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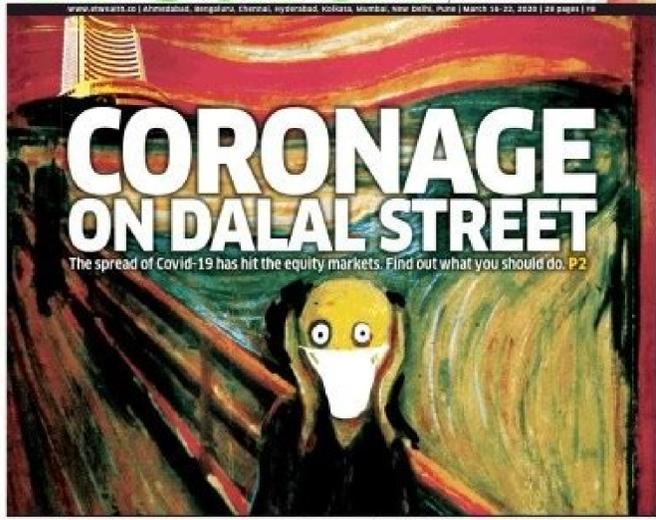
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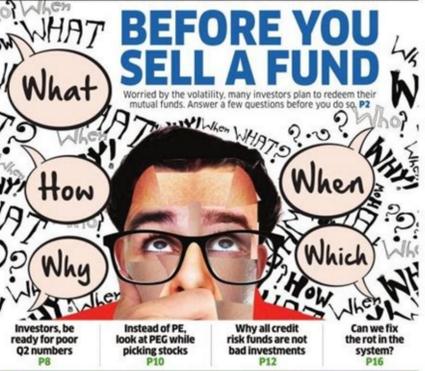
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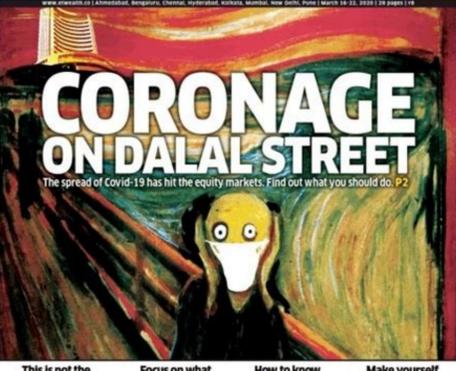
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After a volatile year in equity markets, better-than-expected returns in gold and real estate, and low debt yields, investors are looking at the new year with cautious optimism. ET Wealth spoke to experts to find out what investors should do in 2023 to get the most out of their money. Here's what they had to say. Rising rates have made fixed income more attractive, and some experts believe debt will deliver the best returns in 2023, rather than equity. Interest rates are expected to peak in Q1 or Q2 and then begin to decline. In this case, debt funds could generate high single digit returns. Experts say it's time to take advantage of this opportunity. Also Read: 5 Habits You Need To Adopt In 2023 To Help Your Money Grow While High Schools Small-cap stocks have corrected sharply in 2022 and are now trading at attractive valuations. Risk-averse investors should consider entering these segments now. The past year also brought an increase in interest rates on loans. The home loan interest rate, which was 6.7% at the start of 2022, ended the year at 8.65%. This means that the home loan terms would be extended by several months. If you have excess cash, experts say a payday loan is the best way to use it. It is also good to protect yourself in case of unforeseen situations. The resurgence of Covid-19 means you need to have adequate health insurance to avoid a repeat of 2021 when people spent all their life savings. Job loss has also become very common. Therefore, experts recommend creating new sources of income to supplement the basic income from work or business. We hope you find these 10 smart moves useful in the new year. We wish you good health, prosperity and safety in 2023. Scorecard 2022 Investment performance during the year Equities produced meager returns. Debt returns have also been modest, but gold has shined in 2022... while property prices in key micromarkets in these cities have risen since 2019. If you have excess cash, pay off your home loan early. If a penny saved is a penny earned, borrowers can get 8.5-9% return on the down payment amount. The wave of rising repo rates saw interest rates on home loans rise from 6.7% in April to 8.65% today. If interest rates don't come down, someone who took a 20-year home loan at 6.7% in early 2022 will have to pay around 149 more EMIs (see chart). Analysts expect things to get worse before things get better. Although inflation has come down, it is still above RBI's comfort level. It could raise interest rates by another 25 basis points by March 2023. If that happens, home loan rates could hit 9%. When rates rise, extending the term is a standard response for lenders. But this is not possible if the term of office exceeds working years. The borrower then has two options: either increase the EMI or pay a lump sum to shorten the loan term. Experts say paying off your mortgage early may be the best way to use your extra money right now. "If a penny saved is a penny earned", a prepaid home loan may be the best investment option available," says Raj Khosla, managing director of MyMoneyMantra.com. Indeed, no other investment can bring more returns than the 8.5-9% interest saved on a mortgage loan. It is also advisable to increase your EMI every year as your income increases. This can significantly affect the term of the loan. If you take out a mortgage loan of 50 lakhs at 8.5% for 20 years, the EMI will be Rs 43,391. "But increasing the EMI by 5% per year will allow the loan to be repaid in just over 12 years. If you tighten your belt a bit and increase your EMI by 10% every year, you can be out of debt in less than 10 years," Khosla says. "For mortgage relief Tax credit on home loan interest lowers effective cost of borrowing Increased exposure to mid- and small-cap segments Both mid-cap and small-cap indices trade at a discount to historical averages. Small cap segments have undergone a sharp correction in 2022. Much of the foam has already been eliminated. The Nifty Midcap 100 index, which was trading nearly 85 times its 2021 peak, is now trading at a reasonable 23.4 times - the mid-cap basket currently only maintains a small premium to the main Nifty50 