

# LIC, India's Largest IPO So Far, Also Quickest to Get Sebi Nod

## Fastest IPO Approvals Since 2020

ISSUE	DRHP FILED	NO OF DAYS TAKEN FOR APPROVAL	ISSUE SIZE (₹ CR)
Life Insurance Corp	13/02/2023	23	NA
Mrs. Bectors Food	20/10/2020	30	541
Railtel Corp.Of India	05/10/2020	32	819
Seven Islands Shipping	15/02/2021	35	600
Macrotech Developers	17/02/2021	35	2,500
Paradeep Phosphates	16/08/2021	37	2,200
Indian Railway Finance	17/01/2020	39	4,633
Medi Assist Healthcare	12/05/2021	41	850
Craftsman Automation	16/12/2020	43	824
Windlas Biotech	17/05/2021	43	402
Ami Organics	05/06/2021	44	570
Antony Waste	29/09/2020	45	300
Shri Bajrang Power	12/07/2021	45	700
Vijaya Diagnostic Centre	07/06/2021	46	1,894
Chemspec Chemicals	14/07/2021	47	700

Source: primedatabase.com

Market regulator clears the issue in just 23 days

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**Mumbai:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) approved Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)'s initial public offering (IPO) proposal in 23 days — the fastest in the capital market regulator's history. Bankers said the speedy go-ahead for the country's largest IPO so far has paved the way for quicker clearances in upcoming issues that would benefit IPO-bound companies.

The state-owned insurer had filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) on February 13 for the public offer, which would fetch the government between ₹65,000 crore and ₹70,000 crore. Bankers said Sebi cleared the IPO on March 8.

The average number of days taken for IPO approvals in 2021 were 75 compared to 82 days in 2020, showed data compiled from primedatabase.com.

However, a couple of IPOs in 2020 were cleared by Sebi in almost a month. The

IPO proposal of Mrs Bector Food Specialties was approved in 30 days, while Railtel Corporation of India was approved in 32 days. In 2021, Mumbai-based realty firm Macrotech Developers and Seven Islands Shipping got approvals in 35 days last year. The regulator used to take 214 days for IPO approvals in 2008, 198 days in 2013, or about 100 days in 2018.

Changes in the ICDR (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) regulations and standardised disclosure requirements have helped reduced the approval period. Meanwhile, investment bankers are now exercising greater due diligence before submitting an offer document, thereby reducing the approval period. "Sebi has been super-efficient in clearing offer documents of late," said Dharmesh Mehta, CEO, DAM Capital. "The entire IPO process has been simplified, standardised, and made process-driven."

