

'Covid Hastened Digitisation from Years to Weeks'

Infosys sees 'tremendous appetite' for tech investment, says chairman Nandan Nilekani

Our Bureau

Bengaluru: The Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the digitisation of the economy from years to weeks and enterprises are being disrupted by changes in technology trends, Infosys chairman Nandan Nilekani said.

"In the last few years, there has been a dramatic change in the way that the companies are managed and use technology and we call this broad thing as the digitalisation of the economy; Covid-19 has accelerated this digitalisation where millions of children doing classes online, grandparents using video to talk to grandchildren, health services are provided online and so on," Nilekani said at a virtual Infosys event.

"So, fundamentally the compression of digital way of things what would have taken years to what is now taking weeks," he added.

The adoption of consumer technologies into enterprises with legacy technology was posing a challenge for large companies, he said.

"Trends that started with consumerisation are penetrating the large companies in a big way and this is a big challenge because these large companies had legacy systems; they run on mainframes. The systems of the large companies are monolithic, which have been around for many decades, the new world requires much more agile infra, and much more service on the cloud and all the various other things," Nilekani said. The challenge cannot be addressed by merely hiring a large number of people or making an acquisition, he said.

"It has to be done by reinventing the organisation which Infosys has been doing over the last few years," Nilekani said, and credited chief executive Salil Parekh for transforming the Bengaluru-based IT services provider in the last three years.

Infosys has transformed itself in-



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SALIL PAREKH CEO, Infosys

to a digital native company, he said.

Infosys is seeing "tremendous appetite" for investment in technology among clients as they look at technology to drive business growth and not just process improvement, Parekh said.

"With the modernisation (digital transformation) ... many of the IT systems are now to drive growth for our clients. It is not just about process improvement or cost efficiency, and there we see tremendous appetite for investment," Parekh said, addressing the media on Tuesday.

"As of now, we have not seen unusual level pricing pressure," he added. The software services exporter said the "technology spend scenario is extremely strong" currently for clients in the United States, its largest market.

"My expectation is the technology spend scenario is extremely strong at this stage. The real question is how quickly we are able to work with the clients. All the investments made two-to-three years ago would allow us to be more relevant for our clients. We see the client environment more positive," Parekh said, answering a question on demand scenario in the US amid an imminent change in presidency.



NANDAN NILEKANI
Chairman, Infosys

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