IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 363 OF 2021
WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 6750 OF 2026
WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 16983 OF 2022
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 363 OF 2021

Chandrashekhar Sahasrabudhe,
Member Of Think Tank — Appellant/Applicant

versus

Gautam Mahapatra, President
Of Computer Of Society Of India — Respondent

WITH
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 778 OF 2022

The Computer Society Of India — Appellant

versus

Gautam Mahapatra, President
Of Computer Of Society Of India — Respondent

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 16982 OF 2022
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 778 OF 2022

Gautam Mahapatra, President
Of Computer Of Society Of India — Applicant

versus

The Computer Society Of India — Respondent

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 16980 OF 2022

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HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 778 OF 2022

The Computer Society Of India — Applicant

versus

Gautam Mahapatra, President
Of Computer Of Society Of India — Respondent

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 16984 OF 2022
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 778 OF 2022

The Computer Society Of India — Applicant

versus

Gautam Mahapatra, President
Of Computer Of Society Of India — Respondent

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 18471 OF 2023
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 778 OF 2022

Sanjay Mohapatra — Applicant

versus

The Computer Society Of India — Respondent

WITH
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 111 OF 2022

The Computer Society Of India — Appellant

versus

Gautam Mahapatra, President
Of Computer Of Society Of India — Respondent

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HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 623 OF 2022
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 111 OF 2022

Mr. Deepak Chavan and Others — Applicants

versus

Computer Of Society Of India and Others — Respondents

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 627 OF 2022
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 111 OF 2022

The Computer Society Of India — Applicant

versus

Gautam Mahapatra, President
Of Computer Of Society Of India — Respondent

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 622 OF 2022
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 111 OF 2022

Mr. M. Gnanasekaran and Others — Applicant

versus

Gautam Mahapatra, President
Of Computer Of Society Of India — Respondent

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 625 OF 2022
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 111 OF 2022

The Computer Society Of India — Applicant

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HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

versus

Gautam Mahapatra, President
Of Computer Of Society Of India Respondent

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 17659 OF 2022
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 111 OF 2022

Mr. N. Anand Rao Applicant

versus

Gautam Mahapatra, Scientists at DRDO,
President Of Computer Of Society Of India Respondent

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 631 OF 2022
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 111 OF 2022

Nirmal Jain and Others Applicant

versus

The Computer Of Society Of India Respondent

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 628 OF 2022
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 111 OF 2022

Swapnil Sadanand Karkhanis,
Employee Of The Computer
Society Of India Applicant

versus

Gautam Mahapatra, President Of
Computer Society Of India Respondent

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WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 629 OF 2022
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 111 OF 2022

Swapnil Sadanand Karkhanis,
Employee Of The Computer
Society Of India — Applicant

versus

Gautam Mahapatra, President Of
Computer Society Of India — Respondent

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 621 OF 2022
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 111 OF 2022

Mr. M. Ghanasekaran and Others — Applicants

versus

The Computer Society Of India and Others — Respondents

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 624 OF 2022
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 111 OF 2022

Mr. Deepak Chavan and Others — Applicants

versus

The Computer Society Of India and Others — Respondents

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 16817 OF 2022
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 111 OF 2022

Mr. Abraham Koshy — Applicant

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HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

versus

Gautam Mahapatra, President
Of Computer Society Of India Respondent

WITH
INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 17659 OF 2022
IN
APPEAL FROM ORDER NO. 111 OF 2022

Mr. N. Anand Rao Applicant

versus

Gautam Mahapatra, President
Of Computer Society Of India Respondent

Mr. Kalpesh Joshi a/w Nisha Shah a/w Prafulla Bhivgaje, Advocates i/by Kalpesh Joshi Associates for Appellant in AO/111/2022 and AO/778/2022.

Mr. Fereshte Sethna A/W Prakalathan Bathey, Advocates i/by DMD Advocates for Appellant and Applicant in AO/363/2021 and IA/6750/2026.

