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# VOICE & DATA

The Business of Communications

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## SPECIAL ISSUE

# 150<sup>th</sup>

SALUTING  
THE 150  
PIONEERS OF  
COMMUNICATIONS

## THE CEO CONCLAVE 2006

SAARC Communication Industry's Dev. Discussion Forum

New ideas for regional cooperation emerged at the SAARC, Colombo Summit, and telcos pledged to create institutions for promoting cooperation



# 150th Issue

Seamless telecommunications has been both a cause and an effect of what Tom Friedman calls the flattening of the world. In the flat world, geographical boundaries are irrelevant; political boundaries are meaningless.

We Indians, surprising as it may sound, have been very comfortable with this idea for long. India itself has been a political country for just about a few hundred years, from the time the British ruled it as a single nation; before that it was a collection of small little kingdoms. But even then, citizens of these kingdoms had no doubts whatsoever that they belonged to Bharat. What was Bharat? It was an idea.

India has always been an idea first. When we started conceptualizing the 150th issue, we did not want to dilute our Indianness of which we are so proud; but we never wanted to confine that Indianness to a set of boundaries. So we decided to focus on people—people who have made contributions to telecom not just within the political boundaries of India but anywhere in the world. For Indians, *Vasudha* (the earth) is, anyway, one *kutumb* (family).

These personalities belong to various sections of the industry, society, and government. They range from technologists to bureaucrats to politicians.

Together, they will tell you a story of telecom—some of it unveiling in New Delhi; some in New Jersey; some in Bangalore; and some in Boston. Happy Reading!

## Harshvardhan Singh

*The unsung hero of TRAI*

Harshvardhan Singh had been involved with TRAI from the very beginning, first as an economic advisor, and then he continued with the organization as the secretary. His role in the fledgling organization was important, as he was one of the few officeholders who had industry experience due to his stint at the WTO. He played an active role in the issues relating to bandwidth availability and pricing, and liaised with the monopolistic VSNL. Singh played an important role in gathering the data from DoT on which the Telecommunication Tariff Order 1999 was based, he was with it right through the consultation process and finally also played a crucial role in ensuring that the order was implemented; despite opposition from the incumbent operators. The sagacity of that pushing through the TTO cannot be questioned today. Currently, he is a DDG at the WTO.



## Dr Hemant Kanakia

*Designed packet and cell switching architectures*

The underlying concepts for Dr Kanakia's vision stemmed from his tenure at AT&T Bell Labs, where he led an elite research team of engineers to design advanced data network switching technology. The research forms some of the core technology of today's Internet.

Dr Kanakia is presently a partner with Columbia Capital and focuses primarily on technology investments. He was previously founder and CEO of Torrent Networking Technology (acquired by Ericsson), a Columbia Capital portfolio company. Under Dr Kanakia's leadership, Torrent advanced to become a leading innovator providing advanced Internet routing solutions to communications companies worldwide.

Hemant also co-founded and invested in Photuris, Inc and Gemplex, a business-networking services provider offering secure connectivity worldwide through its flagship IP VPN product portfolio.

Dr Kanakia holds a PhD in electrical engineering from Stanford University. He holds several patents in the field of packet and cell switching architectures and real-time traffic management algorithms. Over a dozen of his research papers have been published in major communications and trade journals including those of the IEEE, JSAC and SIGCOMM.

## HK Desai

*Major influence on storage networking*



HK Desai, president, CEO, and chairman of QLogic Corp, is globally recognized as one of the most influential personalities on storage networking. The reason: not only did Desai sense early the course that storage networking would take in future but also successfully diversified QLogic's operations. Under Desai's leadership, QLogic has led the I/O industry into innovative technology development, diversified into new markets, and driven additional growth through acquisition.

The American Electronics Association presented Desai with an Executive of the Year award in 1999. He also received the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2000. Desai holds an MS degree in electrical engineering from the University of California Berkeley.



## Dr Inderpal Singh Mumick

*The billing specialist*

Dr Mumick, CEO and co-founder, Kirusa, is termed as billing specialist. His pioneering work on the Sunrise research project at AT&T Bell Labs led Mike Miller, VP, billing, AT&T, to comment, "This changes the paradigm of billing." The Sunrise project led to numerous billing initiatives at AT&T and Lucent.

Mumick has also been the co-founder and CEO of Savera, a 100% web-based billing solutions firm. He is the author of several key patents in the areas of billing, query optimization, and materialized views. He has published and presented over 40 technical papers in leading journals and conferences, and is the co-editor of a book on materialized views.

Mumick's work on recursion in SQL has been incorporated into the SQL 3 standard, and his work on query optimization has been incorporated into IBM's DB2 database. Dr Mumick, a PhD holder in computer science from Stanford University, is an international authority on materialized views technology, and his work on materialized views has influenced the implementation of materialized views in the Oracle 8i database.