

Sebi fast-tracks IPO clearances amid record rush

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The market regulator is speeding up clearances of initial public offerings (IPOs), boosting an already strong pipeline of share sales that could hit a record this year, according to regulatory and investment banking officials.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) will try to approve a majority of the IPOs within three months of filing, the two regulatory officials said. Previously, such clearances sometimes took up to six months.

Shortening IPO approval timelines is among the changes that new Sebi chief Tuhin Kanta Pandey, who took over in March, is bringing as part of a goal to ease regulation. Disclosure requirements on companies were significantly tightened before Pandey took over the reins, which increased the timelines for companies to go public.

Sebi is using artificial intelligence to scan documents for shortcomings and engaging with merchant bankers to speed up clarifications needed, the regulatory officials said.

The regulator did not answer an emailed request for comment.

"In a market that is overcrowded with issuers wanting to catch the right window to list, Sebi's approach in recent times has helped ease the pressure," said Madhurima Mukherjee Saha, partner at Mumbai-based JSA Advocates & Solicitors.

Large Indian companies have already raised \$8.2 billion through IPOs till August this year despite the country's secondary equity markets under-

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Large Indian cos raised \$8.2 bn via IPOs till August. ISTOCKPHOTO

performing Asian and emerging market peers due to foreign selling and pressure from punitive tariffs imposed by the US on Indian goods.

"We expect around ₹1.5 trillion-1.75 trillion (\$17 billion-\$20 billion) worth of fundraisings through IPOs in 2025—possibly higher than the record-breaking fundraisings seen in 2024," said Bhavesh Shah, managing director and head of investment banking at Equirus.

In 2024, Indian firms raised \$20.5 billion via public offerings, making India the world's second-biggest IPO market in terms of funds raised after the US. It has retained that position so far in 2025, LSEG data shows.

Public offerings worth nearly \$13 billion have already been approved by the regulator, while another \$18.7 billion worth are pending approval, according to data provided by PRIME Database, a primary market tracking firm.

IPOs that already have regulatory approvals and are expected to hit the market this year include the Indian unit of South Korea's LG Electronics, ed-tech firm Physicswallah and workspace solutions provider WeWork India Management.