Prof picks Indian stocks for returns

He has earned dividends of $2,500 from investing $50K; sees 20%-30% returns a year

Leong Chan Teik

FROM his 30th-floor penthouse in the Serangoon Road area, Associate Professor Sundaram Janakiramanan has a bird’s eye view of the city.

During the recent National Day celebrations, he enjoyed the sights and sounds of the fireworks from his balcony. “I could also see the crowd and the stage at the National Stadium with a pair of binoculars,” he recalls at an interview at the Singapore Management University (SMU) where he teaches.

Prof Jana, 57, and wife Bhooma bought the 90-year leasehold property in the Kerrisdale development two years ago for nearly $950,000.

Before that, the expat couple from India lived in a rented apartment in Pandan Ubin, in the Holland Road area.

They have two daughters – a 17-year-old student and a 25-year-old who is a doctor in Australia.

The family came to Singapore in 1998 after living in Australia for four years and the United States for 14 years, where Prof Jana had obtained his doctorate in finance.

Prof Jana, who is a Singapore permanent resident and an American citizen, teaches equity analysis, among other courses, at SMU. His book, Derivative Securities and Risk Management, was published last month. Ms Bhooma teaches a 17-year-old student and a 25-year-old who is a doctor in Australia.

The family came to Singapore in 1998 after living in Australia for four years and the United States for 14 years, where Prof Jana had obtained his doctorate in finance.

When I was in India three months back, my brother said I should invest in the Indian stock market because it’s booming. I invested $60,000 through unit trusts, and the value has increased. I have also collected $2,500 in dividends.

What are your other unit trusts?

A I have put some money in Reits for regular income. I bought all of them at their IPOs.

Q You teach students how to analyse stocks. Does that make you a good stock picker for your own portfolio?

A I leave most of my investments to fund managers. Investing on my own would take up a lot of time. At the university, I teach, help students with their queries and do research. At the end of the day, there is not much time left.

But sometimes, I do invest. For example, I bought StarHub shares at its initial public offer (IPO) in 2004. Within three months, the price went up about 45 per cent.

Q Have you other unit trusts?

A I have sold all of them.

Q Do you have other unit trusts?

A I have put some money in Reits for regular income. I bought all of them at their IPOs.

Q What do you have other unit trusts?

A When I was in the US, I invested in them. I also have some insurance policies there. To pay for the premiums, I sell part of my unit trusts. But within a short period, the fund rises further. I’m keeping my investments in case my younger daughter wants to further her studies there. Then I’ll have US dollars to pay for it.

Q Any unit trusts that you have bought in Singapore?

A When I came here, I had money obligations – my daughter was studying in Australia and another one was in United World College, which is expensive. I was also saving up to buy a house here. I don’t believe in buying one where I’m not living. Yes, prices may rise but the headaches you get from renting it out!

Q Have you had a bad experience?

A We had a house in the US which we rented out after we left for Australia. After about six months, the agent called:

Q Moneywise, what were your growing-up years like?

A I have a lot of experience with a lack of money! I was 20 years old and travelling home for holidays from school by train. I had no money. A friend had enough money for three of us to eat just one meal during the 48-hour trip.

Q What is your view of money?

A Don’t go chasing after money and neglect other important things like family. Family is important. That’s why my wife did not work for many years in order to take care of our children.

Q What is your view of money?

A Don’t go chasing after money and neglect other important things like family. Family is important. That’s why my wife did not work for many years in order to take care of our children.

Q What is your view of money?

A Don’t go chasing after money and neglect other important things like family. Family is important. That’s why my wife did not work for many years in order to take care of our children.

Q What is your view of money?

A Don’t go chasing after money and neglect other important things like family. Family is important. That’s why my wife did not work for many years in order to take care of our children.

Q What is your view of money?

A Don’t go chasing after money and neglect other important things like family. Family is important. That’s why my wife did not work for many years in order to take care of our children.

Q What is your view of money?

A Don’t go chasing after money and neglect other important things like family. Family is important. That’s why my wife did not work for many years in order to take care of our children.

Q What is your view of money?

A Don’t go chasing after money and neglect other important things like family. Family is important. That’s why my wife did not work for many years in order to take care of our children.

Q What is your view of money?

A Don’t go chasing after money and neglect other important things like family. Family is important. That’s why my wife did not work for many years in order to take care of our children.