

RISK FACTORS

Scheme Specific Risk Factors

Risks associated with investing in equities.

- Equity and equity related securities are volatile and prone to price fluctuations on a daily basis. The liquidity of investments made in the Scheme may be restricted by trading volumes and settlement periods. Settlement periods may be extended significantly by unforeseen circumstances. The inability of the Scheme to make intended securities purchases, due to settlement problems, could cause the Scheme to miss certain investment opportunities. Similarly, the inability to sell securities held in the Scheme's portfolios would result at times, in potential losses to the Scheme, should there be a subsequent decline in the value of securities held in the Scheme's portfolio.
- Investments in equity and equity related securities involve a degree of risks and investors should not invest in the Scheme unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their investment.
- The liquidity and valuation of the Scheme's investments due to its holdings of unlisted securities may be affected if they have to be sold prior to the target date of disinvestment.
- Securities which are not quoted on the stock exchanges are inherently illiquid in nature and carry a larger liquidity risk in comparison with securities that are listed on the exchanges or offer other exit options to the investors, including put options.

Risks associated with investing in debt securities

- Investments in money market instruments would involve a moderate credit risk i.e. risk of an issuer's liability to meet the principal payments. Additionally, money market securities, while fairly liquid, lack a well-developed secondary market, which may restrict the selling ability of the Scheme and may lead to the Scheme incurring losses till the security is finally sold.
- Money market instruments are also subject to price volatility due to factors such as changes in interest rates (when interest rates in the market rise, the value of a portfolio of money market instruments can be expected to decline), general levels of market liquidity, market perception of credit worthiness of the issuer of such instruments and risks associated with settlement of transactions and reinvestment of intermediate cash flows. The NAV of the Scheme's Units, to the extent that the Scheme is invested in money market instruments, will consequently, be affected by the aforesaid factors. The AMC endeavours to manage such risk by the use of in-house credit analysis.
- The performance of Scheme may be affected by changes in Government policies, general levels of interest rates and risks associated with trading volumes, liquidity and settlement systems.
- Investments in different types of securities are subject to different levels and kinds of risk. Accordingly, the Scheme's risk may increase or decrease depending upon its investment pattern. E.g. investments in corporate bonds carry a higher level of risk than investments in Government securities. Further, even among corporate bonds, bonds which have a higher rating are comparatively less risky than bonds which have a lower rating.

