

Indian IT industry likely to be worth \$300 billion by 2022: Kris Gopalakrishnan

OUR BUREAU

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Entrepreneurship has to be part of the curriculum in schools and colleges to develop the culture of entrepreneurship, according to Kris Gopalakrishnan, Past President of CII and co-founder of Infosys.

"I strongly believe that the culture of entrepreneurship is extremely important" even if a person does not actually start a business, he said.

'Problem-solving attitude'

Ownership of a problem, being part of the solution and being excited by problems demonstrates the person's capability to solve problems, he said at a panel discussion on 'policies and frameworks for start-up success' at CII Connect 2016, an international confer-



Arun Jain, CMD of Intellect Design Arena (centre), receives a Lifetime Achievement award from M Manikandan, Tamil Nadu IT Minister, in Chennai. Also present are Ravi Viswanathan (left), Chairman of CII Connect; Kris Gopalakrishnan, Past President of CII (second right); Vijay Thadani, Vice-Chairman and MD, NIIT BHOY GHOSH

ence and exposition on Information and Communication Technology.

The Kerala government distributed computers to nearly 10,000 eighth-grade students to play around, create projects and participate in contests. It

created an ecosystem where students build products and systems, Gopalakrishnan said.

Entrepreneurship has flourished in Tamil Nadu for generations, with people building great businesses in engineering, textiles, garments, food

products, machine tools and automobiles. There is also a culture of mentoring and funding as angel investors.

On the Indian IT industry, Gopalakrishnan said: "I strongly believe the industry will become \$300 billion in size, by 2020 or 2022." The industry is now around \$160 billion, contributing 8-9 per cent of India's GDP and employing around 4 million people.

Over the years, it has grown between 35-50 per cent, but is now growing at around 10 per cent against a global average of 3-4 per cent."

Even at 10 per cent, it has the potential to create a large number of jobs. It is important that both the State and Centre support this industry, and make sure the industry reaches its potential, he said.

In his valedictory address, M Manikandan, Tamil Nadu IT Minister, said the Global Investors Meeting held last year resulted in 98 MoUs, committing a total investment of ₹2.42-lakh crore with direct employment potential of 4.70 lakh jobs. Of this, the IT department alone has attracted 17 investors with an investment of ₹10,950 crore expected to generate over 2 lakh jobs.

The State has so far distributed 32.35 lakh free laptops to government and government-aided schools and college students. For the academic year 2016-17, the State will distribute 5.36 lakh laptops, he said.

Every village will be connected with a high-speed optical fibre network, enabling broadband connectivity at the grass-roots level, he said.

CII Awards

CII Connect 2016 winners

Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year - Kedar Kulkarni, CEO, Hyper Verge
Antony Kattukaran, Co-Founder & CEO, Tagalys

Exemplary Application of IT - Sneha Priya, Co-Founder, SP Robotics

Entrepreneur of the year - Gopi Natarajan, Co-Founder, Omega Healthcare

Global Influencer of the year - PR Venkatrama Raja, Vice-Chairman and MD, Ramco Systems

E-Governance Award - Tamil Nadu e-governance agency (TNEGA)

IT Eco System Award - MS Ananth, Former Director, IIT Madras

Lifetime Achievement Award - Arun Jain, Managing Director, Intellect Design Arena Ltd

CII Hackathon 2015 winners

Team Feathers (Hindustan University)

Team Lock and Learn (Hindustan University)

Team V MED++ (Rajalakshmi Engineering of College)



CII Hackathon 2016 winners

Team Smart Signals (Rajalakshmi Engineering College)

Team Drosnas (Vellore Institute of Technology)

Team Just In Time (Vellore Institute of Technology)

Team Digital Vision Secure Drive (Hindustan University)