation Team	ng_venkat@india.acm.org

Table 1: ACM India Schools Committee Members

Main Activities of the Committee

- Deciding the locations/host institutes of the summer/winter schools
- Deciding the topics of these schools
- Contacting experts to be academic coordinators for these schools
- Coordinating with the organizing committee and fixing the budget
- With the help of the ACM Operation Team, searching for sponsorships for these schools
- Preparation of the call for participation from students, shortlisting of participants with the help of the academic coordinator, and help in successfully executing the summer/winter schools

ACM Summer Schools 2025

The ACM India Summer Schools 2025 delivered high-impact programs across geographically diverse regions of India, covering northern, western, and southern institutions, attracting a total of 988 applications. The programs addressed a balanced set of contemporary topics including Cryptography, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, IoT, and Immersive Technologies, aligned with current research trends.

Geographic Overview

The ACM Summer School programs demonstrated broad geographic coverage across India, with institutions spanning three distinct regions: northern India (JUIT Solan, Himachal Pradesh), western India (IIT Gandhinagar in Gujarat and IIT Bombay in Maharashtra), and southern India (FLAME University in Pune and KARE in Madurai, Tamil Nadu). This distribution reflects a deliberate effort to extend the initiative's reach beyond a single academic hub, ensuring that students across geographically diverse locations had access to high-quality, advanced computing education.

School Topics

School Topic	Institution
Artificial Intelligence for Social Good	IIT Gandhinagar
Quantum Circuits and Quantum Algorithms	JUIT Solan, Himachal Pradesh
IoT and Next Generation Networks	KARE, Madurai
Introduction to Cryptography	IIT Bombay
Immersive Realities: AR, VR & HCI (Women Only)	FLAME University, Pune

Table 2: ACM India Summer Schools 2025 — Topics, Institutions, and Coordinators

Applications Received

A total of 988 applications were received across all Summer Schools 2025 programs, indicating strong nationwide interest. Among the individual programs, IIT Gandhinagar received the highest number of applications (383), followed by IIT Bombay (300). KARE Madurai and JUIT Solan received 109 and 106 applications, respectively, while FLAME University received 90. Higher participation was observed in IIT-hosted programs.

Institution	Applications Received
IIT Gandhinagar	383
IIT Bombay	300
KARE Madurai	109
JUIT Solan	106
FLAME University (Women only)	90
Total	988

Table 3: Applications Received Across ACM India Summer Schools 2025

ACM Winter Schools 2025

The Winter Schools 2025 cycle spanned six institutions across India — IISc Bangalore, IIIT Hyderabad, IIT Ropar, SRMIST Chennai, RBU Nagpur, and XIM Bhubaneswar — ensuring broad national coverage. The programs addressed advanced computing topics including Edge AI, AI in Finance, Compiler Design, Algorithmic Game Theory, Digital Twins, and Responsible AI. Participation was strong, with a total of 1,477 paid registrations. The Edge AI program at IISc Bangalore drew the highest enrollment (585), followed by AI & Finance at IIIT Hyderabad (453).

Geographic Overview

The Winter Schools 2025 programs were conducted across a wide geographic spread, including northern (IIT Ropar), southern (IISc Bangalore, SRMIST Chennai), central (RBU Nagpur), eastern (XIM University Bhubaneswar), and southern-central regions (IIIT Hyderabad). This distribution reflects strong national coverage and ensures accessibility to participants from diverse regions.

School Topics and Coordinators

School Topic	Institution
AI & Finance	Indian Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad
Edge AI	Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
Compiler Design for Today's World	SRMIST, Chennai
Algorithmic Game Theory	Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar
Engineering Future with Digital Twins	Ramdeobaba University, Nagpur
Responsible AI (Women Only)	XIM University, Bhubaneswar

Table 5: ACM India Winter Schools 2025 — Topics, Institutions, and Coordinators

Applications Received

School	Applications Received
Edge AI (IISc Bangalore)	585
AI & Finance (IIIT Hyderabad)	453
IIT Ropar	130
SRMIST Chennai	124
RBU Nagpur	96
XIM Bhubaneswar (Women Only)	89
Total	1,477

Table 6: Paid Registrations Across ACM India Winter Schools 2025

Cross-Year Analysis

Demand Trends

Program Cycle	Typical Application Range
Summer 2025	200 – 380
Winter 2025	480 – 600

Table 9: Typical Application Ranges Across ACM India Schools Program Cycles

Observation: Winter Schools consistently attract the most applications. Summer cycles maintain steady participation, with peak interest in AI-related topics.

Key Strengths

- Consistently high demand across all program cycles
- Collaboration with premier institutions (IITs, IISc, IIITs)
- Broad geographic coverage ensuring national reach
- Growing thematic alignment with emerging research areas
- Targeted inclusivity programs for women participants

Key Challenges

- Attendance drop after selection (low conversion rate)
- Absence of standardized execution and reporting frameworks

Comments and Future Plans

In future the committee would like to focus more on the following points:

- Getting more sponsors for organizing these summer and winter schools.
- Some of the schools have somewhat low registrations; the committee will identify the reasons and make efforts to increase the registrations.
- The committee will also streamline budget, expenses, and sponsorships for the schools.

Conclusion

From April 2025 to March 2026, the ACM India Schools initiative delivered high-quality programs across premier institutions, maintaining strong participation and academic relevance. The progressive shift toward specialized topics in AI, robotics, and systems underscores alignment with global research trends. Improvements in operational consistency and participant conversion remain priorities for the next cycle. The initiative is well-positioned for continued growth and impact.

CSPATHSHALA

Introduction

To teach computing as a science in all schools, the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) India started CSpathshala (www.cspathshala.org) in 2016. The key objectives were to influence policy to enable its introduction into the curricula, create draft curriculum and content, build teacher capacity and create a community of practice. CSpathshala has created curriculum and content for grades 1-8, trained over 25,000 teachers and built a robust community of practice. Over a million students, largely from government schools in rural areas have been learning CT using the CSpathshala unplugged curriculum. Tamil Nadu SCERT has integrated CT into its mathematics curriculum since 2017. 30,000+ government schools in Tamil Nadu are learning CT in regional language through this curriculum. CSpathshala advocacy efforts paid off and the [National Education Policy 2020](#) recommends that computational thinking be taught from foundational stages. The National Curricula Framework 2023 follow through and recommends curriculum proposed by CSpathshala be taught in middle school.

