Dear Friends

My hearty good wishes to you and to your family for a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year. I am quite optimistic that the coming year will unfold many opportunities and growth prospects for the IT Community and Industry and, needless to say, for CSI too. It is good to note that despite overall underlying down tone in the world’s major economy again, CAGR of IT industry (13-15% in India) is quite attractive and there are good prospects for IT Professionals, Educational Institutions, R&D Organizations, Solution providers, Vendors and Developers. The 12th Five Year Plan considers ICT as a key driver for India’s economic growth; budget outlay for ICT based projects has been increased by more than 100%.

**New Opportunities**: India is a prominent global player in software and software services sector. However, Indian Industry lags behind when it comes to electronic hardware manufacturing capabilities. The National Policy on Electronics aims to address this issue with the explicit goal of transforming India into a premier Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) hub, to meet the country’s needs and serve the international market. Recently, DIT invited proposal from CSI for organizing ESDM workshops at all-India level for generating an interest among students about ESDM.

We have good opportunities to leverage on these new schemes of government and support the implementation of various programs related to the policies viz. developing Hardware pool of skills and being involved in setting of education standards for ESDM and other schemes. It requires a careful study and building of new capacities and partnerships.

**Latest achievements**: I am happy to note the successful completion of our major events during the past month - December 2011: Annual National Convention CSI 2011 at Ahmedabad, SEARCC 2011 at Mumbai, National Seminar on UID – Adhaar at Lucknow, COMAD 2011 Research Conference at IITB and many other events by Chapters. All 4 CSI Awards : CSI IT Excellence Award, CSI Nihilent E-Governance Award, CSI YITP Award, CSI Academic Excellence awards, have set new Benchmark Standards. All these activities attracted wide participation from Industry and received excellent appreciation for high quality standards. Other events viz. Fellowship awards, Chapter level and student Branch awards also concluded gracefully. Successful organization of these kinds of activities show good organizational strength of CSI and these are the result of passionate tireless efforts of our colleagues and volunteers. My hearty good wishes to them.

**Agenda for Change**: On one side, there is a great desire for change in CSI and on the other there is a lack of clarity, a question of sustainability, and a need for motivation to adopt change. It is better to have a perspective and a context for defining the agenda for change and for this I would refer to key learnings from Mr. Peter Senge, who is the author of the book “The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of the Learning Organization” and with whom I had the good fortune to interact with, way back in December, 1995. In his book, he speaks about leveraging learning & knowledge for organizational growth and transformation. I also find good use of his lessons on shared vision: Building a sense of genuine commitment in a group, for all of us, especially in bringing improvements and change. His theory of system thinking, like we plan in corporate strategy, may have relevance, when we analyze our key successes and areas of improvements and change. Learning from change in other societies may also help, like British Computer Society, which had few years ago, carved growth plans and started getting better recognition in Industry and Government. After inducting a change from decentralized to centralized structure in organization, BCS unleashed a great potential for growth. In our case, strategy and actions may be different as the situation is different. We should do innovation in our plans. I look ahead during the year 2012 for this preparedness.

According to Peter Senge, there are certain challenges in initiating changes. There must be a compelling case for change and a time to change. Many Opportunities are available, we need to set our priorities, pool our energies and try to decide on a new structure in CSI. Change is inevitable for progress.

As I have penned earlier also, we shall try to connect with ground realities of the Nation, especially Government Plans and Challenges of industry and meet social obligations and stakeholders’ choice and expectations. As per experience, all programs having a National Agenda receive a very good participation and appreciation in Industry. Taking a clue from this learning, Skill Development Programs, ICT for Inclusive Growth, Education Standards, Research Agenda, being part of some National agenda, may be part of future list of activities.

Think tank and President council deliberated during Annual Convention and identified following focus areas (Partial list):
1. Organize CSI activities seminars/workshops for ICT Role for Rural, Civil Society and for inclusive growth
2. Seek CSI Advisory role in Government committees.
3. Make Effective use of Presidential Council,
4. CSI shall involve in defining standards
5. Play Effective role in SEARCC
6. Provide Counseling and Mentoring to youngsters
7. Promote affordable Computing - Open Source and technologies like Akash
8. Define CSI activities for Physically challenged members
9. Form CSI task force for National Policies on ICT
10. Make use of Technology for Literacy: Software developed by TCS may be used.
11. Explore CSR funding route for CSI projects for inclusive growth
12. Enhance activities under E-Governance.
13. Have Graduate level Exams, for those students who could not get opportunity of Engineering in IT
14. Special focus for Women and Youngsters in CSI programs.
15. Build a CSI Archive for history of Computing in India and CSI role

We are thankful to think tank for sharing valuable new ideas, which can be considered for designing and defining programs in the coming months. Let our committee members deliberate on these subjects and try to evolve new programs. Each chapter may take lead role in an activity taken on pilot basis. After successful trial, others may follow. I am confident of our strengths and capabilities.

In Execom meeting held on 2nd December, 2011, formation of...
following committees and their activities was discussed.

