

Message from the COMSNETS Steering Committee

It gives us great pleasure to introduce the Eighteenth edition of the International Conference on COMmunication Systems and NETworkS (COMSNETS). The conference technical program is diverse and represents the bleeding edge of communications technology, having been drawn from a high-quality submission pool. The conference continues to offer a poster session for the latest research, graduate and undergraduate forums for students, and a Demos & Exhibits session where many start-ups, universities and established companies demonstrate practical implementations of research with working prototypes or commercialized products. COMSNETS continues to host several workshops that cover diverse topics. The 2026 edition of the conference includes eight workshops in the following areas - Machine Intelligence in Networked Data and Systems (MINDS), Cyber Security and Privacy, Indian Internet Governance (IIG), Standards-driven Research (SDR), Advances in Autonomous Driving and Vehicular Networks (ADVNET), and Systems for the Future of AI-ML (SysAI). This year two new workshops have been added to the program: Artificial Intelligence of Things (AloT) and DecarbX, which is focused on technologies related to India's energy transition efforts. In addition, for the 2nd time the Industry-Academia Research Technology (I-ART) workshop is being held, which provides a forum focused on collaborative research in the communications area.

The conference will be hosting the seventh annual Women-in-Engineering (WiE) workshop. Moreover, the COMSJOB session will be held to enable sponsoring organizations to connect with potential recruits for open positions. In addition, we are happy to welcome the Entrepreneur Ignite Summit (EIS) for the 3rd year.

We are grateful to the Chancery Pavilion in Bangalore for hosting the conference once again. This long-standing partnership between COMSNETS and the Chancery is one that has been fruitful for both parties and will continue in 2027 and beyond.

The COMSNETS 2026 organizing committee is again comprised of established researchers in the communications area from around the world. We are extremely grateful to the distinguished General Co-Chairs - Dr. Ranveer Chandra (Microsoft - USA), Prof. Carla Fabiana Chiasserini (Politecnico di Torino - Italy) and Prof. Dinesh Rajan (Southern Methodist University - USA). We also recognize the extensive efforts of the Technical Program Committee Co-Chairs - Prof. Giovanni Giambene (University of Siena - Italy), Prof. Abhinav Kumar (IIT Hyderabad - India), and Prof. Parimal Parag (IISc Bangalore - India). The General Chairs, TPC Chairs, the Technical Program Committee, Workshop Chairs, Panel Chairs, Poster Chairs, Graduate and Undergraduate Forum Chairs, Demos & Exhibits Chairs, Publicity & Publications Chairs, Local Arrangements and the Registration Chairs have worked hard and put together an outstanding program for this year's conference. We would like to thank Mrs. Chandrika Sridhar and Mr. Raj Sharma for their diligent support of the conference (including arranging venue, lodging and teleconference facilities). A note of gratitude is due to our conference Web Co-Chairs: Kaushik Chowhan (IIT Gandhinagar), Indrajeet Ghosh (University of Maryland Baltimore County), and Bhumil Rangholiya (IIIT Surat). We would like to thank Ojaswa Varshney of IIIT Surat for his efforts in developing the COMSNETS mobile app for this year's event. His collaboration with the web chairs will allow conference attendees to always be aware of the latest developments in the conference during the event itself.

The conference continues to benefit from several industrial sponsors and university partners. We give a special note of gratitude to this year's Platinum Sponsor Qualcomm, and Gold Sponsors - Microsoft, ARTPARK (IISc), and Ola. We are grateful to our Silver Sponsors- Google, IBM, TCS Research and the IIITB COMET Foundation. In addition, we appreciate our Bronze Sponsor - Advanced Micro Devices (first time sponsor). We are grateful to our Travel Grant partners - ACM SIGMOBILE and ACM India for their generous support.

We are delighted to continue our relationship with IEEE who are the technical co-sponsors of COMSNETS again through the IEEE Communications Society. We are grateful to ACM for their continued support, through the SIGCOMM & SIGMOBILE Special Interest Groups. We would also like to recognize our conference partners: Bharat 6G Alliance, 14 Trees (who are providing speaker mementoes), IEEE 5G/6G Innovation Testbed, IEEE Computer Society - Bangalore chapter, and IIIT-Surat.

This year, for the first time in the history of COMSNETS, the President of IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc), Dr. Nelson Fonseca would be addressing the delegates at the conference Banquet. COMSNETS is keen on a strategic & long-term partnership with IEEE ComSoc, ACM SIGMOBILE and ACM SIGCOMM.

Lastly, we would like to appreciate our student volunteers. These volunteers serve as the lifeblood of the conference, and their assistance during the actual event is invaluable. They support all logistics for speakers, assist conference attendees and ensure that the conference remains on schedule. We are fortunate to have highly energetic and enthusiastic volunteers In COMSNETS 2026. Our special thanks to Abhinav Prakash (IIIT Surat, India), Avinash Kushwaha (IIT Hyderabad, India), Bhumil Rangholiya (IIIT Surat, India), Dev Gupta (IIIT Surat, India), Hitaishi (Boston University, USA), K. R. Ramya Shri Shakthi, (IIT Bombay, India), Roshan Shorey (SVNIT Surat, India), Kaushik Chowhan (IIT Gandhinagar, India), Kinnari Dodiya (IIIT Surat, India), Ojaswa Varshney (IIIT Surat, India), Shruti Paulastye (IIIT Surat, India), Spaarsh Thakkar (IIIT Surat, India), Vedic Chawla (IIIT Surat, India) for their herculean efforts throughout the year.

We welcome you to COMSNETS 2026, and hope that you are able to take full advantage of all this conference and the city of Bangalore has to offer.



Uday Desai
Former Director,
IIT Hyderabad
Hyderabad, India



Giridhar Mandyam
AMD
San Diego, USA



Rajeev Shorey
IIIT Surat
Surat, India



G. Venkatesh
DAICT
Gandhinagar, India