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Falling Stock markets: what to do?

Dear Members,

Preface

Many of our members are connected directly and indirectly with the stock markets. Whether as investors, or as listed companies themselves. The recent tumbling of the stock markets has left all spell-bound, confused, and rattled.

There are some who came out of the market when the index was around 16000-20000. But the vast majority of the readers of this circular, would still be holding on to their investments, whether in Infosys, or Reliance, or L & T, or Reliance Power, or even DLF, or our own Shivalik Global and Action Construction Equipment shares.

Next Question: What is the question? What is the Dilemma?

Today, our members, do send us mails / telephone calls / or talk over informal meetings. and all have had the same question on their lips.

- &; "What should I do now?",
- &; "Will the index touch 10000?, or maybe even 9000?", &; "Should I sell off and come out now?",
- &; "When will the market recover?"

Frankly we at FSIA Editorial Team have no single or sure answer to some of these questions. We understand and so will you that -- the real good fund manager (or consultant, by whatever name called) knows that he cannot predict the direction of the market, and even in case he can predict the market direction, he cannot predict the slope of the curve - how fast will it fall. It reminds me of remark by a speaker in a PHDCCI seminar at New Delhi last year "the BSE sensex will surely reach 100,000 But, we do not know, when !..... `` (similarly, BSE sensex will never reach ZERO)

Jokingly, this means that, BSE sensex may surely come back to 20000, go to 30000 and even reach 100000 points, but it would be 10 years, or 20 years or 50 years, or more, none of us knows that.

Next Question: What causes us to behave in such a manner in every stock market up and down?

Human beings know that in case of a dangerous situation they have to do something. Monkeys also behave in the same manner. Who knows this? Tigers know this. So when a tiger wants to catch a monkey it goes to the trunk of a tree and roars repeatedly. In fear the monkeys start jumping from one branch to another. Monkeys can jump well, can they not? Well they can, but in fear they crash against each other and fall prey to the tiger!

So know you know why most of us are like monkeys and "The Big-Brokers and Banks" of the Global Stock markets are like that tiger.

Next Question: What will the market do?

We would have called this a million dollar question. However, thanks to this great meltdown, let me call it the trillion dollar question.

First view = Optimistic

- 1. India is growing at 7% if you believe the pessimists and 9% if you believe the optimists. Anyway it is way above the world average, so investments will flow in.
- 2. Oil will hover around USD 70 to USD 90 to the barrel and that is good news.
- 3. Our working population is huge, and has a fantastic capacity to earn, save and spend.
- 4. Our domestic investors have put a small amount of money in equity markets, as they invest more, markets can only go up.
- 5. Indian Prime Minister and Indian Finance Minister, say that markets will go up. They can't be wrong, can they?

<u>Second view = Pessimistic</u>

- 1. We are nowhere near the beginning of the American problem. Credit cards, Home loan defaults, Pay day loans, the American European problem seems to grow as per the everyday newspaper reports.
- 2. Indian IT companies will surely have a huge drop in earnings thanks to the American problems.
- 3. The turmoil in the banking/ investment banking / financial services industry worldwide will bring compelling problems and less money comes into the Indian markets.
- 4. Down turns could be for short term say 18 to 24 months, but secular bear markets can keep the index same for long periods. Remember the American Dow Jones remained at the same level from 1970 to 1982. And the Indian Market has also shown long spells like after the Harshad Mehta downturn, and so on.

So, which view would you want to take? Optimistic or Pessimistic? Make your choice.

Next Question: "What should I do?"

- & Dear member, let your portfolio to do well, <u>just stay in your place...</u>of course some of the basic structure has to be in place.
- & The worst decision is to "Sell when all are selling (at the bottom) and buy when all are buying (at the top, of the curve)". So, relax, Take a Deep Breath.
- & As the <u>Finance minister said yesterday</u>, "......Dont worry, Be Happy......". For the rest of his speech, refer to <u>www.economictimes.com</u>
- & So, Relax what has happened, is a problem, but the world will continue to exist. If you invested your own money, stay put.
- Let you invested by taking loans, you are in deeper soup. Rate of interest are pretty high already, and paying from your own pocket, while the market remains very very low, for months, will be a real pain, both to you and to your CA (Chartered Accountant)

Next Question: "OK, but still, What should I do NOW?"

Bad News friends, but we cannot turn back the stock market, for time being.