**CSI Education Policy**: Examine current practices of CSI about standards of technical workshops, certification courses, members empowerment training programs, market study and new framework and choices of education and training programs for different segments, and define a Road Map. Study shall cover plans for Chapters, Director Educations.

**CSI Administrative and Organization structure**: Examine strengths and weakness of current administrative setup and define roles and procedures.

**CSI - Know Your Member / Customer (KYC)**: In changing scenario – Knowing our new members, their basic requirements and expectations, identifying new segments of members and suggesting programs for these segments. A membership marketing drive with value proposition.

These activities will only be possible with the help of Execom members, seniors from chapter committees. I request that they leverage their time to participate in these studies and come up with a blueprint of a new structure for CSI.

**CSI Advisory Role**: CSI has a pool of experienced and high caliber personalities as its members, who can help government in policy making exercises. I foresee a good opportunity, to expand our reach and find ways to be part of decision making cycles and committees at Central & State level organizations.

Recently I was invited to participate in round table discussions “Citizen Charter for Social Media” , held by DIT. At this forum, CSI shared ideas how to leverage this technology effectively. In a similar instance, E-Governance cell of DIT has shown interest in CSI proposal for carrying out benchmarking and assessment exercise of state level E-Governance Projects. Few months back, DIT wrote to CSI seeking advice on R&D policy in 12th Five Year Plan. Recently, Data Security Council of India has involved CSI and invited suggestions for their committees. Once we deliver good service and advice, these kinds of role requirements will increase and CSI will start participating in Government decision making exercises.

We may identify senior individual members, who are subject specialists and can liaise with government committees and participate in decision making exercises both at State as well as Central level. At State level, Chapter committees may approach State governments. Names of these team members can be communicated to Government and ministries.

Setting up a Centre of Excellence on E-Governance by our SIG E-Governance is a move in the right direction. It may provide a good footing for CSI in E-Governance project evaluation and training domain.

Similar attempts shall be made for setting up Centre of Excellence on Data Security and Cyber Security.

**Chapter Committees**: I want to touch upon functioning of our Chapter committees. There is a need to create sub-committees dealing with subjects of National agenda like E-Governance, Data Security, role of Aadhar for Citizen Charter and also design programs on new Core IT subjects like Shift of IT toward disruptive technologies of Google and Apple, developments of skill sets on Open source and Light weight OS. We shall enroll Industry members in our committees.

**A New Beginning**: For Digital inclusion, education has an important role, especially with 78% youth staying in rural India. IT has means to reach to every corner of India and offer education to uneducated and deliver quality educational contents to all. CSI Life Time Achiever, Fellow, Prof. Rajaram rightly cited that CSI shall set high priority for IT literacy and empower youth with quality degree / certification programs.

During National convention, CSI signed a MOU with IIT Mumbai for promoting Spoken Tutorials, where our student members get free access to few quality Software training programs through web access, absolutely free of cost. It is a step towards bridging the digital divide and addressing the need of quality education especially to students in remote areas who do not get the opportunity for high standard learning. This is the first attempt of delivering High standard content through Technology. This mission will help in bridging the Digital divide. Our Dream may start fulfilling in the year 2012.

**IFIP & SIG Committees**: In the coming months, we shall seriously consider revamping some of our SIGs and IFIP committees. Effective functioning of these mini committees will promote research and development in various domains. Fresh proposals shall be welcome. IFIP President, Mr. Leons is quite optimistic to enhance IFIP operation in India. Let us provide our wholehearted support.

**SEARCC**: Representatives from 9 South east Asia Region countries came forward to attend and share platform SEARCC 2011 Conference in Mumbai on 12/13th Dec, 2011. Both the MOS Ministers, Shri Sachin Pilot and Shri Milind Deora graced the occasion. The subject of inclusive growth and prospects of collaborations at different level was deliberated and over 75 speakers shared their ideas. I convey my sincere gratitude to our Mumbai chapter committee, especially, Prof. Shyam Sunder, Prof. Atanu Rakshit, Mr. Ravi Eppaturi, Mr. Rajiv Garela, Dr. Vishnu, Mr. Koshy Abhrraham, Mr. Pasha Fahim and Mr. Harsh Vardhan who helped make this conference a grand success. CSI took a position of pride at Asia pacific level and a leadership role to lead SEARCC. The future of CSI on the Global Map appears bright.

**Tasks Ahead**: I had listed few plans in my President’s Desk in September 2011 and I am happy to see most of these plans taking shape.

Our team under the leadership of Mr. Mohan Datar has launched first version of new CSI Web portal. Thanks to all contributors, after full implementation, new portal design will offer new kind of services to members.

During last 2 years, we have tried to strengthen organization structure at Head Quarters in Mumbai and Director Education in Chennai. Now dedicated staff is available for managing different processes and services. New posts of COO and 4 no. of Asst. Managers / Managers have been added. With increase in activities, expectations also rise. I am sure, in the year 2012, attempts will be made to further strengthen the organization structure. I convey my sincere appreciation to our team members for their good services. My hearty good wishes to all staff members for brighter prospects in the New Year.

Jai hind!

With love,

M D Agrawal

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

- Henry Ford