Organization Overview

#	Name	Role
1	Vipul Shah	Chair
2	Sonia Garcha	Core member
3	R Ramanujam	Advisor

Activity Highlights

In 2025-26:

1. Maharashtra SCERT included CSpathshala CT content and Bebras task into Math workbooks book it for Grades 1 to 5.
2. The 2024 Bebras India Computational Thinking Challenge was offered for age groups 8-19 in 12 languages: English, Marathi, Gujarati, Hindi, Bangla, Bodo, Punjabi, Kannada, Odia, Tamil, Telugu and Assamese and is conducted for free. The challenge saw participation of 250,712 students from 26 states in 12 languages in age groups 8-18. . The National Rank #1 students were directly selected for Stage 2 of Indian AI Olympiad (INAIO).
3. The Seventh Annual Conference on Computational Thinking in Schools (CTIS 2025) was organised by CSpathshala, an ACM India education initiative from 24th to 26th July, 2025 at IISER, Pune and hosted by GK Gurukul School, Pune and SCTR's PICT ACM Student Chapter (PASC). The three-day national-level conference brought together more than 350 educators, researchers, and school teachers and an online participation of 1500+ across 18 Indian states.
4. CSpathshala continued the training programs in the hybrid mode and trained nearly 3000+ teachers through 11 awareness workshops and training programs.

Partnerships:

1. We partnered with Agastya Foundation, Tata Steel Foundation, Pratham Foundation, American India Foundation, Piramal Foundation. AP Social Welfare, Raspberry Pi Foundation, UP Samaj Kalyan, Goa SCERT and CARES Goa to enable participation of students in the Bebras India Challenge. Continued efforts in working with State Governments : AP Social Welfare. Maharashtra SCERT and Goa SCERT.
2. In partnership with Tata Steel Foundation we reached out to remote regions of Odisha and Jharkhand to improve children's learning levels and expose them to new knowledge areas and skills. These regions are tribally dense and forested, with hilly terrain. They are highly underserved in terms of schools and teachers. The majority of the students are first-generation learners with no home support. A large number of them fall out of schooling and get engaged in child labour. We started an experiment to introduce computational thinking to such underserved communities through Bebras CT tasks and we had over 75,000+ students participate offline in 2025 Bebras India Challenge.
3. With Agastya Foundation support we were able to translate the Bebras tasks to Assamese and Bodo and also give students from Assam and Bodoland an opportunity to participate in the challenge



Bebras India Challenge at Government U. P. S Sainipada block Phulbani (Kandhamal), Odisha

Comments and Future Plans

In future the committee would like to focus more on the following points:

- CSpathshala will continue to focus its efforts with the government to mainstream CT, empower teachers and increase its reach in rural areas.
- Partner with NGOs in the education sector to make CT education available to all.
- Increase the reach of the Bebras challenge to more states possibly in partnership with DOE.

COMPUTATIONAL THINKING IN SCHOOLS (CTiS)

Introduction

The CTiS conference is an annual event organised by the ACM India and the CSpashshala community. It aims to bring together teachers, educators and researchers to discuss innovations, best practices and issues pertaining to curriculum, pedagogy, policy and implementation, related to bringing computational thinking to schools.

Organization Overview

Steering Committee

Name

- Sonia Garcha (Chair)
- Lakshmi Gandhi
- Chitra Babu
- Geeta Ghormade
- Neeldhara Misra
- Madhavan Mukund
- R Ramanujam
- Vipul Shah

Activity Highlights

The Seventh Annual Conference on Computational Thinking in Schools (CTiS 2025) was organised by CSpashshala, an ACM India education initiative from 24th to 26th July, 2025 at IISER, Pune and hosted by GK Gurukul School, Pune and SCTR's PICT ACM Student Chapter (PASC). both in-person and online.

- I. The three-day national-level conference brought together more than 350 educators, researchers, and school teachers and an online participation of 1500+ across 18 Indian states.
- II. The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Kamladevi Awate, Joint Director, SCERTM Pune. The Program Committee chairs Chitra Babu and Lakshmi Gandhi shared that over 490 abstracts were received from teachers across India, of which 82 were selected for presentation as well as poster/demo through a rigorous review process by the program committee.

Highlights of CTiS 2025:

- Keynote Address by Jane Waite from the Raspberry Pi Computing Education Research Centre, UK, on "AI in Education – Emerging Research Themes"
- Hands-on Workshop on "Artificial Intelligence tools to increase Teaching Productivity" by Mamta Manaktala, Senior Learning Manager, Raspberry Pi Educational Services
- Panel Discussion on "AI in School Education" with panelists Dr Arpita Karkarey, Walnut School, Mr. Anay Kamat, Goa, Mr. Ajinkya Ambarkhane, Meghe Group of Schools, Dr. Manisha Yadav, MHSCERT and moderator: Prof. R Ramanujam, Azim Premji University

The keynote talk discussed the three different aspects of bringing AI to school education. One is using AI tools to increase the productivity of teachers, Second is using AI tools to teach other subjects more effectively. Third is teaching the concepts of AI itself.

The panel discussed the pros and cons of teaching AI to school children, its impact on learning and assessments, and challenges faced by both private as well as government schools. The panel concluded that there are no issues with the first and second usage of AI. It is only for the third category, more understanding should emerge in deciding what exactly should be taught in AI for the school children.

The workshop introduced the various AI tools based on Large Language Models(LLMs) and provided a methodology to come up with suitable prompts based on the intended objective and also to refine them further to get accurate results. It also cautioned the participating teachers that the result could be inaccurate or wrong sometimes because of potential hallucinations.

CTiS2025 provided an opportunity to over 120 teachers to share their innovative ideas on the pedagogy used in teaching CT through a wide range of themes across CT in Math and Science Education, Social Science and Language Learning, Unplugged CT activities, Inclusive Education, Coding and Physical Computing and Professional Development of teachers.

Hemant Vandekar – Head New Initiatives spoke about Sakal’s Newspaper in Education (Sakal NIE) which is a novel program that helps students ‘Stay Ahead’ and aims at making ‘Learning Fun’. He also shared about how the schools and teachers can collaborate and contribute to Sakal NIE.

The conference showcased the growing adoption of CT-based pedagogies in classrooms through innovations and adaptation to local context across rural and urban schools across India. The sponsors for the conference included SIILC, Sakal NIE, Icertis, Microsoft Research, Sunrise Infotech and Unity ERP and LMS.

The journey of CTiS since 2019, the conference has grown into a community of practice by providing a platform for teachers, educators, and experts to share best practices and address challenges in implementing Computational Thinking (CT) in schools. CTiS 2025 showcased the increasing adoption of CT-based pedagogies in the classrooms—demonstrating innovation and local adaptation in both rural and urban schools. The conference was supported by ACM India’s Institutional Sponsors: Persistent (Platinum), TCS Research (Platinum), Google (Gold), Flipkart (Silver), IBM (Silver); and CTiS sponsors, TCS Empowers, SIILC, Sakal NIE, Microsoft, Icertis and Unity.



Comments and Future Plans

In future the committee would like to focus more on the following points:

1. Collaboration with SCERT and other partners for Regional conferences
2. Mentor selected papers for International conferences

COMPUTE CONFERENCE

The 8th edition of ACM Compute conference was held on 7, 8 and 9th of December, 2025 at IIT Ropar.

