

Govt speeds up action plan to make India global IT hub

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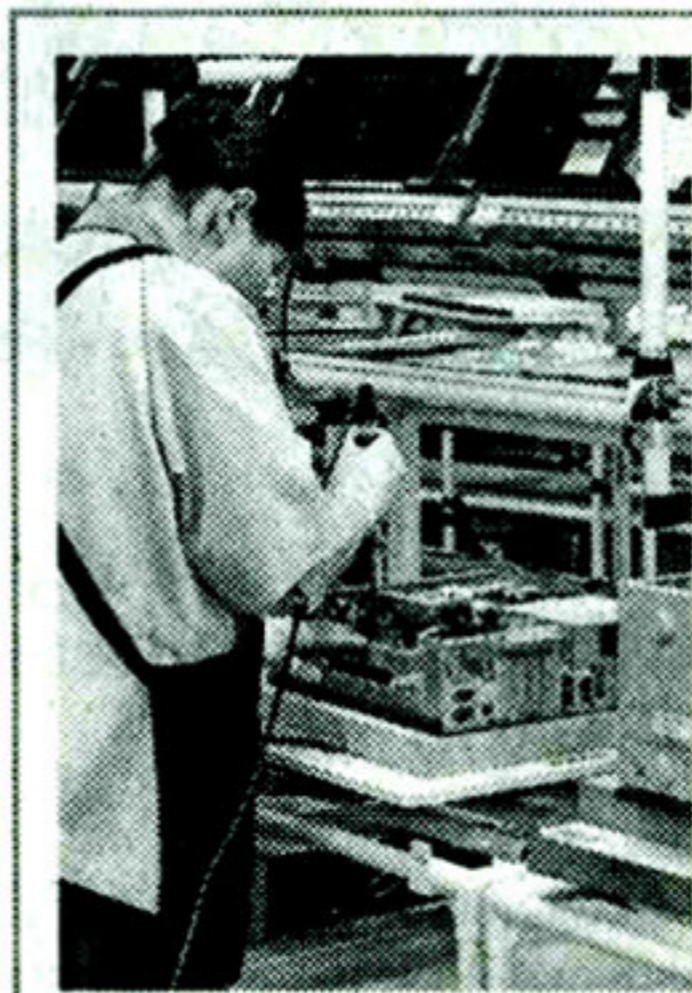
THE government is fast forwarding its action plan to develop India as one of the major IT manufacturing hubs in the world. It is also working to ensure India retains its edge in software development.

Department of Information Technology (DIT) secretary R Chandrashekhar told *FC* here on Thursday that the preliminary meeting on the national task force on IT and software development with ministers will be held next week and

the cabinet meeting will be held in another few weeks.

The task force was formed in August 1998 with various industry bodies such as Nasscom, India Semiconductor Association (ISA) and Manufacturer's Association for Information Technology (Mait) among others. The task force headed by Ajai Chowdhry, CEO and managing director of HCL Infosystems, submitted its report to the communications and information minister A Raja in December 2009.

"After receiving the report, we examined it and



consulted with the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC).

Future growth

■ The meeting on the national task force on IT and software development will be held next week

■ The task force submitted its report in Dec 2009 to the communications and information minister

■ The report says there is a huge opportunity for India to increase its footprint globally in ITeS

We have pipelined our views along with NMCC, which would go to the com-

mittee of secretaries within next week. The package would then be taken to the cabinet for a decision. However, dates have not been fixed yet," Chandrashekhar said.

On untapped manufacturing prowess of the sector in the country, he said, "We certainly have strength in software, design and R&D. We can strike a good balance in the creation of products, evolution of products, testing and prototype of products and also in some areas in manufacturing." Opportunities in the manufacturing domain

were being examined at length, he added.

The report has made projections for the sector in terms of the demand growth and the pattern of growth making two sets of estimates-till 2014 and 2020. It has also made a set of recommendations in key distinct areas such as software and IT enabled services, hardware sector, including design and manufacturing and strategic sectors covering areas such as defence, space and atomic energy.

"The main crux of the report is that there is a huge opportunity for us to in-

crease our footprint globally in ITeS and projections of its growth. The report says that the current electronics demand in domestic market is worth about \$45 billion and is expected to grow significantly to \$125 billion by 2014 and \$400 billion by 2020," he said.

"The task ahead now was to meet these targets," he added and said, "Therefore, it would be desirable to work on the entire chain of manufacturing to lead to a right directions."

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