

INDIAN

STOCK MARKET JOURNAL

EMPOWERING TRADERS AND INVESTORS

GIFT City's
Contribution To
India's Economic Growth

**Stock Market
Outlook**

.....

**Stocks To
Bet On**



FOREIGN EXCHANGE
TRADING IN INDIA

SYSTEMATIC WITHDRAWAL PLAN
IN MUTUAL FUNDS: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE

SHARE BUYBACKS IN
MODERN CORPORATE FINANCE

IDENTIFYING SUPPORT AND
RESISTANCE LEVELS IN STOCK TRADING

From The Founder's Desk



INDIAN STOCK MARKET JOURNAL

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RESEARCH

Kamlesh Sachar

EDITING

Amrita Joshi

CONTENT

Ali Waghbakriwala
Esha Somadder

DESIGN

Nikhil Sadaphal

HEAD OFFICE

305, Trinnity Business Park,
LP Savani Road,
Surat [Gujarat]-395009
TEL: 080008 16688

For queries:

admin@equitypandit.com

Website:

www.equitypandit.com

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Full efforts have been made to ensure the authenticity and accuracy of the contents of the Yearbook, but we do not accept any liability for the errors if committed and the subsequent loss arising from the same, but we will make sure that the errors if occurred are recited and minimized in future editions and also would welcome the reader's feedback.

We welcome your comments and suggestions for our future editions to make it more helpful month after month.

Dear Readers,

Among the rising tension in the Middle East and the growing prices of Crude Oil, the Indian market Q4 earnings remained subdued, with weak results from IT and a few index heavyweights' results. The new GIFT City, also known as Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, has emerged as a game-changer in trade finance.

This edition of ISMJ has brought a comprehensive guide to understanding foreign exchange trade in India and the factors that led investors to start Forex trading in India. This edition will also help you understand Systematic Withdrawal Plans in Mutual Funds and understand why it's a popular financial strategy amongst investors.

Also, in the edition, we will also help you understand what support and resistance level in stock trading is and how these levels play a crucial role in determining your entry and exit point in the market. Along with all the topics, we will help you understand what share buyback is and why companies opt for this strategy.

We want to thank you for appreciating our previous editions with your kind words. We would love to have your continuous feedback to improve our work. Please feel free to write to us at support@equitypandit.com.

Happy Investing!

Abhishek Parakh
Founder

EquityPandit Financial Services (P) Limited

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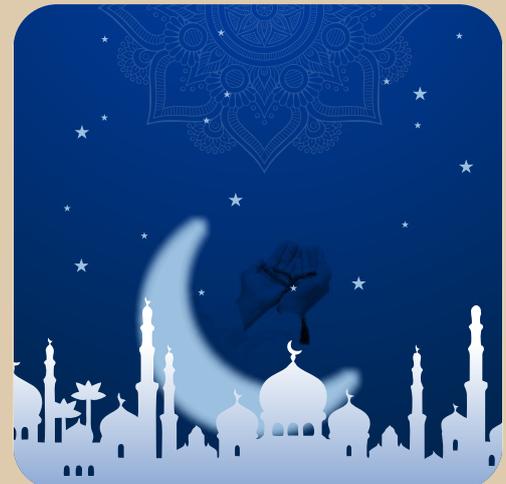
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Stock Market Outlook



NIFTY

Nifty performed as expected in April and faced resistance at around 22700. In the third week of April, nifty witnessed a sharp fall up to 21777 but then recovered and again hit an all-time high in the last week. The Nifty overall consolidated in the range of 22700 and 21800 in the previous month. IT stocks have not performed well and created pressure on the index.

Nifty again faces resistance near the same zone of 22700 to 22800. RSI still shows divergence, where RSI makes lower highs, whereas Price makes equal highs. It signals a correction ahead. The rising trend line is now adjusted near 23030, and any breakout above 22800 may extend up to 23030-

23080. If we look at the Bollinger band on the weekly chart, it is narrowing and is currently facing resistance at the upper band. A correction up to the central line at 22050 is expected shortly if nifty is not able to cross 22800.

Nifty strongly formed the base near 21700. In the third week of March, Nifty formed a bottom at 21710, and in the third week of April, it formed a bottom at 21777. The 21 EMA on the weekly chart also lies in the same range. The 100 EMA on the daily chart also lies near 21750. So we can expect Nifty to again form a bottom near 22050 or near 21700. And if it breaks 22800, it may reach up to 23050. If we talk about Index



movers, HDFC Bank is in consolidation, and if it breaks above 1560, we can expect a good upside. Reliance Industries may continue to consolidate in the range

till the election results. IT stocks may revive and are expected to give some fuel to the index. TCS and Infosys may surprise.

BANK NIFTY



Bank Nifty outperformed Nifty in the previous month. Though the month was volatile and bank nifty dipped nearly 3000 points from the top, in the last week, it gave goodies to the investors. Bank Nifty almost hit the much awaited 50000 mark where ICICI Bank and SBI drove the rally. Bank Nifty managed to close above the four month consolidation range whose earlier high was 48636.

Bank Nifty is now facing two resistances on the higher side. The first is of the rising trend line formed from the highs of December 2022, and the second is of the Bollinger Band. Trend Line resistance lies around 50200, and Bollinger Band is around current levels of 49300. RSI is now hovering around 60 and looks flattish.

Momentum is expected when RSI enters above 70. If Bank Nifty breaks below 49000, then it may slide up to the centre line of the band, which is around 47200. Here, Bank Nifty also supports 21 EMA on the weekly chart.

Bank Nifty may also hold 48200 which was a crucial march month high. Overall we can expect a mix and range bound trading in bank nifty ahead. Bank Nifty may overall trade in the range of 48000 to 49500. Another upside is the expected post-election result. Other than HDFC Bank, ICICI bank may now trade under pressure, whereas SBI may consolidate in a range. Kotak Bank may create pressure in the index as the stock broke 3-year lows. Some PSU banks, like Canara Bank and IDBI, may outperform.

Upcoming Trading Holidays

Bakri Id

JUNE 17, 2024

MONDAY



GIFT CITY'S CONTRIBUTION TO INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH



**GUJARAT INTERNATIONAL
FINANCE TEC-CITY**

GIFT City, also known as Gujarat International Finance Tec City, is a ground-breaking smart city in Gujarat, India. The city's vision is to establish a financial and technology hub that cultivates economic growth, catalyses innovation, and promotes sustainability. GIFT City's state-of-the-art infrastructure and strategic location in the heart of India's financial capital positions it as an attractive destination for top companies worldwide. Companies that choose to operate from GIFT City will have access to unparalleled opportunities for collaboration.



