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Met Invest

Gratuity Fund

Annual Fund Performance

April 2016 Edition

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Global risk-on environment drive markets higher: After four consecutive months of negative returns, global equity markets rallied in March led by renewed risk-on environment. The factors that fuelled investors' risk appetite include a dovish commentary by US Fed, continued easing by global central banks and a rebound in commodity prices, particularly crude oil (+10% in March). Emerging markets, including India, benefited from the sharp surge in FII inflows last month and significantly outperformed the developed market index.

Monetary easing continues: The US Fed kept policy rates unchanged and lowered Fed funds rate outlook to two rate hikes vs. four expected earlier in 2016. This, along with Fed Chair Janet Yellen's recent dovish commentary, has significantly reduced expectations of a rate hike in the upcoming policy meeting. The Bank of Japan (BoJ) lowered its outlook on Japan's economy even as it kept policy rates unchanged, after lowering it into negative territory in January 2016. The European Central Bank (ECB) also announced a comprehensive monetary easing package last month.

India's economic situation remains broadly stable: India's economic growth recovery is likely to remain gradual amid expectations of a normal monsoon, consumption boost on account of implementation of Seventh Central Pay Commission and one-rank-one-pension (OROP) and falling interest costs. RBI's survey signals a gradual recovery in India's real GDP growth to 7.6% in FY17 and 7.9% in FY18.

RBI cuts repo rate, focuses on liquidity and monetary transmission: The RBI reduced policy rate by 25bps to 6.5% in the recent policy meeting, accompanied by a continued accommodative stance. The central bank also announced a slew of measures to boost liquidity in the system, thereby bringing down borrowing cost for banks. This, along with introduction of marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (MCLR) and cut in small savings rates, is likely to significantly accelerate monetary transmission. Further monetary easing would be contingent upon signs of good monsoon, indications of softening in headline as well as core inflation and transmission of rate cuts.

Fixed income market rally continues: Fixed income market rallied sharply, with 10-year yield falling by 41bps to 7.47% by March-end from the pre-budget peak levels. This was led by strengthened expectations of a rate cut post government's commitment to fiscal consolidation in the budget, benign inflation readings and reduction in small savings rates.

Equities markets rebound: Equity markets witnessed a significant rebound, with Nifty Index gaining 11% in March. This was led by a sharp surge in foreign capital inflows (\$4.1bn in March - highest monthly run-rate in over three years) even as domestic institutional investors reversed their position to net sellers.

Fixed income market outlook: The liquidity measures taken by RBI, along with the 25bps rate cut and shift to MCLR by banks, are likely to result in effective monetary transmission, thereby bringing down cost of capital in the system. This, coupled with RBI's continued accommodative stance, is likely to result in moderation in bond yields from current levels.

Equity market outlook: We expect equity market volatility to continue amid uncertain global macro-economic environment, monetary policy actions by central banks and volatility in commodity prices. On the domestic front, turnaround in corporate earnings is an important trigger for equity markets. Given our expectations of a gradual economic recovery and improvement in corporate profitability, we remain positive on equities from a medium to long-term perspective.

