# Ellerston India Fund

#### Monthly Report as at 30 November 2024

APIR Code: ECL0339AU | ARSN 618 549 796





Portfolio of 20–50 Indian Companies built through a distinctive high growth, high conviction, and benchmark independent investment approach.



Targets companies which offer attractive risk/reward profiles, utilizing 'bottom up' analysis, along with a 'top down' analysis of macroeconomic conditions and structural themes.



Aims to outperform the Benchmark with a focus on capital growth and downside protection.

## **Strategy Performance Summary**

| Period                        | 1 Month | 6 Months | 1 Year | 3 Years (p.a.) | 5 Years (p.a.) | Since<br>Inception^^<br>(p.a.) |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------|--------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Gross Return Before Tax+      | 0.5%    | 14.4%    | 39.3%  | 14.4%          | 14.5%          | 13.0%                          |
| Benchmark**                   | 0.1%    | 7.0%     | 26.1%  | 12.9%          | 14.4%          | 12.4%                          |
| Strategy Relative Performance | 0.4%    | 7.4%     | 13.2%  | 1.5%           | 0.1%           | 0.6%                           |

<sup>+</sup> Strategy performance before taking into accountfees, costs and applicable capital gains taxes.

#### **Investor Performance Summary**

| Period                        | 1 Month | 6 Months | 1 Year | 3 Years (p.a.) | 5 Years (p.a.) | Since<br>Inception^^<br>(p.a.) |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------|--------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Net Return After Tax^         | 0.8%    | 10.6%    | 31.0%  | 11.5%          | 11.4%          | 10.6%                          |
| Benchmark**                   | 0.1%    | 7.0%     | 26.1%  | 12.9%          | 14.4%          | 12.4%                          |
| Investor Relative Performance | 0.7%    | 3.6%     | 4.9%   | -1.4%          | -3.0%          | -1.8%                          |

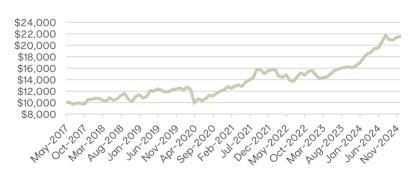
<sup>^</sup>Fund return is calculated after taking into account management fees and expenses as well as capital gains taxes on unrealised gains/losses. This return is based on the NAV calculation and reflects thereturn received by investors in the Fund.

## **Key Information**

| Investment<br>Objective            | To outperform the Benchmark on a net of fees and tax basis, with a focus on capital growth and downside protection. |  |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Benchmark                          | MSCI India Net Return<br>Index (AUD)  |  |  |
| Liquidity                          | Daily   |  |  |
| Target Number of Holdings          | 20-50   |  |  |
| Number of Holdings<br>at Month End | 45  |  |  |
| Minimum<br>Investment              | Initial investment -<br>\$10,000<br>Additional investment -<br>\$5,000  |  |  |
| Distribution<br>Frequency          | Half-Yearly<br>(where available)  |  |  |
| Management Fee                     | 1.10% p.a.  |  |  |
| Performance Fee <sup>1</sup>       | 15.00%  |  |  |
| Buy/Sell Spread                    | 0.25% / 0.25%   |  |  |
| Unit Prices                        | Application - \$1.1904 Net Asset Value - \$1.1874 Redemption - \$1.1844  ye the benchmark after recovering          |  |  |

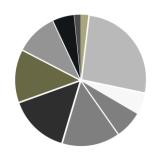
<sup>1</sup>Of the investment return above the benchmark, after recovering any underperformance in past periods.

## Growth of \$10,000 Investment



Fund Performance shown is after fees, expenses, and taxes assuming all distributions are reinvested. Past performance is not a reliable indication of future performance. Source: Ellerston Capital.

## **Sector Allocation**



- Communication Services 1.9%
- Consumer Discretionary 26.4%
- Consumer Staples 5.1%
- Financials 6.8%
- Health Care 14.4%
- Industrials 14.9%
- Information Technology 13.1%
- Materials 10.4%
- Real Estate 5.4%
- Cash 1.6%

Source: Ellerston Capital

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<sup>\*\*</sup> Benchmark is MSCI India Net Return Index (AUD) and does not take into account capital gains taxes.

<sup>^^</sup> Inception date is 4 May 2017

 $<sup>{\</sup>color{blue}**} \textit{Benchmark is MSCI India Net Return Index (AUD) and does not take into account capital gains taxes.}$ 

<sup>^^</sup> Inception date is 4 May 2017

## **Top Holdings**

| Company                                  | Sector                 | Portfolio Weight |
|--|------------------------|------------------|
| Syrma SGS Technology Limited             | Information Technology | 4.8%             |
| Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd                | Industrials            | 3.5%             |
| Brigade Enterprises Limited              | Real Estate            | 3.3%             |
| NCC Limited                              | Consumer Discretionary | 3.0%             |
| Cello World Limited                      | Consumer Discretionary | 2.9%             |
| Sona BLW Precision Forgings Ltd.         | Consumer Discretionary | 2.9%             |
| CreditAccess Grameen Ltd.                | Financials             | 2.7%             |
| Kalpataru Projects International Limited | Industrials            | 2.5%             |
| Sonata Software Limited                  | Information Technology | 2.4%             |
| Orchid Pharma Limited                    | Health Care            | 2.4%             |

Source: Ellerston Capital

#### **COMMENTARY**

Ellerston India Fund (EIF) was up 0.83% (net) in November versus the MSCI India Index (MXIN) which was up 0.13%. While the market was flat in November, it was down almost 4% in the early half as one of weakest results season came to an end, post that the market started recovering towards the end of month. Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) selling continued in the first half, also prompted by stronger Dollar but subsided towards the end of month, further helping market recovery from oversold levels. FIIs sold to the tune of USD\$5.2bn in the secondary market and Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) remained net buyers to the tune of USD\$5.3bn.

