Debt Market
Outlook

October 2024







Global Update



Fed finally kicks off rate cuts





After a long pause, the Fed set the rate cycle in motion with a 50 bps cut. Decision driven by cooling inflation and desire to support economic growth



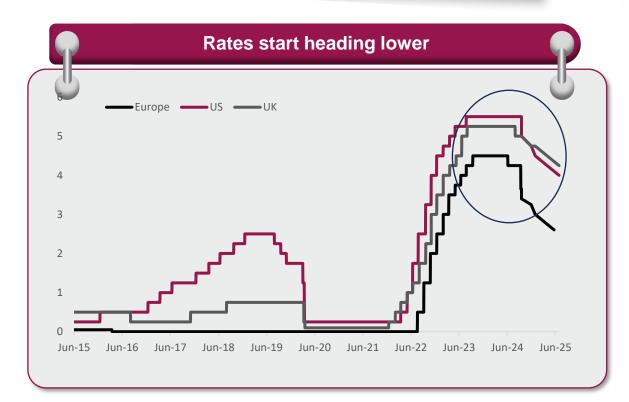
Fed Chair Jerome Powell highlighted growing confidence that inflation is continuing to decline, allowing the Fed to act more aggressively in reducing borrowing costs

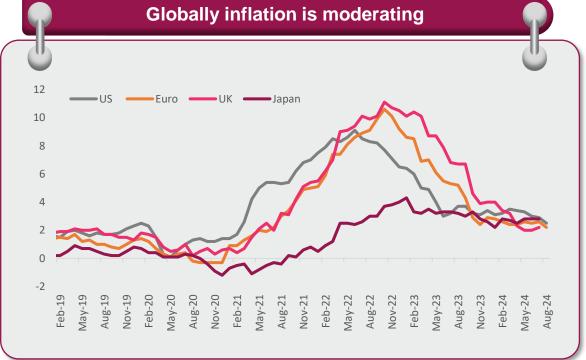


High fiscal deficits, rising debt to GDP and tepid macro data could lead to a weak US\$



10 year US Treasury yields rose beyond 4% for the first time since July 2024 on expectations of strength in the economy





Commodity prices firm up





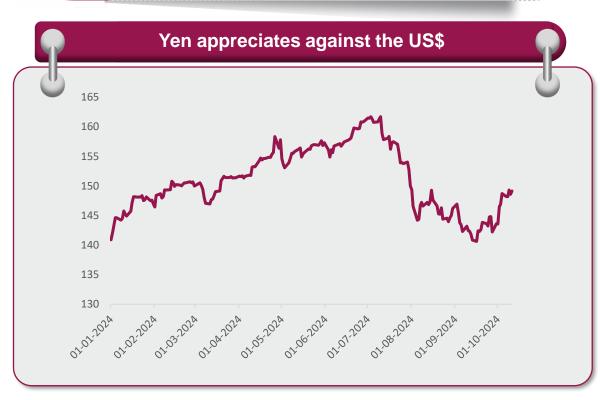
After a sharp 13% appreciation against the US\$ since mid July, Yen has reversed some of its gains.



Geopolitical risk premium drives global commodity prices higher over the month adding to YTD gains



Crude caught between geopolitical stress and fluctuating supply dynamics, gains 9% in a month; hurricane in the US also adds to rising prices



Commodities prices – A key monitorable

Metals	1 mth	YTD (% change)
LME Tin	7.3	30.7
Silver	2.5	32.3
LME Copper	7.7	14.4
LME Nickel	10.9	7.6
Gold	3.0	29.1
LME Zinc	13.9	18.7
LME Lead	5.5	1.4
LME Aluminium	11.1	10.4
Crude		
Brent Crude	8.6	1.0

Source: HSBC. Bloomberg, Data as on 11 October 2024. The above graph is used to explain the concept and is for illustration purpose only and should not used for development or implementation of an investment strategy. Past performance may or may not sustain in future.

