

A phase transition in the making





### **Authors**

**Arpan Sheth** is a partner in Bain & Company's Mumbai office. He serves as the global capability leader for Bain's Vector Solutions Group and leads the Private Equity and Alternative Investor practice in India.

**Sriwatsan Krishnan** is a partner in Bain & Company's Mumbai office and is a leader in Bain India's Private Equity practice.

**Naman Bansal** is an associate partner in Bain & Company's New Delhi office and is a leader in Bain India's Private Equity practice.

### Key contacts

**Arpan Sheth** in Mumbai (arpan.sheth@bain.com)

Sriwatsan Krishnan in Mumbai (sriwatsan.k@bain.com)

Naman Bansal in New Delhi (naman.bansal@bain.com)

For media queries:

Sitara Achreja in Mumbai (sitara.achreja@bain.com)

Nicholas Worley in Hong Kong (nicholas.worley@bain.com)

## Acknowledgments

We deeply thank the Bain India team, including Aakriti Gupta, Abhishek Bhat, and Dhairya Aggarwal, for their in-depth research and analytical rigour. We also wish to thank Shelza Khan and Maggie Locher for their editorial support. Finally, we would like to thank the private equity funds that contributed to this work by sharing their insights and counsel that were invaluable in shaping this report.

# Contents

Executive summary: Indian private equity signals a phase transition	2
Deals landscape: A year of milestones	8
Sectors in focus: IT/ITES and healthcare—maturing ecosystems	14
Funds landscape: An evolving investor ecosystem for value creation	20
Exits: Hitting the peak	23
The ESG opportunity: Moving from compliance to value	28

# Executive summary: Indian private equity signals a phase transition

2021 has been a banner year that saw India private equity (PE) and venture capital (VC) bounce back from a pandemic-induced slowdown with fury. Reaching approximately \$70 billion in investments, the PE-VC market was buzzing with frenetic deal activity and a complementary acceleration in exit momentum. While the first half of the year stuttered as India faced a devastating second wave of Covid-19 and experienced lockdowns and various uncertainties, the economy shifted back into gear in the second half in a quick rebound as a rapid vaccination rollout was undertaken.

Indian investments grew faster in 2021 than most major economies, including China, with 96% growth over 2020 (excluding the mega deals of Jio Platforms and Reliance Retail). Coupled with the flight of capital away from China due to political uncertainties, the growth helped India increase its share of the overall Asia-Pacific (APAC) market—a signal of a trend expected to continue. India looks to consolidate its position as the market of choice for investors in what can be seen as a phase transition for the market. The country has demonstrated political and economic stability, coupled with a confluence of various factors enabling depth in the investment ecosystem—a maturing investments landscape with diversity of fund sizes and types, improving asset quality and governance, an abundance of ready capital, and a vibrant market for exits. 2021 was a milestone year for India, and a slight moderation should be anticipated as the market looks to consolidate the year's wins and step into a new phase, with higher deal values and wider exit opportunities supported by a larger pool of quality assets.

Many records were set and milestones were reached in 2021 for the Indian PE-VC market, with:

- **Record velocity of deals,** with over 2,000 deals closed compared to almost 1,100 each in the two years prior;
- **A quadrupling of exit momentum** to \$36 billion, with huge exits across sectors as valuations inflated further;
- A massive increase in venture capital (VC) and growth equity expanding to \$38.5 billion, in almost a 4x jump from 2020, that took its share of overall investments to greater than 50%;
- **An expansion in buyouts** deal value by 5x to over \$16 billion as the average value of deals tripled since 2016, reaching more than 50% of the share of PE investments; and
- A host of new-age businesses listing on public exchanges this year (Zomato, Nykaa, etc.), complemented by the appetite shown by Indian retail investors for new-age business models as these IPOs got oversubscribed.

2021 saw many themes from the previous years continue. The strong deal flow from previous years continued and accelerated even further, with an 87% increase over last year's volumes. The number of large cheque size investments also witnessed a significant increase. 11 investments of more than \$1 billion were seen in 2021, compared to 6 in 2020. Much of 2021's deal activity was in consumer tech and IT/ITES, an indication of the expanding share of growth captured by the tech and internet sectors. The two sectors combined represented more than 60% of the year's deal value at nearly \$44 billion, and represent the sector's resilience and attractiveness through uncertainties as business models in these sectors adapted faster than traditional models in other sectors. Further, VC and growth equity surpassed all growth estimates, soaring to \$38.5 billion from approximately \$10 billion 2020.

In parallel, the momentum in exits and the shift away from China were new trends that unfolded. Secondary sales, public market exits, and strategic sales all picked up, and the average size of exits across these routes have seen a significant expansion since 2019. 2021 also saw a massive increase in valuations, as a seller-friendly market emerged with huge multiples for heightened growth, especially in the tech and internet sectors. Another important trend was the attention to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria in investing, as assets under management (AUM) for ESG funds scaled up. This trend is expected to accelerate in the coming years as ESG becomes the norm rather than the exception. A survey amongst Indian funds revealed that they expect ESG considerations over their PE AUM to grow to 90% in five years from now, up from 39% five years ago.

Led by Carlyle's \$3 billion deal into Hexaware and Blackstone's \$2.8 billion Mphasis deal, IT/ITES witnessed a significant expansion in 2021. Larger deals were unlocked in 2021, and valuations were higher by 25%–30% over past averages. Five deals of more than \$1 billion were also seen for the first time in a single year in the sector. The IT/BPO subsector saw significant traction within verticalised business niches and benefited from the convergence of tailwinds enabled by pandemic-induced business transformation agendas. Market opportunities in digital IT services are expected to grow at 18%–20% and will invite larger investments into the sector.

Healthcare witnessed increased traction in 2021. Healthcare provider activity picked up from 2020's lull as Covid-induced operational stresses reduced, while pharma managed to maintain the deal values unlocked last year. The provider space, including hospitals, single speciality formats and diagnostics grew 2x over 2020's invested value, with the Manipal-NIIF and Apollo-Sands Capital deals driving a significant chunk of the deal value. The sector is driven by five discernible themes such as scale through consolidation, niche speciality play, out-of-hospital (or daycare) formats, high-end speciality diagnostics & AI, and platform play for operational efficiencies.

In the most celebrated milestone for 2021, exits worth more than \$36 billion were unlocked. Strategic sales constituted 50% of the exit volumes, while the share of value was almost equally split across secondary sales, public market exits, and strategic sales. Strategic sales were anchored by a few marquee deals, such as BillDesk acquisition by PayU at \$4.5 billion and Tata's acquisition of Bigbasket at \$1.3 billion. However, initial public offering (IPO)-led exits stole the show in 2021. In a significant milestone, the Securities and Exchange Board of India relaxed norms for loss-making firms to list on the public bourses, paving the way for future public market exits and clearing a significant roadblock

that had existed for years. In a vindication of the importance of this move, public market exits worth \$11 billion took place, expanding by \$7 billion over 2020's value. This is further emboldened by the 95% year-over-year (YoY) growth seen in average value of exits via the public market route. Exit multiples continued to increase awith the average reported multiples growing by 20% to 5.6. Key xits in consumer tech, IT, and BFSI, such as TPG-Nykaa, Baring-Hexaware, and Carlyle-SBI Cards significantly surpassed the average. Furthering the moderation of public markets due to inflation and global uncertainties, exit momentum is expected to temper in the near term, especially with the portfolio age for major funds declining post-2021's activity. The depth witnessed in the exits market across all routes in 2021 is expected to provide buoyant exits in the longer term, after a temporary slowdown.

The competitive landscape within PE is undergoing some important shifts as the Indian market becomes more mature and the number of active funds increases. The competition within funds and increased participation of limited partners (LPs) are driving up valuations and making deal sourcing and faster execution increasingly critical. Funds are shifting their strategy to adapt to these changes by expanding cheque sizes, investing in deeper target relationships, and increasing value-creation capabilities, especially by setting up portfolio teams. Traditional funds are increasingly seeking buyout opportunities, with Blackstone, Baring, Carlyle, Advent, GIC, and KKR each investing more than \$1 billion each in buyouts over the last three years, with an increasing outlay over years. Buyouts are attractive as they give funds more control over value creation for high-value deals—enabled through operational turnarounds and deep sectoral focus. We expect to see more such differentiated fund strategies as India's market attracts more investors.

As India-focused funds look toward the next phase of the Indian investments ecosystem, they are looking to embrace ESG toward meeting net zero and responsible investing goals. Leading funds are expected to pave the way for other funds to follow toward improved shareholder return while maintaining or improving the resilience of immediate stakeholders and society. The path forward will see funds generating differentiated value from their ESG interventions as they pivot from a risk mitigation view of ESG to a value-creation view of the same, and we expect ESG leadership to emerge as a key priority for funds going forward.

