



President's Message

From : President, Computer Society of India

Date : 01 July, 2018

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Assuming Charge as President

I have taken over the charge as President of Computer Society of India (CSI) on 15th June, 2018 as per clause 4.4.1 of the CSI constitution. At one level, I am humbled to assume this position and follow in the footsteps of doyens and legends of Computer Science and IT in India like Prof. R. Narasimhan, Dr. F. C. Kohli, Dr. H.N. Mahabala, Mr. Hemant Sonawala and Mr. S. Mahalingam. However I am pained at the unfortunate turn of events that have forced me to assume this role. Vested interests have been working to prevent my assuming charge. I have clear plans and roadmap to keep CSI in its rightful place in the professional map of India. I seek the support and guidance of the Past CSI Presidents, Fellows, Honorary Fellows, elected Executive Committee (ExecCom), chapter, Special Interest Group (SIG) & student branch office bearers and members to take CSI on a steep trajectory of sustained growth and achievement.

CSI Annual Elections

It was resolved at the ExecCom Meeting on 25th March, 2018 & Special General Body Meeting on 20th May, 2018 that the election process will be completed by 28th June 2018 and the new team will take charge on 1st July, 2018. There is a conscious attempt to derail the election process by the immediate past president. This is with an ulterior motive to indefinitely continue at the helm of affairs of CSI. His actions include taking unilateral decisions; sidelining the elected ExecCom and elected Nominations Committee (NC); engaging in threats and stooping to the lowest possible level by bringing out baseless allegations. By restoring the elected ExecCom and elected NC, and with all of your support, we will collectively bring CSI back on track. The elected NC has drawn up an election schedule and I look forward to the participation of each of one of you to participate in the election process, which will be free and fair, and also give the members-at-large the opportunity to elect the best candidates, who will take CSI to the next level.

Make in India, Digital India, Start-up India and other National Initiatives

With a membership base of 1.5 lakhs+ members from all walks of life, CSI should be an active participant in various national initiatives like Make in India, Digital India and Start-up India. We need to leverage the strength of our members in industry, academia, research, government as well as students. Various national research agencies like DRDO, ISRO and DBT are in need of innovations and products for national security and missions. We should work towards making CSI serve as a facilitator for these national missions and initiatives.

IT Enablement of CSI

With significant efforts of last one year as VP, I could implement robust and secured CSI portal. Membership services on our portal, made online and as a result, there is significant growth in membership month by month but CSI was losing this opportunity earlier because of lack of automation. Complaint management and financial transactions related to membership services are transparent and measurable. I will bring complete IT enablement for all aspects of operations of CSI HQ, ED including financial sanctions/approval for RVP, Division Chair, and Chapters so that audit can be done online. I have planned to extend mobile based e-services for all the members of CSI which

is pending for a long time and make our portal more dynamic and collaborative for entire CSI community. I am sure my mission of IT enablement of CSI will bring efficiency and complete transparency w.r.to CSI functions and financials to all its stakeholders.

Employee Motivation

Employees of CSI are most important resources for the efficient functioning of our society. It is unfortunate that they have been neglected, oppressed and key environmental factors have been manipulated in recent past and as a result, their motivation level is quite low. I will initiate necessary steps to create a conducive work environment and organizational culture that will foster employee motivation, engagement, trust and collaboration leading to efficient CSI.

Special Interest Groups (SIG)

CSI has got several Special Interest Groups (SIG) in various cutting-edge areas of ICT. These SIGs are under the various divisions of CSI. Except for a few SIGs like e-Governance, ICT in Judiciary, Big Data, etc., many of the SIGs are dormant or inactive. I call upon the divisional chairs and SIG conveners to plan various activities with the support of the regional vice-presidents, chapter OBs and student branches. Like ACM or IEEE, these SIG should ideally help CSI evolve into a professional body at the forefront of influencing policy and standards.

Inter-society Collaboration

We need to initiate discussions and execute Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) to gainfully collaborate with all like-minded professional societies like IETE, IEEE, ACM or IET as well as industry associations like NASSCOM and MAIT. The Tech leader interview in this issue has very good pointers on initiatives, where we can collaborate with NASSCOM. I call upon all our CSI members with association and influence in these societies and industry associations to work towards these. Please keep me posted as any initiative or agreement has to be approved by the ExecCom.

Student Branches

The largest constituency of CSI is our CSI student branches and its members numbering more than 100,000+. We have more than 1000+ institutions with CSI institutional membership and student branches. It is imperative that we plan and execute value-added activities for our students and student branches like techbridge, seed R&D grants, hackathons, ideathons, project contests, programming contests, quizzes etc. We need to convert all our institutional members to student branches as well.

With kind regards

Gautam Mahapatra
President, CSI

