

INVESTMENT NAVIGATOR

Twelve resolutions for 2012... No, let's leave it at 3

IT'S that time of the year again—to pat ourselves on our backs for all the things that we did better than we had ever imagined, be thankful that we did all right on some of the things that we wanted to and, of course, think deeply about all those things that we were unable to do and the reasons for the same.

Whilst each one of us will have our own set of things that we wish to achieve in 2012, we thought it might be a good idea for us to share our thoughts on things to do during the year regarding your finances.

I started writing this column as “12 resolutions for 2012” since it sounded much nicer, but realised very soon that 12 resolutions are just too many. So here are the top 3 things we believe all investors should be doing in 2012.

1. Think deeply about your life goals—Remember that your monies and your finances are a part of the larger canvas on which your life is being painted. Think about what is truly important for you in your life and list it out. Don't be Hrithik Roshan in the movie *Zindagi Na Milegi*

Dobara, chasing retirement at 40 without understanding what you are going to do for the 40 years after you retire.

2. Protect what really matters—Your health, your life, your home and your personal time are most precious. Ensure that you have the first three well protected through insurance and your time protected by switching off your smart phones every once in a while.

3. Don't chase the next big thing by looking in the rear view mirror—Empirical evidence proves that most often, the best returns on portfolios are generated not by identifying the next big opportunity but by ensuring that you don't make big money mistakes. Thus, it is critical that you allocate monies across multiple asset classes—real estate, equities, fixed income and gold rather than only one or two of them.

While it would be great to be invested in that one thing that delivers the best returns year-on-year, and go in and out at the perfect time, I'm yet to meet anyone who has done that.

—**Vishal Dhawan**

Have a great 2012. Spend time with your family, do the things that really matter and take care of your health and wealth.



Vishal Dhawan is a certified financial planner by profession and founder of Plan Ahead Wealth Advisors Pvt. Ltd. He can be reached at vishal@planaheadindia.com.

Vishal's rich experience of 15 years in the financial services industry has led him to frequently write columns and appear on television, including CNBC and Bloomberg UTV. He shares his insights and views in various leading publications, including the Wall Street Journal, Economic Times, Indian Express, Reader's Digest, ET Wealth, Asian Age and Deccan Chronicle. He is also a member of the Financial Planning Association, USA.

Plan Ahead is a wealth management and financial planning firm that works with both Indian and NRI investors to help them achieve their financial goals and manage their wealth. (www.planahead.in)