GIFT City is a transformative initiative for Gujarat and India, with enormous growth potential and promising prospects. Here's why:

Financial Hub And Regulatory Framework

GIFT City aspires to become a worldwide financial hub, offering a favourable atmosphere for both domestic and international financial institutions, banks, insurance companies, and other financial service providers to operate and flourish.

The city's modern infrastructure, supportive regulations, and strategic location make it an attractive destination for businesses.

GIFT City in India is regulated by the IFSC Authority (IFSCA), which combines

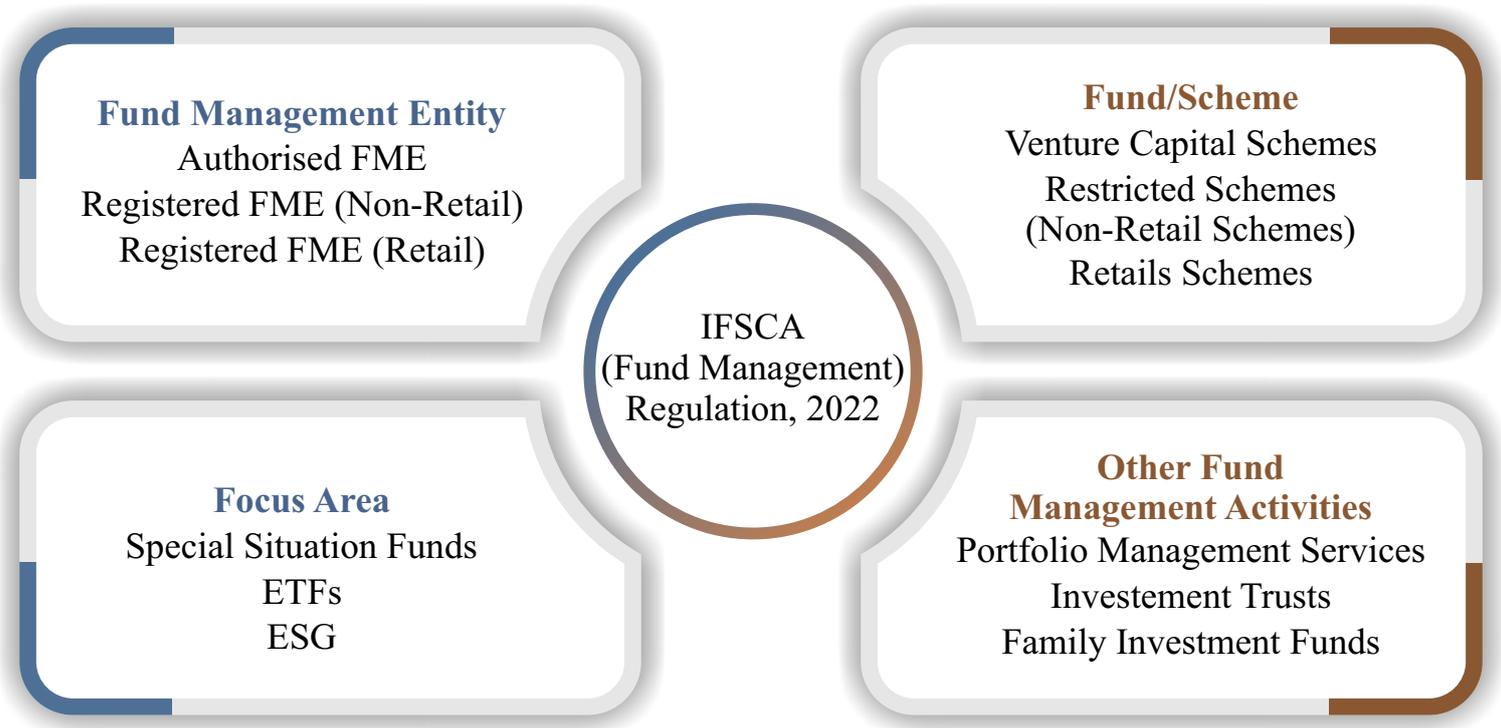


the regulatory powers of four financial services regulators in India, namely the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI), and Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority of India (PFRDAI). This

enables single window clearance for all necessary approvals under one umbrella easily.

The IFSCA has notified the IFSCA Fund Management Regulation, 2022, in April 2022. These regulations provide a comprehensive framework for asset managers and funds to operate in GIFT IFSC.

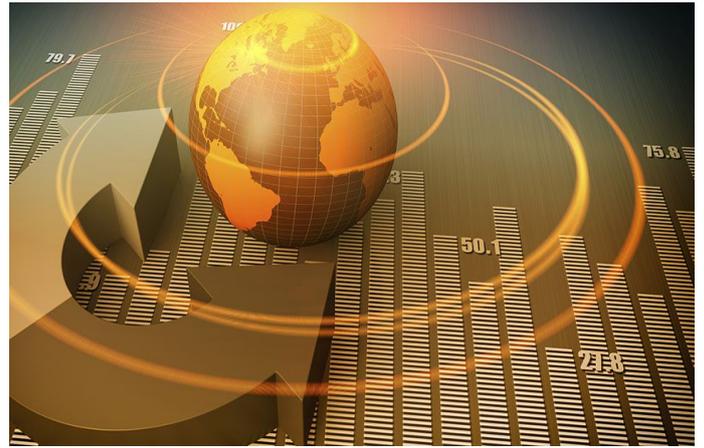
A brief snapshot of the fund regime in GIFT IFSC is provided below-



