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BUSINESS

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Borrowing money to invest

You should not borrow funds to stav invested in the stock market. It is a highly risky act and can leave you bankrupt.

ncredible! But true. A Kashmiri investor after hearing stories of over hyped profits earned in stock market, became a victim of his own greed. He invested in stock market only to see almost his capital amount lost in the stock market. But he capitalized on his mistakes which he committed as an investor in the market and is today considered as one of the trustworthy market analysts India. MALLERS

Some time back I had an opportunity to talk to this reputed market analyst. Being an authority on the subject. he narrated his own tale of losses, which he suffered in the market. He ventured into the stock market when he saw some of his friends multiplying their money while investing in some shares of companies. To make quick bucks in the same stream, he obtained a cash loan of Rs.50,000

from Citibank and invested it in the stock market. It was to his delight when only after six months his half a lakh rupees investment appreciated and stood at Rs.2 lakh. He started calculating appreciation on his investment at the same pace and without any planning and knowhow of the market sentiments; he reinvested the money in some other stocks with an objective to gain more and more. But after some time, he was shocked to see that the value of his portfolio of stocks had gone down considerably. He had even lost 50% of his original investment of Rs.50,000.

Even as he was shocked and surprised, he kept cool and thoroughly tried to understand the market. After some time, he was able to hold the grip on the tricks of trade and

Investors use different ways to borrow money to pay for stocks. They take a personal loan or pledge their property or gold. They count on friends, borrow funds from them and invest in stocks. In this case, they don't have to pay interest or any other charge. Brokerage firms have kept borrowing facilities at the disposal of their clients.

is today a leading analyst in India on stock market. Not only this, he became country head (equities) and is one of the leadership members of a reputed new generation private sector bank in India. Today, he counsels the investors by way of his expert comments on the movement of the stock market on various reputed television channels.

But the same story is not true about other Kashmiri investors, as most of them have turned up losers in the market. The investor scenario in J&K state as compared to the rest of the India such as markets in Mumbai and New Delhi is continues to be quite primitive. The investors are often unaware of the investor opportunities there in the market vis-à-vis their quality. After having easy access to the capital market, most of the local investors exercise investment options freely



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A roadside vendor in Srinagar's Lal Chowk market sells handmade wooden items including Quran stands which pick up great demand during Ramadhan, the fasting month for Muslims across the world. AMAN FAROOQ/GR

Year on, 172 LPG outlets for rural areas nowhere in sight

Oil companies sit on verification process

GK NEWS NETWORK

Jammu, July 7: Despite lapse of one year, the proposal for opening of 172 outlets for rural areas has failed to materialize primarily due to lack of coordination between the oil companies and state Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CA&PD) department.

Sources said that the CAPD department has failed to pursue the proposal that envisaged opening of 55 gas agencies under regular dealership and 117 under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen LPG Vitral Scheme (RGGLV)

The CAPD department had moved the proposal following public outcry of a new agency in a particular area. over acute deficiency of the refilling stations of Liquefied Petroleum Gas new connections, sources said, was posal for opening of the new agencies



started last year after the centre gov-Sources said that the main reason ernment, besides putting a cap on behind the delay is failure of the state subsidized domestic cylinders per government to ensure that the oil connection, introduced many other companies expedited the verification measures to check black-marketing process of the new connections on the of LPG cylinders. basis of which it could seek opening

"As the Oil companies are taking lot of time to complete the verification The verification process for the process for new connections, the pro-

lingers on in absence of exact number of the LPG connection seekers in a particular area", sources said

It is only after the connections are issued by the Oil Companies that the CAPD department, as an enforcement agency for consumer rights, can regulate and monitor supply and force the former to make available LPG at the doorsteps of every consumer, they added

When contacted, Reyaz Ahmad Malik, Deputy Secretary CAPD said that main reason behind delay in the implementation of the proposal was failure of oil companies in expediting the process of verification.

He added that if the companies go like this it will take many more months to complete the process.

