

# Mahindra City, a world of its own



An upcoming software development centre of Infosys in Mahindra city at Maraimalai Nagar. — Photo: S.R. Raghunathan

## Mahindra City, a world of its own

By N. Ravi Kumar

**CHENNAI, DEC. 2.** With its well-laid roads, ready-to-use basic infrastructure and lots of greenery, Mahindra City, integrated industrial park 45 km southwest of Chennai, is a world of its own.

One of the earliest examples of public-private partnership, Mahindra City, located on 1,400-acres at Maraimalai Nagar, has been promoted by Mahindra and Mahindra, which holds an 89 per cent equity, and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation.

A plug-and-play facility for non-polluting industrial units, it boasts of 815 acres of developed land after the first phase with basic infrastructure, including 17 km of roads and supply systems for water, power and sewer, besides telecom connectivity. All these have been created at a cost of Rs. 200 crores.

The development and plans to provide housing facilities and common amenities, including educational institutions, hospitals and police and fire stations have not gone unnoticed by po-

tential users. Taking the lead, the information technology major, Infosys, has acquired 129 acres for setting up a software development centre.

The first of Infosys' six blocks, with a built-up area of 1.20 lakh square feet for employing 2,500 persons, is expected to be completed in early 2005. The total constructed area of all the blocks will be 35-lakh sqft, making it the largest facility of Infosys in Tamil Nadu, providing jobs to 25,000 persons.

### New projects

Next in the pipeline will be the units of TTK Healthcare; Kryolan, a German cosmetic firm; Srinivasa Global Exports, a company engaged in garment exports; and an IT park on the lines of the TIDEL Park in Chennai. The IT park of Ascendas, master planners of Mahindra City, will meet the needs of firms which do not require a large area for their operations.

Otherwise, one acre is the minimum area which companies planning individual units in Mahindra City should acquire. The cost per acre is Rs.32

lakhs, which a senior executive of Mahindra City says is economical considering the ready-to-build condition of the land and the facilities offered.

"Apart from the four firms, which are taking up 70 acres, four others, including two American and a Singapore company in the field of IT and electronics, are doing due diligence for procuring land," says the executive. Mahindra Gesco, a Mahindra and Mahindra group company, will be creating housing facilities.

### Special economic zones

One of the attractions, besides the clean environment and seven natural waterbodies, of Mahindra City is the Special Economic Zones for IT and auto ancillary and apparel units. The SEZs offer a host of tax exemptions, including on construction material procured by the unit-holders, tax holidays and stamp duty exemption. There will also be a non-SEZ area (domestic tariff area) in Mahindra City, which will help suppliers to units in the SEZs stay closer to their customers.

## 'Undue delay in transferring kidnap case papers'

By Our Staff Reporter

**MADURAI, DEC. 2.** The Central Bureau of Investigation today submitted before the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court that there was "undue delay" on the part of the State Government in handing over it the case of the abduction of the family of the Sivakasi woman, Jayalakshmi (32).

When a habeas corpus petition came up for hearing, the CBI counsel, E. Jacob R. Daniel, said though the court had ordered the agency on October 1 to take over the abduction case pending with the Maraneri police station in Virudhunagar district, documents were provided to it by the State police only on November 12.

Hearing the habeas corpus petition taken up by the court based on a telegram sent by Ms. Jayalakshmi's father, the court, on October 1, directed the CBI to investigate the allegations