Source: FM Regulations 2022

International Connectivity

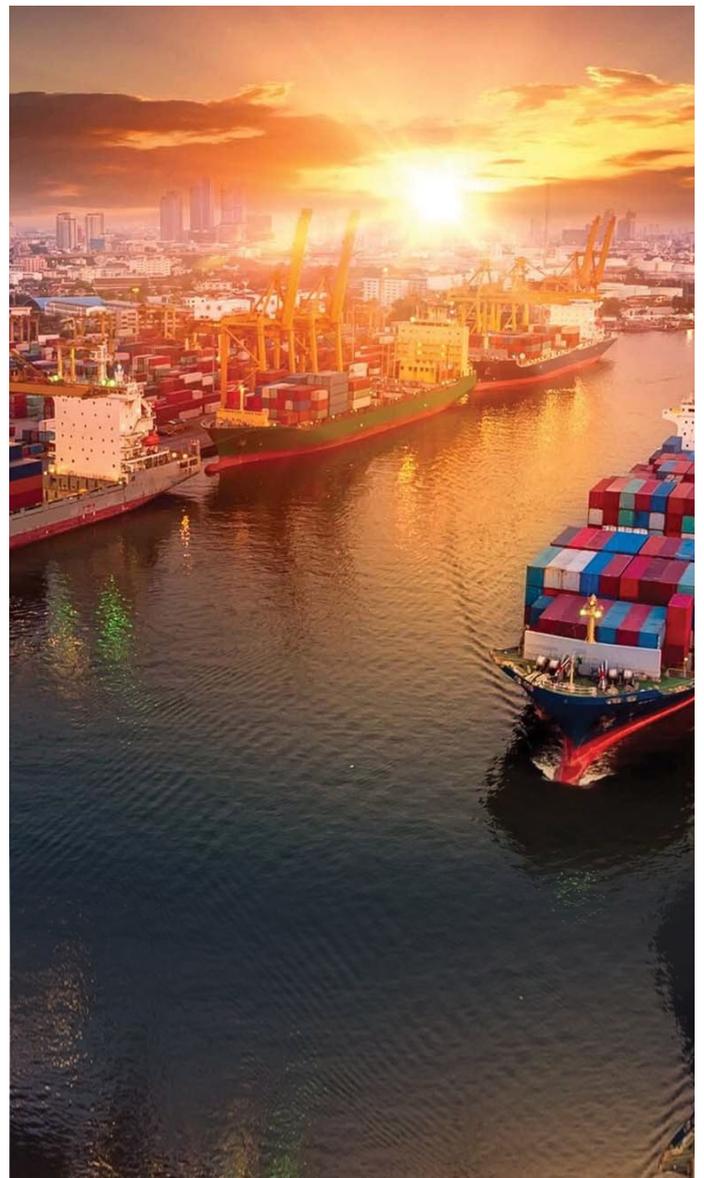
GIFT City is well-connected, with proximity to the Ahmedabad International Airport and major national highways. This connectivity facilitates seamless travel and accessibility for businesses and investors, further enhancing its appeal as a global financial centre.



Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Status

GIFT City has been granted Special Economic Zone (SEZ) status, which provides numerous benefits and incentives to businesses. These include tax advantages, simplified regulatory procedures, and a business-friendly environment. The SEZ status of GIFT City is a major attraction for both domestic and international companies, which can invest in the city and thus contribute to its economic growth.

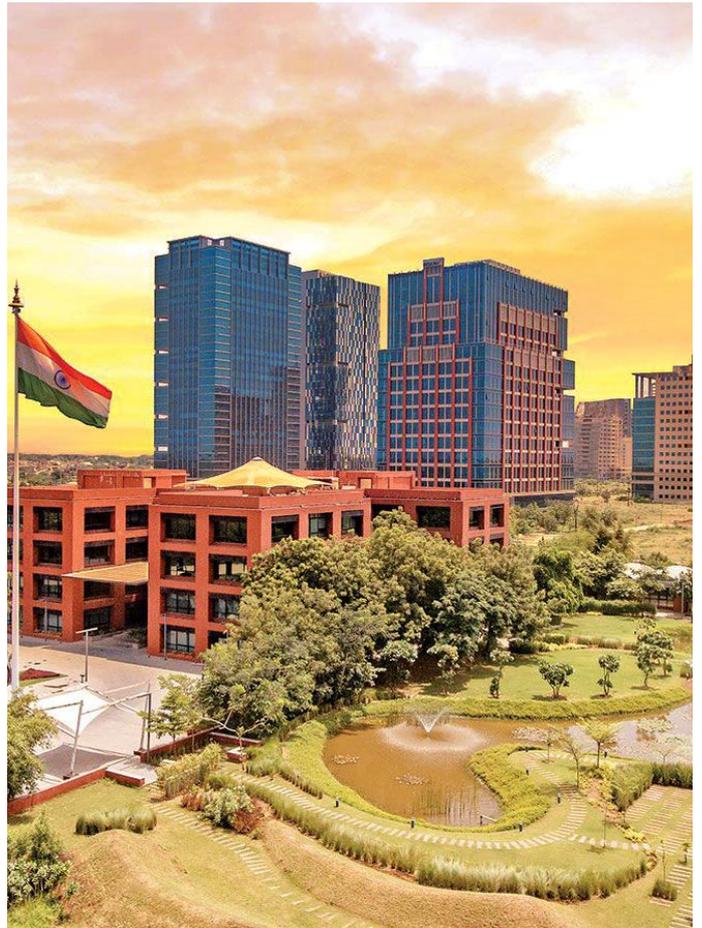
The Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is designed to promote foreign investment and exports, particularly for multinational corporations. SEZ offers benefits to the businesses operating in this zone, including duty-free imports and exports, easy regulatory processes, and tax benefits.



Infrastructure And Amenities

GIFT City has a top-notch infrastructure and amenities, which include contemporary office spaces, residential complexes, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, recreational areas, and a lively social and cultural atmosphere. Such all-inclusive facilities contribute to an appealing ecosystem for professionals, residents, and businesses alike.

The Government of Gujarat and the Government of India have done spectacular and unparalleled urban planning that gives the next-gen 'plug & play' infrastructure, facilitating quick and hassle-free business set-up with all the infrastructural clearances in place.



Innovation And Technology

GIFT City is dedicated to encouraging innovation and endorsing the use of advanced technology. Its goal is to lead the way in various fields, such as financial technology (fintech), smart city solu-

tions, and sustainable development. By prioritising innovation and technology-oriented solutions, GIFT City is positioned as a leader in the rapidly changing financial landscape.





Job Creation

The development of GIFT City has led to the creation of numerous job opportunities in various sectors, including finance, banking, insurance, information technology, real estate, and construction. This not only enhances regional employment prospects but also contributes to the overall economic growth of Gujarat and India.

International Collaboration

GIFT City has established collaborations with leading international financial centres, such as London, Dubai, and Singapore. These partnerships facilitate knowledge sharing, skill development, and cross-border investment opportunities, further strengthening GIFT City's position as a global player in the financial sector.



Sustainable Development

GIFT City is highly committed to sustainable development, and this is reflected in its focus on green buildings, renewable energy, waste management, and efficient resource utilisation. This emphasis on sustainability aligns with global trends and positions the smart city as an environmentally responsible business destination.