After an exuberant year for both deal activity and exits in 2021, the outlook for 2022 is expected to be sobering. The global economy entered 2022 coping with macro stresses of runaway inflation, global political uncertainties and escalating tensions, supply chain disruptions, and calls for urgent climate action. The market sentiment has been further dampened by the crash in blue chip tech stocks in the public markets which has eroded the optimism around tech & internet businesses that saw them at extremely high valuations in Q4 2021. Domestically as well, funds in India are anticipating corrections from last year's high valuations and frenetic activity across deals and exits. We anticipate a significant tempering of pace as these macro and micro trends converge, but see this as an opportunity for the consolidation of last year's gains which should make India see annual PE-VC deal values of around \$50+ billion more frequently.

Already in 2022, even as the bullish sentiment has waned, more than \$24 billion of PE-VC investments in ~630 deals were recorded by May (vs. 775 for ~\$19 billion in value by May 2021), riding on last year's momentum. However, VC and growth equity have slowed significantly, with 20% lesser deals this year compared to last year's run rate of 130 deals every month. Average VC cheque sizes have also declined from \$25 million to \$20 million. On the other hand, private equity continues to demonstrate strength with deal count per month growing by around 27% over an annualised base of 165 deals. The average realised cheque size of \$168 million this year keeps PE deals within the range of \$150–\$200 million seen over last five years. An important reversal of trend that is expected to last is the dampening of the vigorous exit activity of 2021 which saw exits grow 4x to \$36 billion. This year has seen exit activity of \$5.9 billion so far, in a 56% decline over the last year's activity over a similar duration—and the exit activity is expected to weaken further. The bearish sentiment in public markets coupled with the younger portfolios of top funds could see exits dip to pre-2021 stages again. Even though the pace of deals is slowing down, large funds like Baring, TPG, ChrysCapital, ADIA and Warburg Pincus continue to keep pace with their activity over last year, vindicating confidence in the fundamentals of the Indian market.

Figure 1: How did 2021 unfold?





#### Investments

A decade high of investment value was unlocked, in a year that paid homage to Indian PE coming of age. Deal count doubled.





#### **Fundraising**

Fundraising stayed strong with a dry powder glut that played favorably for India. The country became more attractive within APAC as funds redirected funds from China.





#### **Exits**

The pace of exits complemented the pace of deal activity. While it was a bumper year for public market exits, other modes of exit also flexed strength.





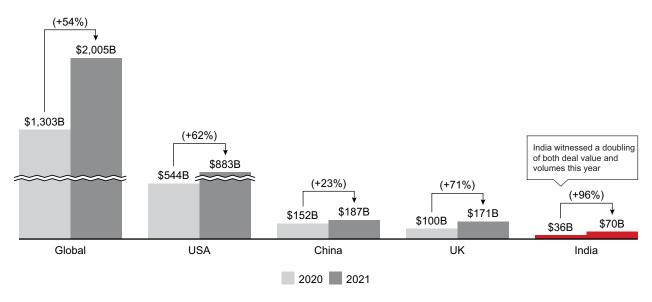
#### Outlook

Indian PE poised to gain strength on the back of a thriving start-up ecosystem, second-generation founders, and maturing exit markets. However, short-term moderation likely.

Source: Bain analysis

Figure 2: Indian deal activity surpassed growth witnessed by global peers in 2021

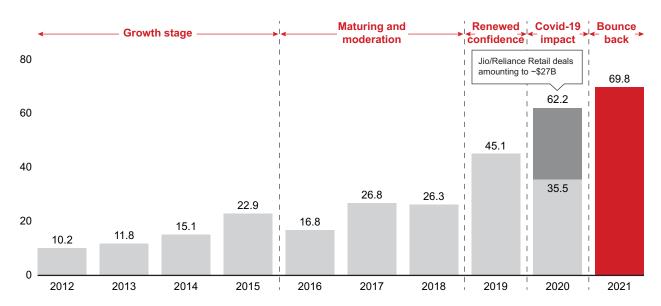
#### PE-VC investments global and by country (\$B)



Notes: Includes real estate and infrastructure; only includes deals where value was known; India values for 2020 exclude Reliance Retail/Jio deals Sources: Bain PE deals database; Pitchbook; Venture Intelligence; AVCJ; VCCEdge

Figure 3: PE-VC investments in India reached ~\$70 billion, in a resounding bounce back from Covid-driven restraint

#### Annual PE-VC investments in India (\$B)



Note: Includes real estate and infrastructure, private investment in public equity (PIPE), and venture capital (VC) deals Source: Bain PE deals database

Figure 4: What stayed the same—Trends that continued to hold true



#### Strong deal flow

Deal volume accelerated with ~87% increase over the last year

VC deal volumes grew significantly, with 3 of 4 deals attributed to it as total deals crossed the mark of 2,000



#### High pace of VC/growth equity

India's expansion of VC/growth equity continues as investments grow from \$10B to \$40B

Traditional PE funds increasingly participating in growth deals



#### Large cheque sizes of investments

2021 saw 11 investments of more than \$1B, in a significant uptick in large deal volumes

Consumer tech & IT drove significant value, seeing an expansion in average cheque sizes by 1.5x

LPs are participating in more direct or co-invest deals, improving access to capital for larger deals



# Continuing momentum in consumer tech. IT

Consumer tech and IT attracted significant attention to reach ~\$30B and ~\$18B each in annual deal value

Both sectors grow by more than 200% YoY

Source: Bain analysis

Figure 5: What changed—Things that were different in 2021



# APAC fund focus shifts from China to India

Rising geopolitical uncertainty in China and dwindling business sentiment increased India's share in the APAC market

Indian PE investments grew by 95% from 2020–21 vs. 23% in China



#### Surge in valuations

2021 saw high valuations, largely focused on forward looking growth in tech and internet businesses

IT/BPO saw 25%–30% increase over historical valuation multiples

\$1B deals and exits both expanded



#### Strong exit momentum

2021 witnessed a tremendous growth in exits: ~\$36B in 2021 vs. ~\$9B in 2020

All routes of exit were attractive and grew significantly, public markets showed most growth in size of exit



#### **ESG** gained attention

ESG gained importance as funds increasingly included ESG as a part of their diligence process

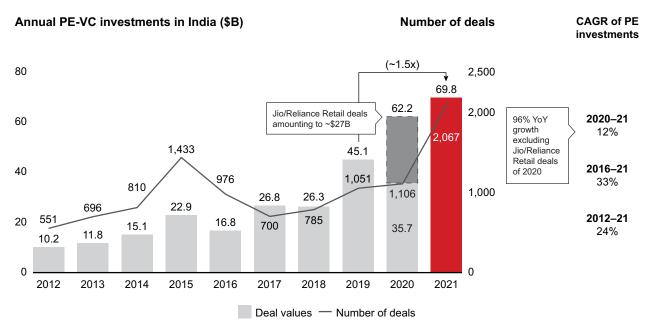
AUM for ESG funds rose from \$275M in 2020 to \$650M in 2021 in India—a jump of ~150%

Source: Bain analysis



- PE-VC investments had a banner year in 2021 to reach an all-time peak of \$69.8 billion, seeing a growth of 96% over the previous year's deal values, excluding the mega-investments of Reliance Retail and Jio Platforms.
- Deal volumes nearly doubled to 2,000 from an average of 1,100 deals over 2019 and 2020, with the growth in volumes contributing nearly 96% to the growth in deal value seen in 2021, with minimal contribution from deal size expansion.
- VC and growth equity zoomed 4x to reach nearly \$40 billion—reaching a 55% share of overall PE investments.
- Buyouts also picked up further in 2021, crossing \$16 billion in value, with a significant expansion in the size of cheques. However, the number of deals in 2021 was tempered compared to 2020.
- The volume of large deals (>\$100M) expanded significantly, growing by 95%, while the average cheque sizes remained similar to the last year.
- In a significant step up, 11 investments greater than \$1 billion were seen compared to 6 in 2020. The average value of the top 15 investments grew by 50% to \$1.5 billion.
- Consumer technology and IT/ITES accelerated the momentum from the last year and accounted for greater than 60% of 2021's deal value. The growth witnessed in just the two sectors accounted for approximately \$32 billion of the \$34.1 billion growth in overall deal value.
- Consumer technology saw a surge in interest in VC and growth equity, with verticalised e-commerce, fintech, and gaming subsectors growing more than 5x. IT/ITES investments were driven by big-ticket investments in IT/BPO subsectors, with the top five deals accounting for about \$10 billion in deal value.
- Traditional sectors such as RE & infra, manufacturing, energy, and telecom slowed down, seeing muted deal activity.
- Top funds stepped up their investment outlay from the moderation seen in the last year, and they increased the average size of deals.

