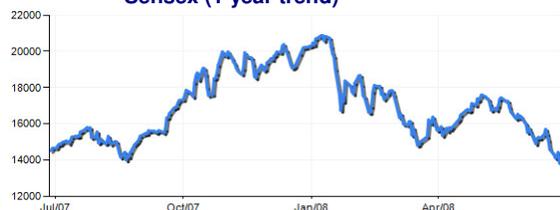




29 June 2008

BSE Sensex 13,802

Sensex (1 year trend)



| BSE Sensex Performance (%) | 1m    | 3m    | 12m  |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------|
| Absolute                   | -12.6 | -14.2 | -4.3 |

| Key Indicators | Sensex | BSE-100 |
|----------------|--------|---------|
| PE             | 18.2   | 18.7    |
| P/BV           | 4.1    | 4.3     |
| Div. Yield (%) | 1.1    | 1.1     |

**Energy and Precious Metal**

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Crude Oil Futures (USD/bbl)  | 122.3 |
| Gold 100 OZ FUTR (USD/t oz.) | 867.9 |

**Forex and Money Market**

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| India GSec Yield (10 Year %) | 8.2  |
| USD/INR                      | 42.4 |

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All prices are closing prices for June 27, 2008. Data is sourced from Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), Bloomberg and the subject company. This report should be considered only a single factor in making investment decisions.

**India Equity Market Update 2008****Higher oil prices to trigger fall in Indian rupee; equities to decline further****Equities: Negative Outlook**

In our February 2008 newsletter we revised BSE Sensex target to 14,000, since Sensex has met the target the new downside target is revised at 12,000.

**Higher energy prices and interest rates to impact profitability**

Persistently high oil prices may make some business models unviable, increasing losses in corporate sector. The reason for high inflation is increase in prices of non-discretionary goods (oil, fertilizers and agri-commodities). Though it seems that fall in equity valuations reflect high oil prices, the impact of monetary tightening (high interest rate) and high inflation is yet to be discounted by Indian markets.

**Global economy: Delicately poised**

Financial asset price readjustment due to past expansionary monetary policies may continue for some more time. Till that time, physical asset class (oil, fertilizers, gold, agri commodities) may continue to over perform; risk aversion from equities is expected to increase.

**Indian equities: Higher risk premium warranted**

Political uncertainty in India, absence of reforms, increase in global geo-political risks (Middle East Asia) indicate higher risk premium for Indian equities.

**Equity valuations: Going forward**

Market may remain subdued till parliament election next year. Sectors related to infrastructure and industrial growth may underperform, while companies having stable and predictable cash flows would outperform. Mid caps and small caps may see unexpected price levels on downside. Change in market sentiment to negative is assisting in keeping expectations low. Market recovery would be U shaped indicating longer consolidation period.

Market Outlook Underweight (UW)

Equity Strategy

## Market outlook: Negative

We initiated the discussion about being cautious on Indian equities in November 2007 (Sensex at 19000) and a downside target of 16000 was set; later the target was revised to 14000 (February 2008). Since the Sensex has achieved the target of 14000, its time for another review. Now, the downside target is revised to 12000. As expected, the adverse impact of high energy prices on Indian equity prices with lag effect and influence of sub-prime on Indian equities have been driving the markets.

## Higher energy prices and interest rates to impact profitability

Persistently high oil prices may make some business models unviable, increasing losses in corporate sector. For Indian economy, it is resulting in high current account deficit (similar to the levels of 1992), though the Forex reserve position is much better than 1992 still constantly high current account deficit often becomes reason for large outflow from capital account (Forex reserve). High fertilizer prices may further put pressure on current account balance. It may result in further depreciation in rupee and may adversely impact equity prices

The reason for high inflation is increase in prices of non-discretionary goods (oil, fertilizers and agri-commodities). It is uncertain that how hike in interest rates would manage such high inflation? Insufficient focus on supply side economics of non-discretionary goods may put further upward pressure on prices of these goods.

