President’s Message

Dear Members

At the outset, let me wish you all a HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015. May this New Year 2015 be: A Year of Health & Happiness; A Year of Peace & Prosperity; A Year of Wealth & Wisdom; A Year of Glee & Glow; And also A Year of Love & Laughter.

The flag ship event, our annual convention CSI-2014 and the Golden Jubilee celebrations recently held at Hyderabad during 12-14 Dec 2014 were really memorable. The participation of Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister for Communications & IT and Law & Justice, Govt. of India and Shri K.T. Rama Rao, Minister for Panchayat Raj and IT, Govt. of Telangana at the inaugural session and the presence of Shri Y.S. Chowdary, Minister of State, Science & Technology and Earth Science, Govt. of India and Shri CH Malla Reddy, Member of Parliament at the valedictory session added strength to the vision and mission of CSI. The other events at the convention – Knowledge Sharing Sessions on eGovernance, CSI Nihiliant eGovernance Awards Presentation, Tutorials on state of the art technologies, Special sessions, Keynote addresses, Convention theme related sessions, Contributed paper presentations were well attended and appreciated by the delegates. An exhibition which was also a part of this convention attracted the delegates. CSI-2014, being one of the conventions during the Golden Jubilee period had a good participation, exceeding 700, from all over the country.

The CSI HQ based events such as National Council meeting, Annual General Body Meeting, Auditor-Chapter Reps Reports Meeting, Regional/Divisional/Chapter Meeting were well participated and had good interactions. At the inaugural session, Life Time Achievement Awards, Honorary Fellowship and Fellowship Awards were presented to our senior members for their services to the Computer Society of India and accomplishments in the IT field. In the CSI awards function held immediately after the AGM, Service Awards and Academic Awards were presented recognizing the services of the volunteers who are the pillars of the society at large. Our congratulations to all the award winners and sincere thanks for their efforts in organizing various activities at the chapters and student branches. The release of the Compendium “Envisioning a Digital India – Selected eGovernance initiatives 2014”, Proceedings of the contributed papers and a Coffee Table Book of CSI Hyderabad at CSI-2014 deserve special mention. In this year’s Think Tank Meeting of CSI fellows, around 50 fellow members participated and deliberated on the Past, Present and the Future of CSI. The wish list, short and long term action plans will be shared in the next message. A detailed report on CSI-2014 will be featured in CSI Communications and also be posted at the CSI website.

On behalf of CSI Execom and my personal behalf, I wish to place on record our sincere thanks to the support extended by Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU), Hyderabad. Defense Research Development Organization (DRDO) and various sponsors for the successful conduct of CSI-2014. Our appreciation and special thanks to Mr. J.A. Chowday (OIC), Dr. A. Gourvadhan (PC) and Mr. Gautam Mahapatra (FC), Mr. Raju L Kanchibhotla (RVP-5), Mr. Mohan Rauid (CSI-2014 Convener), Dr. Pyush Gupta (CSI SIG eGov) and the members of the Team CSI Hyderabad, CSI fellows, CSI members, academic and industry professionals from Hyderabad, delegates from all over the country for making CSI-2014 a memorable convention.

The Annual Students Convention originally planned to be held prior to CSI-2014 on 10-11, Dec 2014 at GNIT campus on the theme “Campus to Corporate and Beyond” had to be postponed due to the university examinations and the same will be held on 3-4, Jan 2015 and is being hosted by Guru Nanak Institutions under the chairmanship of Dr. H.S. Saini. We are thankful to Shri E.S.L. Narasimhan, Governor of Andhra Pradesh & Telengana for consenting to inaugurate the convention and Shri K.T. Rama Rao, Minister for Panchayat Raj and IT, Govt. of Telangana and Shri Bandaru Dattatrey, Unson Labour Minister, Govt. of India for consenting to be our guests at the valedictory session.