Figure 6: PE-VC investments reached close to \$70B, as deal volumes doubled

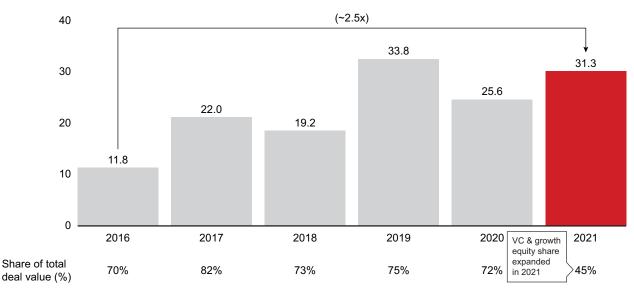


Notes: Includes real estate and infrastructure, private investment in public equity (PIPE), and venture capital (VC) deals; deal volume includes deals where the deal value is unknown

Source: Bain PE deals database

Figure 7a: PE investments strengthened to \$31B in a steady growth in value

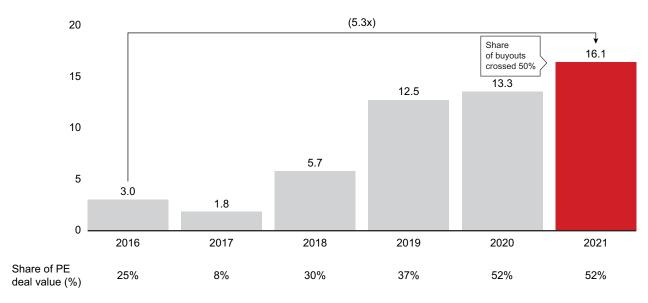
#### Total PE investment (\$B)



Note: Does not include VC deals; excludes Jio and Reliance Retail deals Source: Bain PE deals database

**Figure 7b:** Buyouts continue to drive higher share of value within PE investments and expanded by 5x in that many years

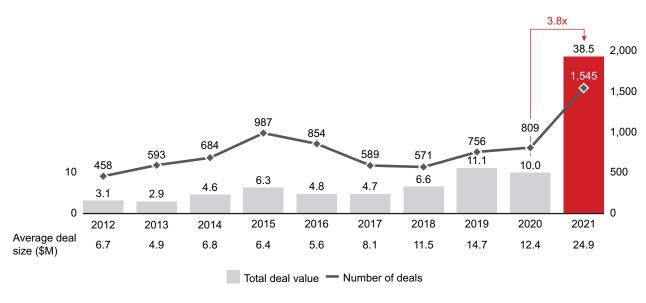
#### Total buyout deal value (\$B; \$100M+ PE deals only)



Note: Does not include VC deals; excludes Jio and Reliance Retail deals Source: Bain PE deals database

Figure 8: VC and growth equity reached ~\$40B, riding on a ~4x growth after moderation in 2020

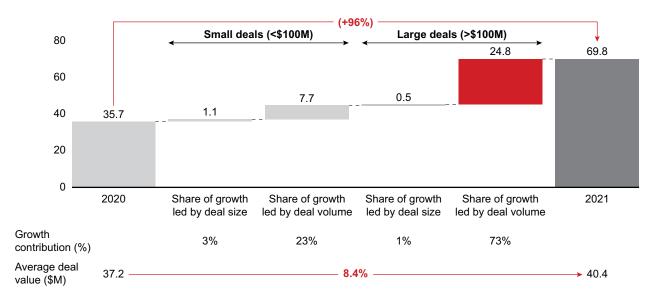
#### VC + Growth equity investments in India (\$B)



Note: VC investments exclude transactions where deal value is unknown Sources: Bain VC deals database; Venture Intelligence; AVCJ; VCCEdge

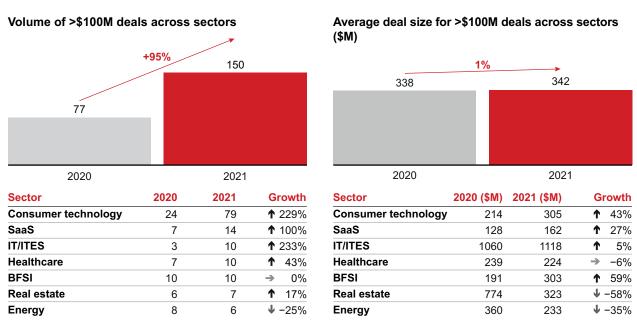
**Figure 9:** Growth is primarily driven by acceleration in deal volumes, with more than 70% growth attributed to increase in large deals

#### Annual PE-VC investments in India (\$B)



Notes: Excludes Jio and Reliance Retail deals (2020); deal volume and average deal value are for deals with a known value only Source: Bain PE deals database

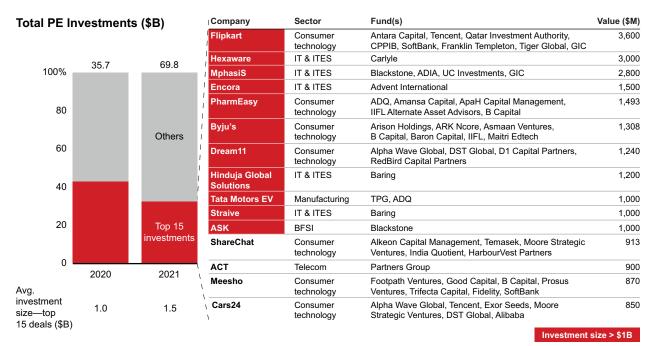
Figure 10: Acceleration in large deal activity in consumer tech and IT/ITES more than compensated for small declines in traditional sectors



Notes: Excluding Jio and Reliance Retail deals (2020); deal volume and average deal value are for deals with a known value only; largest sectors by value chosen for analysis

Source: Bain PE deals database

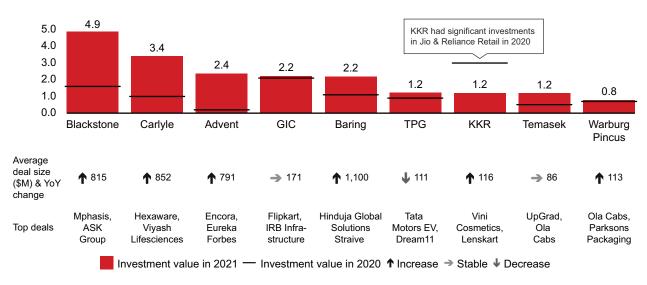
Figure 11: In a significant step up, 11 investments were greater than \$1B, compared to 6 in 2020



Note: Does not include deals where the deal value is unknown; number of \$1B+ deals exclude Reliance Retail and Jio deals (2020) Source: Bain PE deals database

Figure 12: Top funds surpassed the previous year's outlay and many expanded average cheque size

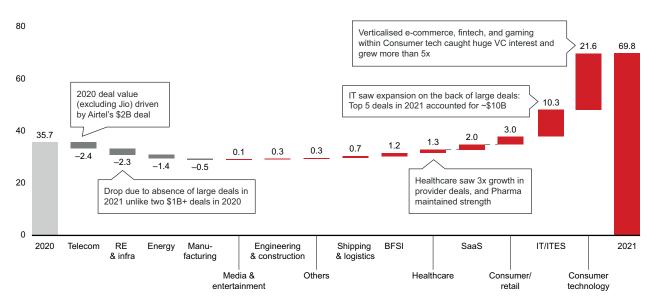
#### India-focused PE investment by fund (\$B)



Notes: Includes transactions where deal value is known; total PE + VC investment considered; deal volumes are not additive because deals with multiple investors may be counted more than once across considered funds; in case of multiple investors in a given deal, deal value per investor has been calculated assuming equal split amongst the investors; TPG includes TPG Growth and TPG Capital Sources: Bain PE-VC deals database; Bain analysis

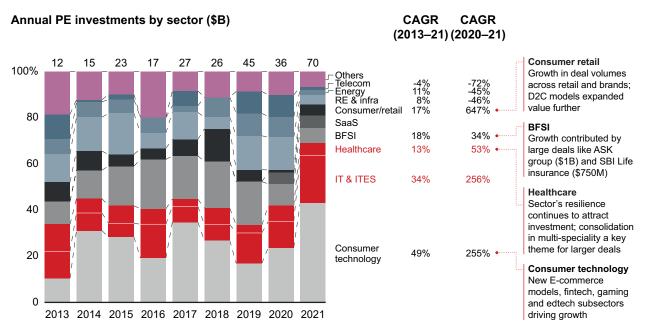
Figure 13: Consumer tech and IT/ITES drove a significant portion of 2021's growth, with other sectors maintaining strength

#### Total PE investment (\$B)



Notes: Only deals with a known deal value are included; excluding Jio and Reliance Retail deals (2020) Source: Bain PE deals database

Figure 14: Consumer tech and IT/ITES drove more than 60% of the deal value in 2021



Notes: Excluding Jio and Reliance Retail deals; others includes manufacturing, engineering and construction, media and entertainment, and shipping and logistics; SaaS deals covered under IT/ITES till 2019
Source: Bain PE deals database



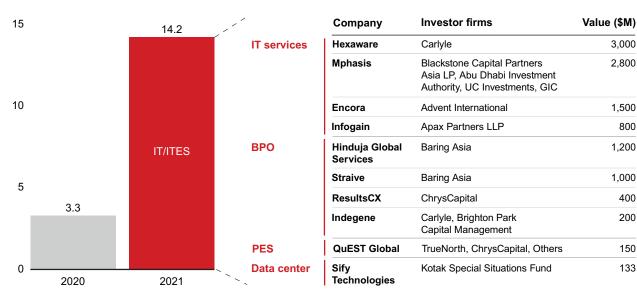
# Sectors in focus: IT/ITES and healthcare—maturing ecosystems