Compute had a vibrant program that comprised:

- Six keynote speakers including Maria Mercedes (Didith) T. Rodrigo (Ateneo de Manila University), Tanuja Ganu (Microsoft), Clif Kussmaul (Green Mango Associates), Shoaib Dar (Pi Jam Foundation), and Radhika Trikha (AWaDH, IIT Ropar) and Tanmoy Chakraborty (ACM OCCE award winner, IIT Delhi)
- Eight workshops, a few from industry and rest from academia. Each workshop was of 90 minutes duration.
- Two panels (“Collaboration or Conflict? Navigating Industry–Academic Engagements” and “Co-Teaching with AI: How Far Can (Should) We Go?”)
- Research paper sessions, having 12 full papers and 5 short papers. The selected papers included high-quality contributions addressing diverse aspects of computing education, including pedagogical innovations, curriculum design, educational technologies, and experience reports from classroom implementations. These accepted papers were published with Springer as Proceedings.
- Best practices session highlighting best teaching practices in CS education.
- Posters sessions - all the selected papers as well as best practices participants were given the opportunity to present their work as posters as well.
- A unique session titled "Architecting the Future of CS Education" was organised to honour the legacy of Prof. V Rajaraman.

A modified format of technical paper presentation was experimented, where each presenter was given a time slot for presentation, then a dedicated time slot for the audience to discuss in groups, followed by Q&A session with the presenters. This interactive format led to greater audience participation and understanding of ideas. Technical paper presentations and workshops were held parallel sessions.

Compute 2025 had a total of 120 registrations and significantly more workshops compared to the previous editions. Travel grants and fellowships were given to eligible registrants to facilitate more participation.

The conference was financially supported by [Annam.ai](#), Neysa, NPTEL, Github, IIT Madras BS Program, Flame University, Google, along with ACM India Council. The conference was technically endorsed by iSIGCSE, SIGCSE and ACM India.

Comments and Future Plans

COMPUTE’26 will be held at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore from Dec 3 to Dec 5, 2026.

INDIAN NATIONAL AI OLYMPIAD (INAIO) 2025

Introduction

The Indian National AI Olympiad (INAIO) 2025 marked a significant milestone in India’s efforts to nurture school-level talent in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML). ACM India and ACM IKDD jointly organized INAIO in partnership with IIIT Hyderabad that hosted the training cum selection camp and also provided its students volunteers to help at all the stages of the Olympiad. INAIO 2025 served as India’s official national selection process for the International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence (IOAI) 2025.

The Olympiad was designed to identify, encourage, and mentor talented students from Classes 9-12 across India, equipping them with foundational and advanced AI knowledge while fostering a culture of responsible innovation and problem solving.

INAIO 2025 witnessed participation from students across multiple states and school systems, reflecting the growing interest in AI education among Indian school students. The program combined theoretical understanding, practical problem-solving, and exposure to modern AI tools and concepts.

The Olympiad also helped establish a national ecosystem for school-level AI excellence and created awareness among students, parents, teachers, and schools regarding emerging opportunities in AI education and research.

Organization Overview

#	Name	Role
1	Atul Kumar	Core Committee Member
2	Ponnurangam Kumaraguru	Core Committee Member
3	Srujana Merugu	Core Committee Member
4	Vipul Shah	Core Committee Member

Activity Highlights

INAIO 2025 was conceived as a national-level multi-stage Olympiad designed to identify and mentor India's best school-level AI talent.

The Olympiad was open to school students studying in Classes 9–12 who were Indian citizens and studying in India.

The program structure included:

1. National-level screening and evaluation
2. Merit-based selection of high-performing students
3. Advanced training and mentoring
4. Selection of students representing India at IOAI 2025

The Olympiad emphasized:

- AI fundamentals
- Machine learning concepts
- Computational problem solving
- Data analysis
- Ethical AI considerations
- Practical AI applications

The initiative received strong interest from students, teachers, parents, and schools across the country.

Registration and Outreach

Registration for INAIO 2025 was conducted online. ACM India, ACM IKDD and associated volunteers carried out extensive outreach through social media campaigns, ACM India website and mailing lists.

INAIO Stage 1 Test

The Stage 1 test aimed to test basic machine learning theory. It was conducted online with multiple choice and single word/number answers.

INAIO Stage 2 Test

Top performers from other related olympiads were allowed to enter INAIO Stage 2 directly:

- INOI 2024 and INOI 2025 medallists
- Participants of the PLO 2025 training camp
- Students qualified to take INMO 2023–2024 or INMO 2024–2025 based on their RMO performance
- Bebras India Computing Challenge highest score achievers (Mahavira and Ramanujam categories only)

State 2 test was also conducted online using a professional AI proctoring platform. Stage 2 test had both theory and coding sections.

INAIO Stage 3

Students selected for Stage 3 were trained for over a month by conducting online lectures and practice sessions. Top AI/ML academic and industry researchers taught different topics of AI and ML to the selected students. Student volunteers from IIIT Hyderabad helped in conducting the online practice sessions. Stage 3 concluded with an online proctored test that included multiple coding problems.

INAIO Stage 4: Training Cum Selection Camp at IIIT Hyderabad

25 students were selected for a 10 day training cum selection camp at IIIT Hyderabad campus. The camp ran during the last week of May and the first week of June 2025. The camp featured classroom lectures by renowned academic and industry researchers in the pre-lunch half of the day and intense practice session with live leaderboard in the post lunch half of the day. Several students from IIIT Hyderabad and young engineers/researchers from industry helped in conducting these sessions. Two tests were conducted during the camp. Two teams of 4 students each were selected to represent India at IOAI 2025 (held in Beijing).



INAIO Stage 5

Two selected teams to represent India were assigned a team lead each (experienced researchers from the industry). Team leads along with the INAIO core team and student volunteers conducted online practice sessions for around two months to prepare the teams for the international event. These sessions focused on the IOAI problems format and the coding/test environment. In parallel the INAIO team also worked on the paper work, registration of the team members, team lead and the observer for the IOAI, obtaining invitation letters and other documents from the international event organizers and working on all the other logistics related to team travel.

Team India at IOAI 2025 in Beijing

The 2nd International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence (IOAI 2025) was held in Beijing, China from August 2–9, 2025. This was Team India's debut at IOAI.

The following teams from India participated at IOAI 2025 in Beijing:

Team 1:

1. Ishaan Gangwani
2. Roumak Das
3. Soham Sen
4. Samik Goyal

Team Lead: Abhishek Divekar

Team 2:

1. Arjun Tyagi
2. Himaneesh Sompalle
3. Savyasachi Singh
4. Rayan Banerjee

Team Lead: Vikas Raykar

Observer (for both the teams): Srujana Murugu

IOAI 2025 was the largest high-school AI competition in the world, bringing together 310 students from 63 countries in 80 teams.

