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Dr. Ajmera's column as on Aug. 19, 2017

## Corrections in structural bull run makes markets healthier; advice buying on dips..

The market fell sharply on Friday, especially after recovery since the start of week following sharp correction. It was majorly dragged by Infosys, which is one of index heavyweights, after Vishal Sikka resigned as company's CEO and MD. Last week, the market lost 3.5 percent (due to geopolitical tensions, SEBI's announcement of 'shell companies' list and disappointing numbers towards end of Q1 earnings season) followed by sharp recovery in current week.

Street participants have lowered their earnings estimates for current financial year 2017-18 but are still hopeful for recovery in second half of FY18 and strong growth in FY19. The growth will be driven by likely government's high spending ahead of 2019 general elections, rural growth post good monsoon, reforms etc.

### **Global Markets**

US stocks lost ground late to end lower on Friday following a White House-focused week that raised more questions about the Trump administration's ability to implement its progrowth agenda. While the day's losses were small, Friday marked the first time stocks

haven't risen the day after a more than 1 percent drop since Donald Trump was elected

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president on November 8.

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The week's losses further dented the post-election rally, which was built on Trump's promises of tax cuts and higher infrastructure spending. Thursday's 1.5-percent drop in the S&P 500 came a week after a similar fall, and while the benchmark index still is up 13.4 percent since the election, it is down 2.1 percent in the last two weeks. That's the most since the two weeks before the election.

# **Ajcon's view**

We expect the market to remain rangebound in near term, at least till the middle of September and can fall another 1,000 points on the Sensex. Such corrections in current structural bull run is always healthy for market and expect the market to gain strength around Diwali and to start its northward journey again as fundamentals of the economy remained strong and earnings recovery will be fast in FY19.

We advise buying on every correction as fundamentals of the economy are strong and earnings recovery will start from second half of FY18 and will be strong in next financial year. Despite correction in overall market, 51 stocks hit fresh 52-week highs and of which, 20 touched record highs. Stocks that hit fresh 52-week highs are PC Jeweller, Kansai Nerolac, Bata India, Gravita India, Centrum Capital, Emkay Global, GVK Power and Blue Star.

We expect a recovery in corporate earnings to be the key headwind in the medium to long term. Although the markets have scaled new heights in the past two years, growth in earnings per share (EPS) has been flattish and expect earnings to improve in H2FY18. We recommend investors to be stock specific and consider companies with good earnings visibility at a decent valuation.

Dr. Ashok Ajmera, FCA



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