Jio may file IPO papers soon, target $120 billion valuation

Proposed move follows govt relaxation allowing large companies to list with 2.5% public float

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Jio Platforms, the telecom and digital arm of Reliance Industries, is close to finalizing its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) and is expected to file the IPO papers with the capital markets regulator in two to three weeks, according to three people familiar with the matter, seeking anonymity.

The initial public offering (IPO), touted as India's biggest by a private company, will see Jio selling 2.5% stake. The company is likely to be valued between $100 billion and $120 billion, the people said.

"The prospectus has been nearly finalised. The company will now hire a larger panel of banks and file the prospectus with the regulator," one of the persons with direct knowledge of the plans said.

The development comes amid concerns that IPO momentum could slow in 2026 if market sentiment weakens further, particularly in the backdrop of escalating geopolitical tensions.

"The teams have been given a target of 15-20 days to file the DRHP," the second person cited above said. A DRHP provides a detailed look into a firm's financials, operations, strengths and risks, and is filed with the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

Reliance Jio was waiting for the government's nod for 2.5% public shareholding norms, and will now move ahead with its plans to tap the capital markets.

Last week, the Union finance ministry had allowed large companies above a certain market cap to list with just 2.5% stake sale through public offers, as against the minimum 25% requirement earlier.

The guidelines allow companies with a post-issue valuation of above ₹5 trillion ($54 billion) to dilute a minimum of 2.5% equity, a drop from the previous 5% limit.

The easing will also help companies such as the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to successfully list on Indian exchanges, *Mint* reported earlier.

Mint also reported earlier this month that India has emerged as the second-largest public share sale market globally in terms of total proceeds, and the most active market by number of deals in 2024, with companies collectively raising about ₹1.6 trillion across more than 300 listings during the year.

The momentum carried into 2025, when 373 IPOs—including 103 mainboard listings—mobilized roughly ₹1.95 trillion.

However, listing performance is showing signs of cooling despite a strong issuance cycle in the primary market. As of 12 March, returns from IPOs in 2026 have averaged just a 0.3% premium across 45 issues, marking the weakest aggregate listing performance since at least 2019, according to data from market intelligence platform Prime Database.

The groundwork for Jio's IPO started last year, when during Reliance Industries' annual general meeting, chairman Mukesh Ambani said the company is making "all arrangements" to file for a public offer, targeting a listing in the first half of 2026.

Jio Platforms is the digital and telecom arm of the oil-to-telecom conglomerate and provides wireless, entertainment and cloud services.

Mint reported last September that Kotak Mahindra Capital Co and Morgan Stanley India are in pole position to be the IPO's lead bankers while other banks in the fray include Axis Capital and Goldman Sachs.

Emails sent to Reliance Jio on Monday and Kotak Mahindra Capital Co, Morgan Stanley and Axis Bank on Tuesday remained unanswered till press time. A Goldman Sachs spokesperson declined to comment.

Jio's listing will also test market appetite for pure-play telecom companies in India, with two of its rivals—Bharti Airtel Ltd and Vodafone Idea Ltd—already listed.

Through 2020 and 2021, Jio Platforms sold a 32.96% stake to a diverse set of global investors such as Facebook (now Meta), Google, Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR, Mubadala, ADIA, TPG, L Catterton, Public Investment Fund, Intel Capital and Qualcomm Ventures, collectively raising more than ₹1.5 trillion.

Analysts at Morgan Stanley and Citi Research have pegged Reliance Jio's valuation at around $133 billion, implying a multiple of about 13 times its estimated enterprise value for 2026-27 relative to its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization.

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The IPO will involve a 2.5% stake sale, valuing the firm at $100–120 billion. REUTERS

TELECOM IPO TEST

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ANALYSTS value Jio at around $133 bn, implying about 13 times EV/Ebitda multiple for FY27

THE telco had been awaiting regulatory approval on minimum public shareholding norms