

# MakeMyTrip eyes India listing

The company is weighing the benefits of listing via India depository receipts rather than a conventional IPO

Agnidev Bhattacharya

agnidev.bhattacharya@livemint.com

MUMBAI

Nasdaq-listed travel company MakeMyTrip (MMT) is weighing the benefits of listing its Indian arm via Indian Depository Receipts (IDRs) rather than a traditional initial public offering (IPO), two people familiar with the matter said on the condition of anonymity.

“An IDR structure is on the table, being viewed as a method to manage tax obligations that would be triggered by the Mauritius-based parent entity—MakeMyTrip Ltd—during a secondary sale of shares in a domestic IPO,” said the first person.

The development follows the company's reaffirmation of its strategic priorities on 16 March, including plans for a potential listing of its India business after the consolidation of its brands, such as RedBus India, under MakeMyTrip (India) Pvt. Ltd.

The company provides flight, hotel, and bus bookings through its platforms, including Goibibo and RedBus.

Experts say the move may have been driven by the 15 January Supreme Court of India ruling in the Tiger Global-Flipkart tax case, which held that a Mauritius-based holding company participating in an offer for sale (OFS) in an Indian IPO would be liable to pay capital gains tax in the



MakeMyTrip has a market cap of about \$5.7 billion on the Nasdaq.

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country on such transactions.

“In practical terms, this means that reliance on Mauritius purely as a tax-efficient holding jurisdiction is significantly weakened in the context of IPO exits,” said Sonam Chandwani, managing partner, Mumbai-based law firm KS Legal & Associates.

The IDR route allows a foreign-listed company to remain domiciled abroad while accessing local liquidity by issuing receipts to Indian investors that are backed by shares held by a custodian, avoiding tax liabilities.

“There is renewed interest in the IDR route. Especially after Sebi (Securities and Exchange Board of India) has begun a revamp process to improve the viability of the product,” the second person said.

*Business Standard* was the first to report on 7 April that the regulator was discussing whether IDRs can be repositioned as a credible route to deepen the country's capital markets.

As of now, Standard Chartered Plc remains the only major foreign entity to have used the IDR framework in the

country, having listed receipts in 2010 to a limited response. The bank delisted its IDRs in July 2020 owing to low participation.

“Unless the regulatory changes go far enough to address fungibility, investor rights, and ease of conversion into underlying equity, the instrument will continue to be perceived as a constrained proxy rather than true equity participation,” Chandwani explained.

MakeMyTrip, which has a market capitalization of approximately \$5.7 billion on the Nasdaq Composite, has not yet made a decision, both people said. It may choose to maintain its current listing structure or pursue a different path for domestic capital raises, they added.

“As part of its long-term growth objectives, the company is in the process of evaluating a potential listing in India, which could provide an additional avenue to access capital, including from domestic institutional and retail investors as well as enable it to provide India-listed equity as potential consideration for growth initiatives,” a MakeMyTrip spokesperson said.

“Any potential India listing remains subject to, among other things, market conditions, regulatory approvals, and customary corporate considerations. The company will make any further

public disclosures in this regard as and when appropriate,” the spokesperson added.

MakeMyTrip's India plans coincide with a steady pipeline of technology-backed firms' public listings in the country's equity markets.

Quick-commerce platform Zepto, e-commerce giant Flipkart, Reliance Jio and National Stock Exchange are among the major names set to tap India's primary market in 2026.

## LISTING STRATEGY

MMT may maintain its listing structure or pursue other domestic capital-raising options

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Even in 2025, around 103 companies got listed on the mainboard indices, collectively mopping up approximately ₹1.75 trillion through their IPOs. Among the larger issues were Meesho, stockbroker Groww, and Lenskart.

As of 10 April, India has seen 18 mainboard IPOs, raising ₹18,778 crore, according to Prime Database.

However, with volatile markets and slowing capital flows due to the US-Iran war, several companies have been forced to defer or recalibrate their IPO plans of late. *Mint* reported on 25 March that global uncertainty put about ₹18,000 crore of planned fundraising at risk.

In response to market caution, Sebi, this month, extended the validity of its IPO approvals and allowed companies to trim their offer sizes without refiling papers.