- Interest rate/price risk: As with all debt securities, changes in interest rates may affect the NAV of the Scheme since the price of a fixed income instrument falls when the interest rates move up and vice versa. The effect is more prominent when the duration of the instrument is higher. Hence the NAV movement of the Scheme consisting of predominantly fixed income securities is likely to have inverse correlation with the movement in interest rates. In case of a floating rate instrument, this risk is lower as a result of periodic reset of the coupon. During the life of floating rate security or a swap the underlying benchmark index may become less active and may not capture the actual movement in the interest rates or at times the benchmark may cease to exist. These types of events may result in loss of value in the portfolio.
- The change in value of a security, for a given change in yield, is higher for a security with higher duration and vice versa. Hence portfolios with higher duration will have higher volatility which leads to duration risk.
- Government securities do carry price risk depending upon the general level of interest rates prevailing from time to time. The extent of fall or rise in the prices is a function of the coupon rate, days to maturity and the increase or decrease in the level of interest rates. The price of the Government securities (existing and new) is influenced only by movements in interest rates in financial systems.
- Spread risk: Though the sovereign yield curve might remain constant, investments in corporate bonds are exposed to the risk of spread widening between corporate bonds and gilts. Typically, if this spread widens, the prices of the corporate bonds tend to fall and so could the NAV of the Schemes. Similar risk prevails for the investments in the floating rate bonds, where the benchmark might remain unchanged, but the spread over the benchmark might vary. In such an event, if the spread widens, the price and the NAV of the Schemes could fall.
- Credit risk or default risk: Credit risk or default risk refers to the risk that an issuer of a fixed income security may default (i.e. will be unable to make timely principal and interest payments on the security). A sovereign security carries no default risk since Government raises money to meet its capital and revenue expenditure by issuing these debt or discounted securities. As the payment of interest and principal amount has a sovereign status implying no default, such securities are popularly known as “riskfree security” or “Zero Risk security”. Thus Zero-Risk is the lowest risk, even lower than a security with “AAA” rating and hence commands a yield, which is lower than a yield on “AAA” security. Normally, the value of a fixed income security will fluctuate depending upon the changes in the perceived level of credit risk as well as any actual event of default. The greater the credit risk, the greater the yield required for someone to be compensated for the increased risk. Because of this risk, corporate debentures are sold at a yield above those offered on Government Securities, which are sovereign obligations.
- Liquidity risk: This represents the possibility that the realised price from selling the security might be lesser than the valuation price as a result of illiquid market. If a large outflow from the Scheme is funded by selling some of the illiquid securities, the NAV could fall even if there is no change in interest rates. Illiquid securities are typically quoted at a higher yield than the liquid securities and have higher bid offer spreads. Investment in illiquid securities results in higher current yield for the portfolio. Liquidity risk is a characteristic of the Indian fixed income market today. In addition, money market securities, while fairly liquid, lack a well-developed secondary market, which may restrict the selling ability of the Scheme and may lead to the Scheme incurring losses till the security is finally sold.
- The corporate debt market is relatively illiquid vis-a-vis the government securities market. Even though the government securities market is more liquid compared to that of other debt instruments, on occasions, there could be difficulties in transacting in the market due to extreme volatility or unusual constriction in market volumes or on occasions when an unusually large transaction has to be put through.
- Reinvestment risk: This is associated with the fact that the intermediate cash flows (coupons, prepayment of principal in case of securitised transactions or principal payment in case a security gets called or repurchased) may not be reinvested at the same yield as assumed in the original calculations.
- Settlement risk: Different segments of Indian financial markets have different settlement periods and such periods may be extended significantly by unforeseen circumstances. Delays or other problems in settlement of transactions could result in temporary periods when the assets of the Scheme are uninvested and no return is earned thereon. The inability of the Scheme to make intended securities purchases, due to settlement problems, could cause the Scheme, to miss certain investment opportunities. Similarly, the inability to sell securities held in the Scheme’s portfolio, due to the absence of a well-developed and liquid secondary market for debt securities, may result at times in potential losses to the Scheme in the event of a subsequent decline in the value of securities held in the portfolio of the Scheme.
- Market risk: Lower rated or unrated securities are more likely to react to developments affecting the market and the credit risk than the highly rated securities which react primarily to movements in the general level of interest rates. Lower rated or unrated securities also tend to be more sensitive to economic conditions than higher rated securities.
- In addition to the factors that affect the values of securities, the NAV of Units of the Scheme will fluctuate with the movement in the broader fixed income market, money market and derivatives market and may be influenced by factors influencing such markets in general including but not limited to economic conditions, changes in interest rates, price and volume volatility in the bond and stock markets, changes in taxation, currency exchange rates, foreign investments, political, economic or other developments and closure of the stock exchanges.

- Investments in different types of securities are subject to different levels and kinds of risk. Accordingly, the Scheme's risk may increase or decrease depending upon its investment pattern.
E.g. investments in corporate bonds carry a higher level of risk than investments in Government securities. Further, even among corporate bonds, bonds which have a higher rating are comparatively less risky than bonds which have a lower rating.
- Engaging in scrip lending is subject to risks related to fluctuations in the collateral value/settlement/liquidity/counter party.
- Engaging in short sale of securities is subject to risks related to fluctuations in market price, and settlement/liquidity risks.

Risks associated with investing in derivatives.

