



**Kiran Karnik**  
**Former President**  
**NASSCOM**

Kiran Karnik has held the office of President of NASSCOM, the premier trade body and the “chamber of commerce” for the IT software and services industry in India till January 2008. Mr. Karnik has been recognized as the guiding force for the Indian IT industry, especially for his guidance to the industry during the outsourcing backlash. By providing perspective and background information, he has been instrumental in promoting India’s technology strength to the world.

He has been a member of many key government committees, and is presently a member of the Scientific Advisory Council to Prime Minister. He also has a deep involvement with a number of NGOs in the areas of development, education and environment, and currently is honorary Chairman of the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (Delhi), Chairman of Vigyan Prasar and President of India Habitat Centre. He is also an independent Director on various company Boards and was Chairman of the government-appointed Board of Satyam Computer Services.

Prior to joining NASSCOM in 2001, Mr. Karnik was the Managing Director at Discovery Networks in India where he spearheaded the launch of Discovery Channel in South Asia in August 1995 and Animal Planet (a Discovery – BBC joint venture) in 1999. From 1991 to 1995, Mr. Karnik was Founder-Director of the Consortium for Educational Communication, which was responsible for UGC’s Countrywide Classroom broadcasts and other ICT initiatives.

Earlier, Mr. Karnik worked for over 20 years at the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). His work in ISRO involved conceptualizing and managing applications of space technology, and he was a key player in the pioneering India-USA Satellite Instructional TV Experiment (SITE).

In his career spanning over three decades, Mr. Karnik has been conferred many awards and accolades. He has been awarded the Padma Shri in 2007 and the ‘DATAQUEST IT Person of the Year – 2005’. BusinessWeek named Mr. Karnik as one of the ‘Stars of Asia’ in 2004 and he was selected as Forbes magazine’s ‘Face of the Year 2003’, for being a driving force behind India’s offshoring wave.