

One of the significant sports events that happened in the world in recent times was The Asiad games. In the noise of the stock market we miss out on various things happening around us and the message they communicate. The message from the games was India went on to win 15 Gold, 24 Silver and 30 Bronze medals. It actually turned out to be the best performance ever by India in Asiad games. Sports is nothing but an unbiased competition amongst players, players come various different countries and try to demonstrate the strength of that particular country.

Silver is nothing but a close second and missing the gold by a nanosecond, in current context, technically India went on demonstrate its strength in almost (15 Gold + 24 Silver) 39 different competition. Winners happen in sports on two grounds – one, the demography and second, the overall improvement in the standard of living and so people take up sports once their basic requirements are met. India clearly stands out on the first point of demography as it can boast of average age of population at 25 years and young India is poised for medal outperformance in future given its young age v/s peer counties in the region. Second remarkable part of medal winners was that most of them were coming in from Tier II and Tier III cities of India. This also indicates that the robustness of India's growth story is getting percolated to smaller towns as well.

Both these factors are important for the long run secular growth story of India namely demography and benefits of growth getting percolated even to the interiors of the country. Stock prices are slaves of earnings and earnings are slaves of demand and demand is slave of young population. Hence end of the day, the results of Asiad games have indicated a secular bull story for the Indian stock markets.

The person at the helm started out on a mission to clean India, hence various initiations were started. We all know that change is the only constant however we also know that change is extremely difficult to digest. The new changes brought about were of financial inclusion to include people at bottom of pyramid in the financial system by the JAN-DHAN account. The second was of Demonetization to take corruption head on, the third was of implementation of GST to enforce the business community to be a part of the tax net, the fourth was of IBC(Indian Banking Code) to re-energize the banking system and take steps to curb the termite of NPAs. Such massive change in short period of time makes it difficult to adjust to the new environment. However latest data indicate that the adjustment to the new environment is on and is improving with every passing day. The 8%+ GDP growth is a case in point, the massive increase in the number of people filling their income-tax return also indicates the success factor of GST and demonetization.

All these are factors that indicate that the bull run will be sustainable but there could be cyclical blips in between due to state elections in the near term, rising interest rates both domestically as well as in the international market, weakening rupee too is a cause of concern. However we will use the time to invest in our themes of auto ancillary stocks, infrastructure companies as well as consumption picks. We would look at investing in quality compounders to have a balanced exposure to our multi-cap strategy.

Bimal Choksi Portfolio Manager Scheme- Money Multiplier A C Choksi Share Brokers Pvt. Ltd.





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