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Prof Abhay Karandikar is currently the Director, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. Dr Karandikar is also a Member (part-time) of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Before joining IIT Kanpur as the Director in April 2018, he served as Institute Chair Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and served as Dean (Faculty Affairs) at IIT Bombay from February 2017 to April 2018. He was also Head of the Electrical Engineering Department from January 2012 to January 2015. He is the coordinator of Tata Teleservices IIT Bombay Center for Excellence in Telecom (TICET), National Center of Excellence in Technology for Internal Security. He spearheaded a national effort in setting up Telecom Standards Development Society of India (TSDSI), India's standards body for telecom with participation of all stakeholders. Prof Karandikar is the founding member and Chairman of TSDSI. Currently, he is working as a consultant to provide technical expertise in design and implementation of BharatNet, Government of India's flagship initiative under Digital India program. Dr Karandikar has several patents issued and pending, contributions to IEEE, 3GPP standards, contributed chapters in books and large number of papers in international journals and conferences to his credit.

Dr. Karandikar was awarded with IEEE SA's Standards Medallion in December 2016 in New Jersey. His team also won Mozilla Open Innovation challenge prize in March 2017. He is a two time recipient of award for excellence in teaching at IIT Bombay- in 2006 and 2011. He is co-author of papers which won the Best paper awards in ACM MobiHoc 2009, Workshop on Indoor and Outdoor Small Cells WiOpt2014 and finalist for the best paper award in IEEE LCN 2012 and IEEE NCC 2014 conferences.