

RISK FACTORS

Scheme specific risk factors

Risk factors associated with investing in Fixed Income Securities

Subject to the stated investment objective, the Scheme proposes to invest in debt and related instruments and the risk factors pertinent to the same are:

- 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.

- **Price-Risk or Interest Rate Risk:** As with all debt securities, changes in interest rates may affect the NAV of the Scheme as the prices of securities increase as interest rates decline and decrease as interest rates rise. Prices of long-term securities generally fluctuate more in response to interest rate changes than do short term securities. Indian debt markets can be volatile leading to the possibility of price movements up or down in fixed income securities and thereby to possible movements in the NAV.
- 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.
- In the case of floating rate instruments, an additional risk could be due to the change in the spreads of floating rate instruments. If the spreads on floating rate papers rise, then there could be a price loss on these instruments. Secondly in the case of fixed rate instruments that have been swapped for floating rates, any adverse movement in the fixed rate yields vis-à-vis swap rates could result in losses. However, floating rate debt instruments which have periodical interest rate reset, carry a lower interest rate risk as compared to fixed rate debt instruments. In a falling interest rate scenario, the returns on floating rate debt instruments may not be better than those on fixed rate debt instruments. 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.

Liquidity Risk: This refers to the ease with which a security can be sold at or near to its valuation yield-to-maturity (YTM). The primary measure of liquidity risk is the spread between the bid price and the offer price quoted by a dealer. Liquidity risk is today characteristic of the Indian fixed income market.

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. 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.

Liquidity Risk for all Open-Ended Debt Schemes is measured and addressed through the below mentioned liquidity management tools.

Liquidity Management Tools	Brief Description
Potential Risk Matrix (PRC) and Risk-o-meter (RoM)	All debt schemes are bucketed in terms of Potential Risk Class matrix (PRC) based on maximum interest rate risk and credit risk parameters. PRC defines the maximum risk that a scheme will run as per design and RoM is the measurement of that risk on a regular basis. Remedial measures are in place in case any of the design boundaries are breached.
Maintenance of minimum liquid assets in all open ended debt schemes and monitoring liquid assets through LRRaR and LR-CRaR framework provided by AMFI.	All open ended debt schemes (except Overnight fund, Liquid fund, Gilt fund and Gilt Fund with 10-year constant duration) shall hold at least 10% of their net assets in liquid assets or liquidity ratio computed basis LR-RaR and LR-CRaR, whichever is higher. Similarly, liquid funds shall comply with the requirement of maintaining liquid assets at 20% of their net assets or liquidity ratio computed basis LR-RaR and LR-CRaR, whichever is higher. The Liquidity Risk Management framework defines the Liquidity Risk arising from liability side of the portfolio and covers all potential liquidity risk scenarios upto 99% confidence interval. The AMC measures and monitors liquidity risk on a monthly basis and has laid down action plan in case there is difference between actual outcome and projected outcome.
Stress Testing	Stress Testing is carried out for all open ended debt schemes (except overnight scheme) on a monthly basis as required by SEBI. The stress testing addresses the asset side risk taking into account the Interest Rate risk, Credit risk and Liquidity risk at an aggregate portfolio level and its impact on NAV. This asset side stress testing complements the liability side stress testing conducted through LR-RaR and CR-CRaR framework. The result of Stress Testing is reported to AMFI, Board of AMC and Trustee Company on an ongoing basis.
Asset Liability Management	Asset Liability Management covers monitoring of liquidity risk addressing asset liability mismatch upto a period of 90 days. The 90-day liability ratio is calculated taking into account investor behavior based on size of their investments and historic redemptions at an industry level. The 90-day liability ratio is compared with the Portfolio Liquidity ratio to ascertain if any asset liability mismatch exists.
Borrowing	A fund may borrow to meet redemption requirements up to the limit allowed by the regulator from time to time

- **Credit 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 “risk-free 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.
- **Reinvestment Risk:** This risk refers to the interest rate levels at which cash flows received from the securities in the Scheme are reinvested. The additional income from reinvestment is the “interest on interest” component. The risk is that

the rate at which interim cash flows can be reinvested may be lower than that originally assumed. However, declining interest rates normally lead to increase in bond prices which may help cushion the impact of reinvestment risk to some extent.

- **Benchmark Risk:** The floating rate segment of the domestic debt market is not very developed. Currently, majority of the issuance of floating rate papers is linked to NSE MIBOR. As the floating rate segment develops further, more benchmark rates for floating papers may be available in future. The fewer number of benchmark rates could result in limited diversification of the benchmark risk.
- **Prepayment Risk:** The risk associated with the early unscheduled return of principal on a fixed-income security. The early unscheduled return of principal may result in reinvestment risk.
- **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.

Risk Factors associated with investments in Money Market instruments

- 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 may also be 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 level of market liquidity and 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 NAV of the Scheme's Units, to the extent that the corpus of the Scheme is invested in money market instruments, will be affected by the changes in the level of interest rates. When interest rates in the market rise, the value of a portfolio of money market instruments can be expected to decline.