- The Scheme may invest in derivative products in accordance with and to the extent permitted under the Regulations and by SEBI. Derivative products are specialized instruments that require investment techniques and risk analysis different from those associated with stocks and bonds. The use of a derivative requires an understanding not only of the underlying instrument but of the derivative itself. Trading in derivatives carries a high degree of risk although they are traded at a relatively small amount of margin which provides the possibility of great profit or loss in comparison with the principal investment amount. Thus, derivatives are highly leveraged instruments. Even a small price movement in the underlying security could have an impact on their value and consequently, on the NAV of the Units of the Scheme.
- The derivatives market in India is nascent and does not have the volumes that may be seen in other developed markets, which may result in volatility to the values.
- Investment in derivatives also requires the maintenance of adequate controls to monitor the transactions entered into, the ability to assess the risk that a derivative adds to the portfolio and the ability to forecast price or interest rate movements correctly. Even a small price movement in the underlying security could have an impact on their value and consequently, on the NAV of the Units of the Scheme.
- The Scheme may face execution risk, whereby the rates seen on the screen may not be the rate at which the ultimate execution of the derivative transaction takes place.
- The Scheme may find it difficult or impossible to execute derivative transactions in certain circumstances. For example, when there are insufficient bids or suspension of trading due to price limit or circuit breakers, the Scheme may face a liquidity issue.
- The options buyer's risk is limited to the premium paid, while the risk of an options writer is unlimited. However the gains of an options writer are limited to the premiums earned. Since in case of the Scheme all option positions will have underlying assets, all losses due to price – movement beyond the strike price will actually be an opportunity loss.
- The exchange may impose restrictions on exercise of options and may also restrict the exercise of options at certain times in specified circumstances and this could impact the value of the portfolio.
- Investments in index futures face the same risk as the investments in a portfolio of shares representing an index. The extent of loss is the same as in the underlying stocks.
- The Scheme bears a risk that it may not be able to correctly forecast future market trends or the value of assets, indices or other financial or economic factors in establishing derivative positions for the Scheme.
- The risk of loss in trading futures contracts can be substantial, because of the low margin deposits required, the extremely high degree of leverage involved in futures pricing and the potential high volatility of the futures markets.
- There is the possibility that a loss may be sustained by the portfolio as a result of the failure of another party (usually referred to as the "counterparty") to comply with the terms of the derivatives contract.
- Other risks in using derivatives include the risk of mispricing or improper valuation of derivatives and the inability of derivatives to correlate perfectly with underlying assets, rates and indices.
- Derivative products are leveraged instruments and can provide disproportionate gains as well as disproportionate losses to the investor.
- Execution of investment strategies depends upon the ability of the fund manager(s) to identify such opportunities which may not be available at all times. Identification and execution of the strategies to be pursued by the fund manager(s) involve uncertainty and decision of fund manager(s) may not always be profitable. No assurance can be given that the fund manager(s) will be able to identify or execute such strategies.
- The risks associated with the use of derivatives are different from or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities and other traditional investments.

Risks associated with short selling and securities / scrip lending

The Mutual Fund may lend and borrow securities in accordance with the framework relating to short selling and securities lending and borrowing specified by the SEBI. The risk associated with upward movement in market price of security sold short may result in loss. The losses on short position may be unlimited as there is no upper limit on the rise in price of a security. Subject to the Regulations and the applicable guidelines, the Scheme and the Plans there under may, subject to compliance with SEBI Regulations, engage in securities lending.

Securities lending means the lending of stock to another person or entity for a fixed period of time, at a negotiated compensation. The securities lent will be returned by the borrower on expiry of the stipulated period. It may be noted that the securities lending activity would have the inherent probability of collateral value drastically falling in times of strong downward market trends or due to it being comprised of tainted/forged securities, resulting in inadequate value of collateral until such time as that diminution in value is replenished by additional security. It is also possible that the borrowing party and/or the approved intermediary may suddenly suffer severe business setback and become unable to honour its commitments. This along with a simultaneous fall in value of collateral would render potential loss to the Scheme. Besides, there can also be temporary illiquidity of the securities that are lent out and the Scheme may not be able to sell such lent out securities. The risks in lending portfolio securities, as with other extensions of credit, consist of the failure of another party, in this case the approved intermediary, to comply with the terms of agreement entered into between the lender of securities i.e. the Scheme and the approved intermediary. Such failure to comply can result in the possible loss of rights in the collateral put up by the borrower of the securities, the inability of the approved intermediary to return the securities deposited by the lender and the possible loss of any corporate benefits accruing to the lender from the securities deposited with the approved intermediary. The Mutual Fund may not be able to sell such lent securities and this can lead to temporary illiquidity.

