CSI organized its customary joint ExeCom on 31st March and 1st April, 2012 where the 2011-12 ExeCom demitted office and the new ExeCom took charge. The ExeCom meeting held on 1st April, 2012, discussed several important policy matters and also started the process of constitution of the statutory committees that would steer the activities of CSI during the year. These yearly start-up processes would be completed latest by the month of May, so that they can get going with their business.

WITFOR: One of the first events of the year that was supported by CSI, was the 5th IFIP World IT Forum (WITFOR), held in New Delhi during 16th-18th April, 2012. The Conference, attended by over 950 delegates and over 80 speakers from India and abroad, was organized in partnership with the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DEITY), Government of India. The National Organizing Committee of the Forum was headed by the Union Minister of Communications & IT, Mr. Kapil Sibal, who inaugurated the Forum at Vigyan Bhawan. The speakers at the Conference also included the Minister of State for Communications & IT, Mr. Sachin Pilot. The 2-day event focused on the developmental opportunities offered by digital technologies in the areas of agriculture, education, e-Gov, and health.

Nashik Chapter's 25th Anniversary: It is a pleasure to note that CSI's Nashik Chapter is entering their 25th year of activity in 2012. One of the very active chapters of CSI, Nashik Chapter has been privileged to carry out a number of important activities for its members and other stakeholders, and also contribute to the national leadership of CSI. I wish the Nashik Chapter, its leaders, and members many more years of adding value to the CSI community and to society at large.

Chapter AGMs and New Office Bearers: In most chapters of CSI, the Annual General Meetings have been conducted and the new chapter Office Bearers have taken charge. CSI is keen that all chapter Office Bearers - especially those new to CSI - get adequate support when they require it, particularly about the conduct of the business of the chapter and for the conduct of events. The key resources for support are your Regional Vice President and the CSI HQ.

Kindly contact your RVPs and the CSI HQ Helpdesk (helpdesk@csi-india.org) for any aspect where you need support.

CSI Events during April: I convey my sincere appreciation to organizers of following events that took place during the month of April, 2012.

- 4th International Conference on Human Computer Interaction held during 18th-21st April, 2012 at Symbiosis Institute of Design (SIBM), Pune, organized by IFIP TC-13. Many thanks to Prof. Anirudh Joshi.
- RACSS-2012: International Conference on Recent Advances in Computing and Software Systems held during 25th-27th April, 2012 at Dept. of CSE, SSN College of Engineering, Chennai. I convey my sincere thanks to the joint organization committee of CSI Chennai Chapter & Division IV, IEEE Madras Section, and IEEE CS.

As we get going with the current year, it is important to plan for different events for the year, in particular Conferences, which form an important segment of our activities, and also contribute to the financial stability of CSI. The formal call for proposals for events will be put forth shortly, and I request you to start the process of planning events in your locations.

Membership Growth: Membership growth is a high-priority area for CSI. While the growth in student membership is satisfactory, the growth in professional and institutional membership has potential for improvement. We are examining different mechanisms to enhance professional membership and attract the new IT professional to CSI. One of the means of doing this is to join hands with other societies, including international societies, to provide additional value to our members. Another mechanism being explored is the use of social media to build a more accessible community. We hope to put in place some of these steps over the next two months for stimulating membership growth.

With greetings

Satish Babu
President