Risks associated with investing in securitised debt

- The underlying assets in securitised debt may assume different forms and the general types of receivables include auto finance, credit cards, home loans or any such receipts. Credit risks relating to such receivables depend upon various factors, including macro- economic factors of these industries and economies. Further, specific factors like the nature and adequacy of property mortgaged against these borrowings, the nature of loan agreement/mortgage deed in case of home loans, adequacy of documentation in case of auto finance and home loans, capacity of a borrower to meet his obligations on borrowings in case of credit cards and intentions of the borrower also influence the risks relating to asset borrowings underlying securitised debt. Additionally, the nature of the asset borrowings underlying the securitised debt also influences the underlying risk, for instance while residential mortgages tend to have lower default rates, repossession and recovery is easier in case of commercial vehicles. Credit rating agencies take into account a series of such factors and follow an elaborate system involving stipulation of margins, over-collateralisation and guarantees to provide a rating for securitised debt.
- In case of securitised debt, changes in market interest rates and pre-payments may not change the absolute amount of receivables for the investors but may have an impact on the reinvestment of the periodic cash flows that an investor receives on securitised papers.
- **Tenor risk:** While building the planned amortization schedule for a PTC, there can be a clause stating a minimum percentage of receivable by the issue to stick to the initial cash flows. If the receivables are less than the minimum stated receivables then the tenor of the PTC can get elongated or vice versa.
- **Risk due to prepayment:** Asset securitization is a process whereby commercial or consumer credits are packaged and sold in the form of financial instruments. In the event of pre-payment of the underlying debt, investors may be exposed

to changes in tenor and yield.

- **Liquidity Risk:** Presently, despite recent legal developments permitting the listing of securitised debt instruments, the secondary market for securitised debt in India is not very liquid. Even if a more liquid market develops in the future, secondary transactions in such instruments may be at a discount to initial issue price due to changes in the interest rate structure.
- **Limited Recourse, Delinquency and Credit Risk:** Certificates issued on investment in securitised debt represent a beneficial interest in the underlying receivables and there is no obligation on the issuer, seller or the originator in that regard. Defaults on the underlying loan / decline in project SPV's receivables can adversely affect the pay outs to the investors and thereby, adversely affect the NAV of the Scheme. While it is possible to repossess and sell the underlying asset, various factors can delay or prevent repossession and the price obtained on sale of such assets may be low. Delinquencies and credit losses may cause depletion of the amount available under the Credit Enhancement and thereby the Investor Payouts may get affected if the amount available in the Credit Enhancement facility is not enough to cover the shortfall. On persistent default of a Obligor to repay his obligation, the Servicer may repossess and sell the underlying Asset. However, many factors may affect, delay or prevent the repossession of such Asset or the length of time required to realize the sale proceeds on such sales. In addition, the price at which such Asset may be sold may be lower than the amount due from that Obligor.
- **Bankruptcy Risk:** If the originator of securitised debt instruments in which the Scheme invest is subject to bankruptcy proceedings and the court in such proceedings concludes that the sale of the assets from originator to the trust was not a 'true sale', then the Scheme could experience losses or delays in the payments due. Normally, care is taken in structuring the securitization transaction so as to minimize the risk of the sale to the trust not being construed as a 'true sale'.
- **Risk of Co-mingling:** Servicers in a securitization transaction normally deposit all payments received from the obligors into a collection account. However, there could be a time gap between collection by a servicer and depositing the same into the collection account. In this interim period, collections from the loan agreements by the servicer may not be segregated from other funds of the servicer. If the servicer fails to remit such funds due to investors, investors in the Scheme may be exposed to a potential loss.

Risks associated with investments in Repo transactions in Corporate Bonds

In repo transactions, also known as a repo or sale repurchase agreement, securities are sold with the seller agreeing to buy them back at later date. The repurchase price should be greater than the original sale price, the difference effectively representing interest. A repo is economically similar to a secured loan, with the buyer receiving corporate debt securities as collateral to protect against default. The Scheme may invest in repo of corporate debt securities which are subject to the following risks:

- **Counterparty Risk:** This refers to the inability of the seller to meet the obligation to buy back securities at the contracted price on the contracted date. The Investment Manager will endeavour to manage counterparty risk by dealing only with counterparties, having strong credit profiles, approved by our credit risk analysis team. The exposure to each counterparty will be within the overall approved credit limits. Also, the counterparty risk is to an extent mitigated by taking collateral equivalent in value to the transaction after knocking off a minimum haircut on the intrinsic value of the collateral. In the event of default by the repo counterparty, the scheme shall have recourse to the corporate debt securities.
- **Collateral Risk:** Collateral risk arises when the market value of the securities is inadequate to meet the repo obligations. This risk is mitigated by restricting participation in repo transactions with collateral bearing a minimum rating as prescribed by the regulators (currently AA or equivalent and above rated money market and corporate debt securities). Any rating downgrade will tantamount to either an early termination of the repo agreement or a call for fresh margin to meet the minimum haircut requirement. In addition, the Investment manager may apply a higher haircut on the underlying security than mentioned above to adjust for the illiquidity and interest rate risk on the underlying instrument. The adequacy of the collateral will be monitored on a daily basis by considering the daily market value & applying the prescribed haircut. In the event of shortfall in the collateral, the counterparty shall be asked to replenish the same. If the counterparty is not able to top-up either in form of cash / collateral, it shall tantamount to early termination of the repo agreement.
- **Settlement Risk:** Corporate Bond Repo shall be settled between two counterparties in the OTC segment unlike in the case of Government securities repo transactions where CCIL stands as central counterparty on all transactions which neutralizes the settlement risk. However, the settlement risk pertaining to CDRs shall be mitigated through Delivery versus Payment (DvP) mechanism which is followed by all clearing members.

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. 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. 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, it is likely that such securities may not realize any value leading to losses to investors.

Risks associated with transaction in Units through Stock Exchange mechanism

In respect of transactions in Units of the Scheme routed through the BSE StAR MF platform or any other recognised stock exchange platform as intimated by the AMC, allotment and redemption of Units on any Business Day will depend upon the order processing / settlement by BSE, or such other exchange and their respective clearing corporations on which the Fund has no control. Further, transactions conducted through the stock exchange mechanism shall be governed by the operating guidelines and directives issued by BSE or such other recognised exchange in this regard.

Risk factor associated with legal, tax and regulatory risk

The Scheme 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.

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