Our two teams achieved an outstanding medal tally for their very first appearance:

 **Gold** – Arjun Tyagi, Roumak Das, Soham Sen

 **Silver** – Rayan Banerjee, Samik Goyal

 **Bronze** – Himaneesh Sompalle

 **Honourable Mention** – Ishaan Gangwani

 Special appreciation to **Savyasachi Singh** for his valuable contributions.

Team India placed 3rd on the Olympic-style medal leaderboard and 6th in average task score, an extraordinary feat for our first year.

	IOAI Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	Participants
1	Russia	6	1	1	8	8
2	Poland	3	3	1	7	8
3	India	3	2	1	6	8
4	Kazakhstan	3	1	3	7	8
4	Vietnam	3	1	3	7	8
6	Singapore	2	5	0	7	8
7	Romania	1	4	3	8	8
8	Hong Kong, China	1	1	2	4	8
8	Japan	1	1	2	4	4
10	Sweden	1	0	4	5	8



Comments and Future Plans

The INAIO team is busy conducting the INAIO 2026. Stage 3 online sessions are underway currently after the Stage 1 and Stage 2 tests like INAIO 2025. IIIT Hyderabad has generously offered to host the training cum selection camp for 2026 as well. The camp will be organized at IIIT-H campus from 13-22 June 2026. We hope for another great show of Team India at IOAI. The IOAI 2026 will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan during 2-8 Aug 2026.

MoUs

On September 12, 2025, Prof. Meenakshi D'Souza (President, ACM India) signed a Memorandum of Understanding between ACM India and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). Prof. Viraj Kumar (Co-Chair, ACM India Educational Initiatives) also attended the event.



The MoU establishes an agreement between ACM India and AICTE to collaborate on faculty development programs, expert lectures, and other initiatives to enhance Computer Science education and faculty training in India. ACM India will serve as AICTE's knowledge partner, contributing expertise in designing and delivering high-quality programs. Both organizations will share access to their knowledge resources and jointly organize events, workshops, conferences, and training programs. A steering committee with representatives from both parties will oversee and coordinate the collaboration. The MoU is valid for three years from the date of signing and may be extended through mutual written consent.

Initial discussions for joint ACM India-AICTE Faculty Development Programmes under the terms of this MoU are ongoing.

VII. COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The ACM India Communication Committee is dedicated to ensuring timely, effective, and consistent communication across all platforms associated with ACM India. This includes publicizing events, maintaining digital presence, and facilitating interactions with various stakeholders through online and offline channels. The committee plays a key role in building and maintaining ACM India's visibility and engagement with the computing community. The following sections outline the committee's organizational structure, activity highlights from the past year, and its future plans.

Organization Overview

Name	Role
Aritra Banik	Co-Coordinator, Social Media & Web Presence
Revathi Venkataraman	Co-Coordinator, Strategy, Website & Content Oversight
Geetanjali Kale	Member
Ponnurangam Kumaraguru	Execom Liaison
Sachin Lodha	Member, Membership & Chapters Communication
Maria D'Souza	Member
Venkatesh Raman	Communication Lead – Awards
Raj Sharma	Communication Lead – External Engagements
Sonia Garcha	Communication Lead – Education
Sriparna Saha	Communication Lead – Education
Ayan Mondal	Communication Lead – RFC

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

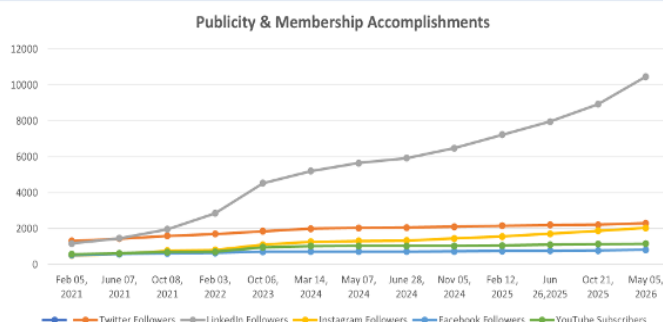
This year saw several initiatives aimed at improving ACM India's digital outreach and streamlining communication efforts:

- **Mailing Lists and Notifications:** Once an email is received through the mailing list, the communication team promotes it via social media by creating engaging posts, ensuring visibility and timely outreach.
- **ACM India Website:** With the support of the Communication Leads from Chapters, Membership, Awards, External Engagement and RFC, the homepage and the website contents have now been revamped after conducting multiple rounds of discussions with the HQ team.
- **Social Media Management:** ACM India's social media handles (Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube) are actively maintained. Content ranges from event promotions to celebrating achievements

across the ACM community. A snapshot of the social media pages shows a clear upward trend in audience engagement in LinkedIn.

Publicity & Membership Accomplishments

Social Media	Feb 05, 2021	June 07, 2021	Oct 08, 2021	Feb 03, 2022	Oct 06, 2023	Mar 14, 2024	May 07, 2024	June 28, 2024	Nov 05, 2024	Feb 12, 2025	Jun 26, 2025	Oct 21, 2025	May 05, 2026
Twitter Followers	1308	1434	1589	1704	1849	1990	2042	2058	2104	2158	2199	2216	2294
LinkedIn Followers	1162	1465	1957	2856	4529	5204	5655	5918	6483	7233	7960	8925	10466
Instagram Followers	505	593	759	804	1104	1268	1311	1334	1450	1556	1710	1877	2040
Facebook Followers	529	573	617	646	705	720	724	723	734	755	765	772	814
YouTube Subscribers	563	625	686	711	956	1020	1030	1030	1040	1060	1100	1130	1150



- YouTube Channel Management: Discussions were initiated with few vendors. However, progress could not be made due to the limited resources. Challenges include the dominance of content from the Summer-Winter School and Webinar Series, inconsistent metadata, limited resources, and the need for better quality control.

COMMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

While progress has been encouraging, the committee acknowledges challenges in managing multiple platforms and ensuring timely updates with limited manpower. There is a growing need for dedicated resources to maintain and improve the pace and quality of communications.

YouTube Channel Revamp

- Deliverables: Standardized video thumbnails, playlists by themes, video tagging and indexing
- Timeline: Ongoing, with major update by September 2026
- Budget: Recruitment of a company or individuals to manage and process the video content of the events organised by ACM India

BUDGET REQUIREMENT

The committee proposes the recruitment of a company or dedicated personnel to assist with social media management, support content creation and dissemination for ACM India events and activities, and oversee video content production and maintenance of the ACM India YouTube channel.

The Communication Committee remains committed to improving visibility, engagement, and clarity in all ACM India-related communications, both internally and with the wider computing community.

