

## A Life in Higher Education

Professor Rajanish Kamalakar Kamat has spent close to three decades inside the classrooms, laboratories and administrative corridors of Maharashtra's public universities. Since May 22, 2026 he has served as Vice-Chancellor of Shivaji University, Kolhapur — the institution where he began his academic career and rose, department by department, to its highest office. He simultaneously holds charge as Acting Vice-Chancellor of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere (DBATU), since April 25, 2026.

## Building a Career at Shivaji University

Dr. Kamat's administrative journey began at Shivaji University's Department of Electronics, which he headed from April 2016 (and again briefly in 2022). He also headed the Department of Computer Science twice — 2013–16 and 2017–22. From June 2015 to May 2020 he directed the Internal Quality Assurance Cell, a tenure in which the university secured a NAAC A++ (3.52) grade, while also serving as Acting Director of Innovation, Incubation and Linkages (2018–20), setting up an Incubation Centre (Rs. 5 crore), the Xilinx University Program (~Rs. 40 lakhs) and GIAN funding (\$80,000). He served as Director (In-Charge), Department of Technology (2021) and as Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology (2020–22) — the university's largest faculty. Earlier, as In-Charge University Librarian (2008–11), he implemented an Integrated Library Management System. His cumulative statutory administrative experience, excluding overlaps, totals thirteen years and seven months.

## Role of Vice-Chancellorships

Dr. Kamat's vice-chancellorships began in 2023 with an acting charge at Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University (209 affiliated colleges), followed in March 2024 by acting charge of Sir J. J. School of Art, Architecture and Design, Mumbai, held until October 2025. The centerpiece was his tenure as Vice-Chancellor of Dr. Homi Bhabha State University, Mumbai (September 2022 – May 2026), Maharashtra's pioneering cluster university, where he launched nearly twenty industry-linked, NEP-2020-aligned programmes — spanning data science, financial analytics, AI/ML, cybersecurity, fintech, business AI, sports coaching (with a BCCI-approved club), and, most recently, Quantum Science with TIFR and IoT with the Global IoT School — in partnership with organisations such as the BSE Institute, TeamLease EdTech and Keyman Capital. From this HBSU tenure he was called, in April 2026, to DBATU, and weeks later to Shivaji University.

## Policy and Compliance Roles with the State

Dr. Kamat chairs University Formation Compliance Verification Committees for four private university applications — Jio University, Pillai University, Sanjivani University, and Alard University — and is a Director on the Board of the Maharashtra State Faculty Development Academy (since March 2025). He chairs the state committee on automation and digitisation of public libraries, is a member of the committee amending the Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016, and of the committee on Deccan College's legal status, and chairs study groups planning a Tribal University and a Fine Arts University.

## Research: Electronics, Computing and Emerging Technologies

Across a twenty-eight-year research career at Goa University, Shivaji University and Solapur University, with training at IISc Bangalore and IIT Kanpur, Dr. Kamat has worked in neuromorphic computing, AI/ML, VLSI design, human-computer interfaces and cyber-physical systems. His output totals 211 papers (150 in Scopus), 13 books and 53 book chapters, 3,701 citations, an h-index of 35, and 11 granted patents (13 published, 43 filed), alongside 20 PhDs guided and 4 technology transfers. He has secured over Rs. 25 crore in research funding, including PM-USHA (Rs. 20 crore), an MHRD Faculty Development Centre (Rs. 696 lakhs), a RUSA VLSI Centre (Rs. 250 lakhs), and the EU Erasmus+ EQUAMBI project with the University of Barcelona and NAAC. He holds an adjunct professorship at the Victorian Institute of Technology, Australia, and sits on four Scopus-indexed journal editorial boards.

## National and International Engagement

Dr. Kamat's governance experience spans six universities — Shivaji, Goa, Mumbai, Savitribai Phule Pune, Warana, and IIIT Agartala — across ten-plus statutory bodies. He currently sits on the Senate of IIIT Agartala and the Academic Councils of Srinagar and Symbiosis, Pune. Internationally, his EQUAMBI-linked work connected him with the Asia-Pacific Quality Network, INQAAHE, ENQA, and partners in Spain and Italy; at HBSU he signed MoUs with institutions from Vigo (Spain) to Taiwan and TIFR Mumbai. He has visited 39 institutions for collaboration and delivers a steady stream of keynotes, including a 2026 convocation address to the Maharashtra Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

## Recognition

Dr. Kamat is a Fellow of the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers and of the Maharashtra Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Honours include the DST Young Scientist Award, Shivaji University's Best Teacher Award (2018), a Texas Instruments mentorship award presented by Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, the AIPLA Leadership Award (2024), Vigyan Prasar's Science



Communication award (2025), and TeamLease EdTech's Making India Employable Award (2025). His research featured on the covers of Small, ACS Applied Electronic Materials and Nanoscale (2023).

### **An Institution-Builder at Heart**

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Across his career Dr. Kamat has established twenty-one institutions, centres or units — including a Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Linkages (later a Section-8 company), a Centre of Excellence in VLSI Design, an IoT Laboratory, and a Centre of Happiness. He has signed 76 academic and 8 research MoUs, developed 26 infrastructure facilities, and personally designed 23 taught courses. Earlier technical contributions include a satellite-based Distance Education Studio and fibre-optic backbone at Goa University, digitization consulting for the Indian Navy, and chairing the state Cyber Security Committee under RUSA. Colleagues describe him as methodical and system-minded — an engineer's instinct for fixing what is broken — a disposition that has repeatedly placed him at the helm of institutions in transition, and now at Shivaji University, where his own academic life began.