Aasma Shah i/by M. Hakim Najmi, Advocates for Applicants in IA/623/2022, IA/622/2022, IA/628/2022, IA/629/2022, IA/621/2022, IA/624/2022 in AO/111/2022.

K. C. Prusty a/w Charmi Shah, Advocates for Respondent No. 6 in AO/363/2021, IA/6750/2026 (authorized to appear by Respondent No. 3).

Amar Gharate, Advocate for Respondent No. 3 in AO/363/2021 and IA/6750/2026 (authorized to appear by Respondent No. 2).

Savita N. Malkampate a/w Usha S. Agarwal, Advocates, for Respondent No. 1 in all matters.

CORAM: AARTI SATHE, J.

DATE: 29th October 2026

P.C.

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1. These Appeals from Order have been filed by the respective Appellant(s) primarily in view of the disputes that have arisen between the members of the Think-Tank Computer Society of India, which is a leading professional body of computer professionals founded in and around 1965 as a Society under the framework of the Society Registration Act, 1860 and the Think-Tank itself. Elections have not been held since March 2021 to various posts i.e. President, Vice President, etc, up until today and the affairs of the society remain in a state of limbo. Several orders have been passed in the aforesaid Appeal from Orders, and particularly, order dated 22nd April 2022 passed by a Co-ordinate Bench of this Court in Appeal from Order No. 111 of 2022 along with other connected Appeals, had specifically directed that elections to the aforesaid Computer Society of India was to be held as per the schedule which was envisaged/ directed under the said order.

2. By the said order, a Three-member Committee had been appointed to hold the elections and the schedule for the said elections was also provided in the said order. However, post passing of the aforesaid order, no elections were conducted and this Court by an order dated 7th September 2026, as an interim measure, appointed by consent of all the parties involved the Chartered Accountant firm, T. P. Ostwal & Associates LLP, as an Auditor for the purpose of making necessary statutory compliances in respect of GST Department/Income Tax Department as per the provisions of Law and the Constitution and bye-laws of the Society. The said appointment was an interim arrangement. However, the elections to the Society have still not been held and the schedule as given in order

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dated 22nd April 2022 has not been implemented. This was primarily because of the differences between the members.

3. The matter has been placed today for the purpose of determining the way forward to conduct the aforesaid elections as the same have not been conducted for a considerably long period of time. The parties today have tendered the minutes of the order duly signed by the parties wherein the schedule for holding of the elections has been narrated, and all the parties to the present proceedings who have preferred these Appeals from Order have agreed to other clauses as given by minutes of the order tendered by the parties. The parties are *ad idem* that the aforesaid Appeals can be disposed of by way of minutes of the order. The said minutes of order are reproduced below:-

Minutes of the Order

"(1) A three-member Committee comprising of following members of The Computer Society of India appointed vide Justice Bharti Dangre's Order dated 22.04.2022 are hereby appointed to conduct the elections to the odd year 2027-2028/2029 and for the remaining period of even year 2026-2027/2028 and to steer CSI until conclusion of elections:

i) Mr. N. Anand Rao - Member suggested by the Appellants.
ii) Mr. Abraham Koshy – Member suggested by Respondent No.1.
iii) Mr. S. Mahalingam - Member suggested by the Intervenor.

(2) The three-member Committee will hold the Election for the remainder period as mentioned above from the Head Quarters of CSI at Mumbai, for the following posts:

Sr. No.	Post	No.of Posts	Tenure (years)
1.	President	1	(2027-31/03/2028)= 1
2.	Vice-President (President Elect)	1	(2027-31/03/2028)= 1
3.	Nomination Committee	3	(2027-31/03/2028)= 1
4.	Treasurer	1	(2027-31/03/2029)= 2
5.	Secretary	1	(2027-31/03/2028)= 1

