

RISK FACTORS

Scheme specific risk factors

- **Tracking Error/Tracking Difference Risk:** The Fund Manager may not be able to invest the entire corpus exactly in the same proportion as in the underlying index due to certain factors including but not limited to lot size constraints in bond markets, portfolio liquidity considerations, transaction costs, fees and expenses of the scheme, corporate actions, cash balance, changes to the underlying index, difference in valuation of underlying securities by the index provider and AMC's valuation providers 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. It will be the endeavour of the fund manager to keep the tracking error/tracking difference as low as possible. However, in case of events like, reconstitution / addition / deletion of securities in the underlying index etc. or in abnormal market circumstances, the tracking error may rise. There can be no assurance or guarantee that the Scheme will achieve any particular level of tracking error/tracking difference relative to performance of the Index.
- **Concentration Risk:** The Scheme shall predominantly invest in SDLs and G-secs and hence may have limited or no diversification to any other types of fixed income securities within its portfolio. This could have implications on the performance of the scheme. The Scheme may be more sensitive to economic, business, political or other changes that may directly impact the SDL and G-sec spreads etc. and this may lead to considerable fluctuation in the Net Asset Value of the scheme.

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.
- **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.
- **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.
- Money market instruments may also be subject to price volatility due to factors such as changes in interest rates, general level of market liquidity and market perception of credit worthiness of the issuer of such instruments.
- 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.

Passive Investments

The Scheme is a passively managed scheme. The Scheme shall endeavor to invest in the securities included in its underlying Index regardless of their investment merit. The Scheme may be adversely impacted by a general decline in the Indian markets relating to its underlying Index. The AMC will not attempt to individually select securities or to take defensive positions in declining markets.

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.

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.