Dear Friends

**Growth of CSI family in Tier II cities & Preparing New leaders:**
As I write this, I am reminded of our meeting few months back, with Shri. R Chandrasekhar, Secretary, Department of Information Technology, wherein he advised us about the upcoming role of CSI in Tier II cities.

Recently I got the privilege of inaugurating our new chapter at the City of Crackers, SivaKasi, located near Kanya Kumari. At the inauguration function, Chapter Chairperson, Dr. Revathi, presented an elaborate list of future activities. Great enthusiasm among members and office bearers was visible. My heartfelt thanks to Dr. S Balakrishnan, Principal of Tamilnadu premier institution, Mepco Schlenk Engineering College for his excellent support & also my good wishes to the entire team. I am sure, with CSI presence in this kind of Tier II cities, CSI activities will get a new boost and flourish quickly.

On the same day, in Kanya Kumari, Tamilnadu State Student convention was also inaugurated. It was attended by over 750 students, who came from various cities of Tamilnadu. Leadership of our student state co-coordinator, Dr. M A Maluk Mohamed, Principal, M.A.M College of engineering, Triuchirappalli and guidance of our Region VII RVP, Shri Ramasamy, deserve a great appreciation for these twin activities held on the same day. Strong drive and Passion of leaders like Dr. Maluk will be the key development factors for CSI growth. We shall encourage and welcome such young leaders and provide them some good opportunities at Regional and National level. We shall seek help of our Regional VPs, Chapter Chairmen, CSI seniors & Fellows to identify new leaders and involve them in CSI growth plans. Seniors shall help National Head Quarters, Education Directorate and all Chapters in preparation of a list of such potential members based on contribution to our events, as organizing committee chairman, program committee chairman and their help in starting new chapters and student branches. There will be some incentive and space for newcomers.

In the last 6 months, 8 new chapters have become part of CSI chapter family. I was informed that soon the count of CSI chapters is likely to cross 80. My hearty good wishes to members and office bearers of all New Chapters and leaders behind these.

**Creation of CSI Talent and Expert Pool:**
Skills and knowledge are the driving forces behind the economic growth and social development of any country. Countries with higher and better levels of skills adjust more effectively to the challenges and opportunities therein. CSI endeavours and plans various education and skill development activities on a continuous basis.

Our Past President and Fellow, Dr. S Ramani, and Divisional chairman - Education & Research, Prof. N L Sarda have started helping CSI on new ideas for educational policy and plans.

Education Directorate was advised by Dr. Ramani to create a National Talent pool of 1000 experts, representing various facets of IT knowledge so that their help and services can be requested to run workshops, certification programs for students at all India level. I request our esteemed members to kindly come forward and share their skills and profile in this exercise.

CSI as a prime professional body shall seize a good opportunity for recognizing and promoting IT skills through certification programs. Already, in the past, CSI has a good track record in offering Certifications in Programming languages. We are aware of successful models, being promoted by other international societies. However, considering the diversity and language plurality, India needs a different model.

Advisory Board for deciding framework of education at Mumbai opined, CSI shall try to build a framework of certification programs where certification for subjects like MySQL, PHP, RDBMS & composite subjects as generic can be granted through exams. Delivery of content for preparing students and candidates for these certifications may be offered under mutual agreement and MOUs with other premier institutes like IIIT, Hyderabad, IIT Mumbai and others. A Hybrid model of content delivery through partners and organizing certification exams by CSI may be a good choice for a quick start.

I came to know about a new initiative at IIT Mumbai, when I was invited to launch Tutorials of MySQL and PHP under ‘The Spoken Tutorial project’. This is an initiative of the “Talk to a Teacher” project of the National Mission on Education through Information Communication through Technology, launched by MHRD, Govt. of India. Prof. Kannan and his team at IIT Mumbai are committed in designing and making available quality IT content in all 20 Indian languages as Tutorials on various IT and general subjects meant for School students and others. Participants, after attending tutorials either in class room or through self learning, may be offered CSI certifications in these subjects. They need to register for CSI exams after completion of such Tutorials. Similarly, after attending in-depth workshops, participants may be prepared for CSI certifications. These certifications gradually shall start getting recognition in Industry for judging the competency level of professionals and offer them better job opportunity beside affordable quality education. A detailed study of knowing industry requirements, preparing a good team and making partnership arrangements are few milestones for success.

