

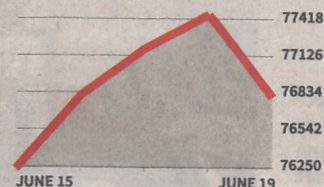
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SENSEX 76802.90 (+1274.95)

IN FOCUS



	Week's close	Week's change
Nifty 50	24013.10	+390.20
P/E Ratio (Sensex)	20.76	+0.35
US Dollar (in ₹)	94.32	-0.79
Gold Std 10 gm (in ₹)	144390.00	-2818
Silver 1 kg (in ₹)	231973.00	-10609



CORPORATE FILE.

TVS, Maruti, Tata and Mahindra

outpaced industry growth in FY26, driven by SUVs, EVs, exports and premiumisation **p7**

SPARK.

Faster deliveries and wider choice position rapid commerce as an emerging channel **p8**

BENGALURU - CHENNAI - COIMBATORE - HUBBALLI - HYDERABAD - KOCHI - KOLKATA - MADURAI - MALAPPURAM - MANGALURU - MUMBAI - NOIDA - THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - TIRUCHIRAPALLI - VIJAYAWADA - VISAKHAPATNAM

RNI No. UPENG/2022/86886

Open-market buybacks set to surge as cash returns hit three-year high

Akshata Gorde
Mumbai

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reinstated the more flexible stock exchange route for open-market buybacks by listed companies, at a time when India Inc is stepping up capital returns to shareholders, with buyback announcements this year already surpassing the full-year totals of the previous two years.

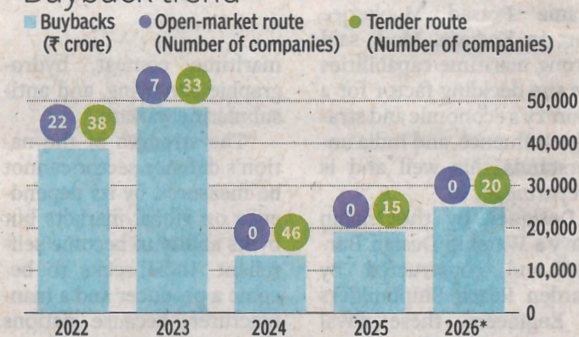
Companies have announced buybacks worth nearly ₹25,000 crore so far in 2026, compared with ₹19,175 crore in 2025 and ₹13,539 crore in 2024, according to Prime Database. The figure is already the highest since 2023, when companies announced buybacks worth ₹48,452 crore before the exchange route was phased out.

Unlike the existing tender offer route, where companies repurchase shares at a fixed price during a specified offer period, the stock exchange route allows purchases directly from the market at prevailing prices over a defined period.

REFORM IMPACT

“SEBI’s decision to allow two

Buyback trend



Source: SEBI website, Primedatabase

*2026 data is year-to-date.

ership and enhance stock value may find the open market buyback route particularly advantageous. Buybacks conducted through stock exchanges not only reduce administrative burdens but also provide greater flexibility regarding both timing and pricing.”

SEBI’s board on Friday approved reintroducing the stock exchange route for open-market buybacks from August 1 after phasing it out over the past three years. While 22 companies used the exchange route in 2022 and seven opted for it in 2023, all buybacks announced in 2024, 2025 and 2026 have been through the tender offer route.

with tighter safeguards, including a shorter execution window of 66 working days instead of six months, a requirement to complete at least 40 per cent of the proposed buyback during the first half of the offer period, enhanced disclosures and restrictions on purchases from promoters and promoter group entities.

Companies will also have the option to undertake buybacks without appointing a merchant banker, with the related responsibilities being shared among the company, its compliance officer, statutory auditor, secretarial auditor and stock exchanges.

BUYBACK BUZZ

The pipeline includes

REFORM IMPACT

"SEBI's decision to allow two buybacks in a year aligns the regulations with the Companies Act Amendment Bill, 2026, and provides listed companies greater flexibility in capital management, which is critical when India Inc has already announced buybacks worth ₹25,000 crore in 2026 so far, the highest since 2023," said Makarand M Joshi, Founder Partner at MMJC & Associates.

Pulkit Sukhramani, Partner at JSA Advocates & Solicitors, said: "Companies seeking to consolidate own-

fer route.

REVISED FRAMEWORK

The earlier tax framework had made the mechanism unattractive since investors participating in buybacks were taxed at dividend tax rates, making it less attractive than selling shares on the secondary market, where capital gains tax applied. Subsequent changes to the tax framework restored capital gains treatment for most investors participating in buybacks, removing one of the key reasons the mechanism had fallen out of favour.

The mechanism returns

BUYBACK BUZZ

The pipeline includes Wipro's ₹15,000-crore buyback, Bajaj Auto's ₹5,633-crore offer and Zydus Lifesciences' ₹1,100-crore proposal, along with offers from Cyient, TeamLease Services, Kajaria Ceramics, Rolex Rings, Dhanuka Agritech, Cybertech Systems and Gandhi Special Tubes.

Market participants said the revival gives companies announcing buybacks after August an additional execution option, although it is too early to assess how widely the exchange route is adopted.