China – broader economy needs to recover





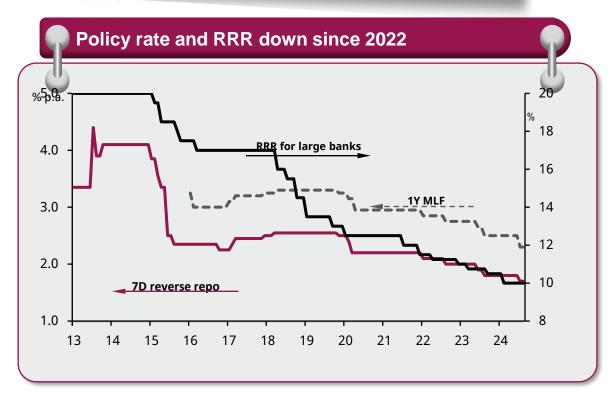
The latest easing policies are no doubt helpful, especially in boosting market sentiment and lifting the near-term outlook for Chinese economy

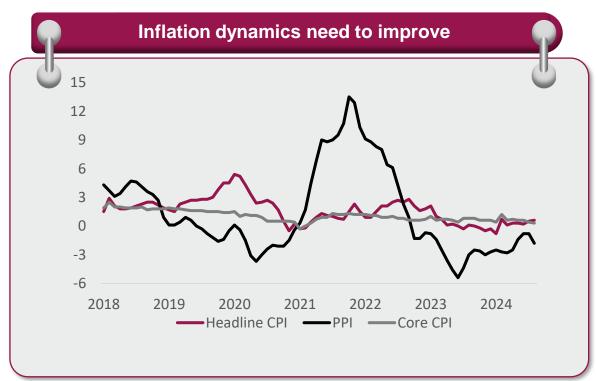


However, fiscal policies should be more effective in turning around the economic situation as demand remains sluggish and industrial overcapacity across a wide range of sectors persists



Domestic consumption and investment demand will need to pick up for the economy to bottom out





Source: PBoC, JP Morgan, August 2024

Policy announcements buoy markets



	24 th September Finance 3 bureaus announced measures	26 th September Politburo statement
Assessment on current economic situation		- Economic progression emerged new problems/situation Face straight to difficulties Intensify introduction of accretive policies
Fiscal policy		- Ensure fiscal spending on important areas
Monetary policy	 Lower RRR 50bps, provide long-term liquidity additional Rmb 1trn, could lower RRR by 25-50bps more. Lower 7-day repo rate 20bps, LPR/MLF rate could down 30 bps, deposit rates lower 	- Implement impactful interest rate cuts
Property market	- Lower existing mortgage rates to newly issuance level, average down 50bps, 1st/2nd home downpayment ratio united to 15%, Rmb 300bn refinancing loans for inventory clearance, ratio increase from 60% to 100% to commercial banks	- Promote real estate market to cease price correction and resume stability
		- Enlarge "White List" projects credit extension efforts
Capital market	 Create equity swap mechanisms for brokerage, funds, insurance companies to pledge equity assets to PBOC to enhance liquidity, further increase equity positions. 	- Strongly revive capital market confidence, promote mid/long term capital entering stock market
	- Create stock buy back loans supporting listed companies repurchase activities	- Clear obstacles for SSF, Insurance, bank wealth products to enter stock market
	- Devise plan to induce more 'long-term capital' participation in equity market	- Support M&A of listed companies



Domestic Update



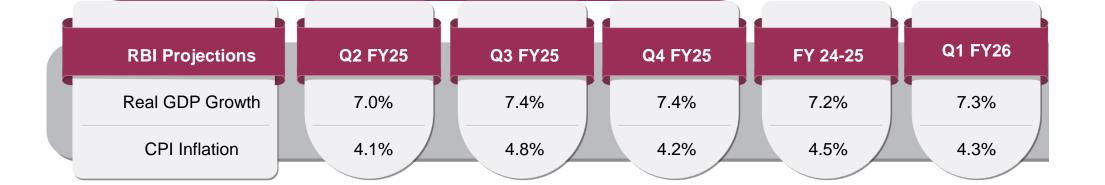
RBI – Monetary Policy Minutes



Assessment & Outlook

Policy Decision

- RBI kept the Repo rate unchanged at 6.50% for the tenth consecutive time in its October monetary policy meeting
- · Stance changed from 'withdrawal of accommodation' to 'neutral'
- RBI retained GDP growth for FY25 at 7.2% and Inflation at 4.5%
- RBI has moved from evolving inflation outlook to evolving market forces
- Geopolitical events and their impact on supply chains and commodity prices are key risks to inflation