Other Important Regulations

a

The regulatory regime of GIFT IFSC is formulated to parallel the best practices accepted globally, facilitating flexibility and reducing compliance burdens. Amongst the plethora of such benefits, a few noteworthy relaxations include an exemption for non-residents from obtaining a permanent account number (PAN) or filing a return of income in India in certain circumstances.

b

The IFSC Units set up in GIFT City, India offer various tax benefits like exemptions on corporate tax, tax holidays for ten years, reduced Minimum Alternative Tax (MAT), etc., increasing the profitability and growth of the business houses. It also offers numerous indirect tax benefits such as no Goods and Service Tax (GST) on services received by units in IFSC, and no GST on services provided to IFSC units / SEZ units / offshore clients.

C

The Government of Gujarat provides various state incentives in the form of financial incentives and support schemes to attract companies and investors to GIFT IFSC. These incentives include grants, subsidies, and reduced operational costs due to OPEX support, CAPEX support, and employment generation incentives. The government has also announced various state-level incentives and subsidies to Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITeS) Companies.

d

GIFT City India provides distinguished benefits to the financial and IT/ITeS companies, making it a pivotal bedrock at par with the various global financial and IT hubs. GIFT City is a vision of the Government of India and Gujarat aiming to serve as a centre for global banking, trade, and business. To promote the innovation of ideas and entrepreneurship, IFSC-GIFT City provides dedicated FinTech sandboxes and a requisite start-up-friendly environment intending to shape and fulfil the aspirations and ambitions of start-ups and entrepreneurs.

e

The companies set up in GIFT City are exempted from certain provisions of the Companies Act of India.

There are various exemptions and relaxations given to the companies being set up in the GIFT IFSC concerning the regulatory requirements under the Companies Act in India. Few are enumerated as follows:

- In a company set up in GIFT IFSC, the requirement of having at least one resident director is waived. This makes it easier for foreign entities to establish their presence in India with the management personnel with whom they are familiar.
- There is also an exemption for the applicability of secretarial standards, which lay down the procedural aspects of board meetings and general meetings.
- Furthermore, there is a relaxation in compliance about loans, advances, guarantees, and investments made by companies set up in GIFT IFSC.
- Lastly, internal auditors are exempted from being appointed by these companies.



Comparison With Global Financial Hubs

GIFT City's strategic development, focus on digital infrastructure, and regulatory innovations position it as a formidable contender on the international stage despite being relatively nascent compared to established global financial hubs. As GIFT City continues to advance, it will undoubtedly become a major player in the global financial landscape, representing India's rising power in the world economy. With cutting-edge infrastructure, a welcoming business environment, and a comprehensive range of financial services, GIFT City is poised to attract substantial international investment and top talent. As it further expands its offerings and capabilities, GIFT City will inevitably be compared with other major financial hubs around the world, such as London and New York, on an equal footing. This shift in perception will reflect India's growing self-assurance and commanding position in the global financial arena.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRADING IN INDIA



What Is Forex Trading?



Foreign exchange trading, commonly known as Forex trading, involves the buying and selling of currencies in the foreign exchange market. This market is the largest global financial arena with a daily trading volume exceeding USD 6 trillion. One of the unique features of Forex is its non-stop operation, running 24 hours a day, five days a week. This constant trading is possible due to the worldwide nature of currency markets, which span across various time zones.

What Is The Foreign Exchange Market?

The foreign exchange market is a network of large commercial or investment banks, brokers, and dealers spread worldwide, where one country's currency is traded for another country's currency. It has two segments: The Spot Market, where currencies are traded for immediate delivery, and the Forward Market, where delivery is for a future date. Forward exchange rates provide a mechanism for

eliminating risks arising in the future due to adverse movements in the exchange rate.

Three participants participate in the forex market: non-banking entities such as importers, exporters, investors, and multinational corporations settle their international transactions, while banking entities, including commercial banks and the Central Bank of the country, play a

role in the market. Commercial banks operate for profit motives, while the central bank aims to curb excessive volatility in the exchange rates. Foreign exchange brokers act as a mediator between buyers and sellers.

Exchange rates are quoted for a pair of currencies, and the exchange rate is the price of one currency quoted in terms of another currency. The two ways of quoting exchange rates are direct quote and indirect quote.



Forex Trading in India. Is Forex trading legal in India?

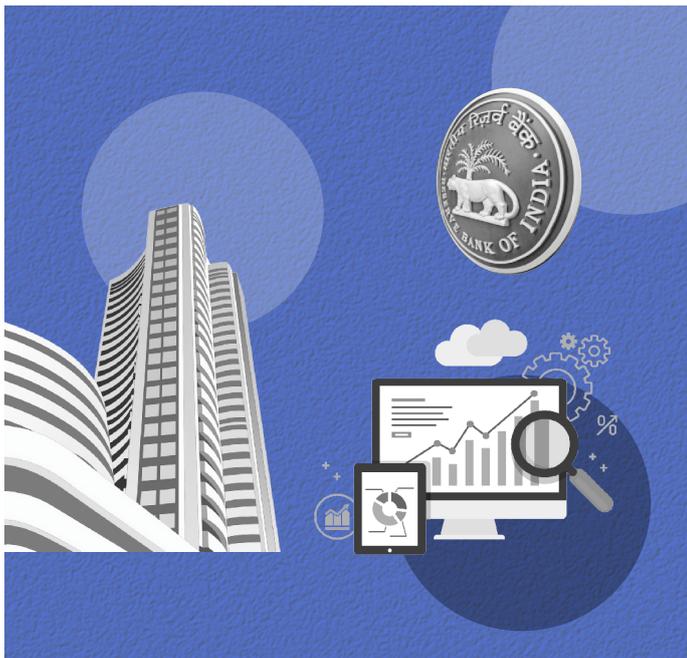


It is legal for Indian citizens to engage in foreign currency trading but only through authorised Indian brokers. Apart from that - The National Stock Exchange (NSE), Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), Multi

Commodity Exchange Stock Exchange (MCX-SX), and NSE's International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) are some of the recognised and legal forex trading platforms in India. These exchanges offer

