Candidate for Executive Council Member
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Viraj Kumar
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BIOGRAPHY

Dr Viraj Kumar (Visiting Professor, Kotak-IISc AI-ML Centre, IISc) served as an ACM India Council member from 2020-24, chairing its Educational Initiatives committee. He contributed to two model CS curricula: AICTE (2022) and CS2023 (ACM/IEEE-CS) and chaired ACM India's COMPUTE'23 conference on CS education. His recent research is focused on adapting CS education in response to Generative AI. He co-authored IISc's report on "Emerging AI tools for Education and Research" and was a member of the Ministry of Education's Committee to study the impact of Generative AI on Engineering Education. He previously served as a consultant to the NEP2020 committee.

STATEMENT

My goal is to help higher education in India adapt to disruptive technologies such as Generative AI. NEP2020 states: "Our present education system's inability to cope with these rapid and disruptive changes places us individually and nationally at a perilous disadvantage in an increasingly competitive world." This concerns me, but I am excited to contribute to ACM India's efforts to address this threat. I have three objectives. First, I will help scale our prior efforts to offer high-quality Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) for CS faculty via a partnership between ACM India and AICTE, the regulatory authority for technical education. (Thus far, with ACM India support and in partnership with IIIT Delhi, NPTEL, and faculty colleagues, I have helped train over 250 CS faculty via FDPs.) Second, to help students prepare for the inevitable technological disruptions to the software industry, I will work closely with ACM India student chapters and industry members to help students develop a habit of working effectively with AI tools in multidisciplinary teams. Third, I will contribute further towards growing the community of CS education researchers in India, who are best placed to understand and address India-specific challenges, and develop research-based institutional, state, and national policies.