

**NO DOUBT ABOUT INDIA'S POTENTIAL, BUT...**

# Great Indian Startups Some Way Off: Arora

Outgoing SoftBank prez vows to continue backing cos which he helped get funding

## Our Bureau

**Bengaluru:** Nikesh Arora, who helped back Indian startups with over \$1 billion in SoftBank capital in less than a year, believes that “great businesses” are some way off and the way to get there is for founders to be focussed on execution.

The outgoing president of the Japanese conglomerate told **ET** by email that he will continue to support the startups that he was involved in funding. “Indian startups are going through a phase of consolidation both of their sectors as well as their positions,” he wrote in response to questions from **ET**. “It will be a long road from here to great large businesses.”

Arora, 48, a former chief business officer at Google, announced his resignation from SoftBank on Tuesday after the Japanese group's founder Masayoshi Son said he planned to continue as the chief executive officer for years more. “We had an honest conversation if he was ready to give up. Upon reflection he felt his work was not done, which of course is a found-

## ON INDIAN STARTUPS

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## ON REASON FOR QUITTING SOFTBANK

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**NIKESH ARORA**

der's prerogative. I didn't feel I wanted to wait for 5-10 years, hence my transition to adviser,” Arora said.