Domestic Inflation trending lower

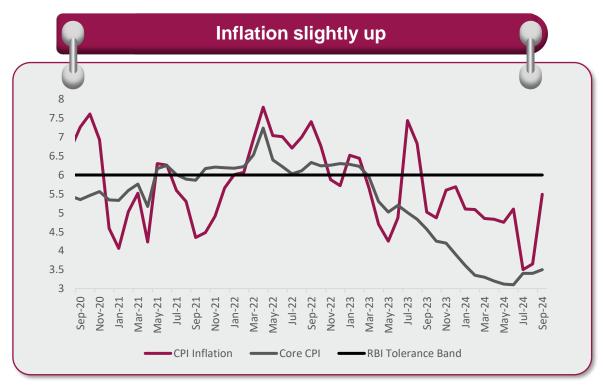


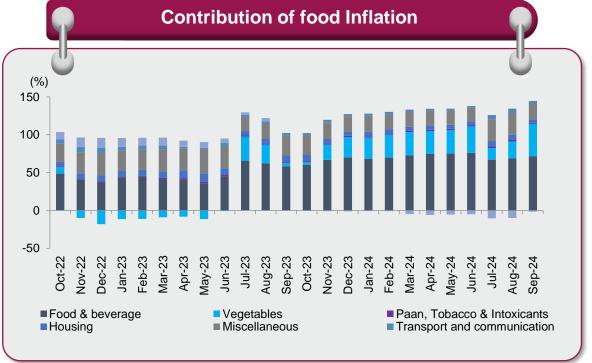


Although CPI rose sharply in September, we believe that it will head lower. Food prices should ease given good kharif sowing and a good monsoon.



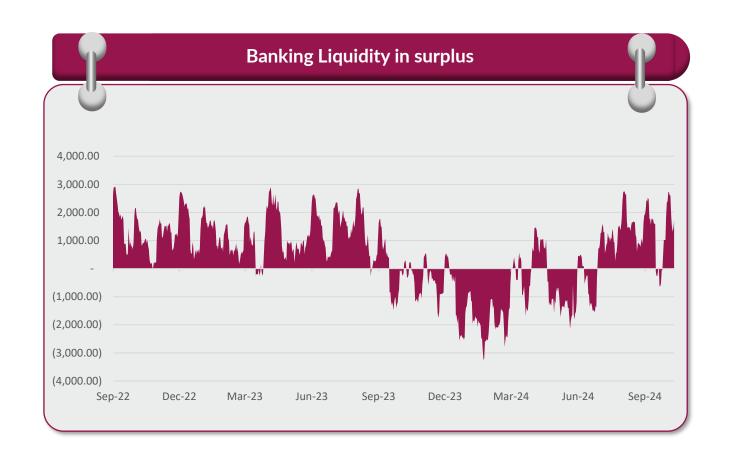
While RBI has projected GDP growth of 7.2% for FY 25, we believe it will be lower at ~6.5% as we see the impact of fiscal consolidation





Banking Liquidity in surplus





Liquidity projections	
Banking liquidity Projection - July-Sep 2024	Amt (Rs crs)
Opening Banking liquidity as of July 1,2024	-92,000
Inflows	
+ Expenditure spending for the quarter	10,50,000
+ RBI liquidity operations (due to JP Morgan flows)	35,000
+ Reversal of currency in circulation (3 yr trend)	75,000
+ Scheduled Govt Bond maturities + coupon inflows	207,877
Outflows	
- Scheduled Govt Bond + Net Tbill auctions	-353,000
- Tax outflows (GST + Excise + Direct Tax)	-450,000
- Quarterly corporated tax outflows	-150,000
- Increase in CRR on acct of growth in deposits	-30,000
Closing banking liquidity as of Sept 30, 2024	292,877

