

# Equity is still the best bet



Parag Parikh

Just a week ago, the stock market erased the crucial level of 3,000 and everyone was bullish. Any positive news was being discarded. However, all of a sudden, the sentiment has changed. Is the Lotus story finally over? Not at all. But the stock crash of tiny firms will tomorrow make a profit is definitely over.

Investment is a game of patience. It is all about buying the right sustainable businesses run by credible managements at the right price. Now, if you have done this and made a stock investment, then don't worry about market falls. Up and down are part of investing. When the sentiment improves, so will your stocks.

But what about you do if you are holding penny stocks? Well,ough

teen. You were just convinced you were looking at buying a stock that would go up. You were driven by your greed to make a fast buck. If you can get out, you will be lucky. If not, hold back. You should have surely known that there are just no short cuts to making money.

What does the future hold? You are very lucky if you are sitting on cash. The markets could go down even further (in such times would offer you good investment opportunities). If you have invested in good stocks and are down going down, don't worry. You see them for the long run. Some, their prices will improve. Equities as an asset class, still remain the best form of investment due to their tax-efficient characteristics. There is no other better investment opportunity available.

Parag Parikh heads a *Financial Advisory Service*.