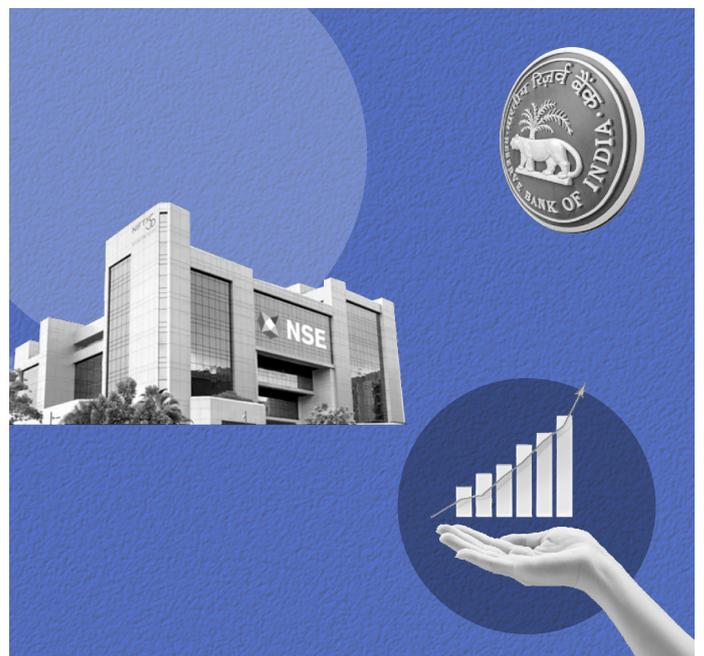
trading in specific currency pairs such as USD/INR, EUR/INR, JPY/INR, and GBP/INR, and these currency pairs are only allowed for forex trading in India.

To ensure the legality and safety of your trades, it is important to choose a broker authorised and regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and recognised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It's worth noting that individuals cannot transfer money overseas for forex trading, and all forex transactions must be settled in Indian rupees.



The RBI has set out guidelines that state forex trading can only be done through registered brokers who are members of recognised exchanges such as NSE, BSE, MCX-SX, etc. The maximum amount an individual can transfer overseas for forex trading is USD 250,000 per year.

SEBI is the regulatory body for the securities and commodity market in India, and SEBI Forex Trading Authorisation is needed to be authorised as a Forex Broker in India to deal in the financial markets. Forex trading in India is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) through the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and its various regulations. Individuals and entities interested in forex trading in India must comply with the regulations set forth by the RBI under FEMA, which cover aspects such as the amount of foreign exchange that can be traded, permissible currencies, authorised dealers, and reporting requirements. Further, CFD platforms and binary trading are popular worldwide; they are not legal in India.



Instruments In Indian Forex Trading



Spot Forex Trading is prohibited in India. Forex trading is primarily done through futures and options contracts. NSE Nifty Currency Derivatives and MCX-SX Currency Options offer exchange-traded futures and options contracts for major currency pairs. Forward contracts are directly negotiated between parties to lock in exchange rates for future currency delivery.

In this blog, we have covered the following points related to Forex trading in India:

REGULATORY PRINCIPLES AND INSTRUMENTS IN FOREX TRADING IN INDIA

Forex trading is a regulated activity in India, and traders have access to specific tools such as currency futures and options. However, they also need to navigate the regulatory environment, with SEBI and the RBI playing pivotal roles in monitoring forex trading to ensure compliance with the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) of 1999.



INSTRUMENTS PROHIBITED IN INDIA

Although CFD platforms and binary trading are popular worldwide, they are not legal in India. Participation in such activities can lead to legal complications.



FUNDAMENTALS OF FOREX TRADING

It is crucial to have a solid understanding of the fundamentals of forex trading, including its meaning, the key players involved, and the potential advantages and risks before diving in. This knowledge will enable potential traders to make informed decisions.



COMPLIANCES TO FOLLOW

Unapproved forex trading, especially outside recognised exchanges or with non-approved foreign pairs, can result in severe penalties, including hefty fines and imprisonment. This underscores the importance of compliance.



EDUCATION OF FOREX TRADING IN INDIA

Therefore, it is essential to educate oneself thoroughly before embarking on the forex trading journey, particularly in a country with strict regulations like India, to make informed decisions.



CURRENCY PAIRS IN INDIAN FOREX TRADING

India's forex trading is restricted to specific currency pairs linked with the Indian Rupee (INR), such as USD, JPY, GBP, and EUR. A few cross-currency pairs are also permissible.



Systematic Withdrawal Plan in Mutual Funds

A Comprehensive Guide





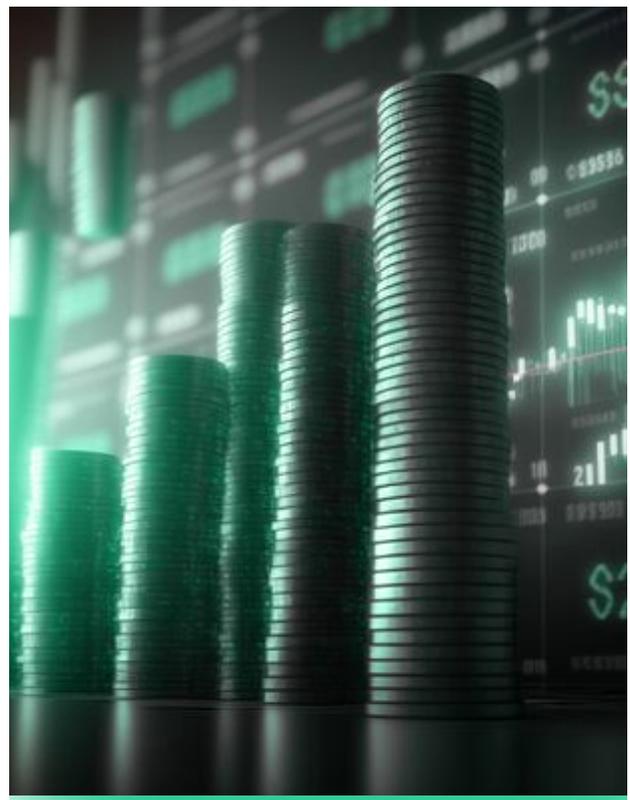
In the world of investment, a Systematic Withdrawal Plan (SWP) in mutual funds is a popular financial strategy. It offers investors the convenience of accessing their funds at regular intervals, making it an

excellent choice for those seeking a steady income stream, especially retirees. In this comprehensive guide, we will delve into what SWP is, how it works, its benefits, and who should consider using it.

What Is A Systematic Withdrawal Plan?

A Systematic Withdrawal Plan (SWP) is a feature offered by mutual fund companies that allow investors to withdraw a predetermined amount of money from their mutual fund investment on a regular basis. The withdrawal frequency can be set to monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, depending on the investor's financial needs.

Notably, a SWP is the opposite of a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), where you invest a fixed amount in a mutual fund regularly.