- & The down turn has been global
 - o AIG Shares have dropped from \$70.00 to \$3.12, in one year.
 - o Drop in Share price by 95.5%: (Source: www.AOL.com)
- & Last week, on a `business` channel I heard an analyst say `shift to cash, so that you can sleep peacefully`.
- &; `Cash is king` is another fond statement.
- & "Gold is another king"
- & Continue your Systematic Investment Plans. Stopping investing because the market has fallen is not very sensible.
- & Stop watching Business television for time being.
- & Stop reading panic articles.

Next Question: "What are the consultants doing themselves?"

- & In a bear market (let us say a market which is slowing down) if you do reallocate your portfolio, you should be buying MORE equity, not less.
- & So, I am one of those, who are waiting, and probably, will be a buyer in the market soon.
- & The real blue chip shares, are available for 50% to 70% discount. (of in today's Supermarket off-season sales, you could say, 1-ke-sath-2 free, or "Buy 1-Get 3" scheme
- & So, if this clicks to you, BUY those blue chips you always wanted to buy.

Some snaps from the G-7 Meet (on 11-10-2008). The Prime Ministers/ Presidents of the Top 7 nations of the world, made their plans for preventing the problems from further aggravating.







Bailout funding USD 1000 billion by G-7 countries, which is equal to Indian Rupee 50,00,000 crores

Indian Market Indices - Latest Today (13-10-2008) 1 pm

Sensex

13 Oct

13 00 PM

Snapshot		
Current Level	11212.65	Curr: 11254.44 6.90%
Last Close	10527.85	11285
Change	684.80	11100
% Change	6.50	10915
_		10730
		10545
		10360
		09:30 11:30 13:30
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Indian Market Indices - Last week news

The 30 share index, BSE Sensex plunged 575.86 points, or 4.40%, to 12,526.32 in the week ended Oct. 03, 2008. On the other hand, the broad based NSE Nifty plunged 166.95 points, or 4.19%, to 3,818.30 in the same period.

	Indices Trend				
		Sensex		Nifty	
Period	Value	% Change	Value	% Change	
1 Week	13,102.18	(4.40)	3,985.25	(4.19)	
1 Month	15,049.86	(16.77)	4,504.00	(15.22)	
3 Months	13,454.00	(6.90)	4,016.00	(4.92)	
6 Months	15,343.12	(18.36)	4,647.00	(17.83)	
1 Year	18,280.24	(31.48)	5,327.25	(28.33)	

	Global Indices Watch			
Index	Latest Close	Weekly % Gain/Los s		
DOW	1,947.39	(10.81)		
Nasdaq	4,980.25	(2.13)		
FTSE	10,325.38	(7.34)		
Nikkei	10,938.14	(8.03)		

Major gainers in 30-share index were State Bank Of India (3.29%), HDFC Bank (2.22%), ACC (1.85%), Hindustan Unilever (1.45%), Bharat Heavy Electricals (1.03%), and Maruti Suzuki India (0.59%) over the week.

On the other hand Larsen & Toubro (53.07%), Tata Steel (14.65%), Reliance Energy (11.50%), Sterlite Industries (India) (11.50%), Tata Motors (11.41%), and Reliance Industries (10.20%) were the biggest losers in the Sensex over the week.

Part 2 of today's Circular

This is also the time to know the deadlines in the coming days

15 th October	E-TDS Returns and E-TCS Returns
25 th October	Service Tax Returns- first Half Year
30 th October	ROC return, if the AGM is dt 30.9.08
15 th December	Advance Tax



For queries, suggestions and feedback, you can e-mail us at:



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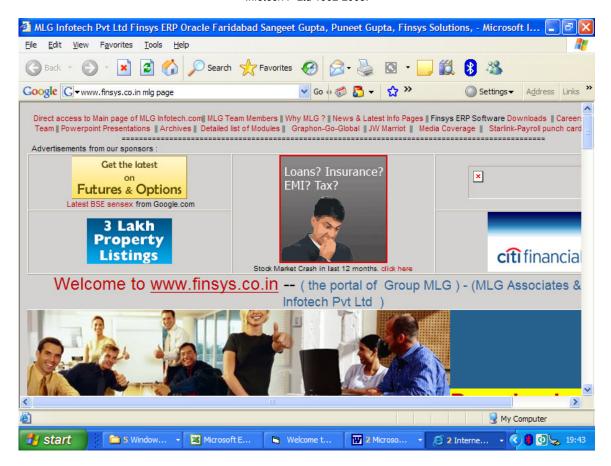
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