

Dr. Venugopal K R

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Prof. Venugopal is a multifaceted leader in Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science — an educator, researcher, inventor, administrator, regulator, institution-builder, and philanthropist. His career, spanning over 47 years, has significantly shaped the landscape of computer science education in India.

Academics

He holds an extraordinary eleven degrees across - Electronics, Computer Science, Mass Communications, Economics, Business Finance, Law, Journalism, Industrial Relations, and Public Relations. He earned M.E. in Computer Science and Engineering from IISc Bangalore. He holds two PhDs — one in Computer Science Engineering (Computer Optical Networks) from IIT Madras and another in Economics (Petrodollar and World Economy) from Bangalore University. He is currently pursuing a third PhD in Law (GenAI-Enabled Cybercrimes) from the India International University for Legal Education and Research (IIULER), Goa. He is also a post-doctoral research scholar and visiting professor at the University of Southern California, USA.

Teaching and Mentorship

Over 47 years, he has taught 40-plus subjects in Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science to more than 11,000 students, mentored 400-plus teachers globally, guided 300-plus research scholars, supervised 600-plus postgraduate dissertations and 200-plus undergraduate projects. His teaching engagements include UVCE, Bangalore University, Bangalore North University, MS Ramaiah Law University, NMIT, and IIULER. He serves as AICTE Distinguished Professional, mentoring institutions nationwide.

Publications

He has authored and edited 119 books spanning 50,000-plus pages, published with reputed international publishers including McGraw-Hill, Springer, Taylor & Francis, Elsevier, CRC Press, Khanna Publishers and IEEE (USA). These books are used as standard textbooks across universities globally. Millions of students and professionals have benefitted from his widely circulated titles. He received the Karnataka State Government award of INR 6 lakhs for excellence in academic publishing.

Global Recognition

He has received two of the most prestigious international honors: IEEE Fellow, USA, and ACM Distinguished Educator, USA. These are awarded to only 2–3 persons from India annually. Prof. Venugopal is the only academic till date at the university level in the country to be recognized with both distinctions.

AI Teaching, Research, Education and AI Factory

The AICTE's AI Factory and Research Center, New Delhi, was crafted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Venugopal, with an objective to train the students, teachers and researchers in Artificial Intelligence across Indian universities and colleges. AICTE has partnered with IBM which plans to train 50 lakh students and 50,000 teachers over the next five years. Presently, he is a member of the Joint IBM-AICTE Committee to establish the AI Factory and Research Center (estimated at INR 50 crores) at Indraprastha University, New Delhi. IBM has contributed INR 20 crores under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme for procurement of AI Hardware. He serves as a distinguished professional from AICTE to deliver lectures in cutting edge technology including Artificial Intelligence, Block Chain, Cloud Computing and Quantum Computing.

Research and Innovation

Prof. Venugopal has published over 1,200 research papers, spanning over 20,000 pages, 43 best paper awards, 10,000-plus Google Scholar citations, h-index of 46, and 10 lakh-plus views. He has filed 114 patents, of which 45 utility-patents have been granted. His book *The Art of Patenting* reflects his deep engagement in innovation. His collaborations spans Florida International University (USA), IISc, NIAS (Bangalore), and the University of Melbourne (Australia). He has organized 30-plus international conferences, 400-plus seminars/workshops, and delivered 600-plus keynote addresses / plenary sessions. He currently serves as Honorary Director and Chairman of Research at Bangalore North University.

Leadership in UVCE and Bangalore University

An alumnus of UVCE, he rose to Professor, Principal, and the first student-teacher to serve as Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University. He transformed UVCE into a State Centre of Excellence on the IIT model, securing INR 700 crores in funding and 65 acres of land. UVCE was ranked 24th by *India Today* (July 18, 2011).

Institution Building

As Special Officer, Government of Karnataka (2012–2016), he led the restructuring of Bangalore University into four separate institutions: Bangalore University, Bangalore North University, Bangalore City University, and UVCE. He established two private engineering colleges — Alpha College of Engineering (800-plus students) and Vijaya Vitala Institute of Technology (1000-plus students) — and two schools — Aryabhata Vidyaniketan (300-plus students) and Dr. KVG English School (800-plus students).

Achievements as Vice-Chancellor

He pioneered the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) in the country in Bangalore University (2018–2022). BU secured NAAC-A++ accreditation with a score of 3.75 and received INR 100 crores under the PM-USHA scheme. He oversaw the allocation of land for NAAC (5 acres), Council of Architecture (2 acres), and CBSE (1 acre), and initiated infrastructure projects worth INR 400-plus crores, including new auditoriums, lecture halls, hostels, and a 150-foot national flag.

Regulatory Roles

Dr. Venugopal has been an expert member with AICTE for 27 years, Chairman of the South-West Regional Office, and Legal Aid Counsellor for Bangalore Rural. He has evaluated over 600 institutions for AICTE recognition and has led key national committees — including PhD Regulations and for establishing AI factory in AICTE, Delhi. He coordinated NEP implementation among South Indian Vice-Chancellors, addressed Governors of States, and represented India in education discussions at SAARC. His book *NEP: Issues, Challenges and Implementation* reflects his thought leadership in this domain.

Social Commitment

Prof. Venugopal has donated over INR 6 crores — including his royalties, salary, and pension — for student welfare. He founded and chaired multiple organizations including Aryabhata Education Society, RL Kashyap Vedic Trust, KVG Trust, Alpha Charitable Trust, and UVCE Centenary Foundation, benefiting 25,000-plus underprivileged students. He has significantly contributed through Bharat Scouts, NSS, Covid relief efforts (managing 5 centres, educating 3,000-plus slum children), legal aid camps, blood donation drives, and environmental initiatives (planting one lakh saplings).

Prof. Venugopal is a role model and a beacon for educationists, teachers, students and society, for generations to come.