In November 2024, U.S. equity markets experienced a robust rally, with the S&P 500 surging 5.87%, the Nasdaq up 6.29%, and the Russell 2000 leading gains with a remarkable 10.97% rise. This strong performance was primarily driven by the outcomes of US elections and underpinned by solid economic indicators. We have seen escalation in tariff discussions, and these could potentially benefit India on a relative basis. On 7 November, the Federal Reserve implemented a 25-basis-point rate cut, lowering the target range to 4.50%–4.75% to sustain economic growth.

The Q2FY25 quarterly results have been one of the weakest in the recent quarters. Revenue and earnings growth for Nifty 50 companies for the current quarter stood at 4% and 6% year-on-year, while for 1HFY25 it stands at 3% and 6% year-on-year. Across a broader broker coverage universe, revenue and earnings growth for the current quarter stood at 4% and -1% year-on-year, with 1HFY25 standing at 5% and 0% year-on-year. This was led by 1) subdued consumer demand, 2) slower credit growth and credit stress in pockets, 3) weaker exports (IT services and manufacturing) and 4) slower capex (due to election and seasonal factors).

For November, India's high frequency indicators have been mixed, suggesting no further deterioration, but no signs of improvement on the horizon yet. Pickup in volumes sold across automobile categories, with 2-wheelers registration up 27% and passenger vehicles up 35% month-on-month. Further, tractor volumes were also up 44% month-on-month, but capex is down 55% and GST collections dropped 3% month-on-month (though up 8.5% year-on-year). India's forex reserves also came down to USD\$658bn, from USD\$685bn a month ago. Manufacturing PMI slowed in November, dropping to a 11-month low of 56.5, down from 57.5 in October. The output and new orders sub-indexes fell to their lowest and second lowest this year, respectively. Credit growth (non-food) weakened to 11.1% year-on-year in November, its lowest since June 2022, down from 11.5% in October. All this culminated in India's 2QFY25 GDP coming in lower at 5.4%, below expectations of 6.5%.

#### Portfolio Performance

Turning to portfolio performance, our positions in Healthcare and Real Estate were key contributors to alpha. Conversely, our positions in Industrials and Financials were the main detractors.

At the company level, **Syrma SGS**, **Orchid Pharma and not owning Reliance** were the largest contributors to relative performance. On the other hand, **Akums Pharmaceuticals**, **Inox Wind and Kalpataru Projects** were the main detractors.

**Syrma SGS** is one of the largest PCBA (Printed Circuit Board Assembly) manufacturers in India. It is a key Electronics manufacturing services (EMS) player and is well placed to benefit from India's push for exports, job creation and increased local manufacturing. The company reported strong earnings beat with 45% year-on-year growth in EBITDA and EBITDA margin of 8.5% vs expectation of 6-6.5%.

Orchid Pharma is an API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient) manufacturer. The company is on a strong growth path as it makes limited competition molecules used across Cephalosporins and is looking at further Valued-added offerings in those (ACA-7). Orchid benefits from Government's PLI (Product Linked Incentive) schemes for Import substitution and China+1 policy in the CDMO and chemical manufacturing sectors.

Reliance's 2QFY25 EBITDA was down 5% year-on-year and marginally below consensus estimates. Reliance JIO had weaker than expected subscriber additions and margins. Further, Reliance Retail revenue growth continued to stay weak down1% year-on-year, mainly driven by weaker demand in Fashion & Lifestyle and restructuring of operations.

**Akums Pharmaceuticals** reported a soft quarter and has downgraded its full year guidance. Though its long-term potential as India's largest domestic formulation CDMO is high. We have exited the position and would wait for weakness in business to settle down before a relook.

**Inox Wind and Kalpataru Projects** saw a sharper correction in the recent market weakness, they have both reported strong quarterly results and have been strong performers in previous months. We continue to hold them as core holdings in our portfolio.

As always, if you have any questions regarding any aspect of the Fund or the portfolio, please feel free to contact us at <a href="mailto:info@ellerstoncapital.com">info@ellerstoncapital.com</a>.

## Regulatory Guide (RG240) Fund Disclosure Benchmark - Periodic Reporting (monthly)

• Net Asset Value of the Fund and Redemption Price of Units

Please refer to details on page one.

Any changes to key service providers including any change in related party status

There have been no changes to key service providers, including any change in related party status.

• Net returns after fees, costs and relevant taxes

Please refer to details on page one.

• Any material changes to the Fund's risk profile and strategy

There have been no changes to the Fund's risk profile and strategy.

· Any material changes related to the primary investment personnel responsible for managing the Fund

There have been no changes to the primary investment personnel responsible for managing the Fund.

Find out more:

Contact Us

Sydney

Level 11, 179 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 +612 9021 7701 info@ellerstoncapital.com Should investors have any questions or queries regarding the Fund, please contact our Investor Relations team on 02 9021 7701 or info@ellerstoncapital.com or visit us at ellerstoncapital.com.

All holding enquiries should be directed to our registry, Automic Group

on 1300 101 595 or ellerstonfunds@automicgroup.com.au.

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