VIII. ACM-W INDIA

INTRODUCTION

ACM India-W seeks to take forward the tasks of the ACM community, with a particular focus on the empowerment of women in computing in India.

ACM India-W aims to provide social and professional support for women in computing, and its proposed activities include:

1. Facilitate technical growth of women by organizing invited lectures, seminars, workshops and informal meetings
2. Provide a platform for the sharing of information, resources, ideas and experiences
3. Support women in their professional career growth and help them to face the challenges in their work environment
4. Encourage them to participate in computer-related studies and research

ACM India-W's goal would be also to promote computer literacy, particularly in rural India, with the objective of empowering underprivileged women and children, to enable them to be independent and self-reliant.

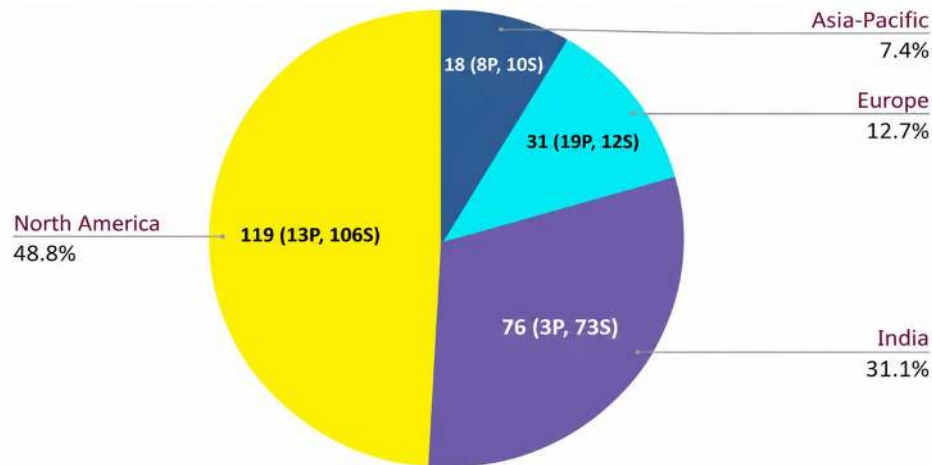
Organization Overview

Name	Role	ACMI-W Subcommittees				
	ACMI-W Committee	Communication and publicity Committee	Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee	Outreach and Collaboration Committee	Student Chapter Engagement Committee	Buddy Project Committee
Geetanjali Kale	Chair	Member				
Alpana Dubey	Co-chair	Member			Member	
Renuka Sindhgatta	Secretary and Treasurer				Member	
Mini Ulanat	Member			Member	Chair	Member
Manik Gupta	Member		Chair	Member		
Sriparna Saha	Member			Member		Member
Nita Thakare	Member		Member	Member		
Sonia Garcha	Member		Member		Member	
Sachi Choudhari	Member	Chair	Member			
Jayashree Mohan	Member			Chair		Member
Rutvi Shah	Past Chair					Chair

Name	Role	ACMI-W Subcommittees				
Meenakshi D'souza	ACM India Execom Representative					



Region-wise Chapter Statistics of ACM-W



ACM-W India is contributing to 31% in terms of number of chapters. There are 73 ACM-W student Chapters and 3 ACM-W professional chapters.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

The ACM India Women Committee is deeply committed to celebrating, empowering, and encouraging women in technology through a vibrant portfolio of annual events. These include highly anticipated hackathons, engaging coding competitions, insightful research symposiums, and focused summer/winter schools exclusively designed for girls and women. Hosted across geographically diverse and prestigious institutions throughout India, these initiatives yield significant benefits for both participating institutes and individuals. For institutes, they foster visibility, attract talented female students and researchers, and strengthen their commitment to diversity and inclusion. For participants, these platforms offer invaluable opportunities to: gain hands-on experience, network with peers and mentors, learn from leading and successful women in the field, share their innovative solutions and research, find inspiring role models, and build a strong sense of community support. The dedicated volunteers of the ACM India Women Committee work tirelessly, united by a shared vision and goal: to foster the upliftment and advancement of women in the technology landscape.

7th Edition of ACM-W India Grad Cohort for Women in Research 2025

The 7th Edition of ACM-W India Grad Cohort for Women in Research was successfully organized at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Kanpur, during 6–7 July 2025. As a flagship mentoring initiative of ACM-W India, the event aimed to support, inspire, and empower women graduate students and early-career researchers in computing and related disciplines across the country.

The two-day programme brought together distinguished academicians, industry leaders, researchers, and students for insightful discussions, mentoring sessions, technical talks, and networking opportunities. The

event commenced with inaugural remarks by Prof. Preeti Malakar and Prof. Surender Baswana, who emphasized the importance of inclusion and the growing impact of women researchers in computing.

Dr. Aruna Rajan — “Doing Something Over Being Someone: Making Career Choices”

Shared insights on building meaningful careers by focusing on impactful work, personal growth, and long-term purpose rather than titles alone.

Prof. Maya Ramanath (IIT Delhi) — “Research Career in a Nutshell”

Discussed the realities, opportunities, and challenges of pursuing a successful research career in academia and beyond.

Prof. Nitin Saxena (Professor, IIT Kanpur) — Fireside Chat

Engaged participants in an inspiring discussion on research, innovation, perseverance, and academic leadership.

Dr. Renuka Sindhgatta (IBM IRL) — “How to Conduct Systematic Research – Industry Perspective”

Highlighted structured research approaches, industrial problem-solving, and innovation-driven methodologies.

Prof. Urbi Chatterjee (IIT Kanpur) — “How to Conduct Systematic Research – Academia Perspective”

Provided guidance on conducting rigorous academic research, identifying impactful problems, and publishing effectively.

Dr. Jayashree Mohan (Microsoft) — “Pitch Perfect: Communicate Your Research in 60 Seconds”

Conducted an engaging session on research communication, presentation skills, and concise scientific storytelling.

Prof. Priyanka Bagade (IIT Kanpur) — “What After Ph.D.? Transition to Academia”

Discussed academic career pathways, faculty life, and strategies for transitioning into academia.

Dr. Vini Kanwar (IBM IRL) — “What After Ph.D.? Transition to Industry”

Shared insights into industry research careers, interdisciplinary opportunities, and professional growth after doctoral studies.

Prof. Rajat Mittal — “Quantum Computing in a Nutshell”

Introduced participants to the fundamentals and emerging developments in quantum computing.

Dr. Anupama Ray — “Emerging Careers in Quantum Computing”

Explored future career opportunities, research directions, and applications in the rapidly growing field of quantum technologies.

Dr. Sonia Garcha (CSPathshala) — “CSPathshala”

Presented initiatives aimed at promoting computational thinking and computer science education at the school level.

Panel Discussion: “Beyond the Thesis: Surviving & Thriving in the Real World”

Featured discussions on career transitions, professional challenges, networking, work-life balance, and personal growth beyond graduate research.

