

'Technology creates employment opportunity in other sectors too'

Nasscom president says industry body is looking at researching technology impact in other areas

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Nasscom, the apex body of IT companies in India, has said that while the per capita employment in the sector was declining, job opportunities in technology outside IT were increasing. The industry body is looking at researching the impact of technology in other areas, said R Chandrasekhar, president of Nasscom.

In a panel discussion on trends in the IT industry, organised by the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) in Chennai, Chandrasekhar said that due to automation and other reasons the per capita employment was gradually declining. In absolute terms as well, the total quantum of

employment in the IT sector is down from a peak of 240,000 people on a net basis to 130,000-150,000 at present.

"It looks as if the employment opportunities have shrunk. The reality is employment opportunity in technology outside the technology sector has become much more important, because technology has become more pervasive... We are looking at researching what is the impact of technology in other areas," Chandrasekhar said.

"For example, Flipkart is believed to have created almost 400,000 jobs and they are not in technology per se, in the sense they are not computer specialists or computer programmers, but it is a direct consequence of the application of technology in

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President, Nasscom



e-commerce," he added.

Increasingly, opportunities for technically skilled personnel is spreading across sectors, where a combination of technology skills, domain knowledge and soft skills is needed.

From the point of view of employment and skilling,

what is important is that the nature of employment and impact of technology on jobs has become much broader. The nature of skills required has also become much broader, and a combination of skills has become more important than a unidimensional skill. That is because value has

today shifted to the junction point between technology and domain or the point between domains.

"The good news is that even if you are not a techie, probably the technology industry is creating space for you somewhere else," Chandrasekhar said.

R Chandrasekaran, executive vice-chairman of Cognizant India, said that technology disruption was creating a lot of opportunities and employment opportunities were also increasing. The customer budget on technology is increasing and the industry is also growing. The domestic industry is also growing at 11-12 per cent, which shows new opportunities. The domestic business is expected to gradually grow faster.