Sanjay Kumar

Chief Investment Officer



FUND PERFORMANCE



MARKET OVERVIEW

FUND CATEGORY

Gratuity Balanced Fund

Gratuity Debt Fund

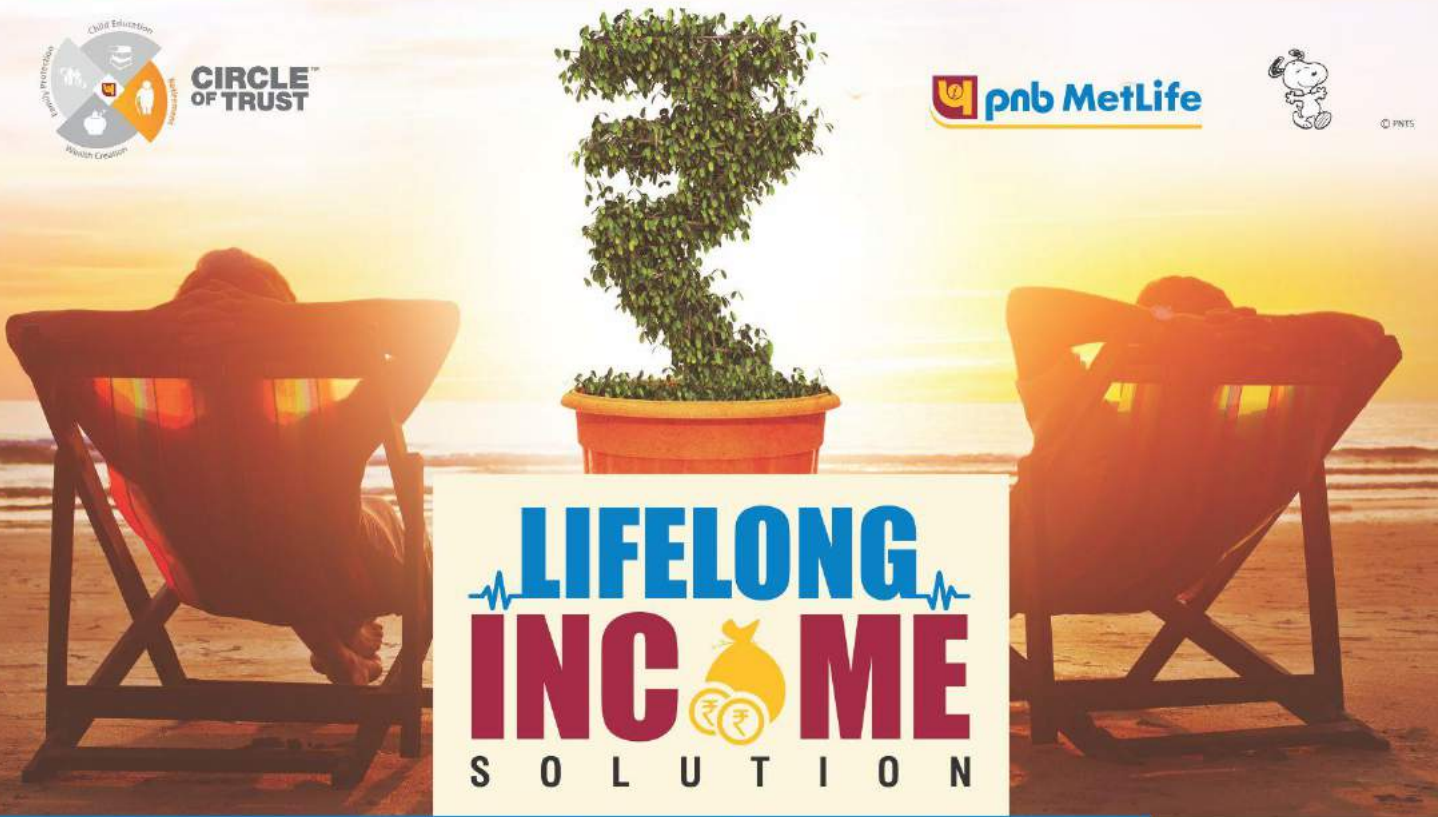
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As on March 31, 2016

	Benchmark (BM)	1 - Year (%)		3 - Year (%)		5 - Year (%)	
		Fund	BM	Fund	BM	Fund	BM
Medium Risk							
Gratuity Balanced	30% Nifty 50 70% CCBFI	3.0	3.1	9.7	9.5	8.7	7.9
Low Risk							
Gratuity Debt	CCBFI	7.0	8.2	7.6	9.0	9.0	8.8

CCBFI- CRISIL Composite Bond Fund Index

[Glossary](#)



January - March 2016

Indicators	Mar-15	Dec-15	Mar-16	Q-o-Q Variation	Y-o-Y Variation
Macro Economy					
Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Inflation (%)	-2.2	-2.0	-0.9	1.1	1.3
Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation (%)	5.4	5.4	5.2	-0.2	-0.2
Gross Domestic product (GDP Growth) %	6.6	7.7	7.3	-0.4	0.7
Index of Industrial Production (IIP) (%)	2.8	9.9	-1.5	-11.4	-4.3
Domestic Markets					
S&P Sensex Index	27,957	26,118	25,342	-3%	-9%
S&P BSE Mid-cap Index	10,616	11,143	10,619	-5%	0%
10-year G-Sec India (%)	7.74	7.76	7.47	-0.30	-0.27
10-year AAA PSU Corporate Bond (%)	8.31	8.35	8.31	-0.05	0.00
Exchange rate (USD/INR)	62.5	66.2	66.2	0.0%	6.0%
Global Markets					
Dow Jones (U.S.)	17,776	17,425	17,685	1%	-1%
FTSE (U.K.)	6,773	6,242	6,175	-1%	-9%
Shanghai SEC Index (China)	3,748	3,539	3,004	-15%	-20%
Brent crude oil (USD/barrel)	55.1	37.3	39.6	6%	-28%

Source: CSO, RBI, Bloomberg

FY 2016 - A review

Gradual economic recovery on track: The advance GDP growth estimate for FY16 has been pegged at 7.6% vs. 7.2% in FY15 led by higher public expenditure and a moderate pick-up in consumption. The Union Budget focused on fiscal consolidation without compromising on economic growth. CPI inflation declined further, averaging 4.9% in FY16 vs. 6.0% in FY15. This enabled RBI to reduce policy rates by 150bps since January 2015. External situation has remained comfortable, even as INR depreciated about 6% in FY16 amid negative global cues and foreign capital outflows.