index (22.6x earnings), hovered at 65 times income at the time in 2021, now it is a favorable 16 times income. Both indices are trading at a discount to their historical averages. Despite the sharp decline in broader indices, experts expect short-term problems for mid- and small-cap companies to persist. Pankaj Tibrewal, Senior Manager at Kotak Mutual Fund, says: "We recommend this place from at least 3-5The prospect of short-term volatility cannot be ruled out. If interest rates remain high, the value of some of the growth stocks in this basket could fall further. But any correction in this basket also provides an opportunity to invest in quality companies for the long term. Investors should take advantage of this opportunity to increase the availability of mid- and small-cap companies. "Testing time is a big opportunity, but it depends on whether you see the glass as half-full or half-empty," notes Tibrewal. He notes that patient and disciplined investors in this area have made good returns over the past 20 years through various crises and cycles. However, experts insist that investors should be very selective. Vikas Gupta, chief investment strategist at OmniScience Capital, believes that given the size of the universe, returns from a well-chosen basket of small companies are likely to be profitable. However, choosing mid-cap stocks is more difficult because of the narrow number of 150 stocks. The rally of small and medium-sized companies has evaporated. Keep the surplus ready to invest when the market falls. Markets will be volatile in 2023 and any sharp sell-off could be an opportunity to buy low. Stock markets are expected to remain volatile in the coming months as the world grapples with recession-related uncertainty, geopolitical tensions and a resurgence of the Covid-19 disease. Any sharp sell-off will give savvy investors an opportunity to buy shares at attractive prices. However, the window can only be opened for a short time. Once all the downsides are known and assessed, the market can quickly shift into risk mode. The 2020 sell-off and subsequent bounce is a good example of how quickly things can change. Here's what you can do: Define redundancy now so you can use it when the time comes. Even a portion of your existing portfolio can be liquidated to give you the ammunition you need when you need it. When liquidity becomes tight, some of your debt or fixed income assets can provide cash flow. But don't stray too far from your desired department. Once you identify the surplus, allocate some of it for gradual expansion during each market crisis. For example, if the market falls 20%, transfer 20% of your planned amount to stocks. With a 30% drop, traders can bet another 30% of the intended amount. If the market falls below 40%, another 40% of the intended amount can be invested in stocks. The remaining 10% of the excess can be used if the market falls above 50%. This is an indicative plan only and traders can set their own thresholds and triggers. Earn high bond yields Many debt funds have achieved returns of over 7% to maturity, which is an opportunity for investors. Last year's interest rate hike increased bond yields across all maturities. However, experts say the room for further growth appears limited. The Axis Mutual Fund said in a note: "Although we do not yet see the end of the cycle of interest rate hikes, market yields are unlikely to increase significantly. The markets absorbed most of the rising interest rates. This gives investors little opportunity to earn high returns. Experts maintain accumulation funds and target-date bond funds are well positioned to make the most of a high-yield environment. Liquid schemes, particularly short-term and short-term funds, currently offer an average return to maturity of 7-7.3%. "Investors with a shorter investment horizon and low risk appetite should stick to liquid assets. With rising short-term interest rates, we should expect further improvement in the potential returns on liquid investments in the future," said Pankaj Pathak, director of the Quantum Mutual Fund Fixed Income. Interest rates on savings accounts are as low as 3-4%, while liquid funds provide higher returns. Therefore, liquid funds are a better place to store surplus funds. For a longer time horizon, most advisors advise investors to choose a maturity period of 3-5 years. This is whereis the most advantageous. Puneet Pal, Head-Fixed Income, PGIM India Mutual Fund notes, "We advise investors to look