- IT/ITES saw investments of \$14.2 billion in 2021, growing by \$11 billion over the previous year.
- PE investments in IT/ITES have grown from \$2 billion to \$12 billion in the past five years, and large deal volumes are increasing.
- In 2021, the sector saw five deals greater than \$1 billion in a tremendous increase from the last two years that saw a single billion-dollar deal.
- The sector's attractiveness has picked up due to post-Covid shifts in business operations, the need for business continuity amidst uncertainties, and a pivot to digitally enabled models focused on improving unit economics. This has created increased demand for offshoring and outsourcing, automation and digital, and cloud services. The shifts are expected to last as the world embraces a "new normal" moving into the endemic phase of the pandemic, and IT promises to provide the backbone of these shifts.
- Valuations in IT saw a significant rise, with the large deals in ITES closing at 20–30x EBITDA multiples, much higher than historical multiples of approximately 15x and BPO reaching multiples of 13–14x, growing from the range of about 10x. The sector also continues to see significant buyout activity and accounted for nearly 40% of buyout deal value at almost 20% of buyout deal volumes over the last three years.
- Healthcare grew 1.5x in 2021, with providers growing 2x after the slowdown in 2020, and pharma maintaining the strength gained on the back of Covid-led expansion.
- Within provider, multi-speciality saw a 300%+ growth followed by diagnostics and single-speciality. The Manipal and Apollo deals drove a significant chunk of the deal value.
- Multi-speciality hospital deals are largely driven by scale and consolidation, as private players seek to dominate local presence and improve share of high-value cases. Platform play is also an emerging thematic area of focus.
- Single-speciality niches have proved mettle not only with customers but also with investors, as various asset-light, highly replicable models emerge in different clinical specialties and find scale.
- India's diagnostics market has been given a fillip by Covid, and diagnostic chains are expected to reap the growth with an expected growth over the next five years of close to 17%.

Figure 15: 2021 witnessed mega deals in IT services and BPO subsectors

#### Total PE-VC investment in IT/ITES (\$B)

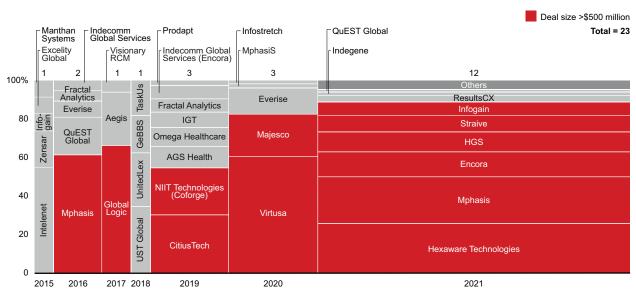
Top 10 deals in 2021



Note: Software/SaaS deals not considered Source: Bain PE deals database

**Figure 16:** IT/ITES investments have grown from ~\$2B to ~\$12B in the past 5 years, and large deal volumes are increasing

#### IT/ITES PE investments (\$B)



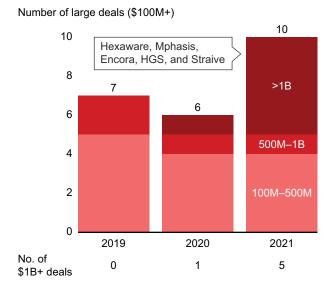
Notes: Only deals >\$50M considered for analysis; only deals with a known deal value have been included; VC, growth equity deals not included. IGT and Fractal Analytics investments closed in 2022

Source: Bain PE deals database

Figure 17: IT/ITES has seen an increase in both large deals and valuations in 2021

#### Large (\$100M+) deals over the last three years

#### Key deals in 2021



Company	Subsector	Valuation (as a multiple of EBITDA)
Mphasis	IT services	16–18x
Hexaware Technologies	IT services	16–18x
Encora	IT services	23–25x
IGT Solutions	ВРО	15–16x
Fractal Analytics	Analytics	25–30x

Valuations in 2021 higher than historical valuation range (IT services: ~15x; BPO: ~10x)

Notes: Software/SaaS deals not considered. PE deals only; VC, growth equity deals not included; IGT and Fractal Analytics investments closed in 2022 Sources: Bain PE deals database; Bain analysis

Figure 18: Pandemic-induced acceleration in digital transformation agendas for traditional business models has unlocked huge market opportunities

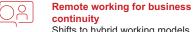
Market opportunities

and maintenance

#### **Business model disruptions**

#### Modernisation of delivery models

Changes in customer preferences and disruption of physical commerce have increased focus on multi/omnichannel and D2C offerings



continuity Shifts to hybrid working models

likely to create longer-term sustained digital investment



#### Focus on unit economics through pivot to digital new age models

Greater focus on technology, cloud, and CX to compete with new-age cloud-native, digitally enabled players with better unit economics

CX transformation: Increased focus on multi/omni-channel/D2C offerings due to Covid-led disruptions in physical retail leading to investment in integrated CX

Data warehousing, vertical-specific Al/ML: Increased focus on collection/

management of dispersed data, enabling adoption of Al/ML platforms targeted at vertical-specific use-cases (e.g., fraud detection, drug discovery)

Shift to cloud infra: Driven by the need for creating digital-enabled businesses to leverage microservices-based modular development environments for increased agility in application development, deployment

Automation: Increased investment in automation to set up workflows across several existing tools driven by need for risk management, cost control, and limited on-site staff



Outsourcing: Increased reliance on outsourcing due to growing talent crunch (due to surge in digital spend)

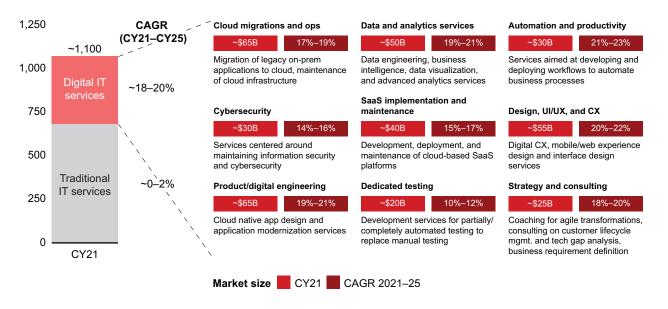


Offshoring: Increase in demand for near-shoring due to the need for time-zone alignment and agile engagements, and for multi-shoring as businesses look to de-risk their operations

Sources: Bain analysis; secondary research

**Figure 19:** Outsourced digital IT services can be divided into nine subsectors with large market opportunities

#### Global outsourced IT services spend (\$B)

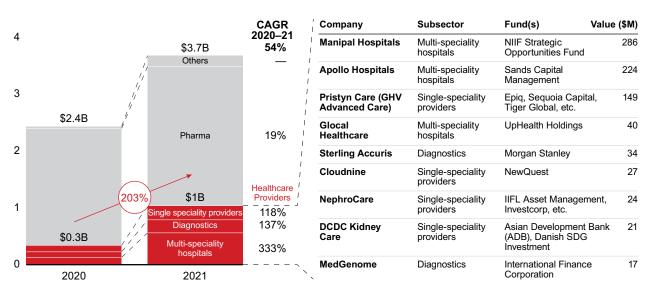


Sources: Bain Analysis; secondary research; industry participant interviews

Figure 20: Healthcare providers space rebounded in 2021 with 2x+ growth over 2020, driving the expansion in healthcare

#### Healthcare deals (\$B)

#### Top deals in healthcare providers in 2021



Notes: Single-speciality providers include out-of-hospital formats as well; others include medical devices, pharmacy, health insurance, commercialisation services, etc.

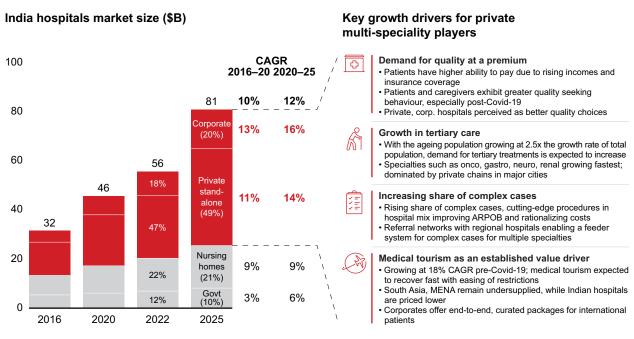
Source: Bain PE deals database

Figure 21: Investments in healthcare delivery are driven by five discernible themes

Theme		Description	Subsectors	Key deals in recent years	
Å [	Scale through consolidation	Market share growth through acquisition of smaller chains or standalone players	Multi-speciality hospitals, diagnostics, out-of-hospital formats	Manipal Health—NIIF Strategic opportunities Fund (\$286M): Manipal drives consolidation in Bengaluru through acquisition of the Columbia Asia hospitals chain	
	Niche speciality play	State-of-the art, differentiated care for select high-growth specialties, such as cancer, women-and-child	Single-speciality providers	Cloud Nine—NewQuest (\$27M): Boutique mother and child play for customers seeking standalone, high-quality care	
	Out-of- hospital formats	Asset-light and conveniently accessible networks in outpatient and day care specialties, such	Single-speciality providers	DCDC Kidney Care—ADB, Danish SDG (\$21M): Standalone dialysis centres bring quality dialysis closer to patients	
	as fertility, renal, dental, eye care			<b>Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital—Temasek (\$38M):</b> Chain of eye care centres deepening access to treatments	
5(5)?	High-end speciality	peciality diagnostics, etc., for evidence-	Diagnostics	LifeCell—OrbiMed (\$35M): Play in high-end stem cell banking and gene testing space	
	diagnostics based specialized diagnosis & AI			MedGenome—IFC (\$17M), LeapFrog (\$55M): Provides genetic testing for rare diseases	
	Platform play	Multiple niche offerings to build scale and improve operational efficiencies under a single holding company	Pan-sector	Asia Healthcare Holdings—GIC (\$170M): Operates Motherhood (boutique birthing and gynaecology services) and Nova IVF (fertility treatments)	

