

₹98,353 Crore Block Deal Wave: Who Is Absorbing India's Stock Supply?

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Synopsis: India's block-deal activity surged to ₹98,353 crore in August 2026, making it the third-highest monthly total on record. But with the Nifty still under pressure, the bigger question is whether this was an exit wave or a large rotation of ownership as institutional buyers absorbed the supply.

Mumbai | September 2, 2026

India's stock market saw an unusual contradiction in August: shareholders put nearly **₹1 lakh crore of stock through block deals**, yet institutions continued to show up on the other side even as the benchmark Nifty remained under pressure.

According to PRIME Database data, **1,459 block deals worth ₹98,353 crore** were executed across the BSE and NSE during August. That was more than double July's ₹48,454 crore and well above June's ₹68,298 crore.

The August figure was the **third-highest monthly block-deal value on record**, behind March 2017 at ₹2.32 lakh crore and June 2024 at about ₹1.01 lakh crore.

But the headline number alone does not tell the full story.

The more important market question is, who **is absorbing this supply**?

That matters because August also saw foreign investors return to Indian equities, while domestic institutions continued to provide liquidity. If sellers are simply finding fresh buyers, the activity could represent a major transfer of ownership rather than broad-based capitulation.

₹98,353 CRORE
BLOCK DEAL WAVE IN
AUGUST 2026



AUGUST 2026

THIRD-HIGHEST MONTH EVER

Dalal Street saw one of its biggest monetisation months as promoters, PE investors and global funds offloaded shares worth nearly ₹1 lakh crore through block deals, even as FPIs turned buyers.

BLOCK DEAL ACTIVITY IN 2026

Month	No. of Deals	Amount (₹ crore)
Jan 2026	1,042	23,148
Febr 2026	1,122	38,885
Mar 2026	1,463	35,782
Apr 2026	1,103	27,005
May 2026	1,041	63,440
Jun 2026	1,429	68,298
Jul 2026	1,341	48,454
Aug 2026	1,459	98,353

Source: PRIME Database



AUGUST 2026
BLOCK DEALS

₹98,353
CRORE
1,459 DEALS



THIRD-HIGHEST MONTH EVER

After March 2017 (₹2.32 lakh cr)
and June 2024 (₹1.01 lakh cr)



~24% OF 2026 TOTAL

August alone contributes nearly
a fourth of ₹4.03 lakh crore in
block deals so far in 2026.



~10 MEGA DEALS

Worth ₹2,000 crore or more
each, totalling ~₹26,000 crore.



Aster DM Quality Care

Seller: Centella Mauritius
Holdings (TPG)
Stake: 6.66%

₹4,451 CRORE



ICICI Prudential AMC

Seller: Prudential
Corporation Holdings
Stake: 2.00%

₹3,030 CRORE



UltraTech Cement

Seller: Pilani Investment &
Industries Corp
Stake: 0.84%

₹2,896 CRORE



One97 Communications

Seller: Resilient Asset
Management BV
Stake: ~2.95%

₹2,949 CRORE



Lenskart Solutions

Seller: SVF II Lightbulb
(SoftBank)
Stake: 2.58%

₹2,888 CRORE

Source: NSE/BSE block deal disclosures, company filings; compiled by NiftyTrader Desk

STRONG LIQUIDITY BACKDROP



FPI INFLOWS
IN AUG 2026

₹30,919
CRORE

Net buyers for 2nd
straight month;
strongest inflow
since Sept 2024



EQ. MF INFLOWS
IN JULY 2026

₹24,697
CRORE

Retail-driven SIPs
steady at ~₹31,961
crore for 6th
straight month

MARKET PERFORMANCE (AUGUST 2026)

NIFTY 50

▼ **-1.2%**

SENSEX

▼ **-1.5%**

NIFTY MIDCAP 100

▲ **+2.1%**

NIFTY SMALLCAP 100

▲ **+3.1%**

Nifty 50 down ~8% YTD in 2026,
while mid & smallcaps continue
to outperform.

THE BIG QUESTION

EXIT WAVE OR LIQUIDITY ROTATION?



Whether fresh institutional
demand can keep absorbing
the supply will decide what
August 2026 truly meant.



WHAT TO WATCH IN SEPTEMBER: FPI flows, domestic liquidity and
buyer mix in new block deals will be the key signals.

Block deals

Key Takeaways

August block deals reached **₹98,353 crore**, the third-highest monthly value on record.

About **10 deals of ₹2,000 crore or more** accounted for roughly ₹26,000 crore.