at 3-4 year holding funds with dominant government holdings as they currently offer better risk returns." , says: "The 2-5-year segment is attractive due to higher capital accumulation and appreciation when the rate cut cycle starts in a year. Investors can look for investments in short-term bonds, corporate bonds and debt funds of banks and PSUs, which mainly invest in this segment. If you want more predictable returns, target duration bond funds are your best bet. When returns exceed 7% over various maturities, there is a particularly strong case for investing money in funds with a targeted duration. These funds have a fixed duration of three to 15 years. Investors can set deadlines for achieving specific goals that are consistent with the time horizon. The only caveat is that you invest until the fund matures to get close to the expected initial return. Investors may even consider creating a ladder of target maturity funds with annual increments so that part of the portfolio matures each year. For example, investors can now focus on a five-step bond ladder spanning the 3-7 year maturities segment with funds with 1-year maturities from 2025 to 2029. The flat yield curve in this segment, which offers 7-7.5%, is very good - just in time. Such a ladder will ensure the visibility of returns for several years in a row. Alternatively, investors can build such a ranking by investing directly in government securities of their choice. Now you can do so by investing through the RBI Retail Direct platform. All debt funds have better returns Profits from high fixed deposit rates Use these strategies to reduce illiquidity, minimize taxes and make the most of high interest rates. The increase in repo rates in recent months has prompted banks to raise their interest rates on deposits to an attractive level, rising from just over 5% in January this year for longer terms to over 7% in December and reaching 8.3% for seniors. While this may be the best time to lock in spare cash to secure long-term FD capital and high returns, how do you deal with illiquidity, early withdrawal penalties and interest income tax? By investing wisely and creating a strategy, you can not only make more profit, buy, but also pay less taxes and avoid fines. Use a ladder strategy: "Instead of depositing a large lump sum, break it down into smaller deposits with different maturities with a specific goal or financial goal for each deposit," says Dinesh Rohira, CEO and founder of 5nance.com. This makes the investment more liquid, because if you chose a 5-year FD and need the money in three years, you will have to pay a penalty of 0.5-1% for a deposit violation. However, if you have four smaller deposits of 1, 2, 3 and 4 years tied to specific goals, you will have the money when you need it without paying a penalty. With this strategy, you can also benefit from higher interest rates, as a short-term FD can be locked at a higher interest rate upon maturity, instead of having a larger amount locked up for a longer period at a lower interest rate. Use Family to Reduce Taxes: If your parents or adult children are tax deductible due to low income, you can invest in FD on their behalf and not only earn a higher interest rate - retirees earn 25-75 basis points more interest, but also save on taxes. Take advantage of the deposit option: This option allows you to withdraw any amount above a certain threshold on a fixed deposit which not only gives you higher interest rates, but if you want to withdraw money in an emergency, you will not be charged a penalty. ... "You can use these accounts to hold shares because you have easy access to funds," says Rohira. Select Tax Savings FD: At the way to reduce your tax liability is to opt for the 5-year FD tax savings, which is equivalent to Rs 1.5 million exemption under Section 80C. Leverage Corporate FDs for Higher Interest: Some corporations and NBFIs offer deposits that not only have higher interest rates than bank FDs, but also offer better liquidity thanks to easier early withdrawal terms. On the other hand, there is a risk if you choose an unreliable company that does not offer tax benefits, such as the 5-year tax savings of FD banks. Monthly income: "If your parents need a stable income in retirement and don't want to invest in mutual funds, time deposits are a good option," says Rohira. Choose a non-cumulative term deposit, where interest is not reinvested but paid at regular intervals, whether monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. The