Equity markets witnessed significant volatility in FY16: This was led by a global risk-off environment triggered by growth concerns and a sharp fall in commodity prices. Weak corporate profitability further dampened investor sentiments. The Sensex fell by 9% in FY16 while the mid-cap index broadly remained flat. Domestic flows were strong with domestic institutional investors (DIIs) buying equities worth \$12bn in FY16 vs. net selling of \$4bn in FY15. However, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) saw net outflows of \$1.5bn in FY16 vs. net inflows of \$18bn in FY15.

Fixed income markets faltered in FY16: Weak demand from FIIs amid global risk-off environment, tight liquidity conditions and concerns about government slipping on fiscal consolidation impacted fixed income markets in FY16. However, the fixed income market rallied during Feb-March 2016 led by a fiscally prudent budget and dovish commentary by the US Fed. Overall, the 10-year government bond yield fell by 27bps in FY16 to 7.47%, despite a 100bps cut in policy rate (including the recent 25bps cut). In FY16, FIIs withdrew \$81mn from fixed income markets

compared to net inflows of \$27bn in FY15.

January-March 2016 - A summary

Global growth outlook worsens: Slowdown in emerging markets (EMs) and sluggish global demand has worsened global economic growth outlook. This has resulted in further downgrades in growth forecasts by agencies such as World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). Monetary easing strengthened with European Central Bank (ECB) expanding the easing programme and Bank of Japan (BoJ) surprising markets by adopting negative interest rates. The US Fed also turned dovish and reduced fed funds rate outlook. Crude oil prices were volatile, falling to decadal-low levels before recovering in the second half.

Domestic economy on stable footing: The GDP growth moderated in Q3 FY16. Industrial production fell last quarter, partly led by a temporary slowdown in government expenditure. Headline inflation declined even as core inflation remained sticky. The government adhered to fiscal consolidation path with continued focus on economic growth. Foreign direct investments remained robust and compensated for foreign capital outflows.

Equity market volatility continues: Global and domestic equity markets continued to remain volatile led by 1) global growth concerns, 2) volatility in commodity prices, thereby increasing risks of global corporate downgrades/defaults, and 3) spreading of negative interest rate regime to more countries. Growing risk-off environment in Jan-Feb led to a decline in prices of risky assets across the world. However, markets recovered in March following aggressive monetary easing by ECB and Fed's dovish commentary. A prudent Union Budget also helped in reviving domestic market sentiments.

Fixed income market rallies: Rate cut expectations in the April policy meeting strengthened on account of government's adherence to fiscal consolidation roadmap, benign inflation readings and a sharp cut in small savings rates. This resulted in 10-year government bond yield falling by 41bps from pre-budget peak levels till March-end.

Economic review - Q4 FY16

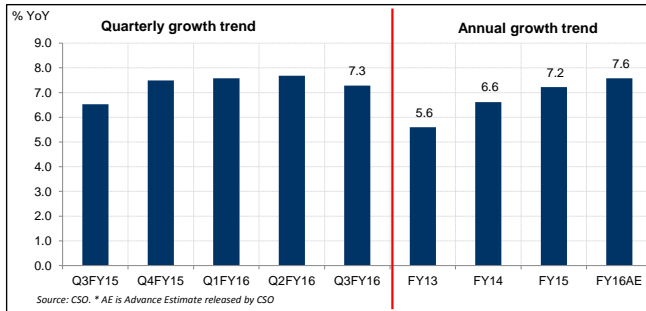
GDP growth moderated in Q3 FY16

GDP growth in Q3 FY16 (Oct-Dec 2015) moderated to 7.3% Y-o-Y. However, Q2 FY16 GDP growth was revised upwards from 7.4% to 7.7%, while Q1 FY16 GDP growth was revised upwards from 7.0% to 7.6%. In Q3, agriculture sector saw negative growth (impacted by poor monsoon), industrial sector growth picked up sharply and services sector growth remained steady. The government has pegged FY16 advance GDP growth estimate at 7.6% vs. 7.2% in FY15 led by higher consumption and government expenditure.



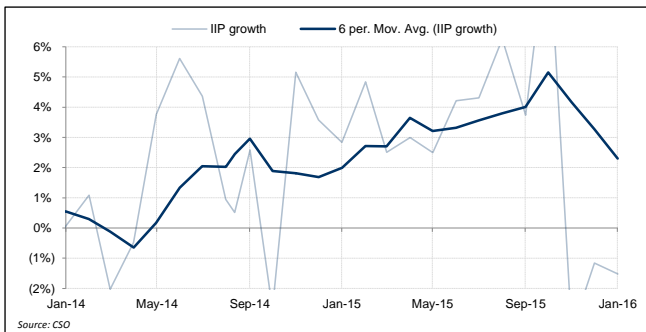
January - March 2016

Annual and quarterly GDP growth trend



Industrial production growth moderated in the last three months. This is partly attributed to weak demand from government sector as it slowed down on its expenditure plan to meet fiscal deficit target.