How Does a Systematic Withdrawal Plan Work?

The functioning of a SWP is straightforward. Here's a step-by-step breakdown of the process:

- An investor chooses a mutual fund scheme and opens an account with the fund house.
- The investor decides whether to invest a lump sum or make periodic investments in the mutual fund.
- The investor sets up an SWP, specifying the amount and frequency of withdrawals.
- The mutual fund sells units of the fund to fulfil the withdrawal request, and the investor receives the money in their account.
- The mutual fund continues to sell units to meet the withdrawal request at the specified intervals until the investor cancels the SWP or the investment worth becomes zero.



Who Should Consider Using A Systematic Withdrawal Plan?

An SWP is particularly beneficial for those seeking a regular income from their investments. It is an ideal tool for retirees who require a reliable income stream to cover their living expenses. Additionally,

an SWP can help those who want to maintain a disciplined approach to withdrawing money from their savings, thereby preventing overspending or excessive withdrawal.

Key Benefits Of A Systematic Withdrawal Plan



Regular And Predictable Income

An SWP offers a predictable income source, enabling investors to receive a set amount at frequent intervals. This consistency is especially advantageous for retirees relying on investment returns as their primary income source.

Potential For Capital Appreciation

The untouched portion of an investor's mutual fund investment continues to appreciate through market fluctuations, potentially leading to an increase in overall portfolio assets.

Flexibility And Customizability

SWPs offer investors the ability to customize and adjust their withdrawal amounts or frequency as per their changing financial requirements, adding a great deal of flexibility. This customization helps investors to align their income demands with their long-term financial goals and adapt to them while creating effective withdrawal strategy to withdraw funds at selected intervals of time.

Tax Efficiency

SWPs provide tax benefits compared to other income sources. Investors only pay capital gains tax on the withdrawn money, not on the entire invested amount, possibly leading to a decreased tax burden.

Effective Uses Of A Systematic Withdrawal Plan



Here are some practical applications of a SWP:



Regular Income

An SWP can serve as an additional source of income, supplementing the primary one. This can be particularly useful in today's times, given the rising cost of living.



Capital Preservation

An SWP allows you to withdraw from your investment systematically, ensuring that a significant portion of your portfolio remains invested for the long term and continues to grow.



Pension Income

An SWP allows you to withdraw from your investment systematically, ensuring that a significant portion of your portfolio remains invested for the long term and continues to grow.

Conclusion

To conclude, a SWP can be a powerful financial tool, especially for providing income from your savings. It proves to be a boon for those who are retired or no longer working and rely on their

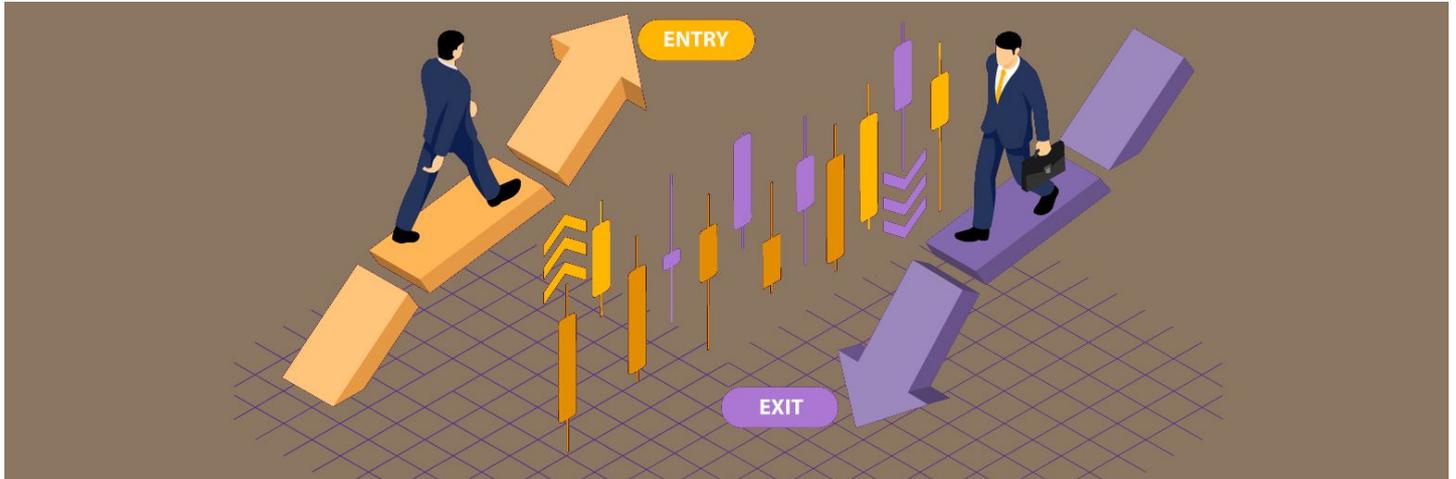
savings to support their expenses. It's advisable to consult with a financial advisor to understand its suitability for your financial needs.

IDENTIFYING SUPPORT AND RESISTANCE LEVELS IN STOCK TRADING



Stock trading is a complex world with many facets to consider. One of the most crucial aspects is understanding support and resistance levels. These levels play a pivotal role in determining your

entry and exit points in the market. This article attempts to demystify the process of identifying these critical levels and how you can incorporate this knowledge into your trading strategy for optimal results.



Understanding Support And Resistance Levels

Before diving deeper into the process of identification, it's essential to understand what support and resistance levels essentially are.

Support

Support is a price level at which a stock's price stops falling and bounces back up. It acts as a 'floor' where buying interest is strong enough to overcome selling pressure.

In simpler terms, the support level is where the price seems to find a floor below which it doesn't fall. In contrast, the resistance level is where the price appears to hit a ceiling above which it doesn't rise.

Resistance

Resistance is a price level at which a stock's price ceases to rise and dips back down. It acts as a 'ceiling' where selling interest overpowers buying pressure.

The Significance Of Support And Resistance Levels

Support and resistance levels are essential in stock trading for several reasons:

Risk Management

These levels help you manage risk by enabling you to set effective stop-loss orders. A trader would typically set a stop-loss at a key support level to limit potential losses.



Trend Analysis

Recognizing support and resistance levels is beneficial when analyzing trends. Breakouts above resistance or below support signal potential trend shifts, which can guide your trading decisions.



Decision-Making

Identifying support and resistance levels assists in making better trading decisions. If support is a buying zone, resistance is a selling zone. This framework is instrumental for entering or exiting positions.