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6.	Regional Vice-President-1 (Odd Year)	1	(2027-31/03/2029)= 2
7.	Regional Vice-President-3 (Odd Year)	1	(2027-31/03/2029)= 2
8.	Regional Vice-President- 5 (Odd Year)	1	(2027-31/03/2029)= 2
9.	Regional Vice-President- 7 (Odd Year)	1	(2027-31/03/2029)= 2
10.	Regional Vice-President-2 (Even Year)	1	(2027-31/03/2028)= 1
11.	Regional Vice-President-4 (Even Year)	1	(2027-31/03/2028)= 1
12.	Regional Vice-President-6 (Even Year)	1	(2027-31/03/2028)= 1
13.	Regional Vice-President-8 (Even Year)	1	(2027-31/03/2028)= 1
14.	Divisional Chairperson (Div. 1) (Odd Year)	1	(2027-31/03/2029)= 2
15.	Divisional Chairperson (Div. 3) (Odd Year)	1	(2027-31/03/2029)= 2
16.	Divisional Chairperson (Div. 5) (Odd Year)	1	(2027-31/03/2029)= 2
17.	Divisional Chairperson (Div. 2) (Even Year)	1	(2027-31/03/2028)= 1
18.	Divisional Chairperson (Div. 4) (Even Year)	1	(2027-31/03/2028)= 1

(3) The Three-Member Committee shall be adhering to the Constitution and Bye-laws of CSI in the conduct of the elections right from the stage of notifying the election programme till the declaration of the results. The Three-Member Committee shall seek the data-base of the voters from the respective center/offices of CSI, as on 30th October 2026 and the Committee shall then verify the entire data and upload the list of eligible voters on the official web-site of the CSI. OTP-based voter validation shall be conducted through either Central Depository Securities (India) Limited (CDSL) or National Securities Depository Limted (NSDL).

(4) CSI members database validation process shall take approx. 02 months (60 days) and the validation process can begin from 01 November 2026 onwards to 31st December 2026 or not later than 11th January 2027. The Election Process/Programme of CSI shall be notified by TMC on its official website on 12th December 2026. The final list of CSI's eligible voting members to be published on the CSI official web-site on completion of 60 days of verification process or before 11th January 2027.

(5) The CSI Constitution and Bye-laws envisage the following election process:

Sr. No.	Bye law	Mechanism as per CSI Bye-laws	Timeline prescribed in CSI Bye-laws	Estimated Timeline
1.	5.1.1.	Nominations Committee[1] shall invite the names of Voting Members, for considering them for the various elective offices of the Executive	Not later than October 15	Day Zero

[1] In view of no valid Executive Committee or Nominations Committee, functions may be discharged by the Three-member Committee.

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		Committee and Nominations Committee.		
2.	5.1.4, 5.1.5	Nominations Committee shall scrutinize nominations and finalize the election slate	-	Day 30
3.	5.2	Nominations Committee shall communicate to Executive Committee the names of nominees together with their bio-data, statement of intent and an undertaking from the candidate that he will attend at least 3 meetings in a year.	Not later than November 22	Day 37
4.	5.3	Executive Committee shall consult each of the nominees and if he so requests, in writing, his name shall be withdrawn.	-	Day 44
5.	5.4	Publication of slate by Executive Committee through a publication that is distributed to the entire membership.	Not later than December 15	Day 60
6.	5.5	Nominations Committee shall prepare election ballots. Final slate that contains the reference to the location of bio-data and statement of intent of the nominees for each of the elective offices shall be published on CSI website	Not later than December 15	Day 60
7.	5.5	Electronic Balloting will take place. The balloting will start on January 1 and end no later than January 31.	1 January to 31 January, not less than 30 days	Day 107
8.	5.6	Balloting Report shall be checked under the supervision of the Nominations Committee.	Not later than 5th working day from receipt of ballots	Day 112
9.	5.7	Nominations Committee shall communicate the Election Report to the Executive Committee. Nominee for each office for which the election has been held receiving the greatest number of qualified votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie vote, the Executive Committee shall	At the earliest following receipt of the Balloting Report	Day 112

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		select between the nominees involved.		
10.	5.8	Executive Committee shall communicate the results of the election to all the nominees in the Election Report.	Not later than February 5	Day 112