interest rate may be slightly lower than that of a savings account, where compounding interest to maturity increases the interest rate, but retirees can be calm. Choose the FD that suits your needs. CUMULATIVE FD If you want to achieve high performance or have a specific financial goal. NON-CUMULATIVE If you want to receive a regular income. SWEEP-IN When you need easy access to a large volume in a short amount of time. MULTIPLE FDS B. after 2, 3, 5, 7 years. TAX SAVINGS FOR 5 YEARS If you have a large suitcase and don't need it for a long time. FLOATING RATE When interest rates rise. CORPORATE/NBFC If you want a higher interest rate and are willing to take a little risk. Take advantage of the sharp drop in the US markets, but don't expect a repeat of the strong US stock returns of recent years. In 2022, there was a sharp correction in the US markets. The fall in the shares of large US technology companies led to a sharp drop in the US Nasdaq 100 index by 33%. The pace and fury of the US Federal Reserve's rate hike, coupled with disappointing earnings, knocked the market's favorites off their feet. Experts [This correction should be seen as an opportunity to have a lasting impact on the US technology sector. "If you can tolerate uncertainty and volatility, this is the best time to be in technology," said Vikas Gupta, Chief Investment Strategist at OmniScience Capital. The good news is that several mutual funds investing in overseas markets have reopened to investors. Last year, Sebi imposed temporary restrictions on fund investments in foreign markets after they jointly violated industry-wide restrictions on foreign investments. While the regulatory cap remains in place, a rapid correction in external markets has created room for additional investment, allowing funds to absorb the inflow. US special fund investors in particular, who were unable to benefit from lower prices, can now place their bets. This is also the perfect time for investors to confront their internal biases and diversify into overseas stocks. Investing in US markets allows local investors to capitalize on innovation and other value-added themes unavailable in India. However, experts warn against rushing into the US market after the floodgates reopened. FundsIndia, a mutual fund research firm, said in a note: "While we think this is a good time to start building the Nasdaq 100, we would rather gradually increase our holding than go all-in at this point." go. , investors should also lower their profit expectations. This will help avoid disappointment and premature withdrawal. From 2008-2009 Crash from 2010 Until recently, the US markets were mostly bullish. Much of the fascinating performance of recent years has been due to extremely low interest rates and very high levels of liquidity, fueled by the US Federal Reserve's shameless money printing. But that easy money phase is over. As markets adjust to higher interest rates, future earnings are likely to decline. Therefore, investors shouldThis route is more a tool to diversify the trend in the domestic market than to seek higher returns. Prepare for a medical emergency In addition to having the right insurance, you should also take care of the logistics of a medical emergency. With reports of a resurgence of Covid in the country in 2022, as well as measles and dengue outbreaks, it is critical to prepare for unforeseen health events in the coming year. Double preparation requires both financial and physical preparation. In addition to having adequate insurance and sufficient funds, you should also plan the logistics of dealing with a medical emergency. "Not only Covid but many post-Covid scenarios such as Long Covid and its side effects were not captured. Growing health issues demand greater outreach," said Dinesh Rohira, CEO and Founder, 5nance.com. This means if you are under 30 and live in a metro, you may need to upgrade your insurance from Rs 5 to at least Rs 10 basic insurance. This amount should increase with age, which means people above 40 should have a coverage of Rs 15-20 lakh. This way you can properly insure yourself at the best possible price. Avail maximum employer coverage: Avail the maximum coverage offered by your employer even if you have to pay extra as it is still 20-30% cheaper than the market plan. If the plan includes your parents, you can book it for them and buy a separate plan for you and your family. "However, an employer plan may not be enough because high