Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer
(1 July 2026 – 30 June 2028)

Jayant R Haritsa
Senior Professor
Dept of Computational & Data Sciences
Indian Institute of Science
Bengaluru, India

BIOGRAPHY

Jayant Haritsa has served on the computer science faculty at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, for over three decades. He has made foundational contributions to the design, implementation and evaluation of relational database engines, which underpin modern enterprise information systems.

He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from IIT Madras, and the MS and PhD degrees in computer science from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. During his academic career, he has spent industry sabbaticals at Lucent Bell Labs, IBM Research, and Microsoft Research.

Haritsa is a Fellow of both ACM and IEEE, and his research has received awards at premier international database conferences. He has developed a suite of software tools, including the widely used Picasso query optimizer visualizer, that have received a warm reception from both academic researchers and the database industry. He was the Program Co-Chair of ICDE 2010 and VLDB 2016, and is currently General Co-Chair for ACM SIGMOD 2026.

Within India, Haritsa has played a leadership role in establishing broad visibility for the country's database research, authoring early papers in major ACM venues, including SIGMOD and CIKM, which now regularly feature an Indian presence. He is a Fellow of all four Indian science and engineering academies, and a recipient of the highest national recognitions, including Swarnajayanti Fellowship (young achiever award), Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award (scientific excellence award), and Infosys Prize (research impact award). He is also a Distinguished Alumnus of IIT Madras.

An ACM member since 1989, Haritsa was elected to the ACM India Council in 2018 and became its President during 2020–2022. During his tenure, he led a comprehensive restructuring of the Council's operations, strengthening engagement, effectiveness and accountability. At the global level, Haritsa has contributed to enhancing ACM's international presence, has recently served on the editorial board of ACM Books, and is currently co-chairing the Presidential Task Force on Regional Offices.

STATEMENT

From my vantage location in Bangalore, a global computing hub, I have witnessed profound emerging shifts in both the pedagogy and practice of computer science. To successfully navigate these simultaneously exciting and challenging times, ACM must reimagine its programs, processes and governance. If elected, I would prioritize the following issues:

PTF recommendations: Ten Presidential Task Forces (PTFs), spanning the spectrum of ACM activities, were constituted by recent ACM Councils, and have produced cogent proposals. My close association with two PTFs – Bylaws as a member, and Regional Offices as Co-chair – has provided insight into how these recommendations can be implemented effectively.

Member participation: Despite ACM's large and diverse membership, participation in governance and elections has historically been low. This involvement gap hampers the Council's ability to (a) accurately reflect the aspirations of the ACM diaspora, and (b) amend the Constitution (which requires voting by at least 10% of the membership). I would advocate crafting strong outreach and incentive mechanisms to foster deeper member engagement in ACM's institutional processes.

ACM conferences: A hallmark of ACM has been its large portfolio of high-quality conferences showcasing the latest research advances. Sustaining this reputation, which is under pressure, requires privileging creativity over derivative work, ensuring the integrity of peer review, and emphasizing quality over quantity. My efforts in this sphere would aim to ensure we remain faithful to ACM's charter of "serving both professional and public interests".

I believe my significant exposure to ACM operations, especially the four-year stint on the ACM India Council, would help make substantive progress toward these goals.