This would be my twelfth and final message to you as the President of the Computer Society of India.

The last twelve months have seen a significant amount of changes in the global ICT ecosystem that CSI is a part of, and also within the Society itself. As ICTs have become an essential part of the lives of citizens around the world, we have seen increasing assertiveness on part of the civil society on their rights vis-à-vis the Internet and ICTs. Governments around the world have largely been on the defensive, trying to protect their national interests while business, which is the other major stakeholder, has been trying to reduce risks on account of the sometimes-conflicting interests of Governments and civil society. This has given rise to piquant situations within the country and abroad in contentious realms such as cyberlaws, Internet Governance, and online security & safety.

For CSI too, this has been an eventful year. Our ExeCom has been active in managing the affairs of CSI. We had a very successful Annual Convention at Kolkata, and a large number of professional activities such as conferences and workshops around the country during the year.

There have been some developments in the current year that seem to indicate an enhancement of our visibility and profile: during this year, the CSI President was appointed as Member of the Cyber Regulation Advisory Committee (as per the notification on 16 Nov 2012), a high-level committee Chaired by the Hon. Minister for Communication and Information Technology, Government of India, that has the mandate of advising the Government on issues pertaining to cyberlaw. Later this year, the CSI President has been also invited to join as Member, All India Board of Information Technology Education (AIB-ITE) of AICTE, as per the request received in February 2013. CSI has also been mandated to run 50 Electronic System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) training workshops around the country, on behalf of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology based on our proposal submitted in December 2011.

Other significant milestones during the year have been steady progress in CSI transactions, CSI journal, and the CSI digital library, all of which are set to enhance our visibility & credibility, at the same time providing valuable services to different constituencies within CSI.

The need to offer value to Student Members, who constitute a significant proportion of our membership, was raised at the Think Tank and President’s Council meeting at Kolkata. We have been gearing up on this aspect, and, with the appointment of a senior professional as the Director of Education, we hope to further enhance student services.

These are indeed important achievements for us. However, we still have scope for improvement in many areas, most noticeably in membership and chapter development. Our coverage in different parts of the country has been steadily increasing, but there are still pockets where CSI is virtually unknown. In some of these regions, we have launched initial activities that will hopefully culminate in Chapters in a reasonable period of time.

Another area where we can contribute is to international processes, institutions, and networks. CSI’s international presence has traditionally been focussed on IFIP and SEARCC, but we need to also enhance our linkages with other international agencies such as BASIS, IGF, and ICANN. We have already made a beginning on some of these during the last year. We are also in the process of signing new or renewed inter-society agreements with agencies such as IEEE, IEEE Computer Society, and ISACA, which will add further value for our members.

I have been fortunate to have a team of Office Bearers, ExeCom members, NC Chair & members, Advisors, and staff who have made my tenure reasonably smooth and trouble free. I would like to thank all of them, and also each member of CSI who have reposed their confidence in me. It has been indeed an honour for me to serve as the President of CSI, and I am sure that the Society will become even more effective under the able leadership of Prof. SV Raghavan, who would be taking over as President; Mr. HR Mohan, the Vice President, and President-elect; and their respective teams.

It is with a profound sense of satisfaction that I bid you goodbye. As we are about to celebrate our 48th Foundation Day, I would like to end with a message with of hope, that CSI will fulfil its mission and mandate of being the country’s most respected and beloved technical society.

With best wishes,

Satish Babu
President