Risk associated with Securities Lending and Borrowing (SLB)

Securities Lending is a lending of securities through an approved intermediary to a borrower under an agreement for a specified period with the condition that the borrower will return equivalent securities of the same type or class at the end of the specified period along with the corporate benefits accruing on the securities borrowed. The risks in lending portfolio securities, as with other extensions of credit, consist of the failure of another party, in this case the approved intermediary, to comply with the terms of agreement entered between the lender of securities i.e., the Scheme and the approved intermediary due to various factors including but not limited to bankruptcy. Such failure to comply can result in the possible loss of rights in the collateral put up by the borrower of the securities, the inability of the approved intermediary to return the securities deposited by the lender and the possible loss of any corporate benefits accruing to the lender from the securities deposited with the approved intermediary. The Mutual Fund may not be able to sell such lent securities, and this can lead to temporary illiquidity.

However, counterparty risk is mitigated if SLB is done through exchanges as it offers an anonymous trading platform and Clearing Counterparty which gives the players the advantage of settlement guarantee without the concerns of counterparty default. However, the Fund may not be able to sell such lent securities during contract period or will have to recall the securities which may be at higher cost than at which the security is lent.

Risk associated with investment in Tri-Party Repo

The mutual fund is a member of securities segment and Triparty Repo trade settlement of the Clearing Corporation of India (CCIL). All transactions of the mutual fund in government securities and in Tri- party Repo trades are settled centrally through the infrastructure and settlement systems provided by CCIL; thus, reducing the settlement and counterparty risks considerably for transactions in the said segments. The members are required to contribute an amount as communicated by CCIL from time to time to the default fund maintained by CCIL as a part of the default waterfall (a loss mitigating measure of CCIL in case of default by any member in settling transactions routed through CCIL).

As per the waterfall mechanism, after the defaulter's margins and the defaulter's contribution to the default fund have been appropriated, CCIL's contribution is used to meet the losses. Post utilization of CCIL's contribution if there is a residual loss, it is appropriated from the default fund contributions of the non-defaulting members. Thus, the scheme is subject to risk of the initial margin and default fund contribution being invoked in the event of failure of any settlement obligations. In addition, the fund contribution is allowed to be used to meet the residual loss in case of default by the other clearing member (the defaulting member).

CCIL shall maintain two separate Default Funds in respect of its Securities Segment, one with a view to meet losses arising out of any default by its members from outright and repo trades and the other for meeting losses arising out of any default by its members from Triparty Repo trades. The mutual fund is exposed to the extent of its contribution to the default fund of CCIL, in the event that the contribution of the mutual fund is called upon to absorb settlement / default losses of another member by CCIL, as a result the scheme may lose an amount equivalent to its contribution to the default fund.

Trading through mutual fund trading platforms of BSE and/or NSE

In respect of transaction in Units of the Scheme through BSE and / or NSE, allotment and redemption of Units on any Business Day will depend upon the order processing/settlement by BSE and/or NSE and their respective clearing corporations on which the Mutual Fund has no control.

