

# Monthly Communication

September 2024

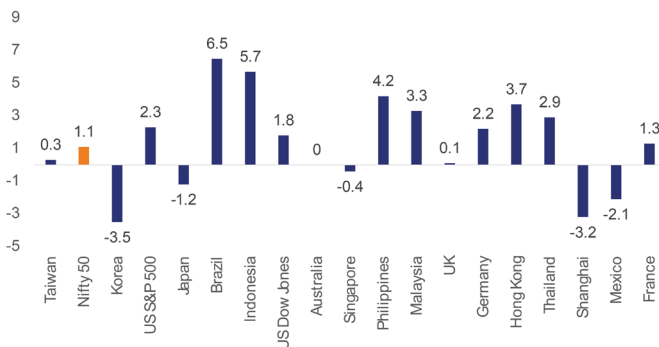


## Market Update

The month began with a sharp decline in Indian markets, in line with the trends in the global markets. Strength in Japanese yen led to a sell-off in Japan and weaker-than-expected US employment figures as well as geo-political tensions in the Middle East were the major reasons for the weak sentiments. However, Indian markets recovered quite well with the Nifty Index ending the month up 1.1%. The sectoral indices had a mixed finish. PSU (-4%), real estate (-4%) and capital goods (-3%) were the main losers, while healthcare (+7%), consumer durables (+4%), and IT (+4%) were the biggest winners. Brazil, Indonesia, and the Philippines saw gains of 6.5%, 6%, and 4% worldwide, while South Korea, Shanghai, and Mexico fell 3.5%, 3%, and 2% respectively.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) bought US\$320 million of Indian equities in the secondary market, whereas Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) continued to be huge buyers at US\$5.8 billion for the month.

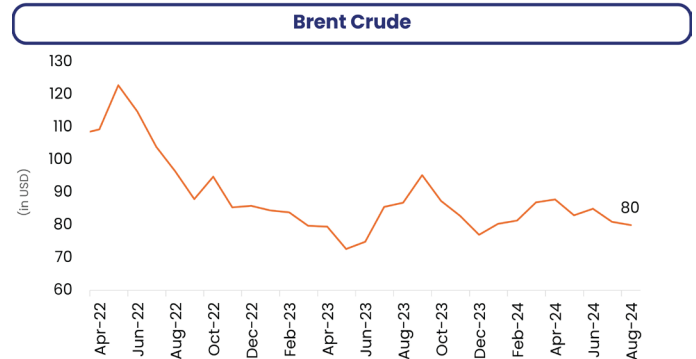
### Global and regional indices 1 Month performance (%)



Source: Bloomberg, Kotak Institutional Equities (Data as on 31st August 2024 in local currency)

## Macro Update

On the economy front, CPI inflation in July fell to 3.5% from 5.1% in June, supported by a favorable base despite a continued increase in vegetable prices. WPI inflation in July fell to 2% from 3.4% in June. IIP growth in June was 4.2% compared to 6.2% in May. Real GDP growth in 1QFY25 eased to 6.7% compared to 7.8% in 4QFY24. India had a trade deficit with 75 countries, which accounted for 44.2 per cent of its exports and 83.5 per cent of its imports, resulting in a \$185.4 billion deficit, much larger than India's overall trade deficit. The gross GST collection, which is the number before adjusting refunds, stood at Rs 1.75 trillion in August, with growth tapering slightly to 10 per cent Y-o-Y from 10.3 per cent in the previous month. Gross GST revenue stood at Rs 1.82 trillion in July 2024. India 10-year G-sec yield ended the month at 6.86%. The INR for the month was stable and closed at ~83.9. Brent crude price fell to USD 80.00 per barrel in the month of August'24.



Source: Bloomberg

## Earnings

The Q1FY25 earnings review for Nifty 50 companies showed growth, driven by strong performances in banking, IT, Metals and consumer sectors, while cyclical sectors faced challenges. Banks benefitted from robust credit growth and improved asset quality, with rising interest rates boosting net interest margins. The IT sector saw stable demand, though margin pressures from wage hikes were evident. FMCG companies managed to grow despite inflationary pressures, supported by price hikes and recovering rural demand. Energy companies experienced mixed results, while government infrastructure spending provided some relief. Pharmaceuticals posted steady growth with strong exports, and the auto sector saw mixed results, with passenger vehicles performing better than two-wheelers. Cement companies faced margin pressures due to high input costs, but the real estate sector remained strong, especially in residential demand. Overall, the earnings were robust, though inflation and global uncertainties remain key concerns.

## Market Outlook

The markets have shown amazing resilience over the last couple of months, primarily driven by domestic flows and investor interest. Earnings season ended mixed, with some downgrades in the overall earnings trajectory. However, India's monsoon remains largely favourable, boosting the agricultural outlook, which is a positive sign for rural demand as we move into the second half of the fiscal year.

- Global Factors Continue to Dominate**

As highlighted in prior updates, Indian equities remain more susceptible to global risks than domestic ones. August saw continued volatility stemming from global macro factors. Inflation fears are receding in the US and the 10-year yields have also come off to 3.75%. This has raised the expectations of a rate cut and should be a key monitorable in September. We also saw renewed concern over the Chinese economy, with slow growth and concerns around property sector defaults, contributing to a broader risk-off sentiment in global markets. This has also led to pressure in commodity prices.

- **Broader Markets Remain Strong but Valuations Stretching**

On the domestic front, mid-caps and small caps continue to see strong momentum, with many sectors seeing elevated valuations. This ongoing rally reflects the strong interest in broader markets. However, investors must exercise caution as valuations in certain pockets have risen beyond historical averages, reinforcing the need for a disciplined, fundamental-driven approach to investing. While there are still select opportunities, valuations are critical to avoid overexposure to hyped sectors.

