India’s Biggest Asset Manager Lines Up A $1.2 Billion IPO

Finimize Newsroom

What's going on here?

India’s biggest asset manager, SBI Funds Management, is preparing a $1.2 billion IPO and is lining up Abu Dhabi’s ADIA and Singapore’s GIC to take early “anchor” allocations when the deal opens next week.

What does this mean?

SBI Funds Management is a joint venture between State Bank of India, the country’s largest lender, and Amundi, Europe’s largest asset manager. Sources say it managed 12.5 trillion rupees ($131.1 billion) at the end of March 2026 and the float could value it around $12.3 billion, with SBI and Amundi selling a combined 10% stake.

What’s notable is demand: one source said early commitments are close to five times the shares set aside for i..

nstitutional investors, even though the company plans to reserve 50% of the offer for individual investors. Anchors help here because they commit capital before the bookbuilding process finishes, giving the deal a stronger base and potentially tightening the range of plausible IPO prices.

That matters beyond one listing. India’s new-issue calendar is rebuilding after a rough patch for sentiment, and PRIME Database counts 251 companies aiming to raise 4.93 trillion rupees (about $51.7 billion). With Reuters reporting $29 billion of net foreign selling in India’s secondary markets so far this year, a smooth, well-priced debut would hint that overseas money is still willing to fund India’s primary-market pipeline.

Why should I care?

For markets: *ADIA and GIC’s early demand for a $1.2 billion IPO is a quick test of foreign appetite.*

If big anchors soak up a meaningful chunk of the institutional book, the question shifts from whether the deal can clear to what valuation it clears at. A reportedly oversubscribed institutional book, alongside a large retail set-aside, can also create scarcity that supports pricing discipline.

That’s why bankers will treat SBI Funds Management’s pricing and first days of trading as a read-through for the rest of India’s queue, including potential 2026 mega-deals like the National Stock Exchange of India and Reliance Jio. If the stock wobbles, it could force tougher valuations or slower timelines for the pipeline; if it holds up, it strengthens the case that foreign capital can return even after heavy selling in listed shares.