Rupee and external sector relatively stable



Health indicators of the economy are quite resilient especially GDP, Inflation and twin deficits and has undergone a massive transformation over years and cycles

Stable economic measures along with policy continuity has led to strong flows in India YTD ~USD 15 Bn flows (Debt & equity). We expect the BOP situation to continue to remain positive

Policy Continuity, FPI flows due to JP Morgan inclusion and Weaker China Macros will provide a cushion to forex reserves

U				U	
	FY09 (GFC)	FY13 (Taper tantrum)	FY21 (Covid)	Latest	
Real GDP Growth	3.5%	4.3%	3.3%	7.2% (FY 25E)	
Consumer Price Inflation	9.1%	9.4%	5.5%	4.5% (FY 26E)	
Current Account Balance as % of GDP	-1.9%	-4.8%	0.9%	-0.7% (Q1'24)	
Fiscal deficit as % of GDP	6.0%	4.8%	9.2%	4.9% (FY 25 BE)	
Forex reserves(USD bn)	252	292	579	705 (Sep'24)	
Currency: INR / USD	50.7	54.3	73.1	83.8 (Sep' 24)	
Brent Crude (US\$ / barrel)	49	110	64	71.8 (Sep'24)	
Policy rates	5%	7.5%	4.0%	6.5% (Oct'24)	



Way Forward for Fixed Income Markets



Goldilocks period for Fixed Income Markets



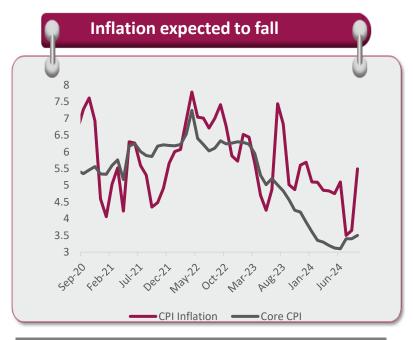
What factors do Central Banks consider for rates?







Rate action by peer Central Banks



CPI trajectory for FY25 is projected at 4.5%



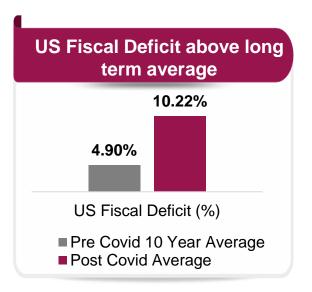
BoP and JP Morgan flows to keep forex reserves stable

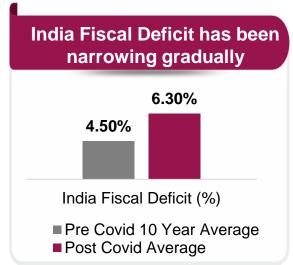
ons
Started rate cuts
Moved to neutral stance

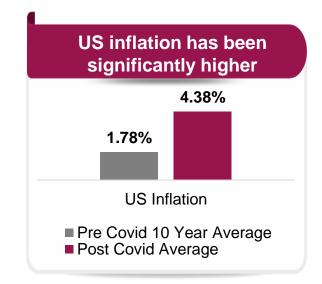
India may not follow the US rate trajectory

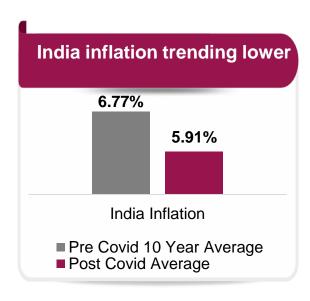


Spread between US and India to remain narrow due to Sovereign rating outlook change and probable rating upgrade in future









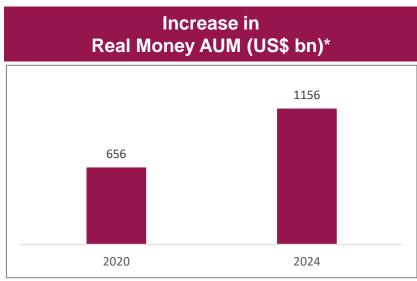
	June 2022	Sep 2024	Change in yields
10 yr UST	3.01%	4.10%	109 bps
10 yr GOI	7.45%	6.80%	-64 bps

