Newsletter April-16

Equity Outlook

For the year ended March 31, the Sensex is down by 9% YoY. The expectations from the markets are low. Let's try and read the markets over a long period of time. Indian economy opened up in 1991, almost 25 years ago and it opened the doors to private sector and foreign companies. In this long journey lot of ills also mushroomed from the size of a peanut to that of a goliath. There was a significant relationship between corporate India and that in power. Various ways were mended to the benefit of business tycoons and their vested interest.

If we read between the lines in the pink papers – we will enumerate that the mission of "Clean Up India" or "Swachha Bharat Abhiyan" is being implemented in spirit as well. Over the last two years, Awarding of Coal Mines, Telecom Licenses, NHAI arbitration for roads, Defence contracts, Power sector mess, delays in environmental clearances etc have come in the clean up mode. NPAs of Bank need to be separately mentioned as business house are now serious towards retiring debt by putting their assets on block — Jindal, Essar, Tata, GVK, GMR, Videocon, Sahara, Mallya, Lanco Infra, JP Associates. A big bath will be taken by many corporate and banks when they announce their 4Q numbers. Corporate would want to keep it under wraps instead of washing the dirty linen in public.

Instead of setting up a new pipeline and chart the unchartered territory for growth, the focus is to cleanse the existing economy and hence the pain in terms of expectation v/s reality. On the positive side softening crude has helped India's Balance-sheet but two consecutive poor monsoons have kept rural India unhappy. The clean up in the basics of manufacturing namely – Power, Roads, Telecom, Coal, Banks, Infrastructure will eventually revive the corporate earnings. World is sitting on huge fund flow and limited growth options v/s India is providing growth opportunities but limited capital. Just as water flows from higher to lower levels – capital flows from stagnancy to growth opportunity. Time is the only medicine.

We will be in for a joyful ride in equities, provided we invest. A seed sown in summer grows, when the rain arrive. India is changing, its changing fast, the change is going unnoticed, visible to the visionary, let's stay put and enjoy the fruits later.

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