Sources: Bain PE deals database; Bain analysis

**Figure 22:** Growth in multi-speciality hospitals is driven by corporate and private stand-alone players, which better fulfil growing demand for quality care and complex treatments



Notes: Hospitals includes both multi-speciality and single-speciality hospitals; ARPOB—average revenue per occupied bed Source: Bain analysis

**Figure 23:** Single-speciality formats are developing great product-market fit and are attractive for investors

Segment	Format USP for patients	Segment drivers	Key deals in recent years
Mother & child	Seamless maternal and childcare from pre-pregnancy to paediatrics, customised patient pathways and "high-frill" hospitality	View of pregnancy as wellness instead of illness and childbirth as a planned event	• Cloud Nine—NewQuest (\$27M) • Ankura Hospitals—InvAscent (\$10M)
Oncology	Deeper therapeutic focus and best-in-class clinical protocols	Growth in incidence of cancer, expanding insurance coverage, regular screening and diagnosis leading to timely interventions	Cancer Treatment Services International—Varian Medical Systems (\$283M)
Eye care	Easier access and convenience for regular check-ups and corrective procedures	Ageing population, rising incidence of allied ailments such as diabetes, expansion of cosmetic procedures such as LASIK	ASG Eye Hospitals—     Foundation Holdings (\$43M)     Dr. Agarwal's Eye Care – Temasek (\$38M)
IVF	Dedicated centres using the latest technologies from diagnosis to procedure while prioritizing privacy	Rising age of marriage, improved technology and affordability of procedures, increased awareness and acceptance, lowering of stigma	IVF Access—Vertex Ventures (\$5M)     Indira IVF—TA Associates (undisclosed)
Dental care	Accessible dental care and latest technologies or procedures in standardized delivery formats with hyperlocal presence	Awareness and accessibility of dental care, innovative payment models, technology at scale improving affordability	Dentzz—Helix Investments (\$7M)     Toothsi—Think Investments (\$25M)

#### Single-speciality provider space is emerging as an attractive space for investors, with:

Lower capex

Shorter break-even, enabling quicker exits

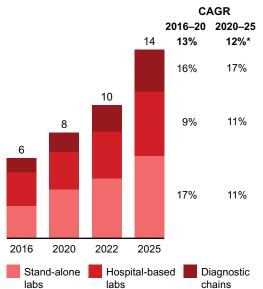
Higher return on capital employed (ROCE) than multi-speciality hospitals

High scalability and replicability

Source: Bain analysis

Figure 24: An already expanding segment pre-Covid-19, diagnostics has picked up pace with various complementary trends driving growth

#### India diagnostics market size (\$B)



<sup>\*</sup> Diagnostics includes radiology and pathology Note: NCD—Non-communicable diseases Sources: Bain analysis; CRISIL

#### Key growth drivers for Indian diagnostics

Focus on evidence- based medicine	Doctors are increasingly adopting standard testing and treatment protocols, before prescription
Increasing lifestyle- based NCDs	Increasing populations affected by chronic diseases and NCDs require frequent testing at periodic intervals
Focus on health & wellness	Growing awareness and focus on health—further accelerated by Covid-19     Increased ability and willingness to pay for health and wellness
Advanced diagnostics	Diagnostic chains investing in high-end diagnostics portfolios, equipment, and procedures
Increased supply and competitive pricing	Many organised and unorganised players in routine diagnostics providing ample hyperlocal coverage     Players offering heavy discounting, low-cost wellness packages to compete, driving test volumes     Expansion into tier 2/3 towns picking up
Covid-19-driven home test volumes	High adoption of at-home sample collection and digital reporting for both Covid-19 tests and routine diagnostics provides base volumes

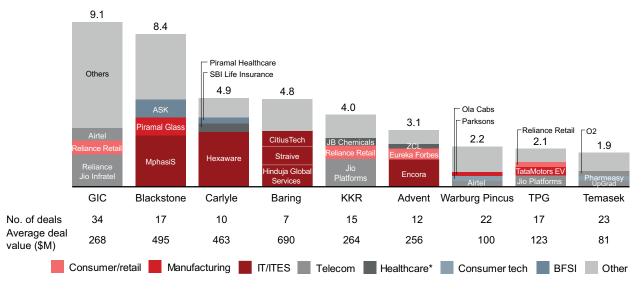


# Fund landscape: An evolving investor ecosystem for value creation

- Top 10 funds have invested close to \$43 billion in India in the last three years. The largest deals from these investments are in IT/ITES and telecom (largely in Jio Platforms and Airtel).
- Major LPs are getting more active and co-investing with GPs on large assets. 2021 saw 2x activity from LPs compared to their average deal activity across 2018–2020.
- The increase in LP participation in deals bodes well for PE in India as it unlocks access to larger deals with a shared risk for investors and allows a win-win for both GPs and LPs.
- The quantum of buyouts has been picking up, with a 5x growth in the last five years to reach \$16 billion. In 2021, 46% of all PE deals were buyouts, compared to 33% in 2016. The average buyout deal value has expanded 3x to reach nearly \$900 million in 2021.
- Blackstone, Baring, Carlyle, Advent, GIC, and KKR are most active in buyouts and have individually deployed more than \$1 billion in taking majority control of firms in the last three years.
- The expansion in buyouts coupled with larger valuations is leading to a higher emphasis on value creation through operational turnarounds, for which funds are setting up internal operations teams.

**Figure 25:** Top funds have invested close to \$40B in India in the last three years with the largest investments in IT/ITES and telecom

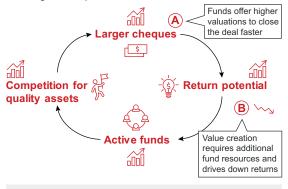
#### Total investments per fund in 2019-2021 (\$B)



Notes: Includes transactions where deal value is known; total PE + VC investment considered; deal volumes are not additive because deals with multiple investors may be counted more than once across considered funds; in case of multiple investors in a given deal, deal value per investor has been calculated assuming equal split amongst the investors; TPG includes TPG Growth and TPG Capital Sources: Bain PE deals database; Bain analysis

Figure 26: In a maturing investment ecosystem, certain trends are leading to changes in the traditional fund model

# Indian PE's attractiveness is becoming its bane: attracting competition, increasing valuations, and eroding return potential



- 1 Attractive returns have induced more players to enter, thus, increasing competition for quality assets
- 2 The increased competition has induced funds to offer larger cheques and hence started to pull the returns down
- **3** A balancing cycle on returns is in place in the Indian PE market

Sources: Expert interviews; Bain analysis

# As a result, funds are experimenting with new strategies to maintain competitiveness and capture share

#### (A) Faster deal sourcing and execution

- Deeper relationships with portfolio companies: funds have deeper relationships with targets or portfolio companies (follow-on rounds), closing deals faster with clearer view on assets
- Sectoral focus: funds leveraging deeper sector understanding for a strategic view on asset performance

#### (B) Improved value creation

- Buyout deals for increased control: funds seeking full control over assets to realise ambitious targets
- Setting up portfolio support teams: funds are looking to step in on Day 1 with a view on value creation or operational turnarounds
- Sectoral expertise: funds are bringing their A-teams to capture a large share of a sector's growth trajectory

Figure 27: Funds are exhibiting preference for buyouts in PE and directing more capital toward control over quality assets

