The 18th International Conference on Communication Systems and Networks (COMSNETS 2026) Graduate Forum provides a dedicated platform for early-career undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral researchers to present and showcase their research ideas along with preliminary results. The forum enables participants to receive constructive feedback from senior researchers in both academia and industry.

The Graduate Forum presentations at COMSNETS 2026 will be conducted in person, underscoring the importance of active engagement and networking. Senior researchers and mentors consistently emphasize the value of attending conferences aligned with students' research interests, as such participation plays a vital role in professional and career development. As a premier conference in communication systems and networking, COMSNETS continues to foster a strong research community through the Graduate Forum, offering students detailed feedback, technical guidance, and opportunities to interact with peers and established researchers.

This year, the Graduate Forum adopted a four-page extended abstract format for review, enabling authors to comprehensively present and effectively pitch their research ideas. From a highly competitive pool of submissions, 12 high-quality papers were accepted, covering a diverse range of topics including 5G, mobile sensing, network security, applied machine learning, and wireless communications. Each accepted work will be presented through an 8-minute lightning talk, followed by a 2-minute Q&A session.

The forum will also present the Best Graduate Forum Paper Award, dedicated to the memory of Himanshu Gandhi, an exemplary Ph.D. student from IIT Delhi, remembered for his knowledge, confidence, determination, hard work, and selfless service to the COMSNETS community. In addition, the Best Reviewer Award will recognize outstanding contributions by reviewers who demonstrate exceptional diligence, fairness, and scholarly judgment in evaluating submitted papers. Accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings on the IEEE Xplore Digital Library.

We are pleased to host Dr. Ayon Chakraborty from IIT Madras, India, as an invited speaker for this year's Graduate Forum. As Co-Chairs of the COMSNETS 2026 Graduate Forum, we express our sincere gratitude to the program committee members, external reviewers, conference chairs, steering committee, and publications chairs for their invaluable support and contributions. Co-hosting the Graduate Forum at COMSNETS 2026 has been a truly rewarding experience.

Sincerely,
Pragma Kar (IIIT-Delhi, India), Tanya Shreedhar (TU Delft, Netherlands), Debasree Das (University of Bamberg, Germany)