

**Candidate for Vice President**  
**(1 July 2026 – 30 June 2028)**



**Anand Deshpande**  
Founder and Chairman  
Persistent Systems  
Pune, India

**BIOGRAPHY**

Anand Deshpande is a technologist, entrepreneur, and community leader with more than 35 years of experience building and scaling global technology organisations. He is the Founder and Chairman of Persistent Systems, a digital engineering and enterprise modernisation company with over 26,000 professionals. He founded Persistent in 1990 after a short stint at Hewlett-Packard Laboratories in Palo Alto. Deshpande holds a PhD in Computer Science from Indiana University and a B Tech in Computer Science from IIT Kharagpur.

He has been a member since 1984 and has deeply engaged with ACM and the global research community. As the founding President of the ACM India Council (2010–2012), he helped establish ACM's presence and programmes across India and has continued to support ACM initiatives in research, education, and community-building. For his sustained service and leadership, he received the 2024 ACM Presidential Award. He completed his term as a Trustee of the VLDB Endowment in 2025 and has served as Chairman of the Boards of IIT Patna, IIIT Allahabad, and VJTI Mumbai.

Deshpande plays a key role in strengthening India's interdisciplinary research capacity through his work with BRIC – Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council – fostering collaboration across biology, AI, engineering, and data-centric science.

Beyond research, he has contributed significantly to India's innovation and entrepreneurship landscape. Through the deAsra Foundation, he has enabled more than 500,000 nano-entrepreneurs and through the Second Orbit program, leads scaling programmes for thousands of mid-sized technology companies.

Deshpande is a Fellow of the Indian National Academies of Science and Engineering. His experience building and guiding a large multinational technology organisation—and his broad engagement across industry, research, and academia—positions him well to help ACM enhance its global relevance, expand participation, and navigate the opportunities and responsibilities of an AI- and data-driven future.

## **STATEMENT**

ACM is a strong and respected global institution, and I deeply value its contribution across research, education, publications, and professional communities. As Vice President, my priority will be to strengthen these foundations and ensure that ACM remains a truly member-driven organisation—of the members, by the members, and for the members.

ACM is an exceptional platform for global impact, and I will focus on increasing membership by making ACM increasingly relevant to researchers, practitioners, educators, and professionals, especially in emerging regions, by demonstrating clear, differentiated value for every member segment. We must also inspire the next generation of computing professionals to see ACM as their intellectual home and as a community that advances both their careers and the discipline.

ACM Digital Library's transition to open access is a bold and important milestone. To sustain this model while preserving quality, independence, and long-term stability, ACM must develop innovative and durable financial models, engage new constituencies, and expand the ways members contribute to and benefit from ACM. Drawing on my experience leading a multinational technology organisation, I look forward to collaborating with fellow ACM leadership to address this strategic shift.

The nature of research is evolving. Interdisciplinary work and team science are increasingly prioritised by funding agencies and by industry. I will encourage greater engagement with adjacent fields and explore ways to co-locate and collaborate with communities beyond computing.

Continuous learning is essential in the era of rapid technological change. My experience in building global talent pipelines reinforces my belief that ACM can play an even larger role in lifelong learning.

Finally, ACM must be a catalyst for entrepreneurship, innovation, and societal impact. As a leader in entrepreneurial ecosystems, I appreciate what it takes to help ideas move from research into products, companies, and policy.

We must deepen ACM's engagement with governments and policy think tanks worldwide so that our members are recognised as trusted voices in shaping the future of technology and its societal consequences.

ACM's greatest strength is its people, and together we can shape a future where computing empowers all.