Other Scheme Specific Risk factors:

- **Performance Risk:** The Scheme's performance can decrease or increase, depending on a variety of factors, which may affect the values and income generated by the Scheme's portfolio of securities. The returns of the Scheme's investments are based on the current yields of the securities, which may be affected generally by factors affecting capital markets such as price and volume, volatility in the stock markets, interest rates, currency exchange rates, foreign investment, changes in government and Reserve Bank of India policy, taxation, political, economic or other developments and closure of the stock exchanges. Investors should understand that the investment pattern indicated for the Scheme, in line with prevailing market conditions, is only a hypothetical example as all investments involve risk and there can be no assurance that the Scheme's investment objective will be attained nor will the Scheme be in a position to maintain the model percentage of investment pattern/composition particularly under exceptional circumstances so that the interest of the unit holders are protected. The AMC will endeavour to invest in highly researched growth companies, however the growth associated with equities may be generally high as also the erosion in the value of the investments/portfolio in the case of the capital markets passing through a bearish phase is a distinct possibility. A change in the prevailing rates of interest is likely to affect the value of the Scheme's investments and thus the value of the Scheme's Units. The value of money market instruments held by the Scheme generally will vary inversely with the changes in prevailing interest rates.
- **Changes in Government Regulations:** The businesses in which companies operate are exposed to a range of government regulations, related to tax benefits, liberalization, provision of infrastructure and the like. Changes in such regulations may affect the prospects of companies.
- **Tax exemption risks:** In the event that the investible funds of more than 65% of the total proceeds of the Scheme are not invested in equity shares of domestic companies, the tax provisions as applicable for equity schemes may not be available to the Scheme. This is however subject to change as per Income Tax laws of India.
- **Index Fund Risk:** Performance of the Nifty Next 50 Index will have a direct bearing on the performance of the Plan. In the event the Nifty Next 50, is dissolved or is withdrawn or is not published due to any reason whatsoever, the Board of Directors of Trustee Company reserves the right to modify the Plan so as to track a different and suitable index or to suspend tracking the Nifty Next 50 till such time it is dissolved / withdrawn or not published and appropriate intimation will be sent to the Unit holders of the Plan. In such a case, the investment pattern will be modified suitably to match the composition of the securities that are included in the new index to be tracked and the Plan will be subject to tracking errors during the intervening period.

Tracking errors are inherent in any index fund and such errors may cause the Plan to generate returns which are not in line with the performance of the Nifty Next 50 or one or more securities covered by / included in the Nifty Next 50 and may arise from a variety of factors including but not limited to:

- Any delay in the purchase or sale of shares due to illiquidity in the market, settlement and realisation of sales proceeds, delay in credit of securities or in receipt and consequent reinvestment of dividends, etc.
- The Index reflects the prices of securities at a point in time, which is the price at close of business day on BSE/National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE). The Plan, however, may trade these securities at different points in time during the trading session and therefore the prices at which the Plan trade may not be identical to the closing price of each scrip on that day on the BSE/NSE. In addition, the Scheme may opt to trade the same securities on different exchanges due to price or liquidity factors, which may also result in traded prices being at variance, from BSE/NSE closing prices.
- Nifty Next 50 from time to time may exclude existing securities or include new ones. In such an event, the Plan will endeavor to reallocate its portfolio to mirror the changes. However, the reallocation process may not occur instantaneously and permit precise mirroring of the Underlying Index during this period.
- The potential of trades to fail may result in the Plan not having acquired the security at the price necessary to mirror the index.
- Transaction and other expenses, such as but not limited to brokerage, custody, Board of Directors of Trustee Company and investment management fees.
- Being an open-ended scheme, the Plan may hold appropriate levels of cash or cash equivalents to meet ongoing redemptions.
- The Plan may not be able to acquire or sell the desired number of securities due to conditions prevailing in the securities market, such as, but not restricted to: circuit filters in the securities, liquidity and volatility in security prices.

Due to the reasons mentioned above and other reasons that may arise. However, the tracking error i.e. the annualized standard deviation of the difference in daily returns between the underlying index or goods and the NAV of the Scheme based on past one year rolling data shall not exceed 2%. In case of unavoidable circumstances in the nature of force majeure, which are beyond the control of the AMCs, the tracking error may exceed 2% and the same shall be brought to the notice of Board of Directors of Trustee Company with corrective actions taken by the AMC, if any. However, the Fund will endeavor to limit the tracking error within 2% limits.

