

HM to produce Isuzu SUVs

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: Isuzu Motors India, a subsidiary of Isuzu Motors, Japan, on Friday, signed an agreement with Hindustan Motors (HML) for contract manufacturing of Isuzu SUVs and pick-up trucks in India.

The components for producing these vehicles will be imported by Isuzu Motors from Thailand, and assembled in HML's factory at Thiruvallur, near here.

In a statement, Takashi Kikuchi, President, Isuzu Motors India, said, that the company was very confident about the growth prospects of the SUV and LCV market in India, notwith-

standing the current slowdown.

"The collaboration with Hindustan Motors will support us by carrying out assembly of our products at Thiruvallur which is about 70 km from Sri City, Andhra Pradesh, where our own local manufacturing facility is planned to come up."

Uttam Bose, Managing Director & CEO, Hindustan Motors, flagship of the C. K. Birla Group, felt the agreement would help HML to optimally utilise its spare capacity at Thiruvallur.

"Today's agreement with Isuzu is a strategic move to keep Hindustan Motors on the growth path," he added.