

# Tata Hitachi bets big on Bengal unit

KOLKATA, 30 MAY: 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 point 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-ton class hydraulic excavator manufactured at the Kharagpur plant, plans to service markets in Africa, West Asia and South East Asia, Mr Sinha told reporters here.

The modernised Kharagpur plant was inaugurated in December last year and built at a cost of Rs 550 crore to make a host of small and medium-sized earth moving equipment. Mr Sinha said that Tata Hitachi (formerly Telcon) had a market share of 38 per cent in the excavator market in the country. **pti**