

Investment Matters

Verand

MAY 2017



EQUITY OUTLOOK

FY17 turned out to be a strong financial year for equity markets – both global and local. Nifty delivered an 18.5% return while the broader index BSE 500 continued to outperform Nifty and delivered a return of 24%. Interestingly, none of the global markets had a negative year in FY17, with most delivering returns in a band of 12%-30% with India ranking as 5th best performing market among the top 20 markets globally. FY18 continues to be on the same path, with April up by another 1.4% for the Nifty and 2.7% for the BSE 500.

Nifty valuations currently stand at 15X FY19E, with profit growth estimated at 16%+ CAGR over the next 2 years (Source – Kotak Securities). FY18 will see the implementation of GST, which is likely to impact earnings for consumer facing businesses adversely for the short term on account of inventory adjustment and pricing. This, in turn, implies that there is a high probability of earnings downgrades in EPS estimates for FY18 – However EPS CAGR for 2-3 years will still remain strong due to the low base created this year. Valuations for the Nifty, on an aggregate basis, look reasonable - hovering somewhere around long period averages, however, CNX Mid Cap Index on the other hand continues to move higher – outperforming the large cap index by a wide margin - this strong performance for the mid cap index has taken its valuations gap to close to all time highs of 1160 bps, with trailing 12 month absolute valuation at 35X. The market is basically implying a very high 30%+ CAGR profit growth for the mid cap index constituents over the next 3 years. In our opinion, earnings growth for many mid cap companies are likely to improve but sustainability of this high growth over the next 3 years, it makes sense to be cautious and selective while investing in the markets – one needs to bet on the right management teams with sound business strategy to grow profitably with free cash positive.



Our investment philosophy of "Growth at reasonable price" has stood the test of time – we complete 15 years on May 8, 2017 of successfully managing clients capital with a 26%+ CAGR performance. We would like to thank all our investors for showing patience and faith in our capabilities to manage part of their wealth and would look forward to continue to deliver better performance for many such 15 year periods in future.

Chandraprakash Padiyar

Portfolio Manager Alchemy Capital Management Pvt. Ltd



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