

DR. VIJAY BHATKAR: A PROFILE

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Dr. Vijay Bhatkar is one of the most acclaimed and internationally acknowledged scientists of India. India's leading computer magazine Dataquest has acclaimed Dr. Vijay Bhatkar amongst the star pioneers who shaped India's celebrated IT industry (US\$ 100 Billion In 2012), with supercomputing capability, capacity, and infrastructure, as its crowning glory.

Dr. Bhatkar is best known as the architect of India's national initiative in supercomputing where he led the development of **Param supercomputers**. When India was denied the supercomputer by USA, Dr. Bhatkar took the challenge of developing an indigenous supercomputer in a record time of 3 years and delivered **Param 8000** in **1991** and went on to develop terascale **Param 10000** in **1998**, propelling India into the exclusive club of select nations, who possess this strategic technology. Based on the Param series of supercomputers, he built the **National Param Supercomputing Facility (NPSF)** which has been now made available as a grid computing facility through **Garuda grid** on the National Knowledge Network (NKN) providing nationwide access to High Performance Computing (HPC) infrastructure. Today, Dr. Bhatkar has once again taken the lead in proposing the National Mission on Development of **Exascale Supercomputing** Capability, Capacity and Infrastructure on National Knowledge Network. This is one of the largest projects in S&T in India with a 12th Plan budget of nearly Rs. 5,000 crores that will not only transform India's computing but will also catalyze India's leadership in Science through Third & Fourth modes of scientific discovery by engaging world's largest number of researchers and scientists across a large number of research labs and universities of India collaborating together.

Dr. Bhatkar is also widely known for bringing **ICT to the masses** through a wide range of path-breaking initiatives, such as the celebrated **GIST multilingual technology** covering India's 22 official languages with 10 diverse scripts that has dissolved the language barrier on computers once for all; MKCL's computer literacy programme that made a world mark by creating **7.5 million computer literates** within a decade; **Education to Home (ETH)** initiative for bringing the benefits of ICT to school education, in learning, teaching, administration, governance and communication & collaboration.

In the 80's, Dr Bhatkar substantially contributed to the ushering of electronics revolution in India. He led the development of several innovations such as India's first fully solid state colour television, colour TV broadcast during Asiad in 1982, distributed control systems for Indian power plants and process industries, traffic control systems, automation of security systems, defence simulators and the like from the component level upward that contributed to building the indigenous foundation of India's electronics industry which was to become India's IT industry later.

Faced with the challenges of creating a large number of software professionals in a shortest possible time, Dr. Bhatkar founded the **Advanced Computing Training School (ACTS)** in C-DAC which during the 90s provided over 10,000 software professionals to India's fast growing IT industry.

Dr. Vijay Bhatkar is credited with the creation of several national research labs and institutions, notably amongst them being **C-DAC, ER&DC Trivandrum, IIITM-K, TechnoPark, MKCL, IsquareIT, ETH Research Lab** and **Multiversity**. Simultaneously, he has mentored several innovation-based start-ups.

Ever since he joined as a core member of IPAG Electronics Commission in 1972, Dr. Bhatkar has substantially contributed to shaping of India's path breaking policies in electronics, automation and

control, computer and software, ICT, education and S&T and e-Governance over the successive four decades contributing to India's pre-eminence in these fields.

Dr. Bhatkar has served as a member of the **Scientific Advisory Committee to PM**, Member of the Governing Council of CSIR. He was also a member of the **IT Task Force** constituted by PM in 1998. He is a **Fellow of IEEE (USA)** and **Fellow of ACM (USA)**, world's foremost professional societies in Electronics and Computers respectively, besides being Fellow of CSI, INAE, IETE, NASI, MASc, etc. He has served as the **Chairman of e-Governance Committees of Maharashtra and Goa**.

He was called upon to address the **Royal Society of London**; he led the Indian delegation to South Africa to formulate **India-SA initiative** in advanced computing; he was a member of the **Indo-Russian Long-Term Programme (ILTP)** in S&T, **Indo-Hungarian** and **Indo-French** Joint Commissions, substantially contributing to India's international cooperation in electronics, computing and ICT.

Dr. Bhatkar has authored/edited over **12 books and 80 technical and research papers** and addressed several university convocations, international and national conferences and conventions and public functions. His ground-breaking articulations have been widely covered by both print and broadcast media. His current research interests are in **supercomputing, artificial intelligence, brain-mind-consciousness, and synthesis of science and spirituality**.

Dr. Bhatkar is one of the most decorated scientists of India in terms of national and international awards, fellowships of professional societies and public recognitions. He was conferred with the **Padmashri Award** in 2000 by Government of India and the **Maharashtra Bhushan Award** of 1999-2000, the highest recognition of the Government of Maharashtra. He is the recipient of the prestigious **Jindal Prize 2012** for science and technology in the service of society. He was conferred with the **Saint Jnaneshwar World Peace Prize 2010** by World Peace Centre for promoting synthesis of science and spirituality in the service of humanity. He was also nominated to the **Petersberg Prize 2004** for Information Technology for Development and was conferred with the prestigious **Dataquest Lifetime Achievement Award 2003**. Dr. Bhatkar has been showered with a string of awards, notably amongst them being **Adi Godrej Award 2010**, **C-DAC Oration Award 2006**, **KG Foundation's Personality of the Decade Award 2004**, **PGCIL Award 2001**, **Om Prakash Bhasin Foundation Award 2000**, **Global e-Biz Award 2001**, **FICCI Award 1999** for Excellence in Engineering & Technology, **Lokmanya Tilak Award 1999**, **Rotary Excellence Award 1997**, **Pune's Pride Award 1996**, **H.K. Firodia Award 1996-97 for Life-Time Achievements** in Science & Technology, **Distinguished Alumni Award 1994** of IIT Delhi, **VASVIK Award 1993**, and **Electronics Man of the Year Award 1992** and many more. For contributions to the social service and to the world of spirituality, he has been conferred with several social and spiritual awards and public recognitions.

Dr. Vijay Bhatkar is presently the **Chairman of Board of Governors of IIT-Delhi**, Chairman of ETH Research Lab, Founder Chancellor and Chief Mentor of Multiversity, Chancellor of D. Y. Patil University, and National President of Vijnana Bharati a People's Science Movement of over 6,000 scientists across India.

Dr. Bhatkar did his **Ph.D. in Engineering from IIT Delhi** in 1972; M.E. from M.S. University in 1968; and BE from VRCE, now VNIT, Nagpur in 1965. He has been honoured with D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) by Dr. D.Y. Patil University. Dr. Bhatkar is a Distinguished Alumni of both IIT, Delhi and VNIT, Nagpur.