High fiscal deficit and continued pace of Quantitative Tightening will keep US treasury yields higher

Supportive Demand-Supply dynamics



Higher demand



^{*}AUM with insurance cos., PFs, and pension funds

Proposed Liquidity Coverage Ratio guidelines

 Will create to additional demand for liquid assets, particularly government bonds of INR 2.5 - 3 trn from FY26

Inclusion in JP Morgan, FTSE EM Bonds and Bloomberg EM indices

- Flows expected in H2: ~US\$ 10 -15bn
- This will translate to FPI buying to the tune of ~15% of Central Government Borrowing

Inclusion in Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index

If India is included in Bloomberg Aggregate
 Bond Index it will lead to ~ US\$ 20-25 bn of
 additional demand for government bonds

Term premia compression possible without rate cuts

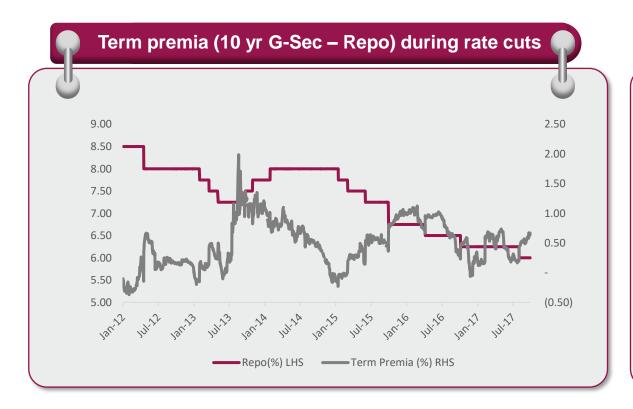


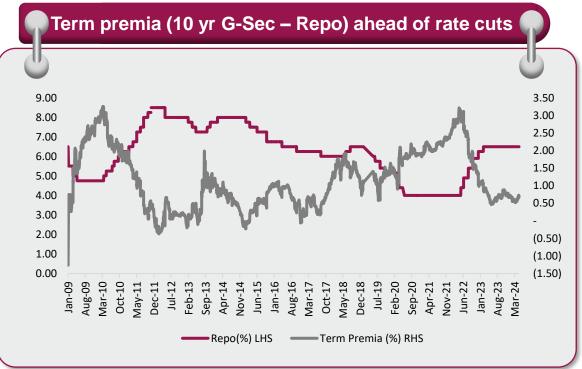


Term premia generally tends to be lower during easing rate cycles. We have seen term premia below 25 bps during positive demand supply environment and rate cut cycles.



Current term premia @ 36 bps may contract going forward aided by anticipated easing and improving demand-supply dynamics



