

AKASH PRAKASH'S companies have struck gold in many stocks, such as Cholamandalam and Edelweiss

This Ace Investor had Predicted Nifty Peak

Amit.Mudgill@timesinternet.in

ETMarkets.com: Just after the Union Budget this February, Singapore-based portfolio manager Akash Prakash prophesied that India's benchmark equity indices could hit new highs during the year and stick around there for some time.

In the same breath, he also forecast chaos around GST implementation and said the market would tread water and stay in a 10% range in the first six months.

He does appear to have got it right; the market has hit record high levels and the indices seem to be sticking around there, even though investors are increasingly growing uneasy about valuations.

The ace investor said calendar 2017 would be a year of stock pickers. And he did exactly that. Some of the stocks his fund management company is holding have risen up to 86% so far in 2017.

"Investors should remain invested and just fill it, forget it and look at it after five years. They will have very strong returns," Prakash, CEO and co-founder of Amansa Capital, had told ET Now in an interview in February.

His firms Amansa Capital/Amansa Investment/Amansa Holdings have already struck gold in many of his stock picks such as Cholamandalam Investment, Edelweiss Financial Services, Bharat Financial and Ashok Leyland – whose stock prices more than doubled over the past two years. Amansa firms invest mainly in midcap firms that have minimal or no sell side research coverage.

TOP PICKS

While March quarter shareholding data of listed companies has just begun to pour in, data showed the firm has stakes in MindTree, Fortis Healthcare, Sadbhav Infra and Crompton Greaves.

These, coupled with over two dozen

others if one were to go by December quarter shareholding data, Amansa Capital has some ₹8,100 crore investment in domestic equities, Capitaline data showed.

In value terms, Federal Bank (₹ 650 cr) is Amansa's biggest investment. The data is based on December quarter shareholding at Friday's price. SRF (₹610.67 cr), Bharat Financial (₹427 cr), Cholamandalem Inv (₹400 cr), Tata Communications (₹393 cr), Sun TV (₹53 cr) and Fortis Healthcare (₹349 cr) are some of Amansa Capital's biggest bets in India in value terms.

In percentage terms, Eveready (6.6%), SRF (6.5%), Gateway Distriparks (6.44%), ENIL (5.94%), Mahindra Life (5.7%), Zensar tech (5.36%) and CEAT (5.19%) were among the seven companies where Amansa held over 5% stake as of December 31.

RECENT PORTFOLIO REJIG

Fortis Healthcare is one counter



where Amansa was seen buying shares in March at an average price of ₹175-178 through bulk deals on BSE. Mahindra life is another counter where it was seen selling shares in bulk at an average price of ₹350. It also sold Cholamandalam Investment in February at an average price of ₹970.21 apiece and in Thermax in January at ₹810.

Then there are stocks where Amansa Holdings has been holding stakes since as early as 2009. One of

the fund management company's recent picks was Bharat Forge.

It is possible that Amansa was holding this stock before, but its stake crossed 1% in September quarter 2016, and thus it formed part of shareholding data. The stake rose to 1.12% in December quarter.

CEAT is another stock, where Amansa has invested at least since September quarter. The company maintained its stake in the tyre firm through the December quarter.

Among others, Orchid Pharma, Zensar Technologies, Trent and PI Industries made it to Amansa portfolio with over 1% holdings in June quarter of FY17.

While Amansa hiked its stake in Trent and Zensar Technologies in December quarter, the shareholding in the Ramco Cement has remained constant at 1.13% since March quarter of 2016.

MindTree and SRF are among the stocks where Amansa has raised its holding over the past few quarters.