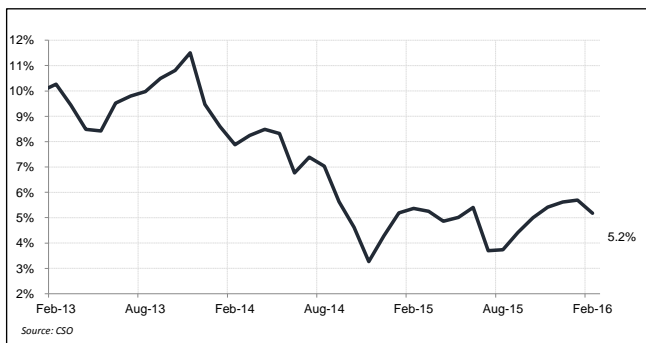
Index of Industrial Production (IIP) growth trend



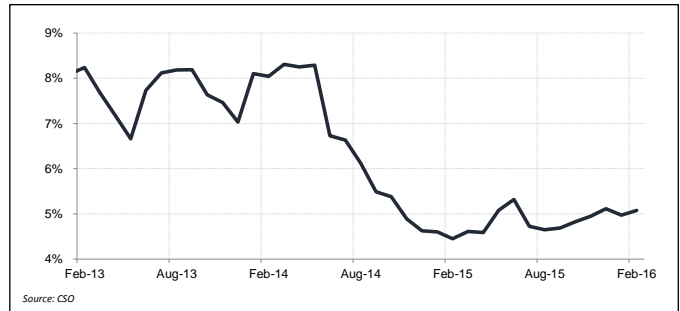
Inflation moderated after rising for six consecutive months

Consumer Price Index-based (CPI) inflation moderated to 5.2% in February from 5.7% in January, after trending up for six consecutive months. This was mainly led by easing food prices. Core inflation, however, remained sticky. The RBI expects inflation to moderate to 5.0% in FY17 and 4.2% in Q4 FY18. However, implementation of 7th Central Pay Commission could pose upside risk to these estimates.

CPI inflation trend



Core CPI inflation trend

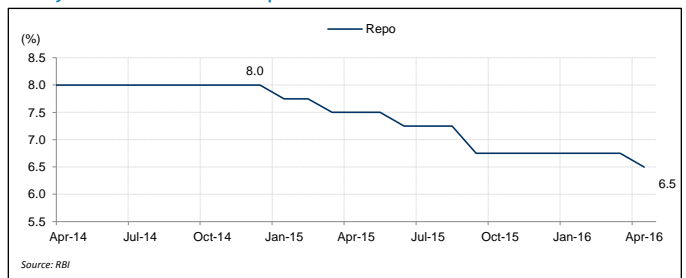


RBI reduced policy rate; announced liquidity enhancing measures

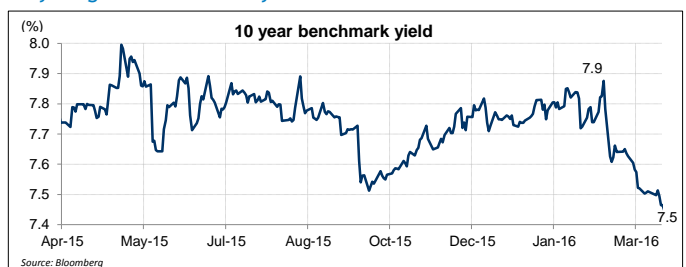
The RBI, in its recent monetary policy meeting on April 5th, reduced the policy rate (repo rate - rate at which banks borrow from RBI on an overnight basis) by 25bps to 6.5%, in-line with expectations. This was accompanied by continued accommodative stance with further cuts contingent upon good monsoon, softening in inflation readings and monetary transmission.

The RBI also announced several liquidity easing measures viz. 1) hike in the reverse repo rate (rate at which banks lend to RBI on an overnight basis) by 25bps to 6%, 2) reduction in the MSF (marginal standing facility - this allows banks to borrow from RBI in an emergency situation at a slightly higher rate) rate by 75bps to 7.0%, and 3) cut in daily CRR (cash reserve ratio - the minimum amount of deposits that banks have to hold as reserves with RBI) maintenance requirement from 95% to 90%. These measures, along with introduction of MCLR (Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate) and cut in small savings rates, are likely to accelerate monetary transmission.

Policy rates are down 150bps since Jan 2015



10-year government bond yield trend





January - March 2016

Government maintained fiscal prudence in the Union Budget

The government has adhered to fiscal consolidation roadmap, targeting 3.5% fiscal deficit to GDP for FY17, as against expectations of a marginal slippage. While focus on infrastructure investment, particularly in roads and railways, has continued, the government has also provided a strong impetus to agriculture and rural sectors. This includes a significant jump in allocation towards irrigation, rural employment, infrastructure and rural healthcare. The government has taken steps to support the ailing banking sector, announcing capital infusion of Rs 250bn in public sector banks.

