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India Strategy Cyclicals Approaching Ultra Cheap Territory

Cyclical valuations hit a trough: The outperformance of defensives over cyclicals since the start of 2008 has taken the relative valuations of cyclicals to multi-year lows (Exhibit 1). There is little to distinguish between domestic and global cyclicals, albeit the former have recently become even more attractive (Exhibit 2). The relative valuations of cyclicals are still not at the low points of previous bear markets, although that has more to do with the absolute valuations of defensives, which are not back to their previous peaks (Exhibit 3). On an absolute basis, cyclicals are much closer to the lows then they are on a relative basis.

History suggests a period is coming when cyclicals start outpacing defensives: (See Exhibit 4.) If the past ten years' history is anything to go by, the relative valuations of domestic cyclicals vs. defensives indicate 59% relative outperformance for domestic cyclicals over the coming 12 months (Exhibit 5). Of course, the challenge for investors is that idiosyncratic risks drive bottom-up stock views, whereas the top down looks exigent. Meanwhile, stock prices increasingly suggest that both these hazards are in play. Ultimately, outsized returns are made when prices (read valuations) suggest that downside risks are factored in – the inflection point occurs when the outlook changes, but that is very difficult to pinpoint, whereas prices are easy to see.

Correlations are still not low enough for us to widen sector plays... Stock correlations with the market guide us on the size of our sector positions.

...which means there is still juice in stock picking: The cyclicals in our Focus List include ACC (ACC.BO, OW, Rs1341.70); IRB (IRBI.BO, OW, Rs119), Maruti (MRTI.BO, OW, Rs1163.50); Oberoi Reality (OEBO.BO, OW, Rs234.65, Tata Motors (TAMO.BO, EW, Rs232); and Tata Steel (TISC.BO, OW, Rs400.40). Our "quantamental" work points out potential bottom-up choices (See *The Quintessential Quest for "Quantamental" Alpha*, July 16, 2012).

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Exhibit 1

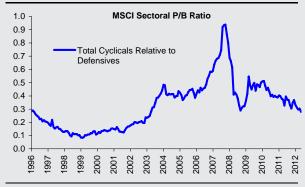
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Relative Cyclical Valuations at Multi-Year Lows



Source: FactSet, MSCI, Morgan Stanley Research

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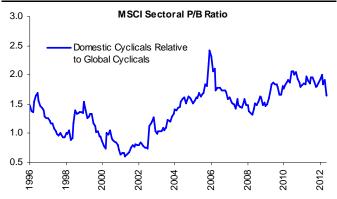
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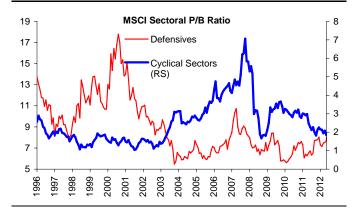
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Exhibit 2 Domestic vs. Global Cyclicals: Global Cyclicals are Cheaper



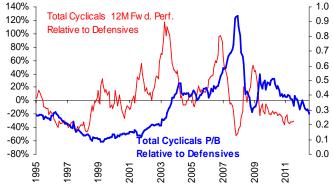
Source: FactSet, MSCI, Morgan Stanley Research

Exhibit 3 Absolute Valuations of Cyclicals Approaching All-Time Lows



Source: FactSet, MSCI, Morgan Stanley Research

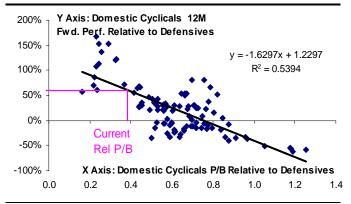
Exhibit 4 **Time for Cyclicals to Outperform?** 140%



Source: FactSet, MSCI, Morgan Stanley Research

Exhibit 5

Relative Valuations Suggest Outperformance for Domestic Cyclicals over Defensives over the next 12 Months



Source: FactSet, MSCI, Morgan Stanley Research

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-	% of			% of % of Rating	
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