

Foxconn to start iPhone 15 production in India soon

GEARING UP

- Foxconn's Sriperumbudur plant to deliver iPhone 15 models within weeks after factories in China start shipping them
- Before iPhone 14 (pictured), iPhone's assembly in India lagged China by 6–9 months

- Other Apple suppliers in India — Pegatron and Wistron — will also soon assemble the upcoming iPhone series

- iPhone 15, likely to be announced on Sept 12, promises to be the biggest update in three years



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Apple Inc.'s next-generation iPhone 15 is beginning production in Tamil Nadu, in an effort to further narrow the gap between its India operations and main manufacturing base in China.

A Foxconn Technology Group plant in Sriperumbudur is preparing to deliver the new-

est devices only weeks after they start shipping from factories in China, as the company seeks to swiftly increase the volume of new iPhones coming from India, people familiar with the matter said.

The Cupertino, California-based firm is on a multiyear project to diversify its manufacturing away from China, de-risking the supply chain for its most important products as

tensions between Washington and Beijing make trade less predictable. India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has sought to build closer ties to the US and make itself a manufacturing hub.

Before iPhone 14, Apple had only a sliver of its iPhone assembly in India, which lagged China output by six to nine months. That delay was drastically reduced last year,

and Apple produced 7% of its iPhones in India at the end of March. The goal this year is to move closer to parity on shipment timing from India and China, though suppliers are not yet certain they will achieve it, the people said, asking not to be named as the information is not public. The scale of India production for the iPhone 15 will depend on the ready availability of components, which

are largely imported, and the smooth ramp-up of production lines at the Foxconn factory outside Chennai.

The new iPhone, likely to be announced on Sept. 12, promises to be the biggest update to the device in three years. It will include major upgrades to the camera system across the range, and the Pro models will gain an improved 3-nanometer A16 processor.

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