

# Tata Hitachi plant in WB to be global hub

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Construction equipment manufacturer Tata Hitachi, a joint venture between Tata Motors and Hitachi Construction Machinery of Japan, plans to make the Kharagpur plant in West Bengal a global source for small and medium sized excavators.

"We want to make the Kharagpur plant a global manufacturing hub," managing director of Tata Hitachi Ranabir Sinha said.

The company, which launched a new 20-tonne class hydraulic excavator manufactured at the Kharagpur plant, plans to service markets in Africa, Middle-East and South East Asia, Sinha told reporters here last night.

The modernised Kharagpur plant was inaugurated last December and built at a cost of ₹550 crore to make a host range of small and medium-sized earth moving equipment for multifarious construction activity.

Sinha said that Tata Hitachi (formerly Telcon) had a market share of 38 per cent in the excavator market in the country.

He said that in the last fiscal, the

company had witnessed a degrowth due to economic slowdown and the plant was running at 35 per cent capacity utilisation. Sinha said that a vendor park was also coming up near the plant on 90 acre. President and CEO of Hitachi Construction Machinery of Japan Suji Moto said that India would be a major manufacturing hub for Hitachi which has 60 per cent stake in Tata Hitachi.