In case of investments in derivatives like index futures, the risk reward would be the same as investments in portfolio of shares representing an index. However, there may be a cost attached to buying an index future. Further, there could be an element of settlement risk, which could be different from the risk in settling physical shares and there is a risk attached to the liquidity and the depth of the index futures market as it is relatively new market.

- **Tracking Error/Tracking Difference Risk:** The Fund Manager would not be able to invest the entire corpus exactly in the same proportion as in the underlying index due to certain factors such as the fees and expenses of the respective scheme, corporate actions, cash balance, changes to the underlying index and regulatory policies which may affect AMC's ability to achieve close correlation with the underlying index of the scheme. The scheme's returns may therefore deviate from those of its underlying index. "Tracking Error" is defined as the standard deviation of the difference between daily returns of the underlying index and the NAV of the respective scheme. Tracking difference is defined as the annualized difference of daily returns between the index and the NAV of the Scheme. Tracking Error/Tracking Difference may arise including but not limited to the following reasons:
 - i. Expenditure incurred by the fund.
 - ii. The holding of a cash position and accrued income prior to distribution of income and payment of accrued expenses. The fund may not be invested at all time as it may keep a portion of the funds in cash to meet redemptions or for corporate actions.
 - iii. Securities trading may halt temporarily due to circuit filters.
 - iv. Corporate actions such as debenture or warrant conversion, rights, merger, change in constituents etc.
 - v. Rounding off of quantity of shares in underlying index.
 - vi. Dividend payout
 - vii. Disinvestments to meet redemptions, recurring expenses, dividend payouts etc.
 - viii. Execution of large buys/sell orders
 - ix. Transaction cost (including taxes and insurance premium) and recurring expenses
 - x. Realization of Unitholders funds
 - xi. Index providers may either exclude or include new scrips in their periodic review of the scrips that comprise the underlying index. In such an event, the Fund will try to reallocate its portfolio but the available investment/reinvestment opportunity may not permit absolute mirroring immediately.

Risk factor associated with legal, tax and regulatory risk

The Schemes could be exposed to changes in legal, tax and regulatory regime which may adversely affect it and / or the investors. Such changes could also have retrospective effect and could lead to additional taxation imposed on the Schemes which was not contemplated either when investments were made, valued or disposed off.

Risks associated with Segregated Portfolio

Liquidity risk – Segregated Portfolio is created to separate debt and money market instruments affected by a Credit Event from the Main Portfolio of the Scheme to ensure fair treatment to existing, entering and exiting investors of the scheme. The Fund will not permit redemption of the Segregated Portfolio units, but the units will be listed on a recognized stock exchange. The Fund is not assuring any liquidity of such units on the stock exchange which may subject investors to impact cost. Further, trading price of units on the stock exchange may be significantly lower than the prevailing NAV. Investors can continue to transact (subscribe/redeem) from the Main Portfolio.

Credit risk –While the AMC will put in sincere efforts to recover the securities in the Segregated Portfolio and distribute the same to unit holders, since such securities are affected by credit event, it is likely that such securities may not realize any value leading to losses to investors.

Additional Scheme specific risk factors

To the extent that the Scheme is invested in ETFs, the Scheme will be subject to all risks associated with such ETFs and the underlying assets that it is tracking. The Scheme can purchase/redeem units of ETFs only through stock exchanges on which such ETFs are listed and not directly through a mutual fund. Thus, there could be a liquidity issue. The units of ETF may trade above (at a premium) or below (at a discount) the scheme's net asset value (NAV). The price of the units of an ETF's is influenced by the forces of supply and demand. Thus, the Scheme may not be able to purchase/redeem units of an ETF at the applicable NAVs.

To the extent that the assets of the Scheme will be invested in units of debt oriented mutual fund schemes, investors will be bearing the expenses of a Scheme in addition to the expenses of the relevant underlying scheme in which the Scheme will make investments.