Equity markets - Q4 FY16

Negative global cues weighed on investor sentiments: Indian equity markets remained volatile last quarter. This was led by global risk-off sentiments caused by 1) growth concerns in emerging markets, 2) volatility in currency and commodity markets, and 3) spreading of negative interest rate regime to more countries, which hurts global banks. However, dovish commentary by US Fed, comprehensive monetary easing package announced by ECB and a prudent Union Budget boosted investor sentiments in March. While Sensex Index fell by 12% over Jan-Feb 2016, it bounced back by 10% in March.

After two consecutive quarters of net selling, FIIs turned net buyers in Indian equities in March quarter with net inflows of \$1.2bn. March alone saw net FII inflows of \$4.1bn - the highest monthly run-rate in over three years. However, domestic flows reversed the rising trend in March, with net inflows by DIIs moderating to \$1.1bn in the last quarter.

Weak Q3 earnings dampened sentiments: Corporate earnings remained muted for yet another quarter mainly led by banks and metal sectors. While a sharp drop in commodity prices continued to hurt profitability of metal sector, the banking sector got impacted on account of higher provisioning of non-performing assets (NPAs).

Asset quality pressures worsened for the banking sector: The stressed asset formation, particularly for public sector banks (PSBs) and corporate-focused private banks, worsened in Q3 FY16. This was on account of RBI's Asset Quality Review (AQR) which required banks to accelerate provisioning on weak accounts. This, in turn, significantly impacted profitability of PSBs in the third quarter.

Equity market outlook

Indian markets are expected to remain volatile in the near-term on account of global developments which could impact risk appetite of foreign investors. On the global front, monetary policy actions by central banks, decision on Britain's position in European Union (referendum on June 23rd) and movement in commodity prices (particularly crude oil) are likely to determine market

movement in the near-term. On the domestic front, Q4 FY16 corporate earnings and development on monsoon front are key triggers for equity market.

We expect corporate profitability to improve in FY17 led by pick-up in demand and falling interest costs. This, along with further improvement in India's macro-economic fundamentals, bodes well for equity markets. Notwithstanding near-term volatility, outlook of equity markets remains robust from a medium to long term perspective.

Fixed Income markets - Q4 FY16

Fiscal prudence and decline in inflation raised rate-cut expectations:

The Indian fixed income market remained under pressure prior to the Union Budget led by 1) weakened expectations of rate cuts amid rising inflation readings, 2) concerns about government slipping from fiscal consolidation roadmap, 3) tight liquidity conditions and 4) unfavourable demand-supply dynamics. As a result, 10-year government bond yield hardened by 12bps to a six-month high of 7.88% before the budget.

The government, however, remained committed to fiscal consolidation in the Union Budget. This, coupled with better-than-expected inflation reading and cut in small savings rates, significantly increased expectations of rate cut by RBI. This, along with expansion in easing programme by ECB and dovish commentary by US Fed, led to 10-year government bond yield falling by 41bps from pre-budget peak levels till March-end. Overall, yields declined by 30bps during the quarter.

Fixed Income market outlook

We expect yields to moderate from current levels in the near to medium-term led by 1) sustenance of RBI's accommodative stance and 2) improvement in monetary transmission facilitated by RBI's liquidity enhancing measures. A lower borrowing plan on account of government's move to keep fiscal balances in check would ease supply-side pressures. Further, the Central bank's target of bringing liquidity in the system to neutral level by buying government securities from the open market would further rein in supply-side pressures.

The major risks include disappointment on inflation trajectory, poor monsoon and earlier-than-anticipated rate hikes by the US Fed.



