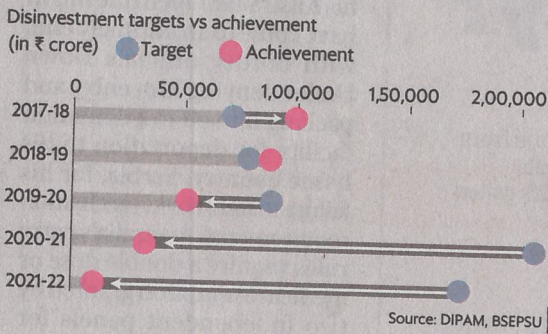


Data wrap: Divestment targets, record exports

CURATED BY NITI KIRAN

Every Friday, Plain Facts publishes a compilation of data-based insights, complete with easy-to-read visual charts, to help you delve deeper into the stories from the week just gone by. The government is likely to miss this year's divestment targets as Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd's (BPCL's) stake sale seems to be in limbo. A sharp recovery in demand is reflected in robust exports growth and strong e-way bill data. Here's more:

Elusive Target

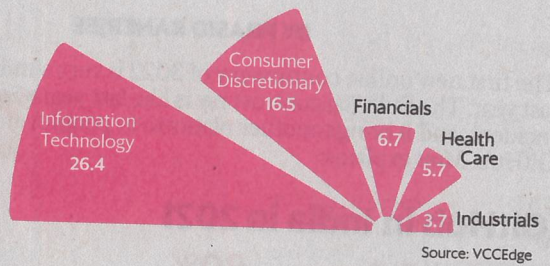


THE PRIVATIZATION of BPCL appears to be in limbo and may be pushed to the next fiscal, *Mint* reported. The government's plan to raise ₹1.75 trillion from divestment proceeds this year now hinges on the success of the initial public offering of Life Insurance Corp. of India. Still, this year's target may be elusive as more than a third of it was planned to be met by BPCL alone.



Busy Dealmaking

Value of private equity deals in 2021 (\$ bn)



DEALMAKING ACTIVITY is expected to surge in 2022, surpassing the bumper show last year. According to EY, 2021 saw private equity (PE) and venture capital investments of \$75 billion. This year, it is expected to grow by 20%. This would be driven mainly by continued interest in the technology, media and telecom sectors and a strong return of PE investments in infrastructure and realty.



₹1,000 crore

Big Picture

THIS IS Zee Studios' bet on the nearly 40 films it plans to produce in 2022. In 2019, Zee released 10-12 movies, which plunged to half in 2020 before increasing to 20 films in 2021, *Mint* reported. The strategy is to balance tent-pole films with mid-sized productions and small content-driven offerings across Hindi and regional languages.



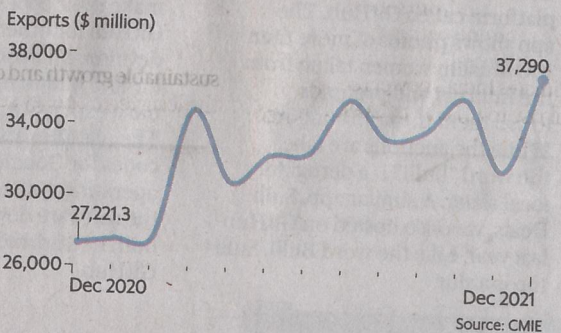
Staying Put



RETAIL INVESTORS are holding on to mutual funds for longer. Nearly 55% of the retail equity mutual fund holdings as of September 2021 had stayed in the market for more than two years, compared with 46.7% in September 2019, *Mint* reported. Strong market returns over the past year have drawn investors to equity schemes, which have given double-digit returns in the last two to three years.



Record Exports



THE COUNTRY'S exports in December rose to a record \$37.29 billion, registering a year-on-year jump of 37%. Exports have been \$30 billion or more for nine months in a row this fiscal. Outbound shipments during April-December 2021 have already crossed \$300 billion, exceeding the exports of the whole of 2020-21, according to commerce ministry data.



\$55.7 billion

Gold Binge

THAT'S THE record amount India spent on gold imports in 2021 as a price-drop favoured retail buyers. This was much more than double the \$22 billion spent in 2020 and surpassed the previous high of \$53.9 billion set in 2011. In volume terms, India imported 1,050 tonnes of gold in 2021, the most in a decade, far more than double the 430 tonnes imported in 2020.



\$55.7 billion

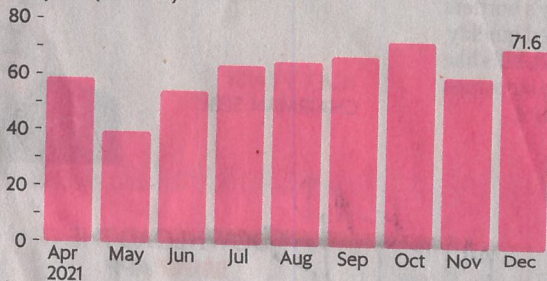
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Gathering Pace

E-way bills (in million)



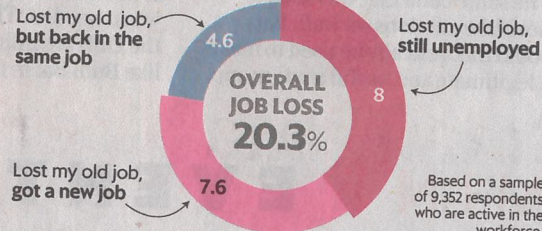
Source: GSTN

AROUND 71.6 MILLION e-way bills were generated in December, against 61.1 million in November, reflecting a sharp recovery in demand and manufacturing activity. The number of e-way bills generated last month is close to the festive month of October (73.5 million), which led to the second highest goods and services tax revenue collections ever of ₹1.31 trillion.



Chart of the Week: Back to Work

Current employment status of those who reported losing a job last year (in %)



Based on a sample of 9,352 respondents who are active in the workforce.

Source: YouGov-Mint-CPR Millennial Survey, Nov-Dec 2021

INDIA'S LABOUR market appears to be improving. While 20.3% of urban Indians participating in the latest YouGov-Mint-CPR Millennial Survey said they lost a job in the past year, a majority of them had already found their way back into the workforce, *Mint* reported.

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AHMED RAZA KHAN/MINT