'IT services industry will reach $300 b by 2020'

It will play a substantial role in the growth of the economy

N V Vijayakumar

BENGALURU: Reposing faith in Indian IT companies, Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan said that the IT services industry in India will definitely reach $300 billion by 2020, and will play a substantial role in the growth of the Indian economy.

"If you ask me whether there is any scope for Indian IT services companies to grow, my answer would be yes. Because the use of technology in business is growing the world over, and dependency on IT is increasing," Kris told *Deccan Herald*.

He said newer and disruptive technologies are getting introduced in the IT business, and globally, business establishments will have to incorporate them in their existing infrastructure.

"It means they will have to modify the infrastructure; create new application and integrate them to their existing infrastructure and go forward. So, Indian IT companies have significant scope for growth even in future," he said.

Kris said that any application that is written or used has become a legacy. "As soon as companies are starting to use legacy applications, it needs support, maintenance and upgrading; an application is mainly used for three years and during that time it should be maintained. So the role of IT companies will increase and the need for talent will also increase," added Kris.

Kris pointed out that the world over, large number of jobs are created in the IT sector. "The need for software engineers will increase to develop

Kris Gopalakrishnan

and maintain newer applications. Talent is required for software programming, security, big data, and analytics, among others," he said.

He made it clear that companies have to understand the changes happening and make sure that the talent pool are retrained and they can continue to grow. "They should be aware that new business models are emerging; for example, agile programming, an emerging trend and incorporate it in their global delivery model. Companies should understand that newer services like digital services are emerging where data science, machine learning among others play a major role," he added.

He said employment generation in the industry will be 10-15%, and it will be divided between the existing companies and new companies coming in.

"The Indian IT services business is currently $150 billion. It will surely reach $300 billion by 2020, as calculated by Nasscom," he added.

India has the advantage of having large number of engineering graduates coming out annually, and has matured skillsets to take on emerging challenges.

"The government is supporting this industry, and we will continue to be a lower cost destination. The growth of the IT industry is evident in the fact that MNCs continue to invest in India, either by partnership model or setting up their own centres," he said.
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