As on March 31 2016

Gratuity Balanced

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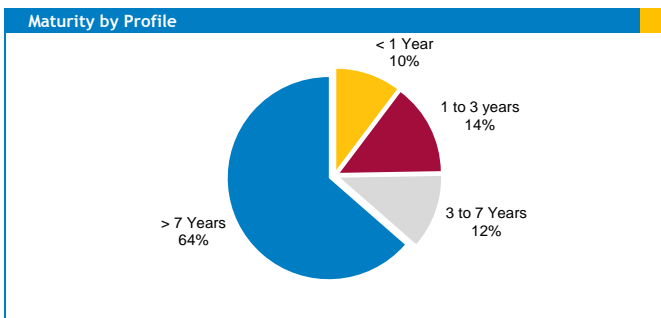
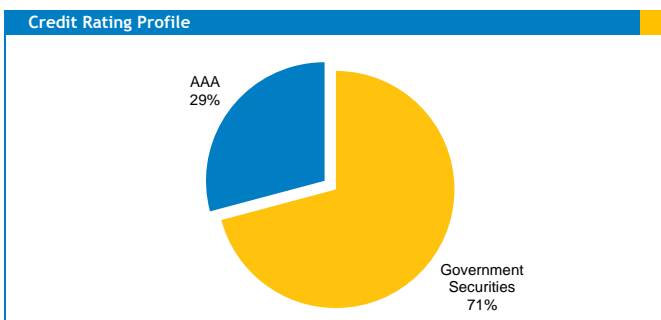
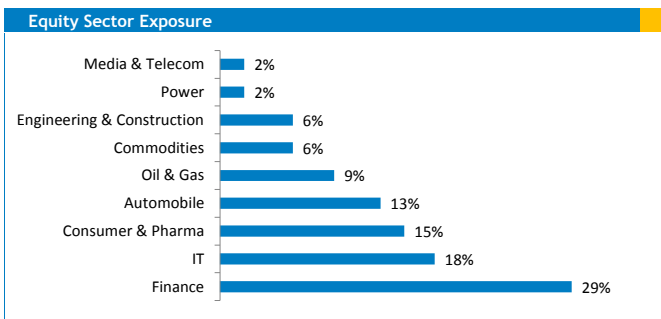
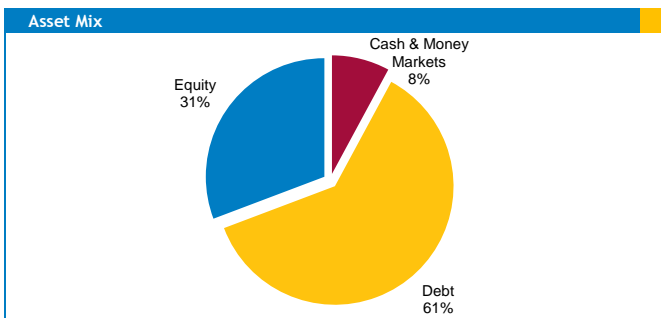
Investment Objective: To generate capital appreciation and current income, through a judicious mix of investments in equities and fixed income securities.

Investment Philosophy: The fund will target 30% investments in Equities and 70% investments in Government & other debt securities to meet the stated objectives.

Portfolio Return		as on March 31 2016				
Returns	Absolute Return		CAGR Return			
	Last 6 Months	Last 1 Year	Last 3 Years	Last 5 Years	Since Inception	
Portfolio return	1.7%	3.0%	9.7%	8.7%	8.8%	
Benchmark**	1.8%	3.1%	9.5%	7.9%	8.3%	

Note: Past returns are not indicative of future performance.

** Benchmark return has been computed by applying benchmark weightages on Nifty 50 for Equity and CRISIL Composite Bond Fund Index for Debt



Asset Classes
Equity
Government & Other Debt Securities

Security	Rating	Net Assets
GOVERNMENT SECURITY		
7.59% GOI 2029	Sovereign	21.47%
8.60% GOI 2028	Sovereign	10.89%
8.15% GOI 2026	Sovereign	6.67%
8.17% GOI 2044	Sovereign	4.45%
TOTAL		43.48%
CORPORATE BOND		
RELIANCE GAS TRANSPORT. INFRA.	AAA	8.00%
HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED	AAA	4.44%
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FIN. CORPN.	AAA	3.02%
L I C HOUSING FINANCE LTD.	AAA	2.43%
TOTAL		17.89%
EQUITY		
INFOSYS LTD.		3.61%
H D F C BANK LTD.		2.46%
RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LTD.		2.01%
I T C LTD.		1.95%
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPN. LTD.		1.55%
I C I C I BANK LTD.		1.11%
Others		18.06%
TOTAL		30.75%
CASH AND MONEY MARKETS		7.88%
PORTFOLIO TOTAL		100.00%





