

HIND MOTOR'S CHENNAI PLANT TO MAKE ISUZU VEHICLES

Chennai, June 28: C.K. Birla Group company Hindustan Motors, the makers of Ambassador, on Friday forged a partnership with Japan-headquartered Isuzu Motors Ltd for contract manufacturing of the latter's sports utility vehicle and pickup trucks.

As per the agreement signed here, the components for manufacturing the vehicles would be imported by Isuzu Motors from Thailand and assembled at Hindustan Motors Ltd's plant at Tiruvallur near here, a HML statement said.

The signing of an agreement between the two auto makers comes nearly after two decades of a similar partnership to manufacture Isuzu 1.8 and two litre engines in India.

"Our agreement for contract manufacturing of Isuzu's globally renowned vehicles is a testimony to the state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities at our Tiruvallur plant," HML managing director and CEO Uttam Bose said.

The operations will enable HML to optimally utilise its spare capacity at Tiruvallur and make eminent business at a

time when economy and automobile industry are passing through testing times. Today's agreement with Isuzu was a strategic move to keep Hindustan Motors on the growth path, he added.

"We are very confident about the growth prospects of the SUV and LCV market in India," Isuzu Motors India president Takashi Kikuchi said.

"We now accelerate and carry forward the positive momentum and expand our sales operations in other parts of India, starting with the southern region," he said. — PTI