Shashi Shekhar is a McKnight Distinguished University Professor at the University of Minnesota (Computer Science faculty). For contributions to geographic information systems (GIS), spatial databases, and spatial data mining, he was elected an IEEE Fellow as well as an AAAS Fellow and received the IEEE-CS Technical Achievement Award and the UCGIS Education Award. He has a distinguished academic record that includes 300+ refereed papers, a popular textbook on Spatial Databases (Prentice Hall, 2003), an authoritative Encyclopedia of GIS (Springer, 2nd Ed. 2017), and a spatial computing (MIT Press, 2020) book for a broad audience. Shashi is serving as a member of Computing Research Association (CRA) Board, and as a co-Editor-in-Chief of GeoInformatica: An International Journal on Advances in Computer Sciences for GIS (Springer). Earlier, he served as the president of the University Consortium for GIS, and a member of the CRA Computing Community Consortium Council (2012-15), and multiple National Academies' committees including Models of the World for USDOD-NGA (2015), Future Workforce for Geospatial Intelligence (2011) and Priorities for GEOINT Research (2004-2005).