

Maharashtra-Sukhoi talks over Nagpur aircraft plant soon

Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh will hold preliminary talks next week with representatives of Russian aircraft maker Sukhoi regarding a proposal to set up a super-jet manufacturing plant here.

The meeting, to be attended also by officials of Mukhtar-Al Bukhari's Malaysia-based SKS Ventures and their Indian partner Vavasi Group, is slated for Oct 13 in Delhi, Deshmukh told reporters here Monday.

Mukhtar-Al Bukhari's company has come up with a twin proposal to set up a Special Economic Zone for production of renewable energy equipment components and develop a new airport in Nagpur.

The two companies have shown interest in creating these facilities through their MIHAN (Multi-modal International Hub Airport at Nagpur) project being executed by Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) of which Deshmukh is the ex-officio chairman.

Fresh from a 'successful' business tour of Europe, Deshmukh also told reporters that he would persuade the Tatas to set up their Nano car project in Maharashtra now that they have resolved to move out of West Bengal's Singur.

'Apart from ensuring them hassle-free operations and all necessary infra-structural facilities, the state will also offer Tatas a slew of incentives if they choose to set up their plant in some backward area of the state', Deshmukh said.

The Chief Minister expressed confidence about removing 'a few residual hurdles' in the progress of Nagpur's MIHAN project concerning acquiring of land for an additional runway in the city's airport saying a more acceptable package of compensation and rehabilitation of those affected by land acquisition is being worked out.

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