

Vingroup in talks for smart city project in Maharashtra

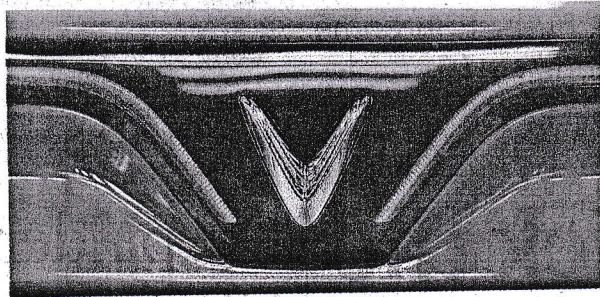
URBAN LEAP. Group looking at cities with a population of 1 crore to set up project

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Vietnam's Vingroup, whose auto subsidiary VinFast is making rapid inroads in India's electric vehicle segment, plans to set up smart cities in several States. It is in talks with Maharashtra as well, senior company officials said.

The State has offered land in Pune, but the group is looking at cities with a population of at least a crore, MD & CEO, Vingroup Asia Operations, Pham Sanh Chau, told *businessline*, adding that the group was not interested in a project in Mumbai.

The smart cities envisioned consist of homes, hospitals, shopping malls,



THE PLAN. The smart cities envisioned will have homes, hospitals, shopping malls, schools and electric mobility, along the lines of Vinhomes Smart City in Vietnam's Hanoi.

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Last year, Vingroup signed a \$3 billion deal with Telangana to develop a long-term, multi-sector cooperation plan.

In Mumbai, Chau said Vin-

group's association with India was not limited to cars.

"We do not enter a country for one product cycle or one business season. When we commit, we commit with patience, persistence and purpose," he said. The group is exploring projects in other

States as well. Manufacturing EVs will be restricted to Tamil Nadu, said VinFast India's new CEO Tapan Kumar Ghosh. In December, it signed an agreement with the State to expand its existing facility in Thoothukudi by 500 acres and invest an additional \$500 million to make buses and 2Ws.

MICRO SUV

The company, which has moved fast in India to be among the top four EV makers, is pushing aggressively but Ghosh said in order to scale up, its fundamentals had to be right. In the first four months since launch, sales have crossed 1,000 units. In 2026, it has three models in pipeline, including a micro SUV.