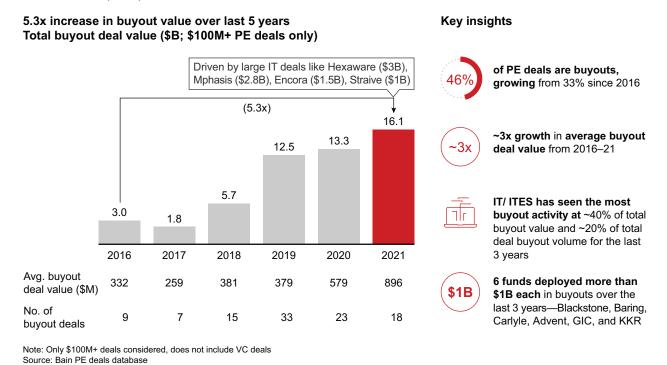
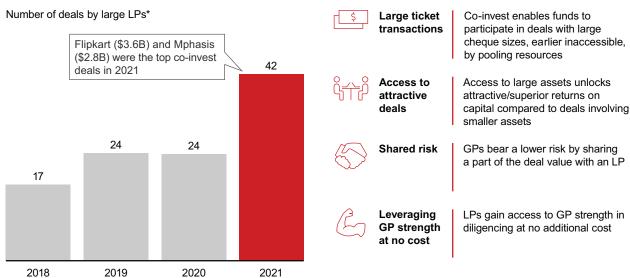
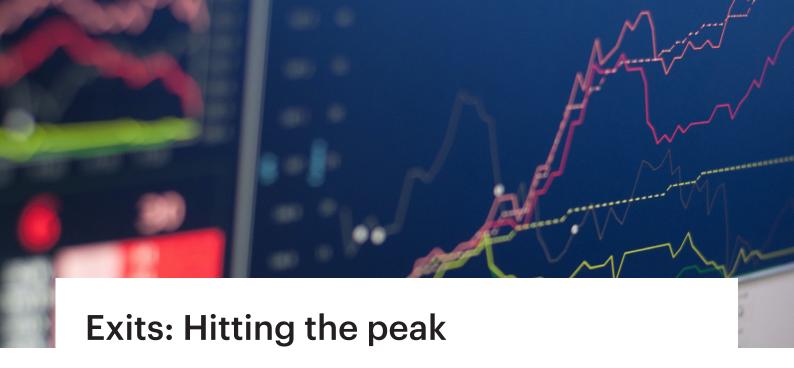


Figure 28: LPs are becoming more active exploring co-investing with GPs

# Significant increase in number of deals by major LPs Co-invest offers win-win for both GPs and LPs



Note: \*LPs considered are GIC, AIDA, ADG, QIA, Temasek, CPPIB, CDPQ Sources: Bain PE deals database; expert interviews

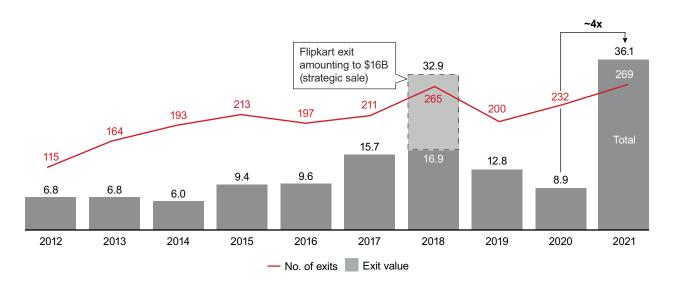


- Exits were at an all-time high in 2021, picking up rapidly from the past year's lull across all routes of exit. 2021 saw more than \$36 billion in exits, quadrupling the value over 2020's approximately \$9 billion. Even though the exit sentiment was muted in the second quarter of 2021 owing to India's devastating second wave of Covid, H2 saw a flurry of activity, especially in IPOs and other public market sales.
- Exits of >\$100 million nearly tripled in volumes and grew by 69% in size, as all sectors witnessed an acceleration in exits and exit value.
- Strategic sale continues to be the most dominant route of exit, with almost 50% of all exits over the last few years. Secondary sale and strategic sale are becoming the most preferred exit routes, expanding by 28% and 23% respectively each year, over the last three years.
- The size of exits grew significantly faster than the exit volumes, indicating higher valuations. Public markets are also showing an appetite for large exits, with an average size of exit reaching \$266 million, at a CAGR of 95% since 2019.
- Fund portfolios looked much younger by the end of 2021 than at the beginning of the year, in a testament to the pace of both deal making and exit activity.
- The average size of top 10 exits increased fourfold to nearly \$2 billion, and 9 exits surpassed \$1 billion in value. BFSI and consumer technology dominated as the top industries for exits.
- Exit returns increased by 1.2x to 5.6 in 2021 driven by high multiples on invested capital and large volume share of consumer technology, IT/ITES, and BFSI exits, like the last year.
- Exit momentum is expected to continue this year, but the public market sentiment will see moderation even though a strong future IPO pipeline led by BFSI and consumer tech awaits.

Figure 29: Exit value crossed \$36 billion in a bumper year with a 4x jump over 2020 and a 2x rise over decadal high (excluding Flipkart mega exit)

#### Annual PE-VC exits in India (\$B)

#### **Number of exits**



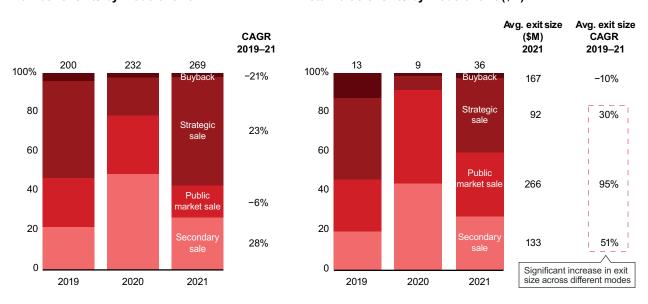
Notes: Includes real estate and infrastructure exits; no filter on exit value has been applied to the overall figures; number of exits includes deals where exit value is not known

Source: Bain PE exits database

**Figure 30:** Strategic sale continues as the dominant mode of exit, while size of exits expanded across all routes

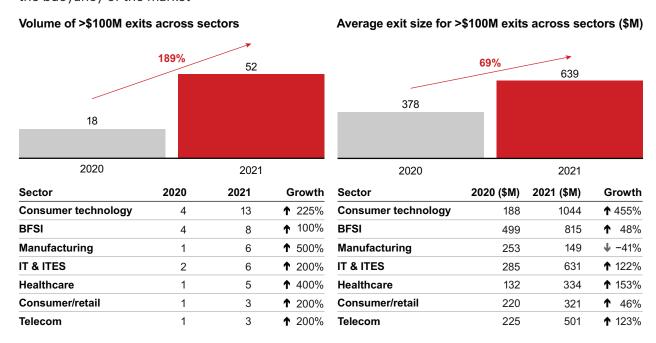
#### Number of exits by mode of exit

#### Total value of exits by mode of exit (\$B)



Notes: Includes real estate and infrastructure exits; no filter on exit value has been applied to the overall figures; excludes one unspecified exit; number of exits includes deals where the exit value is not known; for Reliance investments, considered only M&A, JV, and corporate deals Sources: Bain PE exits database; Pitchbook

Figure 31: Large exit volumes almost tripled and exit size expanded across sectors, reflecting the buoyancy of the market



Notes: Exit volume and average exit value are for exits with a known value only; biggest sectors chosen for analysis Source: Bain PE exits database

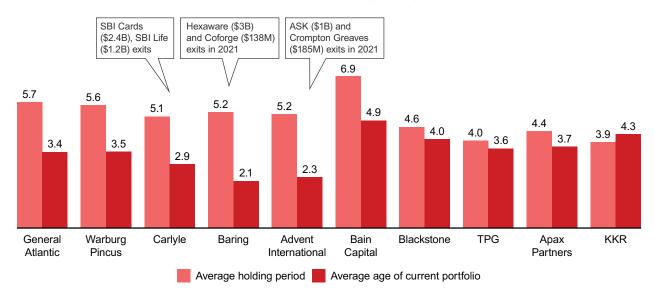
**Figure 32:** Moving forward from a bumper year for exits, the outlook stays optimistic, but slight moderation expected in the near term

Deal type	Key trends	Drivers for 2021	Outlook for future growth
Secondary sales	Deepening of PE market (across funding needs)  Increase in fund diversity	Number of active PE funds and LPs picking up, broadening avenues for secondary sales Price certainty in secondary sales vs. public exits	Expanding interest from global investors in mature and growth equity assets     Portfolio holding periods to further shorten as faster exits are made possible     Focus on better unit economics and monetization approaches against purely growth metrics increasing investor interest
Public markets sales	Encouraging retail investor appetite for new-age business models  Evolving SEBI norms on listing and ESG	High valuations focused on future growth allowed successful listings like Zomato, Paytm, Nykaa, etc.     SEBI's shift in stance on allowing loss-making companies to list on public exchanges     Improved liquidity in public markets due to low interest rates across developed markets	Public markets expected to be muted in the near term, as global uncertainties create volatility Pipeline of IPOs likely to adopt a wait-and-watch approach and delays in listing likely Valuation multiple compressions in US public markets expected to trickle into some sectors Adoption of ESG mandates will influence pace
Strategic sales	Emphasis on acquisition of digital/tech capabilities  Avenue for consolidation and market access	Strategic focus to scale rapidly in a recovering economy     Focus on acquiring advanced capabilities like AI, analytics	Mid-term slowdown in markets to restrain pace of activity as cash becomes scarce  Continued step up efforts by market leaders to deepen market access and digital capabilities through inorganic expansion/consolidation  Increase Stable Decrease

Sources: Bain PE exits database; expert interviews; Bain analysis

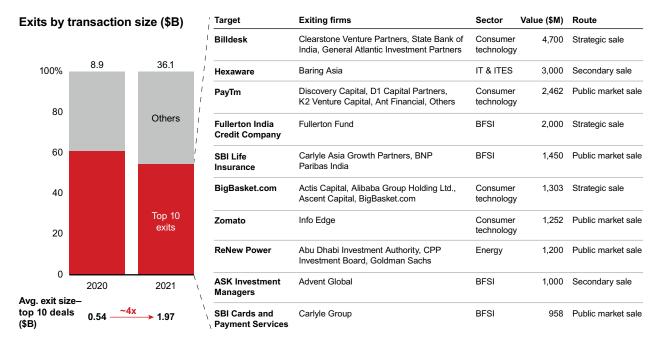
Figure 33: Fund portfolios look much younger due to the pace of deals and exits