Target Setting

Support and resistance levels aid in setting profit targets as part of a comprehensive trading plan. For instance, a trader might set a profit target as the price approaches a resistance level after entering a long position near a support level.



Identifying Support And Resistance Levels

Identifying support and resistance levels is critical for successful trading. Here are some key methods to do so:

Round Numbers

Round numbers often act as psychological barriers, influencing buying or selling decisions. Identifying these round-number levels adds a valuable dimension to your trading analysis.



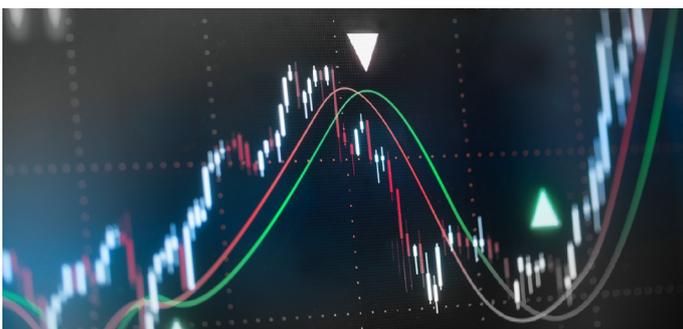
Trendlines

Trendlines can help identify potential support or resistance levels. Draw a line beneath rising lows to identify potential support or above declining highs for potential resistance.



Moving Averages

Moving averages offer dynamic support or resistance levels. Plot these averages on your chart and observe how prices interact with them.



Volume Analysis

Pay attention to trading volume at specific price levels. High volumes suggest increased market activity and can signal significant support or resistance.



Price History Analysis

Analyze the stock's price history to identify levels where values have often paused or reversed. As you examine past charts, look for points where the price movement halted or changed direction frequently. These are potential support levels if the price stopped falling and resistance levels if it ceased rising.



Drawing Support And Resistance Lines

After understanding the concept of support and resistance, the next step is to learn how to draw these lines. Here's a step-by-step guide:



- Connect Peaks for Resistance:**
 Draw a line connecting the highest points. This line represents potential resistance levels where prices may struggle to rise above.
- Connect Troughs for Support:**
 Draw a line connecting the lowest points. This line signifies potential support levels where prices may find a floor.
- Spotting Peaks and Troughs:**
 Locate significant highs and lows on the price chart.
- Extend Lines:**
 Extend these lines horizontally to cover more price action.
- Confirm with Touchpoints:**
 Look for multiple instances where prices touch or bounce off these lines, confirming their significance.

Best Charts for Support and Resistance

When it comes to finding support and resistance levels, line charts are your best bet. They clearly depict price movements and key levels over time, making it easier to identify areas where a stock's price has historically found support or resistance.



The Best Indicators for Support and Resistance

While no single indicator is universally the best for identifying support and resistance, some commonly used ones include:



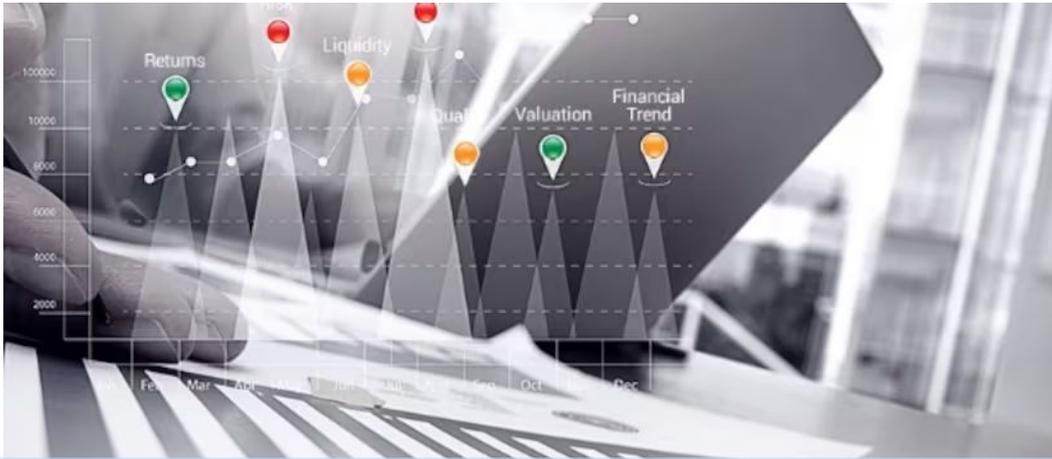
CONCLUSION

Finding support and resistance levels is crucial for successful trading. Identify key price points, use historical data, and pay attention to chart patterns. Trust your analysis, but also consider market sentiment. Don't forget to adapt to changing conditions and adjust your trading strategies accordingly.

Share Buybacks

In Modern Corporate Finance





In the dynamic world of corporate finance, share buybacks have emerged as a popular strategy among companies. They offer businesses a strategic tool to enhance shareholder value, optimize their capital structure, and demonstrate confidence in the company's future prospects. However, like any financial strategy, share buybacks come with their share of controversies and criticisms, often sparking debates about the potential impact on societal inequalities and the long-term health of the economy. This article will delve deep into the concept of share buybacks, exploring why companies opt for this strategy, the steps involved in executing a buyback, and the criticisms surrounding this practice.

— What is a Share Buyback? —

A share buyback, sometimes referred to as a stock repurchase, is a corporate operation where a company decides to buy back its own shares from the open market or directly from the existing shareholders. The number of outstanding shares decreases as a result of this operation, leading to a consolidation of ownership and an increase in the current shareholders' ownership percentage. Companies typically resort to buybacks

to achieve multiple strategic objectives, such as boosting shareholder value and efficiently utilizing surplus cash.



— Reasons Behind Opting — For Share Buybacks

Companies resort to share buybacks for a variety of compelling reasons. Here are some of the most common motivations behind this strategic move:

Utilizing Excess Cash

Companies often amass surplus cash on their balance sheets, either from profitable operations or asset sales. Rather than leaving these cash reserves unutilized, financially robust companies often prefer to employ this surplus cash through share buybacks. This efficient use of extra cash can result in higher shareholder returns than low-yield alternatives like cash reserves or low-interest securities.



Signaling Financial Health

Undertaking share buybacks can send a positive message to investors and the public that the company's management believes its shares are fairly priced and that it is optimistic about its future prospects. These positive signals can boost investor sentiment, leading to increased demand for the company's shares.



