

After slow start, IPO mkt comes back to life

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THE INDIAN IPO market has heated up again, with some major issues such as Jio Platforms and National Stock Exchange in the pipeline. After a slowdown earlier in the year, July and August saw many companies finally enter the market, easing some of the "pent-up" demand as market conditions improved.

Companies raised nearly Rs 29,000 crore in August and around Rs 26,500 crore in July through mainboard IPOs, which together accounted for around 73% of the around Rs 75,518 crore raised so far in 2026, according to data compiled from the National Stock Exchange.

Companies scramble as approvals near expiry

The fundraising approvals of many of the companies that had delayed their IPO plans were nearing their expiry, which led to a lot of these companies finally opening their public issues. Experts cited this factor as among the biggest factors behind this renewed vigor seen in the primary market. Notably,

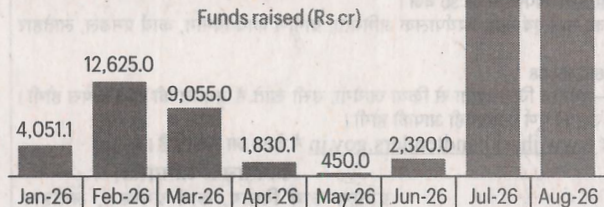
fundraising approvals granted by regulators like SEBI typically last for a period of 12 months.

"The pipeline has always been strong; it's just that market conditions remain uncertain. But many companies have finally launched their IPOs as approvals near expiry, which is a big factor behind this recent boom," the head of capital markets at a domestic broking firm said. For example, big issues like Symbiotic Pharmed, dairy company Milkymist, and logistics firm Shiprocket's approvals were between 8-10 months old when they finally completed their fundraising in August.

In fact, market regulator SEBI had extended the validity of IPO and rights issue approvals expiring between April and September to September 30 in the wake of the West Asia crisis. The relief, which came through back in April, benefited companies like Shiprocket and Symbiotec.

Many such companies had delayed their IPO plans due to the torrid market conditions domestically as the war in West Asia stretched on. Big names like Zepto and PhonePe were among the companies that indefinitely paused their fundrais-

• Mainboard IPOs have picked up over the past couple of months



SOURCE: NSE

ing plans. Companies usually wait for favorable market conditions while raising funds as it maximizes valuations, and such an environment is also likely to provide investors with solid listing-day gains.

However, SBI Funds Management, which completed its public issue in July, saw very high interest from investors due to attractive valuations.

"There has been a huge pent-up supply of issues with companies holding SEBI approval following a wait-and-watch approach for the first half of the year to see how the geopolitical situation plays out. With the added pressure of approvals lapsing, you started seeing companies launching IPOs from July

onwards. Good response and listings have subsequently encouraged more issuers to come forward," said Pranav Haldea, MD at Prime Database.

Market conditions improve

The benchmark Nifty 50 and Sensex indices had fallen around 14% at their lowest this year, as high crude oil prices, foreign outflows, and a weaker rupee as a result had decimated the Indian market.

However, things have stabilized a bit since then as negative developments from West Asia have become increasingly few and far between, with market participants now focusing more on factors like earnings growth,

inflation, and macroeconomic parameters rather than a longer-term truce between Iran and the US. The Indian stock market had thus recovered 10-11% from its lows and was down just around 5% for the year in early August before another downturn since mid-August minimized the gains. However, the much more stable conditions have encouraged more companies in the pipeline to launch their fundraising plans.

In fact, with the increased momentum over the last couple of months, funds raised through mainboard IPOs so far this year have crossed the Rs 59,360 crore raised by Indian corporates till the same time last year. Notably, 2025 saw record fundraising through IPOs in the Indian market, with most of the momentum coming in the final few months of the year.

While mainboard IPOs have gained pace, IPOs in the small and medium enterprise (SME) segment have remained sluggish as SEBI has consistently tightened the fundraising mechanism for smaller companies for increased investor protection.

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