

2nd Jan, 2012**Few Little Things...**

- **Food Inflation:** 0.42%
(For the week ended Dec 17)
- **Forex Reserves:** \$300.86
- **Brent Crude:** 107.58 USD
- **WTI Crude:** 98.83 USD

STAYING PUT

Despite the worsening economic scenario leading to a widening trade gap, the current account deficit stayed at \$ 16.9 billion in the 2nd quarter of the fiscal year. This happened largely due to the increase in remittances from abroad (Non-resident Indians making most of the fall of the rupee) and an increase in software exports

AND THE WINNER IS...

The shining-yellow metal fetched the most returns in the year bogged by crisis everywhere. Gold fetched returns of 31.65% over the year. Comparatively, the investors putting their money in the Sensex lost around 25%. Bonds and debt fetched returns in the range of 6-9%. Silver, although starting out really well, saw corrections towards the end of the year, and fetched close to 8% nonetheless

TOUGH YEAR FOR THE GOVERNMENT

The Union Govt. lost Rs. 5170 billion this year in the stocks of the 71 listed firms it holds. This is a whopping 32% loss. The Govt. also lost a share of the market, which is now down to 20% from 21.75% it held a year ago

BEATING ALL ESTIMATES

The fiscal deficit is now expected to hit 5.5-5.8%, up from the budgeted estimate of 4.6%, claims the finance ministry. The fiscal deficit reached 6.7% of GDP in the first half of the year (Apr-Sep). The GDP growth in the Jul-Sep quarter was also a low 6.9%

TCS ON TOP

Tata Consultancy Services, on 30 December 2011, became the country's most valued company, with a market capitalization of Rs. 227,280 cr., ahead of the previous leader, Reliance Industries Limited, which is at Rs. 226,898 cr

KILLER DEBUT OF NHAI BONDS

AAA rated bonds floated by the National Highways Authority of India, sold like hot cakes on the first day with demand outstripping the offer within hours of opening belying perception that people are averse to investing infrastructure. It was oversubscribed twice!

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