Interactive segments including the “Ask Me Anything” panel, mentoring discussions, “Pitch Perfect: Communicate Your Research in 60 Seconds,” and the panel discussion on “Beyond the Thesis: Surviving & Thriving in the Real World” encouraged active participation and peer learning among attendees. The event also featured a visit to the C3i Center at IIT Kanpur, providing participants with exposure to cutting-edge research and innovation initiatives.

The Grad Cohort 2025 concluded with enriching mentoring interactions, collaborative networking, and inspiring closing remarks, reinforcing ACM-W India's commitment to fostering a strong, inclusive, and supportive research community for women in computing.



Lady Ada'25 – National Level Coding Contest

The 2025 edition of Lady Ada'25, the flagship national-level coding contest of ACM-W India, was successfully organized by the UPES ACM Student Chapter and UPES ACM-W Student Chapter at the UPES Campus, Dehradun. The event aimed to celebrate and encourage women in computing by providing a competitive and inspiring platform for aspiring coders from across the country.

The contest journey commenced in August 2025 with registrations from participants nationwide, reflecting enthusiastic engagement and participation from students passionate about coding and problem-solving.

The competition was conducted in multiple stages:

- Round 1, held on 27th September 2025, witnessed an overwhelming response from participants across India.
- Round 2, organized on 4th October 2025, shortlisted the Top 20 participants based on their coding performance and analytical abilities.
- The Grand Finale, conducted on 31st October 2025 at the UPES Campus, brought together the Top 10 finalists, who competed live in an exciting showcase of logic, innovation, creativity, and technical excellence.

The event concluded with the announcement of the winners:

- 🥇 First Place: Prit Thombare
- 🥈 Second Place: Vani Gupta
- 🥉 Third Place: Niomi Soni

Lady Ada'25 successfully created an empowering environment that encouraged women students to strengthen their technical capabilities, problem-solving skills, and confidence in competitive programming.

The success of the event was made possible through the dedicated efforts of the organizing teams, mentors, volunteers, judges, and participants. ACM-W India extends sincere appreciation to UPES for hosting the event and for its continuous support in promoting women in technology.

Special thanks are also extended to the UPES ACM Student Chapter and UPES ACM-W Student Chapter for their outstanding coordination, commitment, and contribution in making Lady Ada'25 a grand success.

The event reaffirmed ACM-W India's mission to inspire, support, and empower women in computing while fostering a strong and inclusive technical community.





ACM-W India Celebrations for Women in Computing (AICWiC'25) - UPES Dehradun

The ACM India Celebration of Women in Computing (AICWiC 2025), the annual flagship event of ACM-W India, was successfully organized on 1st November 2025 at UPES, Dehradun. The event brought together women leaders, researchers, academicians, industry professionals, entrepreneurs, and students from across the country to celebrate excellence, innovation, and leadership in computing.

The programme aimed to inspire and empower women in technology by providing a collaborative platform for networking, mentorship, research exchange, and discussions on emerging technological trends and career opportunities.

Keynote Sessions

1. Ms. Gnanapriya Chidambaranathan, Associate Vice President & Unit Technology Officer, Infosys
Talk Title: “My Journey: Breaking Barriers in the Field of Tech Today and Tomorrow – Relevance in the Age of Agentic AI, The Future of Coding”.
2. The session highlighted the evolving landscape of technology, the impact of Agentic AI, and the importance of adaptability and innovation in future technology careers.
3. Ms. Bhavana (Singhal) S., Senior Computer Scientist II, Adobe
Talk Title: “My Journey as a Technologist and the Lessons Learnt on the Way” She shared her professional journey, experiences in the technology industry, and valuable lessons on growth, resilience, and leadership.
4. Dr. Khushboo Bardiya Bhurat, Founder, KBIP Services
Talk Title: “The New Updates in the IP Laws in Relation to Computer-Related Inventions”
The session provided insights into recent developments in intellectual property laws and their implications for innovation and technology-driven research.

Panel Discussion

Panel Discussion Topic: “Redefining Success: Work-Life Balance by Women Tech Leaders”

The panel discussion featured distinguished women leaders from academia, industry, entrepreneurship, and global research organizations who shared perspectives on leadership, career growth, personal well-being, and balancing professional and personal responsibilities.

National Poster Presentations

The event also hosted poster presentation sessions where participants showcased innovative research contributions, emerging technologies, and socially impactful computing solutions.

Acknowledgements

ACM-W India expresses sincere gratitude to:

- Infosys for sponsoring and supporting initiatives that advance women in technology.
- UPES Dehradun for hosting the event and providing an excellent environment for collaboration and learning.
- UPES ACM Student Chapter and UPES ACM-W Student Chapter for their dedicated efforts, coordination, and hospitality.
- All speakers, panelists, jury members, volunteers, and participants for their invaluable contributions in making AICWiC 2025 a meaningful and successful celebration.



NariYukthi TechHack – 10th Edition of ACM-W India National Level Hackathon

The 10th Edition of NariYukthi TechHack, the flagship national-level hackathon of ACM-W India, was successfully organized on 23–24 January 2026 at the Infosys Hubballi Campus under the inspiring theme:

“Women, Innovation & Impact”

The event celebrated the spirit of innovation, inclusivity, collaboration, and women-led technological advancement by bringing together talented students from across the country to solve real-world challenges through technology.

The hackathon was co-hosted by Infosys, Hubballi, India in collaboration with:

- Poornima College of Engineering, Jaipur
- KLE Technological University, Hubballi

Participation and Selection Process

The competition witnessed an overwhelming national response with:

- 300+ team registrations received during Round 1
- 57 teams shortlisted for Round 2 proposal presentations
- Top 20 finalist teams selected for the Grand Finale at Infosys Hubballi

The hackathon was conducted in three stages:

Round 1 – Idea Submission & Screening

Participants submitted innovative ideas addressing socially impactful and technology-driven problem statements aligned with the hackathon theme.

Round 2 – Proposal Presentation

Shortlisted teams presented their proposed solutions, implementation plans, and innovation strategies before the evaluation panel.

Round 3 – Prototype Development & Final Presentation

The Grand Finale was conducted as a 24-hour hackathon beginning at 9:00 AM on 23rd January 2026 at the Infosys Hubballi Campus. Finalists developed working prototypes based on problem statements revealed on the day of the finale and presented their solutions before the jury panel.

Participants reported early morning for registration and briefing sessions, after which they engaged in intensive collaborative development, brainstorming, coding, testing, and presentation activities throughout the event. Seating arrangements, internet connectivity, dormitory accommodation, and basic facilities were provided to support the teams during the hackathon.

The Top 3 winning teams were invited to showcase their innovations during the follow-up flagship event, Celebration of Women in Computing, held on 24th January 2026.

