



# Guj IT exports cross Rs1,000 crore mark

Total revenue of the industry was over Rs2000 crore

**Amit Arora.** Gandhinagar

After much delay and anticipation, Gujarat's information technology (IT) industry's exports have crossed the psychological barrier of Rs1,000 crore. Though the amount is nowhere comparable with that of IT exports from cities like Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune, it is a milestone nonetheless for Gujarat.

The industry had first set the target in financial year 2007-08 but failed to achieve it due to rupee strengthening against the US dollar. However, according to figures available with Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), Gandhinagar, the total IT exports from Gujarat touched Rs1,062 crore in financial year gone by. The industry here posted growth of more than 30% in 2008-09. In addition, IT secretary, Gujarat government, Raj Kumar estimates the revenue of IT firms feeding the domestic market to be well over Rs1,000 crore. It takes the total revenue of the state industry to be higher than Rs2,000 crore. He is now hopeful of higher growth rate once the industry is on the other side of the mental hurdle.

The biggest contributors to the Rs1,000 crore figure were companies like TCS, L&T, **efnfochip** and Motif. TCS is expected to start work on setting up its own campus in Gandhinagar soon. The company got an IT

## Boom time

The industry in the state posted growth of more than 30% in 2008-09

It is now targeting exports worth Rs1,300 crore in the current fiscal

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SEZ notified near Infocity in Gandhinagar last year.

According to industry experts, while Rupee stood at 38 against the dollar in the initial phase of FY09 later it came to 49 averaging out around 45 making achieving the target possible. What's more, the industry is now targeting to take the exports to Rs1,300 crore despite the condition of world economy in general and that of the US economy in particular, on which much depends.

"We are slowly getting the scale and SME business is flowing into Gujarat. While growth in the first half of the current fiscal will be around 15%, which is still better than Nasscom's single digit forecast for India, things are expected to get better in the second half," Gujarat Electronics & Software Industries Association (GESIA) president, Nirav Shah told DNA Money.

STPI, Gandhinagar, director, Ajay Sharma said, "The things need to be watched out closely. There is definitely hope for better growth in the later half of the current financial year."