



## PHARMACEUTICALS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

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### Gujarat to woo biotech industry in a big way

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BANGALORE: Karnataka, which is one of the pioneers in the biotech industry, is likely to face stiff competition from Gujarat--a relatively new entrant into the industry as the latter is gearing up to pursue investments in the BT sector aggressively. The Gujarat government has rolled out many schemes which are identical to schemes in Karnataka and is aggressively pursuing investment from the BT industry. Besides offering benefits to BT industry through policies, they are scaling up the infrastructure.

A BT park is coming up in Sarli, Baroda. non SEZ and SEZ players have already been identified. We are coming up with a high end incubation facility. An agri bio tech park and a marine bio tech park is on the cards. We are improving the research infrastructure through Gujarat genomics initiatives, biodiversity gene bank, genetic diagnostic center and other projects," said Madhvi Joshi, Sector Specialist, Healthcare, Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission (GSBTM). The Gujarat government is also planning to scale up the existing Rs 10 crore VC fund for BT companies by at least two to three times.

In 2005, Gujarat signed MoUs worth Rs 250 crore with BT companies. In 2007 and 2009, it signed MoUs worth Rs 1500 crore and Rs 2,500 crores respectively. In the coming year, they have set a target of over Rs 3,000 crore from BT industry during the upcoming Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Meet.

While states like Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are comfortably placed with their first mover advantage, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Orissa are keen on attracting investment from BT industry and are likely to heat up the competition.