

The stock market is probably as volatile as my love life, and in both situations emotions are my worst enemy. Sure I could play safe and invest in RBI bonds or other such guaranteed bonds, but hey, in such exciting times who wants to invest in the “good guy” that comes with unsurprisingly boring returns? If you want the orgasmic profits, you’ve got to take chances with unpredictability, knowing fully well that just like with men, the good looking ones don’t necessarily deliver the best performance!

I’ve just risked life and limb for a T.V show called Fear factor Khatron Ke Khiladi where I’ve jumped off high speed helicopters into icy lakes in 3 degrees weather, scaled glass buildings 12 floors high with suction cups, had 70 snakes thrown on my body, flipped and smashed BMW cars only to be confronted with the reality that the money I earned with such heroism is at greater risk than me!!! It seems that a penny earned, today, is a penny that gets heavily taxed or a penny in great danger. No longer can one say that a penny saved is a penny earned.

I sat down with my investment guru to plan methodically for my old age, my children’s future and to minimise taxation only to be confronted by the perplexing, mostly infuriating reality that saving and investing hard earned money is modern India’s greatest challenge.

We are born free and taxed to death! Income tax, property tax, wealth tax, luxury tax, sales tax, excise tax, customs tax, entertainment tax, service tax and now we have the BMC charging 40 percent taxes on rentals... Good grief!! It’s seems that even the taxpayers patience is being taxed! Direct and indirect taxes take such a chunk of your earnings to balance the budget, that you just can’t budget the balance.

I grumbled a while ago to a friend that the elation of earning was combated by the despondency of non-stop taxes, non-performing funds and a precarious stock market. I find the thought most amusing that every time someone sells his stock, someone buys the stock, and I’m pretty certain both parties think they’re being smart! My amused friend sent me this:

Top 10 Reasons Investing is Like Sex

10. Some like it long, some like it short.
9. You can study the market as much as you like, but it all comes down to luck.
8. Those who talk about it the most have the least experience.
7. One simple mistake could lead to 15 unprofitable years.
6. Some prefer to sit back and watch it grow.
5. Terms include asset turnover, naked call, after hours, insider trading, silent partner, blind entries, descending tops, ascending bottoms, pump and dump, partial surrender, position limit, and voluntary liquidation.
4. Low confidence can keep you out of the market.
3. Everyone tends to focus on performance.
2. Some do it alone, others do it with a group, and some hire professionals.

1. Some positions are better than others and the best position is always up for debate!

And remember, past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results!!!
Of course our govt. begs to differ on that last line and insists on advance tax. I believe those forms should come with a complimentary Ouija board or astrologer attached!
DAMN IT!! Why should I pay in advance for something I haven't earned?

It should be called ambition tax! And it's the only time I want to be an underachiever.
I came across a great new word. Intaxication; It's the intoxication which comes with the refund cheque and lasts till you realise you're being given what was yours in the first place. I now know how a cow feels after she's been milked!!