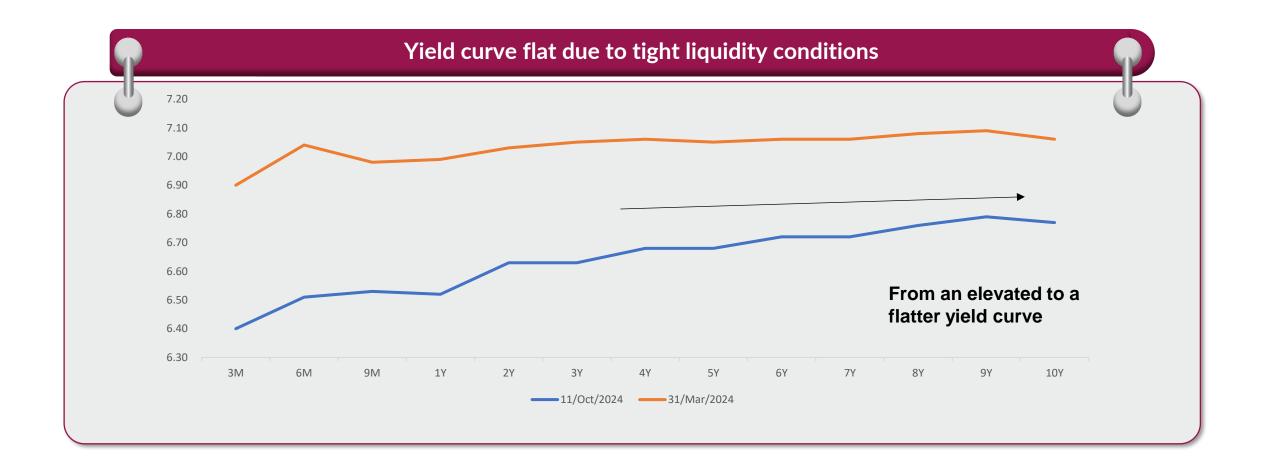


Source: Bloomberg, Axis MF Research. The above graph is used to explain the concept and is for illustration purpose only and should not used for development or implementation of an investment strategy. **Past performance may or may not sustain in future.**

Flatter Yield Curve

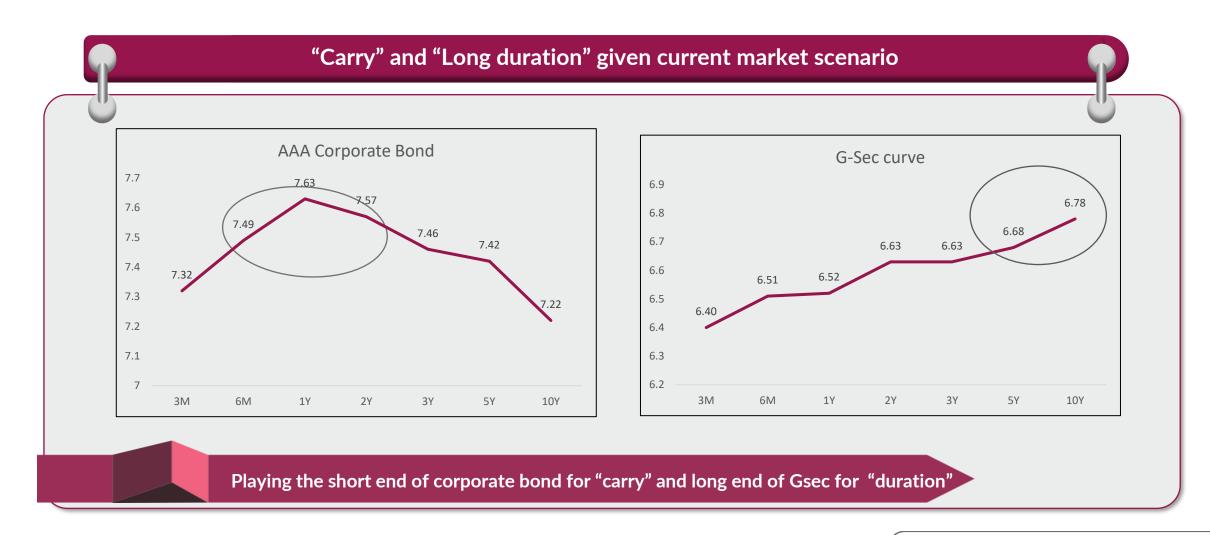


Rates adjustment of the yield curve will offer opportunities to generate alpha



Current opportunity set





In Summary



A Case to add duration to portfolios



Current Interest Rate Environment – Interest rate cuts have started across most economies and even the US has joined the fray. Expect gains in bonds to be staggered and not in a straight line



Bond Yields to fall further given fiscal prudence, lower market borrowings and inflows through inclusion in JP Morgan Global Bond Indices (estimated \$25 bln) and in Bloomberg EM indices (estimated \$5 bln)



Inflation to head lower as per expectations. We expect this rate cycle to be shallow and expect 50 bps of rate cuts by RBI in this rate cycle.