Improving Shareholder Value

One of the primary motivations for carrying out share buybacks is to enhance shareholder value. By reducing the number of outstanding shares, buybacks effectively boost earnings per share (EPS), leading to an increase in the value of each remaining share. This can potentially result in increased stock prices, attracting investors, and demonstrating confidence in the company's growth prospects.



Offsetting Dilution

Additional shares are often issued by companies as part of employee equity compensation schemes, mergers, or issuance of convertible securities. Share repurchases on the open market can help offset the dilution caused by these operations, thereby protecting shareholder ownership and preventing dilution of earnings per share.



Tax-Efficient Capital Returns

In some jurisdictions, stock buybacks can be more tax-efficient than dividends. Shareholders may prefer buybacks over dividends due to reduced tax liabilities, making buybacks an attractive strategy for returning capital to shareholders while maximizing after-tax returns.



— The Process Of Share Buyback —

The process of conducting a share buyback involves several critical steps, all of which ensure the successful implementation of the repurchase program and adherence to legal requirements:

Authorization By The Board Of Directors

The initial step in initiating a buyback is obtaining approval from the company's board of directors. The board considers various factors, such as the company's financial condition, strategic goals, and available cash reserves, before authorizing the repurchase program.



Public Announcement And Disclosure

Once approved, the company needs to publicize its intent to repurchase shares. This announcement typically includes details about the maximum number of shares to be repurchased, the duration of the program, and the method of repurchase.



Method of Repurchase

Companies have several options for conducting buybacks, including open market purchases and tender offers. In an open market purchase, the company buys

shares from the stock market just like any other investor. A tender offer, on the other hand, involves offering to buy shares from shareholders at a predetermined price.

Compliance With Regulatory Requirements

Companies are required to comply with the regulatory standards set by government securities agencies and stock exchanges during the repurchase process. This includes adhering to securities laws, providing material information to investors, and adhering to any repurchase limits or restrictions imposed by regulatory authorities.



Execution Of Repurchase Agreements

Once the regulatory requirements are met and the buyback program is disclosed, the company executes the repurchases. This involves actively buying back shares according to the conditions specified in the repurchase program.



Monitoring And Reporting

The company needs to monitor progress throughout the buyback program and report repurchases to regulatory agencies and shareholders. This includes providing updates on the number of shares bought back, the average purchase price, and any significant events that impact the buyback program.



Evaluation Of The Buyback Program

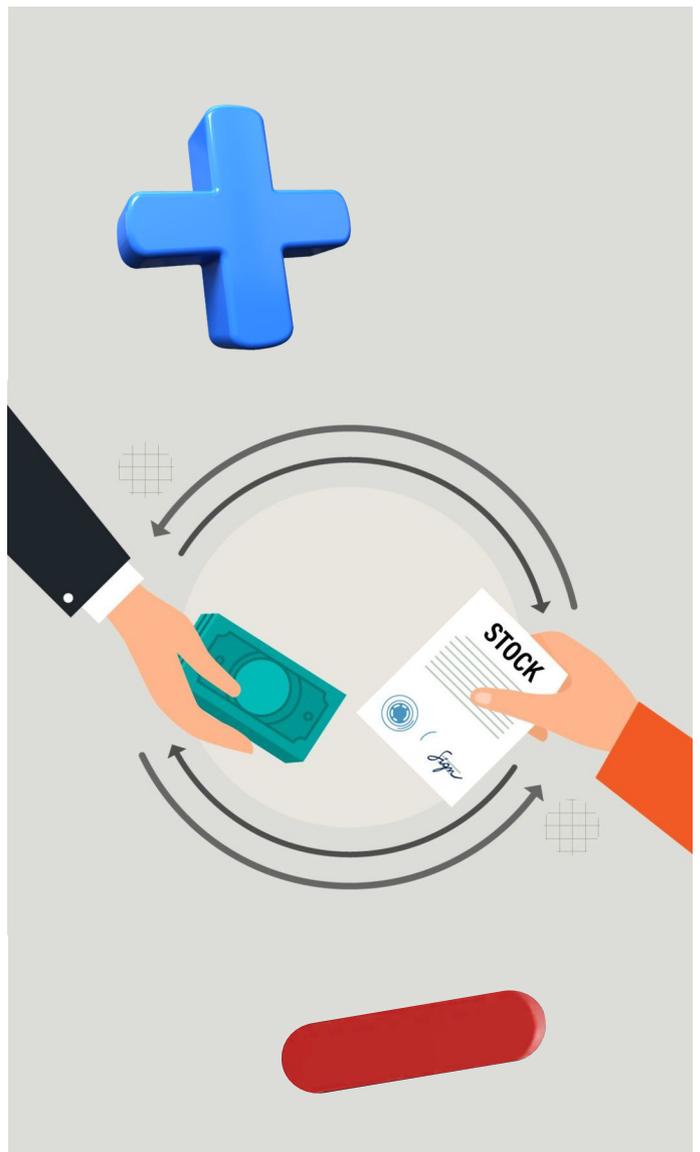
Once the buyback program concludes or the predetermined period elapses, the company evaluates the results of the repurchase. This evaluation influences future capital allocation decisions and strategic initiatives.



— Criticisms And Controversies — Surrounding Share Buybacks

Despite the clear benefits, share buybacks have been the subject of criticism and controversy. Critics argue that buybacks prioritize short-term shareholder rewards over long-term investments in research and development and innovation. This short-sighted approach can potentially limit a company's ability to grow and compete effectively.

There are also criticisms around the potential for market manipulation, as buybacks can artificially inflate stock prices, potentially misleading investors about a company's true value. Furthermore, there are concerns that share buybacks exacerbate wealth inequality by prioritizing shareholders, especially top executives, over broader stakeholders such as employees and the wider community.



Conclusion

In sum, share buybacks serve a multi-faceted role in corporate finance. While they offer companies a strategic tool to enhance shareholder value, optimize capital structure, and demonstrate confidence in their prospects, they also attract criticism for potential adverse effects on societal inequalities and the long-term health of the economy. Despite these criticisms, buybacks remain a common practice among firms worldwide, underscoring their relevance in contemporary capital markets. A thorough evaluation of the company's financial position, strategic objectives, and regulatory environment is essential before deciding to undertake buybacks.



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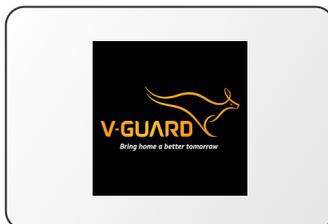
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