

## Dr. U.B. Pavanaja - a profile

- Born in a village bordering Karnataka and Kerala.
- Education - MSc (Mysore Univ), PhD (Bombay Univ), Post-doctoral research at Taiwan.
- Scientist at BARC, Bombay for 15 years. Published many research articles.
- Active member of Kannada Sangha of BARC -an association for the propagation of science through Kannada. Edited the Kannada Science magazine of Kannada Sangha, BARC, "belagu", for 5 years. Gave a new look to the magazine by DTP. Organized many seminars in Kannada on various science topics at BARC.
- Brought a PC culture to the chemist communities at BARC.
- Resigned BARC in 1997 June and came down to Bangalore to work for Kannada and computers.
- Made the first Kannada program called "Kannada Kali" (Learn Kannada), a game which helps nursery kids and non-Kannadigas to learn Kannada alphabet, in 1993. The program is now evolved to include graphics and multimedia. This program is well appreciated by many Kannadigas and non-Kannadigas. Many Kannada organizations all over the world use this program to introduce Kannada alphabet to children at their Kannada classes. This program is available for free download at the Vishva Kannada site.
- Put up Kannada web site Vishva Kannada (<http://www.vishvakannada.com/>) in Dec. 1996. It has many firsts to its credit -
  - First Kannada web site.
  - First Kannada online magazine.
  - First Indian Language web site to use dynamic fonts.
- Actively involved with Kannada Ganaka Parishat. KGP is an voluntary body formed by Computer professionals, literary persons and Kannada enthusiasts for the standardization and usage of Kannada on computers. KGP is the official certifying agency of Karnataka Govt for Kannada software. KGP has developed a free Kannada Script Software as per the standards evolved by KGP and notified by Govt of Karnataka.
- Main brain behind the "Nudi", a free Kannada software (for Windows 9x) developed by KGP, as per Karnataka Govt standards.
- Developed a Kannada version of the universally used LOGO program, used to teach basic computing principles to kids.
- Attended 17th Unicode Conference at San Jose, CA, USA, Sep. 2000. Discussed about Kannada Unicode with the Consortium members.
- Consultant to Microsoft on Kannada in Windows XP, Office XP, OpenType font; Indian Language software development, proper implementation of Indian languages, etc.
- Developed an OpenType font for Kannada.
- Participated in the OpenType font Seminar, Microsoft, Seattle, USA, Aug.26-30, 2002.
- Participated in Global Development and Deployment Conference, Microsoft, Redmond, USA, Feb.18-20, 2004.
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- Developing multilingual Smart Tags (for Office XP) and multilingual applications using VB.NET. This has bagged third prize in the All-India Smart Tag contest organized by Microsoft India.
- Editorial committee member of "Baala Vijaana", a science publication in Kannada targeting high school children, brought out by Karnataka Rajya Vijaana Parishat, during 2000-2003.
- Member of technical advisory panel, Govt of Karnataka, on standardization and implementation of Kannada on computers, 2000.
- Member of the editorial committee of special souvenir brought out on the occasion of World Kannada Conference held at Texas, USA, in Sep. 2000.
- Creation of educational multimedia CDs for Azim Premji Foundation, a NGO.
- Developed a Kannada Memo editor for Palm. Probably it is the first Indian Language application on a handheld device (PDA).
- Developed a Kannada Notepad for HP Jornada -a handheld PC, for the first time. This could be the first Indian Language application on a WinCE device.
- Developed a multilingual (English, Hindi and Kannada) notepad for Win CE 5.0 OS using Visual Studio .NET in Unicode.
- Developed a syllable processing and chandassu (prosody) checking software for Kannada using Visual Studio .NET in Unicode.
- Given many lectures, seminars and demonstrations on the topics related to Computers and Indian Languages, at many places like IIIT-Hyderabad, IISc-Bangalore, IIIT-Bangalore, MC Univ - Bhopal, MAIT - Delhi, CALTS - Hyderabad, CIIL - Mysore, BARC - Mumbai, IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi, etc.
- Conducted Bhasha Workshops (workshop on Indian language computing) at Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkatta and Kathmandu on behalf of Microsoft India.
- Chief Consultant to the portal [www.bhashaindia.com](http://www.bhashaindia.com), a community web-site on Indian language computing.
- Adviser to Microsoft Research (India) on Natural Language Processing of Indian languages.
- **Microsoft Most Valuable Professional, 2002-2007.**
- **Manthan Award 2006 for Kannada Logo ([www.vishvakannada.com/kannadalogo](http://www.vishvakannada.com/kannadalogo)).**
- Well known writer of articles about IT in Kannada and English, about Indic computing, etc., in newspapers, magazines and web-sites.
- Chairman, Board of Studies, Diploma Course on Computers in Kannada, Kannada University, Hampi.
- Previously worked as General Manager Academics with Manipal Education, Bangalore.
- Previously worked as Head, Learning & Development, Excelsoft Technologies, Mysore.
- User Group Leader for Mysore Geeks user group.
- Chairman, Board of Studies, IT programs, Directorate of Distance Education, Sikkim Manipal University.

- Columnist in Kannada Prabha, Kannada daily, every Monday, titled *ganakindi*, about latest happenings in the field of IT, tips & tricks, etc., archived at <http://ganakindi.blogspot.in/>
  - Columnist in Prajavani, Kannada daily, every Thursday, titles gadgetloka, about gadgets, archived at <http://vishvakannada.com/gadgetloka/>
  - Founder member and leader for the Mysore Geeks user group and maintaining their web-site ([www.mysoregeeks.com](http://www.mysoregeeks.com))
  - Member of the Kannada Software Committee, Govt of Karnataka, 2008-current.
  - Member of Advisory Panel for Kannada Corpus Creation, Kannada University, Hampi.
  - Member of Advisory Panel, Kannada Virtual University, Bangalore University.
  - Chief Content Officer, MeraLibrary.com
  - Currently Programme Officer, Access to Knowledge, The Centre for Internet & Society.
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