Though it seems that fall in equity valuations reflect high oil prices, the impact of monetary tightening (high interest rate) and high inflation is yet to be discounted by Indian markets. In addition to impacting equity discounting (P/E) these factors also impact corporate profits, resulting in further downward pressure in equity prices.

## Global economy: Delicately poised

Globally, financial assets (equity, bonds and currency) continue to be delicately poised. Financial asset price readjustment due to past expansionary monetary policies may continue for some more time. Till that time, physical asset class (oil, fertilizers, gold, agri commodities) may continue to over perform. Further write-downs and job cuts in US may initiate contagious effect impacting corporate profits and increasing risk aversion from equities.

## Indian equities: Higher risk premium warranted

For India, any potential liquidity constraint for any influential FII may trigger a temporary sell-off. Political uncertainty in India, absence of reforms, increase in global geo-political risks (Middle East Asia) indicate higher risk premium for Indian equities. Valuations of Indian equities continue to be high as per historical standards. Traditionally monsoon has been important for market sentiment. In case it is good, then the impact may be neutral; however in the case its below par the impact may be adverse.

Downside target is revised to 12,000

High energy prices to increase current account deficit and trigger fall in currency

Impact of monetary tightening is yet to be discounted in equity prices

Global risk aversion from equities to increase

Central banks' expansionary monetary policies to lead new bubble

## Equity valuations: Going forward

**Markets to remain subdued. Sectors related to industrial growth may underperform**

Market may remain subdued till parliament election next year. Banks, infrastructure, capital goods, and real estate sectors may underperform the broad market. Pharmaceuticals may outperform due to low valuation, stable cash flows, high dividend yield and defensive nature. It is not yet the time for bottom picking until adverse news-flow from international markets stops and there is stability in Indian rupee. Companies and sectors (hospital, hospitality, media and logistics) witnessing structural changes may become attractive with long term perspective. However lack of earning visibility for these sectors may drift valuations quite low and may present opportunity for bargain hunting with long term perspective. A larger proportion of mid-caps and small-caps may see unexpected price levels on downside. Liquidity constraints may prevail in these counters.

**Recovery to take time therefore U shaped**

A positive aspect of current fall is change in market sentiment to negative. Majority of market players are negative, a precursor for establishing long term bottom, though the condition of extreme pessimism is still far away. Further underlying fundamentals (global economic fundamentals, domestic external accounts and prospects of corporate profitability) are still witnessing change. It indicates that recovery would be U shaped (rather than V shaped) and would take time to establish bottom; therefore it is prudent to wait for the market to bottom out rather than buying in small lots in falling markets. Markets would technically indicate establishing such bottom. During bottom forming process, Indian equities would follow its historical trend more than following global trend.

Due to consensus about the market fall, the fall from 14000 to 12000 may be gradual. Also the prevalence of numerous intermediate term technical support levels around 12000 may further decrease the intensity of fall.

## **APPENDIX I**

### **Disclosure Section**

#### **Research Certification**

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#### **Equity rating key for long-term investment opportunities**

##### **Stock ratings**

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##### **Rating definitions**

Overweight (OW) – The stock's total return is expected to exceed the total return of the MSCI India Total Return Index, on a risk adjusted basis over the next 12-24 months

Neutral (N) – The stock's total return is expected to be in line with the total return of the MSCI India Total Return Index, on a risk adjusted basis over the next 12-24 months

Underweight (UW) – The stock's total return is expected to be below the total return of the MSCI India Total Return Index, on a risk adjusted basis over the next 12-24 months

Not-Rated (NR) – Currently we do not have adequate conviction about the stock's total return relative to the MSCI India Total Return Index, on a risk adjusted basis over the next 12-24 months

Unless otherwise specified, the time frame for price targets included in NextGen India Investments Research is 12 to 24 months.

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