TPG, Prudential, and SoftBank-linked entities were among the prominent sellers.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) returned to buying in August, while domestic institutional liquidity remained important.

The key September signal will be whether institutional demand continues to absorb large shareholder exits.

August Block Deals More Than Doubled From July

The scale of August's activity stands out sharply against the previous two months.

Month	Block Deal Value
June 2026	₹68,298 crore
July 2026	₹48,454 crore
August 2026	₹98,353 crore

August's total was more than **2x July's level** and around **44% higher than June**.

The activity was not limited to a handful of transactions. Around **10 block deals of ₹2,000 crore or more** together accounted for approximately ₹26,000 crore.

Even more striking, a single trading session on August 26 saw block-deal activity of more than **₹10,300 crore**, involving companies including Avenue Supermarts, Groww parent Billionbrains Garage Ventures, PhysicsWallah, Rubicon Research, Welspun Corp and Viyash Scientific.

That points to a broader revival in large-ticket institutional transactions rather than an isolated one-off deal.

Five Big Deals That Defined August

Several transactions illustrate how ownership was changing hands across Indian equities.

[Aster DM Quality Care](#): TPG Books ₹4,451 Crore

A TPG-affiliated entity, **Centella Mauritius Holdings**, sold about **5.81 crore Aster DM Quality Care shares**, representing roughly **6.66% of the company**, at ₹766.17 per share.

The transaction was worth approximately **₹4,451 crore**.

The deal is significant because it represents a substantial monetisation by a large financial investor after a period of ownership and value creation.

[ICICI Prudential AMC](#): Prudential Sells 2% Stake

Prudential Corporation Holdings sold approximately **98.85 lakh shares**, equivalent to a **2% stake in ICICI Prudential AMC**, for about **₹3,030 crore**.

The shares changed hands at roughly ₹3,065.47 apiece.

The transaction was linked to Prudential meeting minimum public-shareholding requirements, making it more of a regulatory and ownership-structure transaction than a simple bearish call on the stock.

[UltraTech Cement](#): ₹2,896 Crore Stake Sale

Pilani Investment and Industries Corporation sold around **25 lakh UltraTech Cement shares**, representing approximately **0.84%–0.85% of the company**, at ₹11,585 per share.

The transaction was worth about **₹2,896 crore**.

On the buying side, **HDFC Mutual Fund** acquired around ₹1,500 crore worth of shares, while **ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund** bought roughly ₹400 crore.

That buyer mix is important: a large portion of the supply was absorbed by domestic institutional investors.

[Paytm](#): ₹2,950 Crore Changes Hands

Around **1.92 crore shares of One97 Communications**, the parent of Paytm, changed hands in an approximately **₹2,950-crore transaction** on August 18.

The trade represented roughly **3% of the company**.

The transaction involved Resilient Asset Management BV and was connected to the broader ownership structure involving Antfin.

Importantly, the transaction should not be interpreted as a direct reduction in Vijay Shekhar Sharma's own holding.

[Lenskart](#): SoftBank-Linked Entity Sells 2.58%

A SoftBank-linked entity, **SVF II Lightbulb**, sold approximately **4.5 crore Lenskart shares**, or about **2.58% of the company**, for roughly **₹2,888 crore**.

The shares were sold at around ₹641.75 apiece.

The buyer base included a wide range of institutional investors, including Societe Generale, Goldman Sachs, Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund, Vanguard, Morgan Stanley, SBI Mutual Fund and HDFC Mutual Fund.

Again, the transaction highlights the same pattern: **a large shareholder monetises while institutional capital takes the other side**.

Foreign Investors Returned—but the 2026 Picture Is Still Weak

The block-deal surge also came at a time when foreign investors began returning to Indian equities.

FPIs recorded around **₹30,919 crore of net equity inflows in August**, following approximately ₹20,200 crore of buying in July. This marked two consecutive months of FPI buying after four months of heavy selling.

But the broader 2026 picture remains considerably weaker.

Depository-based data showed foreign investors had still recorded a **net equity outflow of roughly ₹2.23 lakh crore for 2026** through August.

The two figures should not be treated as contradictory. Exchange-based FII cash-market data and broader depository FPI data can differ because they cover different investment routes and transaction categories.

The important takeaway is simpler: **August brought a meaningful improvement in foreign investor appetite, but it has not yet erased the year's heavy withdrawals.**

Domestic Institutions May Be the Other Half of the Story

Foreign investors were not the only source of liquidity.

The UltraTech transaction provides a clear example of domestic mutual funds absorbing substantial supply. Similar institutional participation has appeared across several large block transactions.

