

IPO and OFS

Offer for Sale (OFS)

IPO or Exit Route?

Understanding What Investors Are Really Funding

June 12, 2026

Who really benefits from an IPO — the company or its shareholders?

Understanding OFS: More Than Just a Share Sale

In any IPO, capital flows in two distinct directions — knowing where the money goes is fundamental

FRESH ISSUE

PUBLIC INVESTOR

Applies for IPO shares



COMPANY

Receives primary capital proceeds



BUSINESS GROWTH

Expansion • Debt Repayment • Working Capital

OFFER FOR SALE (OFS)

PUBLIC INVESTOR

Applies for IPO shares



SELLING SHAREHOLDER

Receives OFS sale proceeds



MONETISATION / LIQUIDITY

Partial Exit • Wealth Diversification

KEY QUESTION • Who ultimately receives the IPO proceeds — and does it align with your investment thesis?

Not all OFS transactions signal the same intent — context is everything

Promoter Selling 5–10%

Generally Neutral

Often wealth diversification or estate planning. Promoter continues to retain to retain majority control.

► *Promoter retention post-IPO is the key metric to watch*

PE / VC Fund Exit

Expected

Natural investment lifecycle exit after 7–10 years. Fund mandate requires requires capital return to LPs.

► *Assess holding period and whether exit is at fair value*

Strategic Investor Exit

Context-Dependent

Portfolio realignment or strategic pivot. May indicate reduced conviction in sector outlook.

► *Understand reason for realignment before drawing conclusions*

Multiple Shareholders Exiting

Requires Analysis

Simultaneous exit by multiple parties warrants deeper scrutiny of business fundamentals.

► *Evaluate company growth prospects and insider confidence level*

Case Studies: Same OFS, Different Investor Perception

IPO structure alone does not determine investment merit — fundamentals and context determine outcome

HYUNDAI MOTOR INDIA IPO

2024

100%

Offer for Sale

Zero fresh capital raised by the company

Entire ₹27,870 Cr proceeds went to parent — Hyundai Motor Company

Company received zero primary growth capital from the IPO

Indian subsidiary gained listing benefits: visibility & price discovery

Investors funded an exit, not a growth agenda

KEY LEARNING • Large IPO ≠ Fresh Capital For The Company

SWIGGY IPO

2024

Mixed

Fresh Issue + OFS

Balanced structure for growth & liquidity

Fresh Issue component funded operational growth & technology investments

OFS component provided liquidity to early PE/VC investors (natural exit)

Balanced structure demonstrates company's genuine capital need

Investors could assess both growth agenda and exit dynamics clearly

KEY LEARNING • Balanced Structure Signals Growth + Liquidity Alignment

TAKEAWAY • High OFS is not inherently negative — context, fundamentals, and promoter retention post-IPO are the true indicators.

Investor Checklist Before Applying for an IPO

Five questions every investor should answer before committing capital to an IPO

01

What % of the issue is OFS vs Fresh Issue?

Why it matters: Determines whether the company is raising growth capital or solely enabling shareholder exits



02

Who are the selling shareholders?

Why it matters: Promoters, PE funds, strategic investors or parent entity — each signals a different motivation



03

How much stake will promoters retain post-listing?

Why it matters: High promoter retention signals long-term alignment; low retention demands deeper scrutiny



04

Does the company genuinely require growth capital?

Why it matters: Fresh Issue proceeds tied to specific, credible growth plans vs. general corporate purposes



05

What is the business growth trajectory?

Why it matters: Revenue, profitability, and unit economics must support the IPO valuation independently of structure



FINAL TAKEAWAY • Every IPO is both a growth story and a liquidity story. Knowing which dominates will make you a more informed investor