

Filing of IPOs via confidential route gains traction

KUSHAN SHAN & ANJANA THERESE ANTONY
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CONFIDENTIAL FILING FOR initial public offerings (IPOs) has gain significant traction over the past couple of years, with over 20% of companies taking this route in the first five months of the calendar year. Experts said this is primarily because companies are seeking flexibility amid volatile market conditions.

An analysis by Prime Database showed that the number of confidential filings rose sharply from 29 out of 260 IPO filings in 2025 (11.15%) to 15 out of 66 filings in 2026 till May 19 (22.73%). In comparison, only two out of 157 IPO filings in 2024 had opted for the confidential route.

Issues filed through the confidential route accounted

for an estimated ₹87,256 crore out of the total IPO pipeline of ₹3.97 lakh crore in 2025, or around 22%.

In 2026, the share increased further to 27.45%, with confidential filings amounting to ₹38,716 crore of the total ₹1.41 lakh crore IPO pipeline as of May 19.

Since 2024, 46 companies have filed confidentially for IPOs. Of these, eight companies are already listed, including Swiggy, PhysicsWallah, Tata Capital, Billionbrains Garage Ventures and Meesho. Sixteen companies are awaiting regulatory approval for their IPOs, while 20 currently hold a valid approval to launch their public issues.

Gaurav Bhandari, CEO, Monarch Network Capital, said companies are increasingly choosing the confidential IPO route because it provides

FLEXIBLE APPROACH

- Confidential IPO route provides greater flexibility in a volatile environment
- It helps firms protect sensitive business info and reduce reputational risks
- Companies operating in volatile sectors are increasingly opting for confidential filings



greater flexibility in a volatile environment. According to him, the mechanism allows firms to remain IPO-ready without immediately disclosing financials, valuation expectations or business strategies to competitors and the broader market.

He added that ongoing uncertainty around global markets, including geopolitical tensions in West Asia, cur-

rency volatility and risk-off sentiment, is likely to further accelerate adoption of the route as companies prefer to keep the process active in the background while waiting for more stable market conditions. He noted that confidential filing should not be viewed negatively by investors, but rather as a sign of more disciplined capital market planning focused on readiness, option-

ality and timing.

Uday Patil, executive director, PL Capital, said confidential filings help companies protect sensitive business information and reduce reputational risks in case IPO plans are delayed or withdrawn. He added that the route offers a longer validity period for launching IPOs — 18 months compared to 12 months under the regular process — enabling companies to privately assess regulatory and investor feedback.

Patil also noted that confidential filing aligns with established IPO practices in markets such as the US and Canada.

Ratiraj Tibrewal, CEO, Choice Capital, said the confidential IPO filing route is expected to gain further traction amid the ongoing West Asia conflict and elevated market uncertainty, particularly among technology and new-

age companies that are more sensitive to geopolitical developments and investor sentiment.

He added that while traditional industrial companies may continue to prefer public filings to build investor visibility ahead of IPO launches, companies operating in more volatile sectors are increasingly opting for confidential filings because of the flexibility and privacy they offer.

Pranav Haldea, Managing Director, Prime Database Group, said volatility in the secondary market often spills over into the primary market, limiting visibility on IPO launch timelines. As a result, companies — especially new-age businesses with unique business models — prefer confidential filings as they allow company data to remain private for a longer period.