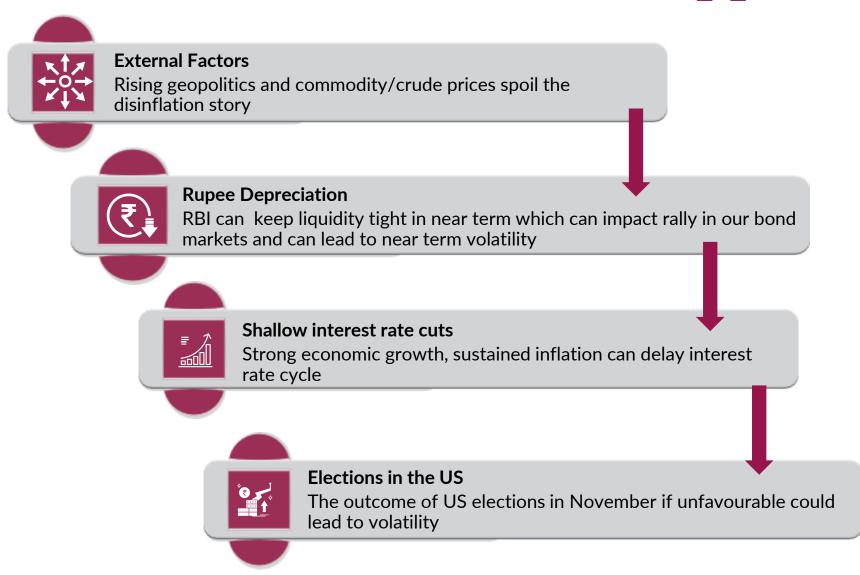
Banking liquidity to remain comfortable in the near to medium term



Ideal balance between "carry' opportunity & duration risk

Risks to Indian Debt Markets







Investment approach and Funds in focus



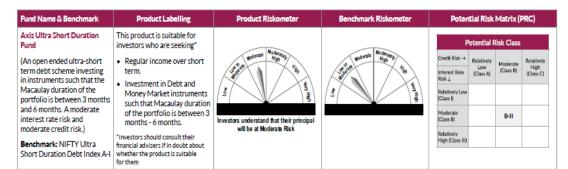
Debt Funds In Focus



Changes have	Current Positioning
Axis Ultra Short Duration Fund (Mac. Dur 176 Days)	Suitable strategy to park surplus funds with a high quality portfolio
Axis Money Market Fund (Mac Dur: 167 Days)	Actively managed high quality money market strategy
Axis Corporate Bond Fund	High Quality Portfolio with a mix of Govt. Bonds & Corp Bonds
Axis Strategic Bond Fund (Mac Dur: 3.89 Years)	50% AAA % 50% non-AAA portfolio actively managed best ideas fixed income strategy
Axis Short Duration Fund (Mac Dur: 2.88 Years)	High Quality Portfolio (80% AAA) with a mix of Govt. Bonds & Cor Bonds
Axis Long Duration Fund (Mac Dur: 12.33 Years)	Fund aimed at investing in long dated Govt. securities with 30+ yrs
Axis Gilt Fund (Mac Dur: 10.43 Years)	High Quality sovereign strategy with investments across the G-Seccurve
	Axis Ultra Short Duration Fund (Mac. Dur 176 Days) Axis Money Market Fund (Mac Dur: 167 Days) Axis Corporate Bond Fund (Mac Dur: 3.87 Yrs) Axis Strategic Bond Fund (Mac Dur: 3.89 Years) Axis Short Duration Fund (Mac Dur: 2.88 Years) Axis Long Duration Fund (Mac Dur: 12.33 Years) Axis Gilt Fund

Product Labelling



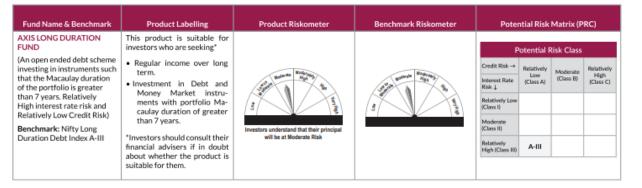


Fund Name & Benchmark	Product Labelling	Product Riskometer	Benchmark Riskometer	Potenti	ial Risk N	datrix (P	RC)
AXIS MONEY MARKET	This product is suitable for investors who are seeking*			Pot	tential Ri	isk Class	
FUND (An open ended debt scheme investing in money market instruments. A relatively low interest rate risk and moderate credit risk.) Benchmark: NIFTY Money Market Index A-I	Regular income over short term Investment in Money Market instruments with maturity up to one year "Investors should consult their financial advisers if in doubt about whether the product is suitable for them.	Investors understand that their principal will be at Low to Moderate Risk	3 The State of the		Relatively Low (Class A)	Moderate (Class B)	Relatively High (Class C)