Gratuity Debt

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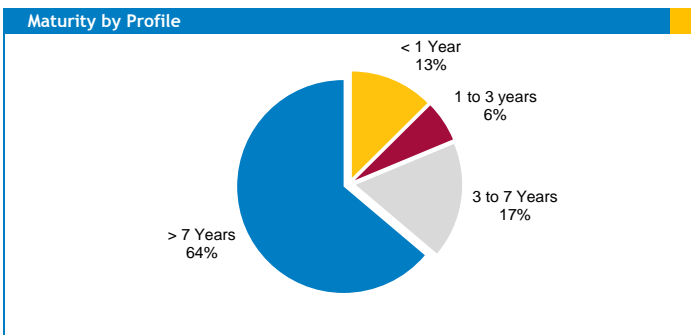
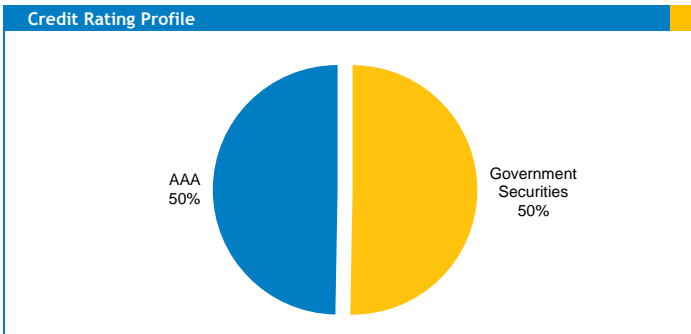
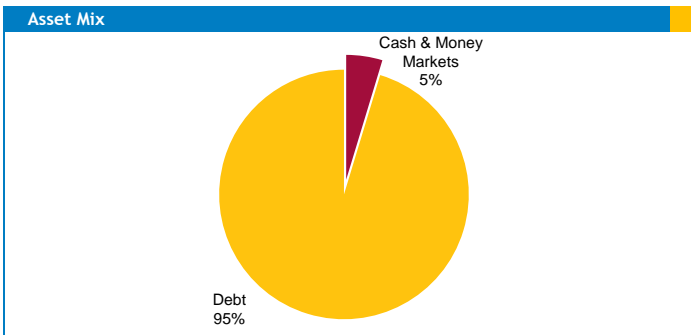
Investment Objective: To earn regular income by investing in high quality fixed income securities.

Investment Philosophy: The fund would target 100% investments in Government & other debt securities to meet the stated objectives.

Portfolio Return		as on March 31 2016				
Returns	Absolute Return		CAGR Return			
	Last 6 Months	Last 1 Year	Last 3 Years	Last 5 Years	Since Inception	
Portfolio return	3.0%	7.0%	7.6%	9.0%	9.1%	
Benchmark**	3.7%	8.2%	9.0%	8.8%	8.6%	

Note: Past returns are not indicative of future performance.

** Benchmark return has been computed by applying benchmark weightages on CRISIL Composite Bond Fund Index



Asset Classes

Government & Other Debt Securities

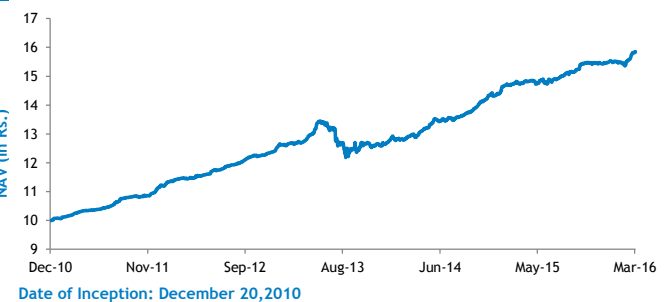
Portfolio Components

Security	Rating	Net Assets
GOVERNMENT SECURITY		
7.59% GOI 2029	Sovereign	15.96%
8.13% GOI 2045	Sovereign	8.53%
8.17% GOI 2044	Sovereign	6.84%
9.15% GOI 2024	Sovereign	6.02%
9.23% GOI 2043	Sovereign	4.41%
7.59% GOI 2026	Sovereign	2.80%
8.40% GOI 2024	Sovereign	1.73%
9.20% GOI 2030	Sovereign	1.53%
Others		0.11%
TOTAL		47.93%

CORPORATE BOND		
TATA SONS LTD.	AAA	8.07%
RELIANCE PORTS & TERMINALS LTD.	AAA	6.06%
INFRASTRUCTURE LEASING & FIN. SERV	AAA	5.96%
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION CORPN. LTD.	AAA	5.71%
POWER FINANCE CORPN. LTD.	AAA	5.67%
L I C HOUSING FINANCE LTD.	AAA	5.58%
RELIANCE GAS TRANSPORT. INFRA.	AAA	3.50%
IDFC BANK LIMITED	AAA	3.41%
POWER GRID CORPN. OF INDIA LTD.	AAA	2.88%
Others		0.55%
TOTAL		47.39%

CASH AND MONEY MARKETS	4.68%
PORTFOLIO TOTAL	100.00%

NAV Movement





Quantitative Indicators

- **Standard Deviation (SD)** - It shows how much the variation or dispersion of a fund's daily returns has from its average. Lesser SD indicates that the daily returns are moving closer to the average. A higher SD indicates that daily returns are widely spread over a large range of value.
- **Beta** - It indicates how the fund is performing relative to its benchmark. If beta of a fund is higher than its benchmark, which is considered 1, it indicates risk-return trade-off is better and vice-versa.
- **Sharpe Ratio** - It measures the risk-reward ratio as it indicates whether higher returns come with higher or lower risk. Greater the ratio, better is the risk-adjusted performance.
- **Average Maturity** - It is the weighted average period of all the maturities of debt securities in the portfolio.
- **Modified Duration (MD)** - It is the measurable change in the value of a security in response to a change in interest rates.
- **Yield To Maturity (YTM)** - It is the expected rate of annual return on a bond if it is held till maturity. The calculation assumed that all interest payments are reinvested at the same rate as the bond's current yield.