health care inflation means that ordinary medical costs are as high as surgical costs. So buy independent cover as well," says Sanjay Datta, head, underwriting, receivables and collateral, ICICI Lombard. Buy a basic plan and a paid plan: The best way to increase your coverage is to buy a small basic plan and a larger Super Charge plan, as the latter costs much less compared to a single plan.Basic plan (see table). So if you have a Rs 5 lakh plan, buy a Rs 20-25 lakh super add-on plan for Rs 5,000. Top-up plans are also available as Family Floating Cover so you can insure your family members for less. However, remember not to include your parents as their age increases the cost of the insurance premium. Instead, buy your parents a separate basic plan and super supplemental insurance. Have a buffer: Even if you have adequate insurance that covers hospitalization, there are several costs to consider. A reserve amount can also be useful if there are delays or problems with non-cash payments and you have to pay in advance when registering. In addition to insurance, you should also prepare for a medical emergency. Make sure you not only have mobile access to ambulance and medical services, but you can also speed dial your spouse's, children's or friends' numbers. If you need money urgently, you should also give your partner or friend your bank details. They also need to know where your insurance and medical records are kept. Ideally, you should save them digitally on your phone and share them with a relative or friend. How to arrange logistics... Prepare documents and transport in time in case of emergency. KEEP DATA ON YOUR PHONE: All you need for cashless hospitalization is your policy number. Always keep it on the main screen of your mobile phone. SHARE INFORMATION WITH A SPOUSE OR CLOSE FRIEND Tell your spouse, adult child or friend where your policy is located, online or offline, and provide the appropriate passwords. At least one person of trust must know the ATM/bank/credit card details if funds are to be withdrawn. BE PREPARED FOR TRANSPORTATION Determine with the family how, if necessary, the sick member will be transported to the hospital. All members must have the appropriate number handy in case of emergenciesSPEED DIAL. Save a speed dial phone number from the mobile phone numbers of the people you want to notify immediately of a medical emergency. Complementary Plans: High Protection, Low Cost Try to create alternative sources of income to prepare for job loss and to ensure that your income does not dry up during the coming recession next year, create more than one source of income. Given the potential for a slowdown during the pandemic and massive job losses, it would be prudent to take preventive measures to safeguard revenue streams. While it does help you upskill and specialize in such a way that you become practically indispensable to your employer, if the company is forced to downsize due to macro factors, there's not much you can do. Working on the moon is not an option given last year's big layoffs at tech companies like Wipro and Infosys, but there are other ways to secure future income. One is to practice skills that you can keep as a backup and use later. Second, find a freelance job or temporary job that doesn't violate your contract of employment; and third, create an asset or use an existing asset to provide income. Creating a backup source of income "There can only be one job in the formal sector at a time, but employees can have various alternative sources of income as an additional source of income," he says. No. Sharma, co-founder and president of TeamLease Edtech. A. Pursue your passion In addition to your main job, you can still develop your hobbies or skills. "Over the past two years, many people have followed their passions, be it design or cooking, and turned it into a business or kept it as a backup source of income," says Sharma. In practice, networking and building a solid reputation takes time, so if you haven't started working on it yet, do so now. b. Learn real life skills if you can.Gaining skills in different areas or gaining experience in a new area will support you if you get fired. "This isn't about taking online courses, it's about learning real-world skills to make them your income insurance. They may not pay you right away, but if you lose your job, you can count on them to find you a new one," says Devash Chakravarty, career coach, mentor and author for Yoursourthingat.com. For