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# NIIT's Pawar Appointed Nasscom Chairman

OUR BUREAU  
NEW DELHI

Technology industry body National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) sees a strong revival of demand that could not only help meet, but exceed growth expectations for 2011-12.

Newly-appointed Nasscom chairman for 2011-12, Rajendra S Pawar, said in an interaction with ET: "We are coming back to growth levels seen prior to the slowdown and in the near term we see lot of headroom to catapult this growth." When asked whether this means Nasscom will revise its 15-17% growth target for the year for the \$70-billion technology and business services sector, Pawar said, "It's too early to comment, but we are on track to exceed this target."

Pawar, 60, co-founder and chairman of education software company, NIIT, took over as Nasscom chairman from Harsh Manglik. Nasscom also appointed N Chandrasekaran as vice chairman of its executive council. Chandrasekaran is CEO & MD of TCS, the largest Indian technology services company.

As chairman of the executive council, Pawar will lead and assist Nasscom in catalysing the growth of the Indian IT-BPO industry and enabling the fulfillment of its future goals and aspirations.

Towards this end, Pawar wants to focus on two areas. First, how Nasscom can facilitate growth of the small and mid-sized companies. "There are lots of SMEs focused on software products, telecom, internet space, driven by IP. By the end of this decade, we see quite a few of them becoming very big," Pawar said.

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[BS PEOPLE]

## THE MAN WHO SAW TOMORROW



Rajendra S Pawar

CONSIDERED a visionary, Rajendra S Pawar was years ahead of his time in realising the importance of IT (information technology) education in India. He left a comfortable job at HCL Technologies to start NIIT in 1981. In the process he revolutionised the computer education market in India, thereby creating a completely new industry segment.

All along, Pawar has played the leadership role in nurturing NIIT and building a leading global talent development corporation. NIIT's franchise model enabled it to unleash a wave of entrepreneurship across the globe, providing young people with the opportunity to create viable businesses centred on IT learning.

Again, when the software boom was taking place, Pawar took the plunge and forayed into the software and services market, creating NIIT Technologies in 2004, now a ₹1,000-crore company.

Known for promoting industry-academia alliances, Pawar has been working closely with India's well-known educational institutions. He is on the Board of IIT Delhi, IIM Bangalore, Indian School of Business, Scindia School and Indira Gandhi National Open University.

A firm believer in the need for industry participation to shape the education sector, he went on to establish the NIIT University, a not-for-profit institution at Neemrana in 2009.

Pawar is a member of the Prime Minister's National Council and the Planning Commission's Task Force on Skill Development. He is also helping the Government of South Africa to develop a growth strategy for its ICT industry.

He has been a founder member of Nasscom (National Association of Software and Services Companies) and will lead the industry body as the chairman for 2011-12.

Born in Jammu, Pawar holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from IIT-Delhi and likes listening to music during leisure time. For his contribution to IT and the education sector he was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2011.

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