#### Average holding period and portfolio age of leading PE funds (in years)



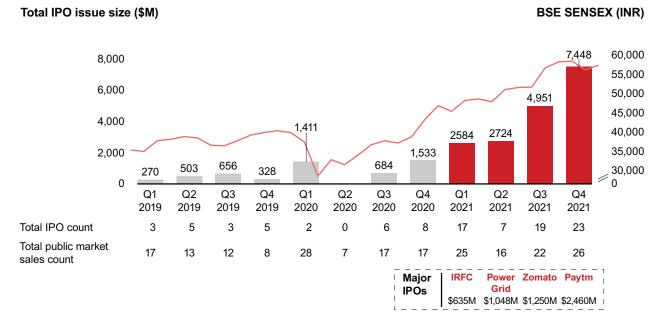
Notes: Average holding period and age of current portfolio calculated using simple average; exit portfolio based on select major deals (>\$10 million) between 2012 and 2021; portfolio age calculated only for deals with known value above \$10 million; for chart, selective PE funds considered Sources: Bain PE deals database; Bain analysis

Figure 34: Nine exits surpassed \$1 billion in value and the size of top exits quadrupled



Note: Represents exits where value was reported and available Source: Bain PE exits database

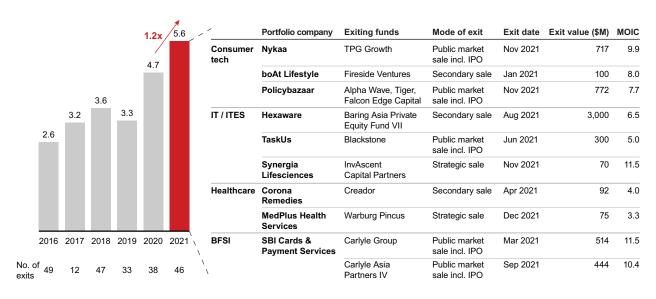
**Figure 35:** Public markets were buoyant in Q4 of 2021, enabling great listing gains for IPOs and other public market sales



Notes: Only mainline IPOs (post-issue paid-up capital >INR100 million) have been included in analysis; total public market sales count refers to the total number of public exits that happened through IPO or post-IPO; includes all IPOs seen on major Indian stock exchanges (2021) Source: Bain PE exits database

Figure 36: 2021 saw a 1.2x increase in exit multiples, driven primarily by high returns from exits in healthcare, IT, and consumer tech

#### Multiples on invested capital for exits



Notes: MOIC—multiple on invested capital (exit value/paid-in capital); deal universe includes all deals with known MOICs (updated over last year's database); simple average of MOICs considered; MOICs available for ~25% of exits with known value from 2012 to 2021

Source: Bain PE deals database

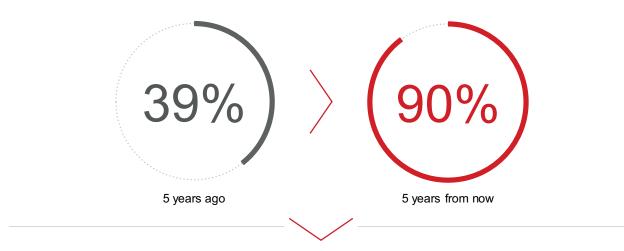


# The ESG opportunity: Moving from compliance to value

- Funds increasingly view ESG criteria as a core consideration in investment decisions. The global acceleration toward ESG adoption has reached Indian shores, as many India-focused funds are increasingly looking for ways to embed ESG norms into their firms and portfolios.
- Research by Bain revealed that Indian funds expect ESG considerations over their PE AUM assets under consideration to grow to 90% over five years from now, up from only 39% five years ago, indicating a significant acceleration in ESG adoption across the sector.
- ESG is becoming increasingly relevant as it is used for mitigating future risks to portfolios, and LPs are advocating it as important criteria in fund strategy and value-creation plans.
- At 66%, India-focused funds view risk mitigation as a key driver for ESG adoption compared to peers in APAC, who view compliance as a more significant driver at 62%. India's push on compliance as a key driver is significantly lower at 34%. At the same time, value-creation potential of ESG is increasingly gaining attention across both India and the rest of APAC.
- ESG is getting recognised as an opportunity for value creation and should be viewed as a differentiated driver of value across the full investing value chain. As funds explore how to raise better, invest better, own better, and exit better, they have an opportunity to emerge as leaders capturing outsized value from their initiatives. Firms have unlocked 3%–5% points of EBITDA from ESG levers, and this value is expected to grow.
- We examine emerging best practices of ESG leadership by studying the examples of two leading funds, an LP and a GP, in defining their own approach to embedding ESG in their funds and portfolios. To realise the full potential of ESG in value creation, these funds have articulated a core vision, set themselves up to ambitious targets, and integrated dedicated ESG teams. They embedded ESG across the investment lifecycle, supporting the funds' and partner companies' ESG goals.

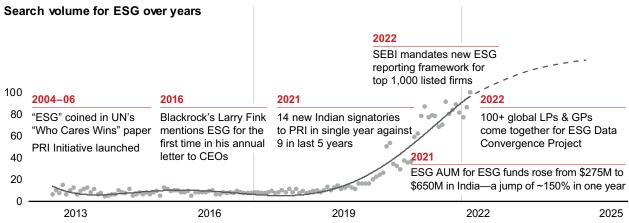
**Figure 37:** ESG has evolved to become a central theme for funds and expected to become BAU in the next five years

What share of assets you diligenced included an ESG module, and how do you expect it to evolve?



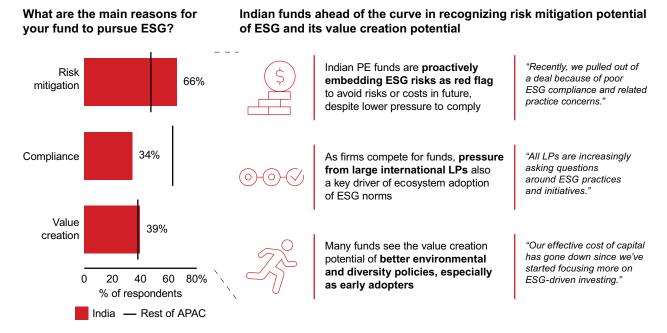
#### The accelerating ESG adoption indicates a paradigm shift in how ESG is viewed





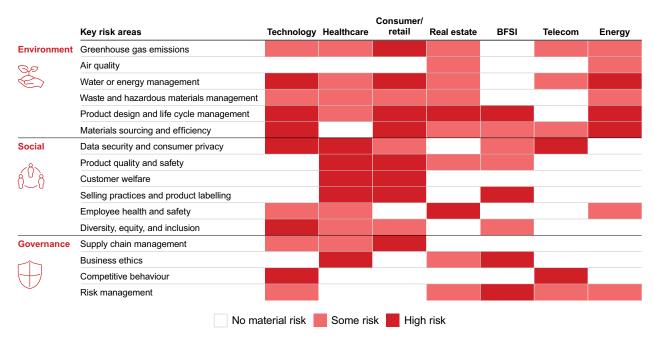
Note: PRI—Principles for Responsible Investing; AUM—Assets under management; HSE—health, safety, and environment Source: Bain India Private Equity survey 2021 & 2022 (n=38)

**Figure 38:** Indian funds are more inclined to pursue ESG to mitigate risk and face lower compliance pressures



Note: "Compliance" as a reason to pursue ESG includes factors like legal/organisational compliance norms, pressure from LPs, etc. Sources: Bain India Private Equity survey 2021 & 2022 (India n=38, rest of APAC n=226); market participant interviews; Bain analysis

Figure 39: Funds need to look into their exposure to material environmental, social, and governance risks across sectors



Note: Technology category includes consumer tech and IT & ITES industries Source: Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB)

Figure 40: ESG is a differentiated driver of value across the full investing value chain

#### Raise better

# Strategy & fundraising

- Win higher share of wallet with key investors
- · Lower cost of capital
- Easier access to capital markets investors

#### **Invest better**



## Deal generation & due diligence

- Better pattern recognition on ESG topics in diligence
- Clarify on baseline
- Identification of improvement opportunities
- Fit with fund approach
- Starts the flywheel on outcomes

#### Own better



### Portfolio management

- Gaining share through improved value proposition; premiumisation
- Improved margin/returns through efficiency (cost, capital ... )
- Ability to stay ahead of regulatory changes and manage risks
- Talent optimisation—retain longer with better engagement

#### **Exit better**



- Exit
- Broader universe of capital
- Premium valuation for assets with a track record of success

#### Societal impact

#### Societal return for external stakeholders Positive outcome for the planet and the community (e.g., environment and people, through less emissions)

# **ESG outcome for internal stakeholders**Positive outcome for the company's community (e.g., working conditions, diversity, fair governance)

#### Company impact

#### Financial return for shareholders

Higher valuations through a combination of above drivers (e.g., increased revenue from more sustainable offering)

Source: Bain analysis

# Figure 41: To create value, several funds are deploying ESG actions across their investment activities in India

#### Raise better



# Strategy & fundraising

"Meeting our ESG targets means having to pay lesser interests to our lenders."