Evaluation Criteria

Projects were evaluated based on:

- Innovation & Originality – Creativity and uniqueness of the solution
- Technical Feasibility – Scalability, robustness, and implementation quality
- Relevance to Theme – Alignment with the identified focus areas
- Impact & Sustainability – Long-term social and technological impact
- Presentation & Demonstration – Clarity, articulation, and demonstration quality
- Implementation & Team Collaboration – Execution efficiency, coordination, and documentation

Event Significance

NariYukthi TechHack 2026 provided participants with an immersive platform to strengthen technical expertise, collaborative problem-solving abilities, innovation thinking, and leadership skills. The event successfully fostered an empowering ecosystem where women students could confidently contribute to impactful technological solutions addressing real-world challenges.

The hackathon also enabled students to interact with mentors, academicians, industry experts, and peers, encouraging interdisciplinary learning, networking, and innovation-driven thinking.

Acknowledgements

ACM-W India expresses sincere gratitude to:

- Infosys Hubballi for hosting the event and providing an inspiring innovation ecosystem
- KLE Technological University, Hubballi

- Poornima College of Engineering, Jaipur

for their valuable collaboration and support in organizing the event successfully.

Special appreciation is extended to all mentors, jury members, volunteers, coordinators, and participants whose enthusiasm, dedication, and teamwork contributed to the grand success of NariYukthi TechHack 2026.

The event reaffirmed ACM-W India's continued commitment toward empowering women in computing.



ACM-W India Celebrations for Women in Computing (AICWiC) - Infosys Hubballi

The ACM India Celebration of Women in Computing (AICWiC) hosted at the Infosys Campus, Hubballi on 25th January 2026, brought together students, academicians, industry experts, and technology leaders for a day filled with insightful discussions, collaboration, and inspiration.

The event provided a unique platform for students from nearby institutes to engage with experts from industry and academia while exploring emerging technologies, future-ready skills, innovation, and evolving career opportunities in computing and technology.

Keynote Sessions

The programme featured engaging keynote sessions by:

- Allahbaksh (AB) Asadullah, Center Head Infosys, Hubballi, India
- Dr. Girish Maskeri, AVP & Head of Research Group, Siemens, India
- Manish Kumar Jaiswal, CEO Deshpandey Startup, Hubballi, India

who shared valuable industry perspectives, technological trends, and insights into innovation-driven growth and leadership.

The event also featured a thought-provoking address by a speaker from the Deshpande Skilling Foundation on:

“Future Skills in a Fast-Changing World”

The session emphasized the importance of adaptability, continuous learning, innovation, and employability in today’s rapidly evolving technological landscape.

A major highlight of the discussions focused on the growing impact of AI-powered tools such as GitHub Copilot, Replit, and Large Language Models (LLMs), and the importance of maintaining strong computer science fundamentals despite increasing automation in software development.

The speakers emphasized that while AI tools accelerate development and productivity, core subjects such as compiler design, computer architecture, algorithms, and systems thinking continue to remain essential foundations for innovation, responsible technology development, and long-term problem-solving capabilities.

Panel Discussion

One of the most engaging segments of the event was the panel discussion featuring distinguished leaders from academia and industry:

- Renuka Sindhgatta
- Allahbaksh (AB) Asadullah
- Girish Maskeri
- Uma Mudenagudi
- Dr. Sachi Choudhary

The discussion explored:

- Emerging technologies and AI-driven transformation
- Industry expectations from graduates
- Bridging skill gaps between academia and industry
- The future of higher education
- Innovation and research opportunities
- Preparing students for rapidly changing technological environments

The interactive nature of the session encouraged enthusiastic student participation, thoughtful questions, and meaningful dialogue between experts and attendees.

Student Engagement and Learning

The event witnessed active participation from students who engaged enthusiastically throughout the keynote sessions, discussions, and networking interactions. The collaborative environment enabled participants to gain practical insights into industry trends, career pathways, and the importance of balancing technical skills with strong foundational knowledge.

Acknowledgements

ACM-W India extends sincere gratitude to:

- Infosys Hubballi for hosting the event and providing a collaborative and inspiring environment
- All keynote speakers, panelists, organizers, volunteers, and participants for their valuable contributions
- The supporting institutions and student communities for their enthusiastic involvement

The event successfully reinforced the significance of industry-academia collaboration in preparing future technology leaders and empowering students with the knowledge, confidence, and skills required for a rapidly evolving digital future.



NCR Celebration of Women in Computing (NCWiC) 2026

The NCR Celebration of Women in Computing (NCWiC) 2026 was successfully organized on 24 April 2026 at IILM University, Gurugram, by the School of Computer Science & Engineering in collaboration with ACM-W India. Conducted in hybrid mode, the event brought together students, academicians, industry experts, entrepreneurs, government scientists, and researchers under the theme:

“Women in AI: Shaping the Intelligent Future”

The event served as a platform to celebrate the growing contributions of women in computing and Artificial Intelligence while fostering discussions around innovation, research, entrepreneurship, ethics, and emerging opportunities in AI-driven industries. Approximately 270 participants attended the event from multiple institutions across the NCR region and beyond.

The event aimed to:

- Celebrate and amplify the contributions of women in computing and AI
- Encourage dialogue on challenges and opportunities for women in technology
- Connect students with leaders from academia, industry, government, and entrepreneurship
- Promote mentorship, innovation, and peer learning
- Showcase student-led innovation through startup pitches and AI project presentations
- Strengthen ACM-W India collaborations across institutions in the NCR region

The programme commenced with registration and welcome tea, followed by the inaugural ceremony featuring the traditional lamp lighting ceremony and welcome addresses by:

- Dr. Preeti Mehta, ACM Coordinator
- Prof. Dr. Shamik Tiwari, Dean, SCSE, IILM University

The student anchors opened the event with the Sanskrit verse “Yatra naryastu pujiyante, ramante tatra devata”, setting an inspiring and inclusive tone for the celebration.

Panel Discussion

“Shaping the Intelligent Future: Challenges & Opportunities for Women in AI”

Moderated by Ms. Samridhi Singhal, the panel discussion featured distinguished speakers from industry, academia, healthcare, law, entrepreneurship, and government:

- Ms. Roma Jain, Assistant Vice President, Genpact
AI in Business & Digital Transformation
- Dr. Shelly Sachdeva, Associate Professor, NIT Delhi
Database Systems, Big Data & Data Analytics
- Dr. Vineeta Kumari, Scientist C, DST, Government of India
Women in STEM, Vigyan Jyoti & CURIE Initiatives
- Prof. (Dr.) Sujata Bali, Dean, School of Law, IILM University
AI Ethics, Governance & Regulatory Frameworks
- Ms. Aditi Garg, Founder, Trip Saverz
Entrepreneurship & Digital Innovation
- Dr. Rachita Munjal, Director, Fertility & IVF, Cloudnine Hospital
AI Applications in Healthcare

The discussion explored important themes including gender diversity in AI, AI ethics and governance, AI-driven enterprise transformation, women entrepreneurship, healthcare innovation, government initiatives supporting women in STEM, and inclusive computing communities.