He said opening of the new gas

HDFC Bank opens trade desk at Srinagar **GK NEWS NETWORK**

Srinagar, July 7: HDFC Bank has started its Trade Desk at Srinagar for processing the trade documents of its customers across the Valley. Earlier, these documents were being processed from outside J&K.

A Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry delegation in a meeting with Bank's MD Dr Aditya Puri last month at Srinagar had requested for this facility which was instantly approved by MD.

The trade desk has already started operations and "it reflects Bank's commitment to provide most efficient and professional services to its trade clients," the bank in a statement said.

Zubair Iqbal, Vice President said that HDFC Bank is the only bank to offer Multi Currency Forex Card which can be loaded with 18 currencies including Saudi Riyal to its customers trav elling abroad.

This card carries a host of other unique features and is very useful for pilgrims going for Hajj and Umrah," it said

The card is available at all branches of the bank in J&K. He also added that for the convenience of Hajjis in addition to the Multi Currency Forex Card, "we will continue to offer Saudi Riyal Exchange Facility at our branches.

Yatra medical arrangements reviewed

Srinagar, July 7: Directorate of Health Services Kashmir and Mission Director NRHM reviewed the healthcare services being provided to Amarnath pilgrims.

The DHS and Director NRHM accompanied by Nodal Officer Yatra (Ganderbal) and Nodal Officer Yatra (DHSK) visited various camps including MAC Nilgrath, base camp Baltal, MAC Sangam Top, Base Camp Panjtarni, etc.

Principa



(LPG) in rural areas.

agencies would become possible only after the verification process is completed by the oil companies.

without properly assessing the quality of the options and

the quantum of risk that they may face.

We don't have financial clinics for wealth management services here. Most of our investors are more into the business of trading. And borrowing money for trading is a passion catching up fast among these investors. If local market players are to be believed, most of these traders end up losers. Most of them don't analyse their mistakes and consider investing in the stock market as a part time activity. They have turned themselves as a rudderless boat.

Investors use different ways to borrow money to pay for stocks. They take a personal loan or pledge their property or gold. They count on friends, borrow funds from them and invest in stocks. In this case, they don't have to pay interest or any other charge. Brokerage firms have kept borrowing facilities at the disposal of their clients.

Why investors borrow money to stay invested in the stock market? I have come across investors who resort to borrowing after working out some calculations on paper. They work out handsome gap between the return on investment in stocks and interest payable on loan amount. Calculations on paper may look that it is practical. But in reality, borrowing money to pay for stocks is extremely a risky strategy. This strategy simply multiplies risk of losing money, which means peace of mind is not guaranteed.

Let's have a look at the facility made available by brokers where an investor can borrow money to pay for stocks. This debt trap is extended by the brokers under a sweet name "margin". This margin facility, of course, increases the purchasing power of the investors, but simultaneously exposes them to the potential for higher losses. Before taking route of margin to maximize returns on investment, investors first need to understand its operational mechanism.

Primarily, margin facility is not suitable for everyone. An investor can lose money in the market than he has invested. The downside to using margin is that if the stock price decreases, substantial losses can mount quickly. For example, your stock which you bought for Rs.100 falls to Rs.50. If you fully paid for the stock, you'll lose 50 percent of your money. But if you bought on margin, you'll lose 100 percent, and you still have to come up with the interest you owe on the loan.

In case of loss, investor whose portfolio consists of stocks bought on margins shall be asked by the broker to deposit additional cash or securities in his account that too on short notice to cover the losses. Brokerage firms even may sell some or all stock without consulting the investor to pay off the loan, extended in the shape of margin.

However, you can bank on margin facility for a temporary purpose. For example - in case you are looking for a particular stock and that stock is now at the price where you want to enter. You have money in your bank, but you're not in a position to transfer it now. Here you can avail margin facility from your broker and pay it back immediately.

Precisely, you should not borrow funds to pay for the stocks. It is a highly risky act and can leave you bankrupt.

(The views are of the author & not the institution he works for. Feedback at sajjadbazaz@greaterkashmir.com)