

Headline: 'NSE Investor Fair' organized in Nagpur

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Times of India

Tier-2 cities like Ngp fuelling investment flow: NSE CEO

Abhishek Choudhari
@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: In the last one year, tier-2 cities have accounted for a strong and steady inflow to the equity markets, according to National Stock Exchange (NSE) top boss Vikram Limaye. The bourse's CEO said they do over 1,600 events a year to increase investor awareness and broaden the market but still 85% of the market is yet to be penetrated. Limaye said, "Only 5% of the money is in equity so there is still a long way to go."

He said that Indian economy is poised for exponential growth but the only hindrance could be lack of ability to raise funds.

"It's not always easy to fund growth specially for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). For this, we have a special platform called NSE Emerge through which



Pics: Ranjit Deshmukh

The NSE event, which saw Nitin Gadkari, as chief guest, was focused on raising capital for small and medium enterprises

“It's not always easy to fund growth especially for small and medium enterprises. For this, we have a special platform called NSE Emerge through which small businesses can tap into the equity market to raise capital”

VIKRAM LIMAYE | NSE TOP BOSS



small businesses can tap into the equity market to raise capital,” said Limaye.

He added that so far SMEs have raised ₹3,500 crore through NSE Emerge and now command a market cap of ₹23,000 crore. “There are two SMEs from Nagpur who are in the process of applying for an IPO. The unique

part at NSE-Emerge is that the entire vetting of documents is done by NSE itself, as compared to the other platforms in which SEBI also gets involved. Hence, for NSE-Emerge platform, the responsibility for us is much bigger,” said Limaye.

► **An aware investor, P 10**

Low-cost bonds viable for infra projects: Gadkari

Abhishek Choudhari
@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: Union minister for road transport, highways and shipping Nitin Gadkari said his department will actively pursue raising funds for infra projects through bonds rather than rely on heavy interest loans.

Speaking to **TOI** on the sidelines of a National Stock Exchange (NSE) event, Gadkari said he will be announcing a fresh issue of bonds in February that's part of the ₹70,000 crore bond pool approved by the government. "Why should I pay 22% interest on loan when there is an option to get it at a much cheaper rate?" said the minister for road transport and highways.

The NSE event was primarily focused on raising capital for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and Gadkari stressed the importance of common people turning into investors to fuel the India growth story.

"My department alone needs ₹10 lakh crore for various infra projects in the next four years. Finance rates are extremely high and big investors will put their money only if they get at least 20% returns. I have decided that we will now try to fund projects through bonds which can provide steady returns to common investors," he said.

The long term idea is to have a win-win situation for both the common man and the government. "Majority of Indians are keeping money in bank which now give around

GADKARI SPEAKS

ON MIHAN

HCL's unit will inaugurate next week and will ultimately provide 11,000 jobs. Majority of the land has already been booked and over the next few years lot of employment will be generated for local youth. Big ticket investments, like that of Patanjali, will help our region becoming self sufficient.



ON LOANS

Raising capital is the biggest challenge entrepreneurs face in today's world. The smaller the company, the bigger the challenge.



However in my experience, it is these smaller companies that

will always pay up their debts. Do you know that women self-help groups have an almost 100% track record of clearing all debts? Unfortunately, the bigger companies are more likely to default because they know how to work the system.

6% return annually. NHAI bonds carry the highest credit rating and can give returns of up to 8%. This way, the common man not only gets better returns but also becomes a stakeholder in the public infrastructure being built," said Gadkari.

► Continued on Page 10

Gadkari: No plans to go the Cochin Shipyard IPO way

► Continued from P 1

Equity markets is another option to raise interest-free money, which Gadkari has not ruled out. The minister, who also holds shipping and ports portfolio, recalled his experience while listing Cochin Shipyard on the stock exchange. "For the ₹1,600 crore that we needed, we received applications over ₹1.20 lakh crores. The issue was subscribed 76 times which proves that investors are willing to back projects or companies that have a strong record and credibility. I told them (stock exchange officials) that with this kind of response, I can come here every month to raise money," said Gadkari.

There were many projects, Gadkari added, that can justify tapping into the equity markets. "I have many economically viable projects with majority of them having an internal rate of return of 12%," he said.

Gadkari, however, clarified that there were no immediate plans to go the Cochin Shipyard IPO way. "In Cochin Shipyard, we basically sold our equity but there's nothing in the pipeline for now," he said.