Fund Name & Benchmark	Product Labelling	Product Riskometer	Benchmark Riskometer	Potential Risk Matrix (F	PRC)
Axis Corporate Bond Fund (An Open Ended Debt Scheme Predominantly Investing In AA+ And Above Rated Corporate Bonds. A relatively high interest rate risk and moderate credit risk) Benchmark: NIFTY Corporate Bond Index A-II	This product is suitable for investors who are seeking" Regular income over short to medium term. Predominantly investing in corporate debt Investors should consult their financial advisers if in doubt about whether the product is suitable for them	Investors understand that their principal will be at Moderate Risk	Medicales (1997) Washington (1	Potential Risk Class Credit Risk → Relatively Low (Class B) Relatively Low (Class B) Moderate (Class B) Moderate (Class B) Relatively High (Class III) B-III	Relatively High (Class C)

Fund Name & Benchmark	Product Labelling	Product Riskometer	Benchmark Riskometer	Potential Risk Matrix (PRC)
AXIS STRATEGIC BOND FUND (An open ended medium term debt scheme investing in instruments such that the Macaulay duration of the portfolio is between 3 years to 4 years. A relatively high interest rate risk and relatively high credit risk.) Benchmark: NIFTY Medium Duration Debt Index A-III	This product is suitable for investors who are seeking* Optimal returns over medium term Investment in diversified portfolio of debt and money market securities to generate optimal risk adjusted returns while maintaining liquidity Investors should consult their financial advisers if in doubt about whether the product is suitable for them.	Investors understand that their principal will be at Moderately High Risk	The state of the s	Potential Risk Class Credit Risk -> Relatively Low (Class A) (Class B) (Class C) Moderate (Class II) (Class III)

Fund Name & Benchmark	Product Labelling	Product Riskometer	Benchmark Riskometer	Potential Risk Matrix (PRC)
Axis Short Duration Fund	This product is suitable for investors who are seeking*		Tie	Potential Risk Class
(An open ended short term debt scheme investing in instruments such that the Macaulay duration of the portfolio is between 1 year to 3 years. A relatively high interest rate risk and moderate credit risk)	Regular income while maintaining liquidity over short term. Investment in debt and money market instruments "Investors should consult their financial advisers if in doubt about whether the product is suitable	Investors understand that their principal will be at Moderate Risk	Moderate Report Top 150 State	Crecit Risk → Relatively Low (Class A) (Class B) (Class C) Relatively Low (Class B) (Class C) Moderate (Class II) Rotatively B-III
Benchmark: NIFTY Short Duration Debt Index A-II	for them			High (Class III)



Product Labelling



Fund Name & Benchmark	Product Labelling	Product Riskometer	Benchmark Riskometer	Potential Risk	Matrix (Pl	RC)
AXIS GILT FUND (An open ended debt scheme investing in government securities across maturity. A relatively high interest rate risk and relatively low credit risk.) Benchmark: CRISIL Dynamic Gilt Index	This product is suitable for investors who are seeking* • Credit risk free returns over medium to long term • Investment mainly in Government securities across maturities *Investors should consult their financial advisers if in doubt about whether the product is suitable for them.	Investors understand that their principal will be at Moderate Risk	January Spatial Market Spatial	Potential I Credit Risk → Rotatively Low (Class A) Relatively Low (Class A) Moderate (Class II) Relatively High (Class III) A-III	Moderate (Class B)	Relatively High (Class C)

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Past performance may or may not be sustained in the future.

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Trustee: Axis Mutual Fund Trustee Ltd.

Investment Manager: Axis Asset Management Co. Ltd. (the AMC)

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Thank You

