

## From the Editor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Ivan Frederick Boesky, notable for his prominent role in a Wall Street insider trading scandal that occurred in the United States in the mid-1980's summed it all up in the most succinct manner when he famously said "I think greed is healthy. You can be greedy still feel good about yourself".

And that, is the crux of the matter – sheer, naked, greed. Stock Exchanges and Market Regulators, however efficient face the same problem around the world. For however noble may the intentions be, man always finds a way around, fueled by his inherent greed and his desire to first bend and then break the rules for his own vested interests.

Naturally, the scamsters are always one step ahead, pulling the wool, before new sets of rules are introduced seeking to plug their free run.

Take the case of Boesky himself, who, ensured that insider trading laws, which were there much before him were actually enforced.

What happened to him?  
Nothing!

Boesky cooperated with the SEC and informed on several of his insiders, including junk bond trader Michael Milken. As a result of a plea bargain Boesky received a prison sentence of 3.5 years and was fined US\$ 100 million. Peanuts when seen in the context of the millions with which he had layered his empire of greed.

And this is another vital point- maxim if you may, that must be written in bold. Nothing happens to the pirates. For what is paid as fine, legal expenses and the expenditure to extricate one from the mess is chicken coop compared to the wealth that is created by the sleight of hands. The greedy, the swashbuckling and the petty cheats are therefore always eager to take the plunge for they know, that even if they are caught ,after a few years of hardship, at the worst, they will go scot free – that too, with the booty. Don't believe me? Ask Chain Roop Bhansali. Or for that matter Mr. K 10 himself?

Viewed from the other extreme, the ones that are cheated too, are there, sucked into it by their greed and greed alone." The pensioner with his life's savings, the young executive or the widow, have no valid reason to be here in the first place" said an insider, seeking to defend his ilk." In India we have a term for it: *Matsannaya*, which roughly translated means, it is a dog eat dog world. So why blame us when a fool parts with his money? Why don't you write about those that make money in the market?" And has a point – for those, who are the high rollers of high finance, the dividing line between good and bad, between right and wrong, between truth and falsehood is so thin, that it is almost non existing. The "system" itself is such that it makes one sanitized to pain, and the suffering

caused by actions taken in impulse, or the greater effect that has on others does not even blip on the radars of the conscience of those rolling the die. The adrenalin pumping highs are so intoxicating that it successfully rubs out the inconvenient truths.

That is perhaps why, the market lingo is full of characters named after animals- bulls, bear. Stags, goats ...animals that stalk, maul and generally act themselves. Animals who constantly remained of the adage that “its a jungle out there”.

It is this jungle that we pay our tribute to in this issue. We have tried to string together a series of articles from prominent writers who have penned down their thoughts seeking not only to entertain and enthrall, but also educate. Anatomy of Scam has sought to dissect the entire process and explain the system from all relevant angles. The list of SEBI approved investor association addresses too is aimed at this.

But why single out the stock market? For scams are everywhere and that is why we have included a special feature on Art Scams, written by one of the most promising, young art dealers.

All the other regular features are there- features that we include, refurbish or recreate based on your feed back.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy reading this as much as we did in creating the same.

Do write back if you want more on the subject.

Till then Cheers!

Suvobrata Ganguly