I had the opportunity of participating in EAIT-2014, the 4th edition of the International Conference on Emerging Applications of Information Technology, organized by CSI Kolkata and held during 19-21 Dec 2014 at Indian Statistical Institute with the technical co-sponsorships from IEEE CS, IEEE TC-S&P, IEEE TC-CLS, BITS(Mesra) and IISI. This event is well-known for its technical content and quality of papers presented. Out of 271 papers received, 63 were selected for oral presentation in parallel sessions. The invited talks, keynote address and plenary talk highlighted the trends in ICT areas. The conference proceedings edited by Dr. Debashish Jana and Dr. Pinakpani Pal and published by IEEE CS CPS will soon be made available on CSI Digital Library for access by our members. At the concluding session, I was fortunate to present the CSI Life Time Achievement Award to Professor Dwijesh Kumar Dutta Majumder, a founding member of CSI and a recipient of the Norbert Wiener Award. On 21st Dec 2014 evening, the CSI Kolkata Chapter had organized the Golden Jubilee celebrations and honoured the veterans of CSI Kolkata. As Kolkata has a special place in Indian computing and establishing the CSI, I had requested the senior members of CSI Kolkata to contribute for the CSI History project which is looking for inputs from all chapters, senior members and fellows.

The estimated 300 million internet users and 200 million smartphone users make the eCommerce scene in India quite exciting. The current (2014) online shopping market of $3.5 billion is expected to grow to $6 billion in 2015 with the increase of online shoppers from 40 million to 65 million. Flipkart on 6th Oct 2014 received one billion hits and achieved a sales of $100 million. The Great Online Shopping Festival (GOSF) held during 10-12 Dec 2014 had 450 online retailers and clocked over 7 million unique visitors. The Indian eCommerce ventures received funding to the tune of $3 billion in the year 2014. Amazon has announced its intention to invest $2 billion in Amazon India. I thanks to Ratan Tata, NRN Murthy, Azim Premji have started investing in eCommerce ventures. Flipkart started in 2007 with an investment of just four lakh rupees (about $6700) is now valued at $11 billion. The IPO of Alibaba - the Chinese eCommerce giant (started in 1999 with a capital of $60,000) had raised $25 billion in US and valued at $23 billion on debut. These are some indications that the future is bright to this segment of consumer internet companies. The eCommerce apart from offering convenient shopping experience has the potential of making our Indian products reach global markets; increase job potential; and spur growth in the logistics sector. With all such excitements, this sector has attracted the attention of the Government to draw up a regulatory framework. In all, it is worth watching the trends in this sector.

The CSI Education Directorate is continuing its efforts in training programmes. Recently it had organized workshops on Mobile Security, Programming in PHP, Punarjjani workshop for special educators at Coimbatore. They have also participated and put-up stalls for membership drive during CeBIT India expo at Bangalore and during CSI-2014 at Hyderabad.

It may be of interest to note that Vel Tech Dr. RR & Dr. SR Technical University (VTU), Chennai which has an active student branch of CSI has a full-fledged eWaste recycling unit of one tonne per day capacity. VTU has volunteered to work with CSI in creating awareness in eWaste recycling and train entrepreneurs to set up similar units with funding from Govt. agencies. Also its Research Park and Incubation Centre is willing to support innovative projects and provide facilities. VTU is planning to conduct training programmes during 2015 Jan and Feb and those interested may look forward to announcements through CSI.

I request members to encourage the school children and college students to participate in the Essay Contest on the theme “Harnessing the Power of ICT for our New Initiatives” announced by CSI Chennai chapter and IEEE CS & PCS Madras. For details, please visit http://goo.gl/FziCmK

I am happy to inform that the 15% Golden Jubilee discount to enroll as Life Members in CSI has been extended till March 2015 based on the requests received from various quarters. Please encourage your colleagues and contacts to avail this opportunity and become members of CSI.

With best regards

H.R. Mohan
President
Computer Society of India

H R Mohan
From : President’s Desk:: president@csi-india.org
Subject : President’s Message
Date : 1st January 2015