This matters because the ability of domestic institutions to absorb promoter, PE and strategic-investor exits can prevent large transactions from automatically translating into sustained open-market selling pressure.

In other words, a ₹3,000-crore stake sale does not necessarily mean ₹3,000 crore of fresh bearish positioning.

It can simply mean that **one category of investor is exiting while another category is taking ownership.**

Nifty Weak, But Mid- and Small-Caps Held Up Better

The block-deal surge also happened against a mixed market backdrop.

The **Nifty 50 fell around 1.2% in August**, while the Sensex declined about 1.5%.

But the broader market behaved differently.

The **Nifty Midcap 100 gained around 2.1%**, while the **Nifty Smallcap 100 rose about 3.1%**, extending its winning streak to five consecutive months.

That divergence is important.

If August's large block transactions were being driven purely by broad-based risk aversion, weakness would be expected to spread more uniformly across market segments.

Instead, large-cap benchmarks remained under pressure while parts of the broader market continued to attract money.

This strengthens the possibility that **capital was rotating between investors and segments rather than simply leaving Indian equities altogether.**

Check Live: [NIFTY50](#), [SENSEX](#), [FII DII DATA](#) | [NIFTYTRADER](#)

IPOs and Secondary Sales Add Another Supply Layer

Block deals were not operating in isolation.

India's primary market also remained active, with **21 mainboard IPOs raising around ₹21,000 crore in August**, according to market data.

Across January-August 2026, PRIME Database data showed **60 IPOs had raised approximately ₹72,165 crore**, with July and August accounting for a particularly large share of the activity.

This creates an important backdrop for listed stocks.

Investors are simultaneously dealing with:

Large shareholder stake sales

IPO supply

Offers for sale

QIPs and other equity fundraising

Portfolio rebalancing by institutional investors

The key issue is therefore not simply how much stock is coming to market.

It is **whether there is enough fresh capital willing to absorb it.**

The ₹98,353-Crore Question: Exit Wave or Liquidity Rotation?

This is where August's block-deal numbers become more interesting.

There are two possible interpretations.

Scenario 1: Liquidity Rotation

Large shareholders, including private-equity investors and strategic holders—are monetising

positions after years of ownership.

Institutional investors, meanwhile, are willing to buy those shares at negotiated prices.

Under this scenario, the block-deal surge represents a **transfer of ownership** rather than a broad exit from Indian equities.

The buyer mix in transactions such as UltraTech and Lenskart supports this possibility.

Scenario 2: Exit Overhang

The alternative is that large investors are using strong liquidity windows to reduce exposure.

If FPI buying fades, domestic liquidity slows or valuations become less attractive, the market could struggle to absorb the next wave of large transactions.

That could create an **exit overhang**, particularly in stocks where multiple large shareholders are looking to monetise positions.

The difference between these two scenarios will not be visible in the ₹98,353-crore headline number.

It will be visible in **who keeps showing up on the buy side**.

September Could Decide What August Really Meant

For traders, three signals could matter more than the August block-deal record itself.

1. FPI flows

If foreign investors extend their July-August buying streak, institutional demand could continue providing an important liquidity cushion.

2. Domestic mutual-fund flows

Continued domestic institutional participation would make it easier for the market to absorb large shareholder exits without creating widespread price pressure.

3. Buyer mix in new block deals

This may be the most useful signal.

If upcoming transactions continue to attract mutual funds, global institutions, and long-only investors, August will increasingly look like a **rotation of ownership**.

If buyers become more concentrated among short-term or opportunistic investors while sellers keep increasing, the risk of an exit overhang rises.

What Traders Should Watch Next

The ₹98,353-crore August figure is therefore less useful as a standalone bullish or bearish signal.

Instead, traders should watch whether the **supply-demand balance behind these transactions** remains healthy.

A large block sale is not automatically bearish.

A large block purchase is not automatically bullish.

The market reaction depends on the quality of the seller, the identity and conviction of the buyer, the discount to the prevailing price, and what happens to the stock after the transaction.

For September, the crucial question is straightforward:

Can fresh institutional demand continue absorbing the shares being put up for sale?

If yes, August may ultimately be remembered as a month of **ownership rotation and deep institutional liquidity**.

If that demand starts weakening, the same ₹98,353-crore number could look very different in hindsight—as evidence of a much larger exit wave.

Methodology Note

The block-deal figures used in this article refer specifically to **PRIME Database's BSE/NSE block-deal series**. Block-plus-bulk deal trackers can show different totals because definitions and coverage vary across datasets.