#### **Invest better**



Deal generation & due diligence

"We make sure our investments are ESG compliant by conducting comprehensive ESG DD during the investment stage."

#### Own better



Portfolio management

"We view ESG as central to our mission of delivering strong returns for clients."

#### **Exit better**



Exit

"We increasingly see valuation premiums for business models and competencies that reflect ESG best practices."

#### **Baring Private Equity Asia**

Established Asia's first ESGlinked credit facility worth \$3.2B in October 2021

#### **GEF Capital Partners**

Private equity firm raised \$200M for climate investing in India from impact investors like IFC, CDC Group, and USDFC in 2022

#### **Advent International**

For every deal, has a dedicated team of expert external consultants to **identify material ESG issues** and conduct due diligence

#### Carlyle

The firm has mandatory ESG assessments before all investments based on its formal Investment Exclusions and Parameters Policy

#### TPG

Achieved ~100% PAT growth for portfolio company Sai Life Sciences via a series of ESGfocused supply chain measures within 2 years of investment

#### **CPP Investments**

All investments are required to have diverse representation on their boards; best practices are implemented to move investments up the ESG curve

#### **Warburg Pincus**

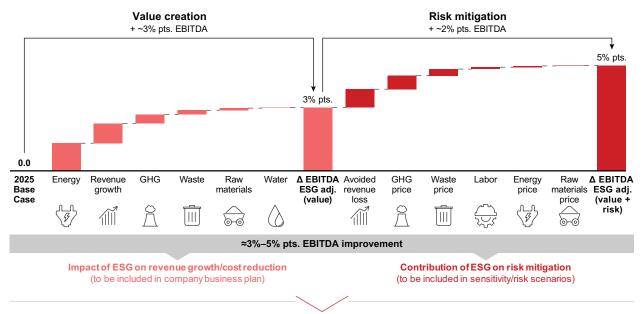
Earned a ~2.2x multiple of invested capital on exit of portfolio company CleanMax and a ~300% revenue growth via a series of ESG initiatives

#### Goldman Sachs

Partially exited its ESG-focused investment, ReNew Power—
India's first renewable entity to be listed on NASDAQ at \$4.5 billion market cap

Note: Examples listed above are illustrative Sources: Bain analysis; interviews with funds

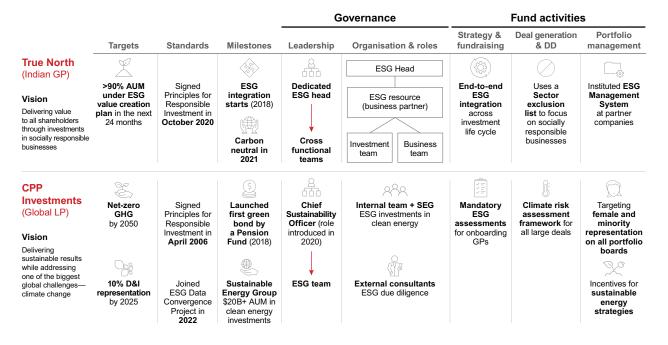
**Figure 42:** ESG levers hold potential to unlock ~3%–5% pts. EBITDA, a significant source of value creation for funds and portfolio companies



Risk mitigation levers create capped upside, while value creation levers have wider upside potential

Source: Bain analysis

**Figure 43:** True North and CPPIB have exhibited strong ESG leadership through clear vision, targets, and governance model



Sources: Expert Interviews; 2021 Report on Sustainable Investing, CPPIB; Building Responsible Businesses The Right Way, True North, 2020

**Figure 44:** We see ESG as a value creation opportunity and a core differentiator for investors and their portfolio companies

#### Align and drive toward ESG leadership

Develop strong ESG ambition, ensure organisation's engagement and alignment on the vision, develop roadmap, and take action to drive change toward ESG leadership

#### Market share

- Higher revenue and market share by better answering customer needs and improving brand image
- Volume: gain share in existing portfolio through ESG positioning, develop new offerings
- Price: potential for ESG premiumisation
- Future proof positioning, avoiding regulatory bans on current products

#### Opex and capex

- Improved margin through cost efficiency
- Savings in manufacturing (e.g., need for less raw materials, energy)
- Waste reduction (e.g., less need for treatment and waste use as a cheaper raw material)
- Ability to stay ahead of regulatory changes and minimize future costs

#### ∠ √ √ √ Cost of capital

- Lower cost of capital at banks achieved by meeting specific (ESG) requirements
- Easier access to capital markets investors thanks to their commitments surrounding ESG portfolios and dedicated lines of capital

#### 

- Inspiring vision and culture, strong reputation and performance of the company attracting the best talents, and retaining and motivating current employees
- Employees in turn more eager to achieve ESG vision and thrive for better performance, fostering an innovation culture

#### Societal impact

#### Societal return for external stakeholders Positive outcome for the planet and the community (e.g., environment and people, through less emissions)

# ESG outcome for internal stakeholders Positive outcome for the company's

Positive outcome for the company's community (e.g., working conditions, diversity, fair governance)

#### Company impact

Higher valuations through a combination of above drivers (e.g., increased revenue from more sustainable offering)

Financial return for shareholders

Source: Bain analysis

### About Bain & Company's Private Equity business

Bain & Company is the leading consulting partner to the private equity (PE) industry and its stakeholders. PE consulting at Bain has grown eightfold over the past 15 years and now represents about one-third of the firm's global business. We maintain a global network of more than 1,000 experienced professionals serving PE clients.

Our practice is more than triple the size of the next-largest consulting company serving PE firms. Bain's work with PE firms spans fund types, including buyout, infrastructure, real estate, and debt. We also work with hedge funds, as well as many of the most prominent institutional investors, including sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, endowments, and family investment offices. We support our clients across a broad range of objectives:

**Deal generation.** We work alongside investors to develop the right investment thesis and enhance deal flow by profiling industries, screening targets, and devising a plan to approach targets.

**Due diligence.** We help support better deal decisions by performing integrated due diligence, assessing revenue growth and cost-reduction opportunities to determine a target's full potential, and providing a post-acquisition agenda.

**Immediate post-acquisition.** After an acquisition, we support the pursuit of rapid returns by developing strategic blueprints for acquired companies, leading workshops that align management with strategic priorities, and directing focused initiatives.

**Ongoing value addition.** During the ownership phase, we help increase the value of portfolio companies by supporting revenue enhancement and cost-reduction initiatives and refreshing their value-creation plans.

**Exit.** We help ensure that investors maximise returns by preparing for exit, identifying the optimal exit strategy, preparing the selling documents, and prequalifying buyers.

**Firm strategy and operations.** We help PE firms develop distinctive ways to achieve continued excellence by devising differentiated strategies, maximising investment capabilities, developing sector specialisation and intelligence, enhancing fund-raising, improving organisational design and decision making, and enlisting top talent.

**Institutional investor strategy.** We help institutional investors develop best-in-class investment programmes across asset classes, including private equity, infrastructure, and real estate. Topics we address cover asset class allocation, portfolio construction and manager selection, governance and risk management, and organisational design and decision making. We also help institutional investors expand their participation in private equity, including through coinvestment and direct investing opportunities.

#### IVCA | Bain & Company, Inc.

India Private Equity Report 2022

#### IVCA | Bain & Company, Inc.

India Private Equity Report 2022



### Bold ideas. Bold teams. Extraordinary results.

# Bain & Company is a global consultancy that helps the world's most ambitious change makers define the future.

Across 65 cities in 40 countries, we work alongside our clients as one team with a shared ambition to achieve extraordinary results, outperform the competition, and redefine industries. We complement our tailored, integrated expertise with a vibrant ecosystem of digital innovators to deliver better, faster, and more enduring outcomes. Our 10-year commitment to invest more than \$1 billion in pro bono services brings our talent, expertise, and insight to organizations tackling today's urgent challenges in education, racial equity, social justice, economic development, and the environment. We earned a gold rating from EcoVadis, the leading platform for environmental, social, and ethical performance ratings for global supply chains, putting us in the top 2% of all companies. Since our founding in 1973, we have measured our success by the success of our clients, and we proudly maintain the highest level of client advocacy in the industry.

For more information, visit www.bain.com



Established, for over a decade, by industry professionals with a unified aim to drive forward alternate capital industry in India. The IVCA (Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association) is India's apex body representing the interests of PE/VC industry, real estate, infrastructure and credit funds, limited partners, family offices, and VCs.

IVCA is a nonprofit organisation powered by its members. The members are firms from around the world, including investment managers, investment advisors, general partners, funds whose sponsors are sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, national governments, large government entities, bilateral/multilateral financial institution, high-net-worth individuals, and family offices.

For more information, visit www.ivca.in