16-18% IT export target for this fiscal is achievable: Nasscom

Press Trust of India
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The momentum for outsourcing services business is positive and the 16-18 per cent growth estimates for IT exports from India in the current fiscal is achievable, industry body Nasscom said today.

"The momentum is positive," said Mr Som Mittal, President of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom), here. "There will be all time concerns about deficit financing.

"Inflation by and large is not impacting this (IT exports) momentum and we continue to keep our guidance of 16-18 per cent," he told reporters on the sidelines of a function. "I think it is achievable", he added.

In January, the Indian IT industry went to the campuses and made about 1.5 lakh recruitment offerings, Mr Mittal said, adding that companies would not make such offerings if they were not confident about the business growth.

US VISA CONTROVERSY
Amid controversy over US vi-

(from left) Mr Som Mittal, President, Nasscom; Mr Nanadan Nilekani, Chairman, UIDAI; and Mr Rajendra S Pawar, Chairman and Co-Founder NIIT and Chairman, Nasscom, at a seminar on 'Next Generation Services Delivery Enabled by Aadhaar' in Bangalore on Thursday. – G.R.N. Somashekar.

sa misuse by leading Indian IT firms, Nasscom has sought to play down the issue saying this is nothing new as there may be differences over interpretation of visas.

"The visa issue is not something new and is just the old story being repeated. There are interpretational issues. There is a need for comprehensive reforms (in visa norms), something which President (Barack) Obama has also highlighted," Mr Mittal told PTI.

Nasscom is deeply engaged in discussions with author-

ities to sort out such issues, he added.

"There are issues at two levels -- policy and operational. We hope these get sorted out soon," Mr Mittal said.

UNIQUE ID PROJECT
One million Indian residents are expected to enrol for unique identity (Aadhaar) number every day from this October, the Chairman of Unique Identity and Development Authority of India, Mr Nandan M Nilekani, said today.

"As UIDAI scales up the systems both at the back-end by adding more technologies and at the front by adding more enrollment stations, it's confident of achieving this goal," he said.

Speaking at a conference with the theme "Next Generation Service Delivery - Enabled by Aadhaar", organised by Nasscom and UIDAI, Nilakani said as of now 95 lakh (9.5 million) people have been issued with Aadhaar numbers.

Another UIDAI official said the figure is expected to cross one crore today.

Nilekani said plans are on track to issue Aadhaar numbers to 600 million (60 crore) people in three to three-and-half years. He said the entire enrolment infrastructure would stabilise in the next few months, adding, UIDAI has built a massive biometrics-based capabilities.