

Intel to invest ₹1,100 crore in R&D centre

OUR BUREAU

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Technology giant Intel will invest ₹1,100 crore in its upcoming R&D centre, which can create 3,000 jobs.

This fresh round of investment is on top of the \$2-billion the chip maker has invested in the country till 2016.

"This investment is a part of our India expansion plans," said Intel India General Manager and Vice-President of Data Center Group Nivruti Rai. The proposed facility will be located at Intel's 44 acre campus on Sarjapur Ring Road (SRR) in Bengaluru, which hosts other tech giants such as Oracle, HP and others.

Company officials said this new facility will work on design and verification purposes and in the next year and half has the potential to create 3,000 jobs. Intel does not disclose company-specific data on number of people working in India but said that its workforce develops software and hardware applications used in server computers, smartphones and other devices.

Intel's decision to invest in India is coming at a time when tech giants are going through a drought when it comes to investing in their business. "Such investments will bring tremendous job opportunities and strengthen the IT sector in the country," said Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister of Karnataka.

Priyank Kharge, IT, BT Minister, told *BusinessLine* that Intel's investments will encourage innovation and bring in more job opportunities, especially at a time when job creation has reduced to a trickle.

Industry watchers believe that tech multinationals have been holding on to their investment plans despite the government sounding out its Digital India policy.

"The intent (to invest) exists, it is just a question of when," said Sanchit Vir Gogia, Founder, Greyhound Research.

Tie-up with DST

Intel has partnered with Department of Science and Technology (DST) to work on technologies that can benefit large cross sections of under privileged people.

The India development centre will also work on emerging technologies like IoT where its latest Atom processor A3900 series, which has been designed for some of the IoT-related applications.

IoT is expected to be a multi-trillion-dollar market, with 50 billion devices are expected to create 44 trillion gigabytes of data annually by 2020.



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with Nivruti Rai, Intel India General Manager and Vice-President of Data Center Group, during the announcement of the Intel's expansion plans in Bengaluru