- **Positioning for the Months Ahead**

Our long-term optimism on Indian equities remains intact, particularly given the country's resilient economic fundamentals and the supportive domestic consumption story. However, we remain mindful of the global headwinds that could trigger short-term corrections. Any substantial market dips caused by global factors may present favourable buying opportunities. We continue to advocate for a selective, bottom-up approach to investing, with an emphasis on reasonable return expectations and valuation discipline. In the current environment, avoiding speculative or momentum-driven plays will help mitigate risks. In conclusion, while the broader trend for Indian markets is positive, staying patient and focused on long-term value remains key as we navigate the global macro uncertainties.

# Abakkus Emerging Opportunities Approach

PMS Strategy

**Abakkus**  
Believe in the Basics

September 2024

## Portfolio Update

It was a good month for the portfolio as some of our holding has a strong catch-up rally. The month of August saw gains with returns of 4.6% as compared to benchmark 1%, despite not chasing momentum. Since inception the portfolio is up 290% absolute. During the month we exited one of our holding in the automobile retailing space as the company continue to underperform our expectations. We made fresh investments in one of the fashion retailing company where we believe company is taking the right steps to improve on its margins by cutting down on non core brands. This strategy will lead to earnings growing much faster than revenues. We also made investment in a large south India based automobile and engineering group which is also entering into new growth sectors like real estate and financials. Focus on risk-adjusted returns over maximum returns will be the mantra for us over the near term.

### Portfolio Performance as on August 31, 2024 (in INR)

Period	1 Month (%)	3 Months (%)	6 Months (%)	1 Year (%)	2 Years (%)	3 Years (%)	Since Inception CAGR (%)	Since Inception Absolute (%)	FY25 YTD (%)	FY24 (%)	CY24 YTD (%)	CY23 (%)
<b>Abakkus Emerging Opportunities Approach</b>	4.6	19.3	25.7	37.8	41.1	25.1	40.3	290.0	28.9	51.2	25.0	52.4
<b>BSE 500 TRI</b>	1.0	12.9	18.8	41.1	25.3	18.9	27.0	159.4	17.7	40.2	23.0	26.5

\*\*Unaudited Performance data for Portfolio Manager and Investment Approach provided hereunder is not verified by any regulatory authority and past performance may or may not sustain in the future. The performance is based on TWRR as on August 31, 2024. Inception Date is August 26, 2020. As per SEBI guidelines, returns are net of all expenses and investor returns May differ, based on their period of investment, fee structure and point of capital flows.

### Top 5 Sector Classification as on August 31, 2024

Sector	Asset %
NBFC	15.8
BANKS	12.8
COMMODITIES	10.1
INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING	9.5
INDUSTRIALS	9.3

Securities/sectors quoted are for illustration only and not recommendatory. The sectors are classified as per internal classification.

### Top 10 Holdings on the basis of Asset %\*

ANUP ENGINEERING LIMITED	FEDERAL BANK LIMITED
SARDA ENERGY AND MINERALS LIMITED	GRANULES INDIA LIMITED
ION EXCHANGE INDIA LIMITED	TIME TECHNOPLAST LIMITED
PNB HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED	LT FOODS LIMITED
JINDAL STAINLESS LIMITED	H G INFRA ENGINEERING LIMITED

Data as on August 31, 2024. \*The current portfolio holdings may or may not be a part of the future portfolio holdings and may or may not be part of all client portfolios.

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Abakkus is also the Investment Manager to Abakkus Growth Fund, a SEBI registered Category III AIF vide SEBI Reg. No.: IN/AIF3/18-19/0550 dated June 05, 2018, India-Ahead Venture Trust, a SEBI registered Category I AIF vide SEBI Reg. No.: IN/AIF1/21-22/0976 dated January 25, 2022, India-Ahead Private Equity Trust, a SEBI registered Category II AIF vide SEBI Reg. No.: IN/AIF2/21-22/0980 dated January 27, 2022, Abakkus India Equity Trust, a SEBI registered Category III AIF vide SEBI Reg. No.: IN/AIF3/23-24/1326 dated August 9, 2023 under SEBI (Alternative Investment Fund) Regulations, 2012 as amended from time to time and the Circulars and Guidelines issued there under from time to time collectively referred as the SEBI Registered Intermediary.

The branch office of Abakkus situated at IFSC-GIFT City is registered with the IFSCA as Registered FME (Non-retail) (IFSCA/FME/II/2022-23/041) under IFSCA (Fund Management) Regulations, 2022.

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#### **Alternative Investment Fund**

As per SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/IMD/DF6/CIR/P/2020/24 dated February 05, 2020, details of industry benchmark and AIF level performance versus Benchmark Reports are available at <https://www.nseindia.com/products-services/aif-benchmark-report> & <https://www.crisil.com/en/home/what-we-do/financial-products/alternate-investment-funds-benchmarks.html>

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Email – [complianceteam@abakkusinvest.com](mailto:complianceteam@abakkusinvest.com)

#### **Portfolio Management Services:**

You may refer the Disclosure Document available at <https://abakkusinvest.com/regulatory-disclosure/> for detailed disclosures.

As per SEBI circular SEBI/HO/IMD/IMD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2022/172 dated December 16, 2022, the comparison of the relative performance of the investment approach with other portfolio managers is available at <https://www.apmiindia.org/apmi/IACompare.htm?action=iacomaprepape>

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#### **Investment Advisory Services:**

You may refer the Disclosure Document available at <https://abakkusinvest.com/regulatory-disclosure/>

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