Internship Offer Letter Distribution

A special recognition ceremony was conducted to honor students who secured internship opportunities. The offer letters were distributed by:

- Ms. Roma Jain

- Dr. Shelly Sachdeva

The ceremony highlighted IILM University's commitment toward industry-academia collaboration and student career development.

Expert Talk

Dr. Shikha Gupta, Research Scientist II, Vehant Technologies

Talk Title: "Reimagining Surveillance: The Role of AI and Computer Vision in Public Safety"

Dr. Shikha Gupta delivered an insightful session discussing the practical deployment of AI and computer vision technologies in smart city infrastructure, surveillance systems, crowd management, and public safety applications. The talk also highlighted the journey from academic research to large-scale industry implementation.

VentureHer 2026 – Women Startup Pitch Challenge

One of the major highlights of NCWIC 2026 was VentureHer 2026, the flagship student startup pitch and poster presentation competition focused on AI-driven innovation and entrepreneurship.

The competition featured:

- 15 participating teams
- Students from institutions including:
 - IILM University
 - VIPS-TC
 - Manav Rachna International Institute
 - MITS Gwalior
 - MAIT

Participants presented innovative AI-enabled startup ideas addressing domains such as education, healthcare, agriculture, tourism, energy optimization, e-commerce automation, and smart systems.

Evaluation Criteria

Projects were evaluated based on:

- Innovation & Uniqueness
- Feasibility & Practical Implementation
- AI Integration & Technology Usage
- Problem-Solving Approach
- Presentation & Communication Skills

Event Outcomes

The event successfully:

- Brought together women leaders from AI, law, healthcare, entrepreneurship, academia, and government
- Enabled students to interact with industry experts and researchers
- Encouraged innovation and entrepreneurship through startup pitches
- Strengthened the ACM-W India network across NCR institutions
- Promoted awareness around ethical and responsible AI adoption
- Connected academic participation with industry opportunities through internship recognitions

Participation Summary

- Total Participants: Approximately 270
- Participating Teams: 15

- Participating Institutions: 5
- Panelists: 6
- Expert Speakers: 1
- Students Receiving Internship Offers: 10

NCWiC 2026 successfully created a vibrant platform for dialogue, innovation, mentorship, and collaboration focused on empowering women in computing and Artificial Intelligence. The event reinforced ACM-W India's commitment toward fostering inclusive technology communities and inspiring the next generation of women leaders, innovators, and researchers in computing.



ACM India Celebration of Women in Computing (AIWiC) 2026 - Hyderabad Buddy Chapter

AICWiC'26 at SCETW ACM-W was successfully organized as a two-day event focused on responsible computing, ethical AI, leadership, inclusion, and innovation. The event brought together students, academicians, industry experts, and professionals for meaningful discussions on the evolving role of technology and community-driven impact.

Day 1 centered around the theme “Ethics, Trust & Responsible AI” and featured an inspiring keynote by Flt Lt Sonali Shirpurkar (Retd.), who shared reflections on resilience, discipline, and leadership under pressure. The panel discussion with Lt Col Ashutosh Jha (Retd.), Manoj Kumar Durbha, and Kushal Srivastava explored AI accountability, cybersecurity risks, legal frameworks, and workplace ethics. A major highlight was the poster presentation session on “Responsible AI: Gender Perspective in Algorithm Design,” where 15+ teams presented innovative approaches for reducing gender bias and building inclusive AI systems.

Day 2 focused on “Growth, Inclusion & Global Vision.” Arati Dixit delivered an insightful keynote emphasizing consistency, self-belief, and active community participation as pathways to leadership. The panel featuring Dr. Geetanjali Kale, Arati Dixit, Mini Ulanat, Sonakshi Goyal, Rajkumar Bonagiri, Dr. Manoj A. Patil, and Anuja Apte discussed leadership, inclusion, career growth, and adapting to industry realities. Participants were also inspired by virtual addresses from Yannis Ioannidis, President ACM, and Dr. Rukiye Altin, ACM-W Global Chair, who highlighted the importance of global collaboration and responsible innovation.

The event also hosted the Ideathon – “Tech That Makes a Difference,” which received 60+ registrations and shortlisted 22 teams presenting impactful technology-driven solutions for real-world challenges.

AICWiC'26 successfully created a collaborative platform for learning, innovation, and community engagement while reinforcing the importance of ethical technology, inclusive leadership, and responsible computing.



COMMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

ACMI India-W: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

ACMI-W committee comprises 10 members from various regions across India, including Tamil Nadu, Hyderabad, Pune, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, and Patna. Among them, six are from academia and four represent the industry, ensuring a balanced representation of both sectors.

Moving forward, we aim to further diversify regional representation within the committee. We also plan to involve more young women—undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD students—who have actively contributed to their ACM India-W student chapters. These enthusiastic individuals will be invited to join as volunteers, enriching the council with fresh perspectives and energy

Future Plans

ACMI-W's future plans involve the strategic rollout of various initiatives with the core goals of empowering women in computing, fostering stronger global collaboration, and promoting the interdisciplinary nature of the discipline. These efforts are designed to cultivate a more innovative and inclusive computing community.

1. Continue the annual flagship events NariYukti, LadyAda, Grad Cohort with diverse participation and improved quality of events.
2. Plan and execute at least five Celebrations in different regions of India.
3. Expanding Mentorship and Leadership Development: Providing structured mentorship programs and leadership training to support women's career advancement.
4. Deepening Industry Engagement: Strengthening partnerships with technology companies to create more opportunities for women in the workforce.
5. Strengthening Regional Chapters and Networks: Empowering regional ACM-W chapters to better serve the specific needs of women in their areas.
6. Global Collaboration through Buddy System: Introduce a buddy system that fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing among ACM India-W student chapters across various cities, regions, states, and countries. This initiative aims to connect students from different backgrounds and geographical locations, enabling them to exchange ideas, collaborate on projects, and provide mutual support.

Upcoming Event

Global Buddy Chapter Summit: ACMI-W is thrilled to announce the upcoming summit bringing together ACM student chapters from around the world. The summit is scheduled on 7th June 2025 and it will be hosted by Chennai ACMI-W Professional Chapter.

This initiative aims to connect students from different backgrounds and geographical locations, enabling them to exchange ideas, collaborate on projects, and provide mutual support. This summit will serve as a platform for chapters to share experiences, ideas, and best practices. Participants will be able to connect, learn, and inspire each other to make a positive impact in the global computing community.



Association for Computing Machinery

C/O Persistent Systems Ltd

Pingala - Aryabhata

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