

# Cisco set to manufacture in India, eyes \$1-bn target

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Digital communications and technology conglomerate Cisco on Wednesday said it will start manufacturing in India, creating a “core” base. It is targeting to generate output worth \$1 billion in exports as well as domestic production capacity.

Work on the new facility — to be established in Tamil Nadu — has already started and the company expects the first product to roll out within a year. The San Jose (California)-based firm will make switching networks and “cutting-edge” routers in partnership with an undisclosed contract manufacturer. Apart from manufacturing, the company is also investing in testing, development and logistics, and expanding in-house repair operations in the country.

The plans are aimed at supporting supply-chain resiliency, as well as reducing lead times, and elevating customer experience. The company said the manufac-

turing plans alone may generate around 1,200 jobs in the state. Minister of Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, said: “We have been pursuing Cisco for a while to invest in India and started discussions during Davos. They have agreed now to set up a manufacturing plant and it will be an important step for India.”

Cisco currently has around 15,000 employees in India with presence in Bengaluru and two other locations. India serves as the second largest R&D centre for Cisco after the US.

“As I have travelled in India this week, it is very clear to me that for Cisco and probably for most multinational companies in India, it is going to be (one of) the biggest growth opportunities we will have for the next decade,” said Chuck Robbins, chair and chief executive officer (CEO) of Cisco. The CEO met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several government officials on Wednesday.