(6) The implementation of the above clause shall be in the following manner:

Sr. No.	Mechanism	Proposed Timeline
1.	Three-member Committee shall notify the election programme by all possible modes, including its publication on the web-site and simultaneously invite the names of the voting members for considering them for various elective offices of the Executive Committee and Nominations Committee, etc. The Committee shall grant a period of three weeks for completing the aforesaid formalities and for commencement of the actual election programme.	12 December 2026
2.	Three-member Committee shall scrutinize nominations and finalize the election slate	11 January 2027
3.	Three-member Committee shall communicate to General Body the names of nominees together with their bio-data, statement of intent and an undertaking from the candidate that he will attend at least 3 meetings in a year.	18 January 2027
4.	Three-member Committee shall consult each of the nominees and if he so requests, in writing, his name shall be withdrawn.	25 January 2027
5.	Publication of final slate by three-member Committee through a publication that is distributed to the entire membership.	09 February 2027
6.	Three-member Committee shall prepare election ballots. Final slate that contains the reference to the location of bio-data and statement of intent of the nominees for each of the elective offices shall be published on the CSI website.	09 February 2027
7.	Electronic Balloting will take place	24 February 2027 to 26 March 2027
8.	Balloting Report shall be checked under the supervision of the three-member Committee. Nominee for each office for which the election has been held receiving the greatest number of qualified votes shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie vote, the three-member Committee shall select between the nominees involved.	31 March 2027
9.	Three-member Committee shall communicate the results of the election to all the nominees in the Election Report.	31 March 2027

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10.	Three-member Committee shall announce results to the membership through a publication distributed to the entire membership.	31 March 2027

(7) The Three-member Committee will enter into a contract with Central Depository Service (India) Limited (CDSL) and in the event if CDSL is unable to provide services then TMC may enter into a contract with National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) (Agency), to hold the Voters List Validation and Elections through electronic ballot.

(8) The Three-Member Committee can use the services of Chapter Office Bearers, wherever available, to facilitate the validation process. To help them in this process, Membership Database relating to the Chapter, as may be made available with the TMC. In addition, the Three-member Committee can use the services of a BPO to assist the CSI members in the validation process.

(9) The Three-member Committee will do correspondences through official web-site all i.e. http://www.csi-india.org and the official email address on the same domain. All decisions of the Three-member Committee shall be unanimous, as ordered by Justice Smt. Bharti Dangre vide Order dated 22.04.2022, for all the administrative decisions which include financial decisions as well. However, if there is no unanimity for the Election Programme then in such situation majority view and the decision taken by majority would be binding on all the TMC for such Election Programme only.

(10) Appellant Computer Society of India shall withdraw Civil Writ Petition bearing Stamp No. 1005 of 2021 in Chamber Summons No. 487 of 2020 in Suit No. 755 of 2019 filed in Hon'ble Bombay High Court.

(11) All Applications and Appeals are accordingly disposed off in view of this Order.

Sd/- Sd/-

Advocate for Appellants Advocate for Respondent No.1

Sd/- Sd/-

Advocate for Respondent No.2 Advocate for Respondent No.3

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Sd/-

Advocate for Intervener/Appellant in Appeal No. 363/2021

Dated: 29/October/2026"

4. The signed copy of the minutes of the order are taken on record. Considering that the parties are *ad idem,* the aforesaid Appeals from Order can be disposed of in view of the minutes of order which are reproduced above, no further adjudication is required in so far as the present Appeals from Orders are concerned.

5. All the parties to the minutes of order "agree to abide by the terms/ undertaking given by them, if any, in the minutes of the order".

6. Appeals from Order are therefore disposed of in view of the aforesaid minutes of order. Interim Application(s), if any, also stand disposed of.

7. The minutes of the order shall be preserved and not to be destroyed in the usual course.

8. All concerned to act on the authenticated copy of this order.

9. Stand over to **5th April 2027** for compliance.

(AARTI SATHE, J.)

Bharati

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