Dear Members

The arrangements for our annual convention are in full swing. The team at Vizag is working overtime to make sure that the convention is extremely interesting and memorable. The top management of Vizag Steel Plant are personally involved in making sure that the event is a grand success. Their zeal and enthusiasm is just fantastic. The organizational planning team is lead by the Chairman of Vizag Steel Plant Shri Choudhary and the delivery is lead by their Directors of Finance and Technology, ably supported by General Manager (IT), Shri Rajeswara Rao. Of course, the all rounder Shri P. Satyanarayana is doing wonders in gearing up the Vizag chapter for the mega event. The committee of Office Bearers reviewed the arrangements in September this year and is convinced that CSI is about to witness an event to remember. It is my fervent appeal to all Chapter Chairpersons to attend the Annual Convention along with your complete Management Committee and make sure that at least 20 members from your chapter participate in this grand event. It is your event and your participation is a must.

Honorary Secretary is ensuring that all the National Meets are given prominence; for example, the National Council and the General Body - where the Chapter related matters as well as the member related matter are discussed - are given prominent prime time. It is your society and you decide as to where we should go and how. Therefore your presence in large numbers is a must. Whatever ideas you may have, CSI Annual Convention is the place to discuss them together. I will be looking forward to meeting you all.

Our Vice-President carefully reviewed the program and offered very fruitful suggestions. He underlined the fact that CSI HQ should take direct responsibility for the entire show and make full use of the extraordinary effort put in by the Vizag team. I fully agree with his observation. We will support CSI Vizag team.

I hope you are all aware that there are two conventions! They are the CSI Annual Students’ Convention and the CSI Annual Convention. The CSI Annual Students’ Convention is scheduled during 11-12 December 2013 and the main CSI Annual Convention is scheduled during 13-15 December 2013. The National Council meet and the General Body will be scheduled during the main convention. Of course, formal notification will reach you through proper channels. The venue for the main convention is Hotel Novotel, Vizag. Do visit the website www.csianc2013.csi-vizag.org

The convention theme this year focuses on ICT and Critical Infrastructure. Being Vizag, surrounded by Steel plant, Port, Ship building, and allied heavy industries, there are enough critical infrastructure around. The speakers’ list, which reads like a “who is who” in the areas of Critical Infrastructure protection provides enough justification for any one to be a part of this annual convention. The organizers have nicely packaged a program for all of us and provide sufficient choice of events, lectures, talks, presentations, and demonstrations. We can together declare their efforts a Grand Success if we can make sure that at least 1000 participants are there at the convention – including many of our dear members.

Our Honorary Treasurer has been trying set the house in order so far as the Service Tax is concerned. He along with some of the key members had several rounds of meeting with important functionaries in the government and is bringing in an order that will benefit the society immensely in the coming years. It is my earnest appeal to all Chapter chairs, Division Chairs, and Regional VPs to ensure accounting compliance as proposed by our Honorary Treasurer. Looks like it is becoming the natural next step to follow the core banking idea that banks adopted some years ago. Our society will progressively move towards a core-banking concept with flexible local operational freedom coupled with policy framework overlays, as necessary. I am sure the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer will be working with you in a detailed manner for the next few weeks. Please cooperate in the interest of your society.

I want the members as well as the Division Chairs, SIG Chairs to think about the feasibility of consolidating all our activities in the form of workshops / tutorials / conferences, etc. in to a certain number of “flagship” events (may be 12 events- monthly) that are carefully placed in any calendar-year, well in advance. While doing so, kindly take in to accounts what impacts the society around us. Some examples for themes are Architecture and Systems, Software Design and Performance, Cyber Security, Computational Science, Applications such as Education, Health and Agriculture, and Economics, practice, and management of ICT deployments in all sectors of economy. May be we can plan one event in each stream at the R&D level and one event at the operational level to serve the membership of our society which is inherently pluralistic. I expect Design and Innovation in these areas hold the key to technology leadership in the coming years. I am sure the mature membership of CSI understands the difference between “managers” and “leaders”. Let us exhibit “LEADERSHIP”, that too, kindly take in to accounts what impacts the society around us.

Looking forward to seeing you personally in Vizag.

Prof. S V Raghavan
President
Computer Society of India