'Idea is to create an aware investor'

Ranjit Deshmukh



NSE boss Vikram Limaye said it was a good sign that youths are starting investments from their first job itself

Abhishek.Choudhari
@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: In the last one year, tier-two cities have accounted for a strong and steady inflow to the equity markets according to National Stock Exchange (NSE) top boss Vikram Limaye.

Equity markets carry a big risk and Limaye wants people to be aware of what it entails. "No one is saying that equities are a safe investment and that you are guaranteed to make huge returns. What we are trying to do is create an aware investor, one who knows what he is doing. The risks are lower if one

can stay invested for a longer period of time. It has been proven that equities have given much better returns compared to traditional bank fixed deposits over a long term," said Limaye.

The average age of investors is also getting younger with youths starting steady investments from their first job itself. "There's no specific data but it has been observed that younger people are become active participants. This is a good thing because even if there is a downturn, their investments will have enough time to recover," said Limaye.

'Encourage common men to invest in bonds, equity market'

■ Business Bureau

UNION Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, and Water Resource Nitin Gadkari on Saturday said that the country has a huge potential to raise funds for developmental projects by way of encouraging common men to invest in the bonds. He also said that the country's common men could play vital role in industrial growth by investing in equity market.

Gadkari was speaking at the inaugural session of 'NSE Investor Fair' organised here on raising awareness among students, investors and SMEs about benefits of stock markets.

Gadkari further said the funds raised through investment would be available to Government agencies and to even players in micro small and medium enterprises sector at a very competitive rates. "It will be win-win situation for the investors and the fund rais-



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, and Water Resource Nitin Gadkari addressing the gathering while Vikram Limaye, MD and CEO, NSE looks on. (Pic by Anil Futane)

ers as there are many projects of the Government wherein the investors could earn good returns," he said.

However, Gadkari said the fund raisers will have to build brand loyalty and strengthen a bond of trust with the investors. "You can buy technology and as access

resources in very short span of time but developing a good will among the investors in a long process," he said adding that good will comes after one practices transparency and honesty.

Expressing satisfaction over the fair, Gadkari said NSE is supplementing Government initiatives

- Skill India, Standup India and Digital India by helping create employment opportunities beyond metros.

The NSE Investor Fair is a comprehensive platform for students, investors and entrepreneur fraternity providing them a unique opportunity to grow and help progress and transition of the country from a developing to a developed economy status.

Earlier in his introductory remarks, Vikram Limaye, MD and CEO, NSE, said "The fair is our unique platform to strengthen our on-the-ground engagement with communities across the country. This initiative has gained tremendous momentum in the recent years. We are here to explain how one each of us could grow in our sphere of professional lives as students, investors and entrepreneurs. We are confident that students, investors and entrepreneurs, alike, in the Vidarbha region will benefit immensely

from the NSE Investor Fair."

later at the panel discussion, panelists explained the benefits of listing of SMEs on NSE Emerge. It was highlighted that Maharashtra SME's can get easier access to capital for their expansion and growth through listing. NSE officials pointed out that NSE handholds SMEs through the process of listing, thereby facilitating capacity building for the SMEs.

The second session concentrated on the importance of financial education for students and careers in financial markets and courses of NSE Academy. Around 3,000 students from 25 colleges in Nagpur participated in the Financial Literacy session and Quiz competition organized by the NSE Academy.

There was active participation from member brokers, independent financial advisors (IFAs), merchant bankers, CA firms and institutions who finance SMEs.

Lokmat Times

Gadkari inaugurates NSE investor fair

BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT
NAGPUR JAN 13

National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) organised an 'investor fair' in Nagpur to inculcate the investment cult among entrepreneurs, investors and students in the city.

The NSE Investor Fair focused on three comprehensive themes Skill India, Standup India and Digital India.

These themes highlighted career options for students in the financial sector and investment opportunities in the stock market for investors and benefits of fund raising through NSE, SME platform NSE Emerge.

Union Minister of Shipping, Road Transport Nitin Gadkari inaugurated



Union Minister of Shipping and Road Transport Nitin Gadkari lighting the traditional lamp during inauguration of NSE investor fair while others look on.

the fair.

He witnessed the unveiling of draft Red Herring Prospectuses (DRHP) of Nagpur based SMEs and felicitation of listed SME cos from the region. On this occasion,

he said, "I am happy to note that NSE is supplementing government initiatives- Skill India, Standup India and Digital India by helping create employment opportunities beyond metros.