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Trump-insulated India an investment destination to watch in 2017 as reforms continue

India's investment markets are well-placed to benefit from momentous economic reforms during 2017, including the effects of demonetisation and introduction of a GST, according to an Indian investment specialist.

Demonetisation is an important long-term reform which India's markets are still adjusting to, says Mugunthan Siva, Managing Director of specialist India-focussed investment house, India Avenue Investment Management. "There are currently some teething problems as the economy adjusts to demonetisation but overall it has been well-received.

"It has caused investors some short-term pain. But we expect a long-term gain as demonetisation will be good for investment.

"Demonetisation and the introduction of the GST later this year are most profound changes to India's economy. These changes will introduce greater transparency to the economy and broaden the tax base.

"They are important reforms for attracting foreign investors."

Mr Siva said India's immediate future for investors also looks brighter than its emerging market peers given its relative insulation from US President Trump's trade policies.

Unlike China and many other Asian nations, India's economy is driven by domestic consumption rather than exports – India's household consumption accounts for 60% of GDP, compared with China's 37%.

India's unique economic mix makes it less vulnerable to Trump's protectionism and more appealing to investors, "Enormous domestic growth sets India apart as an investment destination. It's not as reliant on other markets and trading partners as China, Japan, and many other Asian economies.

"India also offers good diversification for Australian investors because its economic make-up is radically different from Australia – for example, when commodities prices are down Australia suffers but India benefits."

President Trump has said in the past that India-US ties will have a "phenomenal future".



Independent ratings agency, SQM Research, recently gave - the India Avenue Equity Fund managed by Mr Siva, a four out of five-star rating, which sits in its Superior category – denoting funds "suitable for inclusion on most approved product lists".

About India Avenue Investment Management:

India Avenue is an Australian investment house dedicated to investing in Indian listed companies and is domiciled in Sydney, with a research affiliate based in Mumbai.

Retail and wholesale investors access our specialised approach via the India Avenue Equity Fund, an open-ended, unlisted fund which aims to outperform the MSCI India index. The Fund has been given a "Superior" rating by independent research house SQM Research.

We also provide advisory services and research to institutional investors seeking to build India-focussed exposure in their portfolios, which can be customised in the areas of portfolio construction, operational efficiencies and more.

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