example, if you work in print media, you can take on design work for free and offer your services outside of your company. You can make contacts, build a network and access a new strand of knowledge. c.Use social media. You can also use social media to boost your skills, learn or even become an influencer as the latter are well paid to develop products or leave reviews. This, in turn, means preparation and time to get the required number of subscribers and start earning on the platform. Use gig platforms for your core competencies. If your business allows it and you can freelance, teach, or consult, you can take on multiple projects and create multiple sources of income without breaking the law. Some gig platforms offer freelancers and consultants temporary jobs without disrupting their core business. Some of these platforms are Workflexi.in, Jobs4her and smaller players like FlexiBees. Creation of assets or profit. If you have high-value skills and can temporarily offer your services to, say, a startup in exchange for an asset like stock or shares, you're creating an asset for yourself, says Chakravarty. You can also monetize an asset like real estate, or if you own a car you can rent it out to a rental company, creating an additional income stream. Be Tactful with Gold and Silver Fears of a global economic slowdown are likely to push gold prices higher in 2023. Hyperinflation, geopolitical tensions and fears of a Covid return have created an ideal situation for gold and silver in 2022. Precious metals were the second best performing asset over the year after real estate. Experts assume that both metals will develop well again this year. "Our average target is Rs 53,000. for 10 grams of gold and 64,500 rupees per kg of silver which we recently achieved. We are seeing some signs of exhaustion in both metals but this decline could be used as a buying opportunity by medium to long term investors targeting Rs 58,000 in gold and Rs 82,000 in silver," said Navneet Damani, Senior Vice President, Foreign Exchange & Commodities, Financial Services by Motilal Oswal. Fears of a global economic slowdown will also support gold prices in 2023. "Most forward-looking indicators are signaling a recession. US manufacturing and housing indices and consumer sentiment are showing signs of slowing. Unlike 2022, when markets cheered expectations of a slowdown and prompted the Fed to dive, in 2023 a slowdown will become a reality, hurting risky assets. As a result, risk aversion will be positive for gold," the Quantum Mutual Fund said in a report. Therefore, a tactical holding in gold that makes up more than 5-10% in a diversified portfolio makes sense. Short-term investors (1-2 years) can choose gold ETFs, which are very liquid and convenient. If your investment horizon is longer, government gold bonds are a better choice due to the tax advantages and additional interest. Stay away from fads if you value your money. There are other, easier ways to make money than investing in virtual assets. 2022 was a terrible year for crypto investors. Even blue chips like Bitcoin and Ethereum are down over 60%, while the prices of smaller coins have also fallen off the cliff. But they're still in better shape than Luna's investors, which fell to zero in May. RBI and Sebi have long since washed the hands of cryptocurrencies, giving investors little chance to recoup their losses. The biggest shock for India had a budget last year that introduced very strict cryptocurrency tax laws. Income from cryptocurrency trading is taxed at a flat rate of 30%, regardless of the investor's income level. What's worse, losses from one cryptocurrency cannot be compensated with other earnings or even use another cryptocurrency. They are also not transferable to subsequent years. Then there is 1% TDS on all sales. While this is adjusted for total liabilities and can be claimed back later, it does involve liquidity. In just 200-300 transactions, all capital will be tied up in TDS. In short, the government is saying what many financial advisers have been saying all along: stay away from fashion trends if you value your money. There are other, easier ways to make money than investing in virtual assets. Cryptocurrencies Crashed in 2022... but don't expect them to bounce back in 2023. (Originally published Jan 2, 2023) (your legal guide to estate planning, inheritance, inheritance and more.) Download the Economic Times News App, to get daily market updates and current business news. News.

