

VinFast to turn on production at TN plant soon

Tesla rival plans to start delivery of vehicles by August

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Vietnamese electric vehicle (EV) major and Tesla's global rival VinFast is all set to start production at its \$2 billion facility in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu by the end of this month. The firm is planning to start delivery of vehicles from the festive season starting August, said a source aware of the development.

Amid anticipation around Tesla's India showroom launch on Tuesday, VinFast Auto India is creating an entire ecosystem with the 150,000-unit-per-annum manufacturing facility, extending dealership network across 27 cities, strategising agreements in the battery value chain, and planning aftermarket and service tieups with myTVS and RoadGrid. The company is also targeting an export hub at Thoothukudi due to its proximity to the port. Pre-bookings for its models VF 6 and VF 7 will start on July 15. The facility will produce around 50,000 units during the first year.

"The plant inauguration and



Pre-bookings for VF 6 and VF 7 models will start on July 15

PHOTO: COMPANY

production will start by July end. We are likely to start delivery of cars from the coming festive season, likely by August," said a top company executive, on condition of anonymity. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin is expected to inaugurate the plant. The facility, which is expected to generate employment for up to 3,500 professionals over the next five years, announced the induction of its first cohort of 200 locally hired professionals last week. VinFast's workforce strategy follows a hybrid model of 80:20. 80 per cent of the plant workforce comprises freshers or trainees from local communities, while the remaining 20 per cent includes experienced

Indian and expatriate professionals from leading original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). The hiring is in line with the Naam Mudhalvan scheme, the state's flagship skilling programme, which is designed to support agile recruitment and focused skill development tailored to industry needs.

"At VinFast, our vision for India is to build an entire EV ecosystem grounded in quality, accessibility, and long-term customer support. Our goal is to make owning an electric vehicle as effortless and reassuring as possible," said Pham Sanh Chau, chief executive officer of VinFast Asia. Alongside, VinFast ramps up its ecosystem expansion in India,

supported by several key strategic partnerships. The firm has tied up with Global Assure for 24/7 roadside assistance, dedicated call centre support, and mobile service; myTVS and RoadGrid for a pan-India EV charging solution and service network to deliver quick, and reliable after sales support. VinFast has also joined hands with BatX Energies for sustainable high-voltage battery recycling and repurposing solutions.

VinFast aims to establish 35 dealerships across India by the end of 2025. The initial set of dealerships will be established in emerging EV markets, including Delhi, Chennai, and Bengaluru, among others.