With the expert guidance of Prof. N L Sarda and with the help of other experts drawn from Industry and from IIT Mumbai, IIIT Hyderabad, Mumbai chapter has started exploring new methods of adding different workshops and courses to CSI basket. After Success of Pilot, it can be extended to other Chapters and colleges. Each Chapter may start exploring at least one area of designing certification course. Hyderabad holds prominence in E-Governance under leadership of Dr. Ashok and Dr. Bagga. Director education shall provide infrastructure and policy support. To me, future of CSI certification is quite bright, it requires committed efforts. There is no dearth of good ideas, resources and guidance.
Promotion of Innovation and Research – Role model:

One of the key goals of CSI is promoting new development in the field of Computer Science and Information & Communication Technology. Recently, Mr. Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple retired from his active role as CEO and inventor, a journey he started 30 years ago. There are more than a dozen innovations to his merit; most recent one is the iPad. Application development on Apple iOS Operating system is offering a huge opportunity to developers. Already more than 1 lakh Apps are claimed to be available on Apple and other Tablet platforms. Blend of offering of iCloud by Apple is also likely to be popular soon. Some of the CSI workshops and seminars shall have a focus on new Developments around iPad & Tablet kind of technologies. I would recommend, we shall quickly explore setting up a SIG for promoting these new technologies. Please come forward for this initiative. We may also consider offering workshops where work of great innovators like Mr. Steve Jobs shall be discussed. These may help for building motivation among members for research and in thinking differently.

Preparedness of National Events – CSI 2011, SEARCC 2011, CSI 2012:

I am happy to know about the good preparations and hard-work by our team at Ahmedabad for hosting National convention CSI 2011. Such events require very good team work and seeking help from Industry, Corporate, Government and Academics. I appeal to our members, for extending their help and support for success of CSI 2011.

CSI Mumbai Chapter is hosting SEARCC 2011 Conference under the theme “Collaboration for Inclusive Growth” in Mumbai on 12th and 13th Dec., 2011. Education Directorate under guidance of Past President, Prof. Thrimurthy is busy in organizing SEARCC School competition. For SEARCC 2011, a good support has started coming from Industry, SEARCC member countries and from premier institutions like TIFR, IIT. I am sure success of SEARCC 2011 will seek a new position for CSI among SEARC countries. Please come forward to participate as speakers or as delegates and make SEARCC 2011 a memorable event.

We are thankful, Kolkata Chapter Team is gearing up to setup a structure and team for Annual convention CSI 2012. My hearty good wishes to them.

Other CSI Chapters are also involved in organizing many useful programs, which will offer platform for learning and fostering research. My Hearty Good wishes to all organizers involved.

Chapter Level Forums:

Our Chapters are involved in organizing various technical seminars and workshops. It may be a good idea, to start 2-3 forums at each of the major chapters. Security Forum shall discuss issues related to data security, Cyber forensic & Governance. Software quality and engineering Forum may deliberate complexity of Software systems and new design and testing approach. We shall promote knowledge sharing and developments through Forums. We may also consider starting issue specific forums, like Implementation Challenges & Impact for Aadhar – UAID. All Chapters shall plan to have guest lectures as free offering to members.

CSI large member base is among Students and Academicians. We shall have well defined common program structure for each student branch. Education Directorate shall finalize this list circulate to all institution members. Here above mentioned Pool of 1000 experts will be a great help in delivering industry focus workshops and in improving level of knowledge among faculty and students. I am sure in coming months, our Director Education & Student Council Committees will bring up some useful programs for student members.

My hearty good wishes for organizers of YITP awards for regional rounds, thanks to engineering efforts of Mr. Bipin Mehta and all regional coordinators who came forward for revitalizing YITP awards. Members shall participate in large numbers.

CSI Head Quarter in Mumbai has shifted to New premises with corporate level look and facilities. My hearty good wishes to Staff for new environment.

I am pleased to note that our current issue of CSI Communications is discussing Education theme. I humbly remember the great wisdom of Swami Vivekananda about education “We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded and by which one can stand on one’s own feet.”

I am sure, that participation in CSI programs will provide a great learning opportunity to our members and definitely empower and enrich them.

Jai hind!

With love,

M D Agrawal

“Men often become what they believe themselves to be. If I believe I cannot do something, it makes me incapable of doing it. But when I believe I can, then I acquire the ability to do it even if I didn’t have it in the beginning.”

- Mahatma Gandhi