

Tata's ₹6K cr plant for iPhones likely to start ops in Nov

Hosur factory to be second assembly plant for Tata

SURAJEET DAS GUPTA

New Delhi, 18 August

US-based tech major Apple Inc is set to get its fourth iPhone assembly plant in India, which is being built by its key contract manufacturer Tata Electronics. It is likely to start production in November, sources privy to the development said.

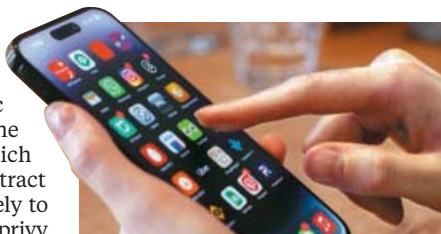
The factory in Tamil Nadu's Hosur will be the second iPhone assembly plant for Tata Electronics following its acquisition of Taiwanese electronics manufacturing services player Wistron's unit, which was in the works for two years. According to sources, preparations are in full swing to launch iPhones from the 250-acre plant, which houses a components unit set up by Tata Electronics three years ago.

Tatas manufacture enclosures for Apple's iPhones at this plant. The enclosures produced here are used for some iPhone models assembled in India, with a few being exported to China.

Tata Electronics is likely to invest around ₹6,000 crore in the plant and has pumped a similar amount into the component factory at the same location.

Emails sent to Apple and Tata Electronics did not elicit any response from the two firms.

The combined facilities, according to sources, will employ over 50,000 blue-collar workers, mostly women. The iPhone assembly plant alone will add 35,000-40,000 employees, making it Apple's largest in India, second only to Foxconn's Tamil Nadu facility. Turn to Page 6 ▶



A BIGGER BITE

- Tata's new factory to become the **largest electronics plant** in India, after Foxconn's Tamil Nadu unit
- This will be Apple's **fourth iPhone assembly plant** from its vendors
- New iPhone factory will require **35,000-40,000 workers**, with the majority being women



Southern states roll out red carpet for Foxconn

Southern states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka on Saturday went all out

to woo the chief executive officer and chairman of the Hon Hai Technology group (Foxconn), Young Liu, aiming to strengthen the Taiwanese contract manufacturer's existing investment and explore opportunities. This comes a day after Liu met Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in Delhi. ▶▶

4th India plant crucial for Apple to boost PLI play

Equipment and production lines are being stress-tested to meet the high demand expected at this new facility, the sources added.

For Apple, which came to India just four years ago, the fourth plant is crucial as it plans to more than double its initial target of shifting 10 per cent of global iPhone capacity by FY26 to 20-25 per cent with the help of production-linked incentive (PLI) commitments.

The initial target was set for its three contract manufacturers — Hon Hai Technology (Foxconn), Wistron (now with Tatas), and Pegatron. These vendors have already exceeded their PLI commitments in the first three years, with cumulative production values and exports surpassing targets.

For instance, the cumulative production value of these vendors until FY24 (for three years of PLI) stood at around ₹1.9 trillion, well above their PLI commitment of ₹1.3 trillion. Similarly, their cumulative exports at ₹1.4 trillion in FY24 exceeded their target of ₹0.97 trillion.

Domestic sales also hit around ₹67,000 crore in FY24, significantly higher than the expectation.

The Tata's tryst with Apple began with producing enclosures for iPhones before it took over Wistron's facility, which was its first iPhone assembly facility in Karnataka's Kolar. There are also



The Tata's tryst with Apple began with producing enclosures for iPhones before it took over Wistron's facility in Karnataka's Kolar

reports that they are negotiating with Pegatron to acquire its plant though there is no official confirmation. Tata Electronics operates these facilities under a greenfield venture, Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL).

Apple, however, has not disclosed specific production numbers for the new facility. Meanwhile, Foxconn's Tamil Nadu plant, which employs up to 45,000 people, with women comprising 75 per cent of the workforce, exported 95 per cent of its production value between April and July 2024.