Macroeconomic Indicators

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Quarterly)** - It is the market value of all final goods and services produced within a country. This indicator is used to gauge the health of a country's economy.
- **Fiscal Deficit** - This takes place when India's expenditure rises than its revenue. To fill this gap, the Government raises debt by issuing Government/ sovereign bonds. Fiscal deficit is usually compared with GDP to understand the financial position of the country. Rising fiscal deficit to GDP ratio is not good for the country, which requires immediate attention to cut expenditure and/or increase the source of revenue.
- **Current Account Deficit (Quarterly)** - It is a deficit where India's foreign currency outflows are higher than inflows. This indicates that the country is a net debtor of foreign currency, which increases the pressure on the country's existing foreign currency reserves. Current account surplus is the opposite of this.
- **Index of Industrial Production (IIP) (Monthly)** - The index represents the production growth of various sectors in India. The index focuses on mining, electricity and manufacturing. The ongoing base year for calculation of index is 2004-2005.
- **Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Monthly)** - The index represents the rate of growth of prices of a representative basket of wholesale goods. The index mainly represents manufacturing (64.97%), primary articles (20.12%) and fuel & power (14.91%).
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI) (Monthly)** - The index represents the rate of growth of price level of a basket of consumer goods and services sold at retail or purchased by households.
- **HSBC Purchasers Managers' Index (PMI) (Monthly)** - Three types of indices - Manufacturing, Services and Composite Index are published on a monthly basis after surveys of private sector companies. An index reading above 50 indicates an overall increase in that variable, while below 50 shows an overall decrease.



Market Indices

- **Nifty 50 Index** - It is a well diversified 50 stock index accounting for 22 sectors of the economy. It is used for a variety of purposes such as benchmarking fund portfolios, index based derivatives and index funds.
- **CRISIL Composite Bond Fund Index** - It seeks to track the performance of a debt portfolio that includes government securities and AAA/AA rated corporate bonds.

Fixed Income Indicators

- **Repo Rate** - The rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks is called repo rate. It is an instrument of monetary policy. Whenever shortage of funds banks has, they can borrow from the RBI.
- **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** - CRR is the amount of funds which the banks need to keep with the RBI. If the RBI decides to increase the CRR, the available amount with the banks comes down. The RBI uses the CRR to drain out excessive money from the system.
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)** - It is a rate at which the RBI provides overnight lending to commercial banks over and above the repo window (repo rate). The interest rate charged is higher than the repo rate and hence it is used when there is considerable shortfall in liquidity.
- **Statutory Liquidity ratio (SLR)** - In India, commercial banks are required to maintain a certain percentage of their total deposits (net demand and time liabilities) in notified Government securities to ensure safety and liquidity of deposits. This percentage is known as the SLR rate. If the RBI or Central Bank reduces the SLR rate, it means that higher liquidity will be available to banks for their lending activity and vice-versa.

Others

- **Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) (FCNR (B))** - It is an account that allows non-resident Indian or a person of Indian origin to keep his deposits in foreign currency. Hassles of conversion can be reduced through such types of accounts.
- **Swap** - It is a derivative contract between two parties that occurs at a future date. It is used to hedge risk related to interest rates, currency and commodities movement. The counterparties exchange cash flows, if any, related to the instrument involved in the transaction.

About Us



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PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited (PNB MetLife) is one of the fastest growing life insurance companies in the country, having as its shareholders, MetLife International Holdings LLC. (MIHL), Punjab National Bank Limited (PNB), Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited (JKB), M. Pallonji and Company Private Limited and other private investors, with MIHL and PNB being the majority shareholders. PNB MetLife has been present in India since 2001.

PNB MetLife brings together the financial strength of a leading global life insurance provider, MetLife, Inc., and the credibility and reliability of PNB, one of India's oldest and leading nationalised banks. The vast distribution reach of PNB together with the global insurance expertise and product range of MetLife makes PNB MetLife a strong and trusted insurance provider.

PNB MetLife is present in over 150 locations across the country and serves customers in more than 7,000 locations through its bank partnerships with PNB, JKB and Karnataka Bank Limited.

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Contact Us

Customer Helpline No.	1800-425-6969 (Toll Free) (Within India only) IVR available 24*7 with your policy details
Email	indiaservice@pnbmetlife.co.in

SMS HELP to 5607071
(Special SMS Charges Apply)

PNB MetLife India Insurance Co. Ltd.
(Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
(IRDAI of India), Life Insurance Registration No.117)
Registered Office: 'Brigade Seshamahal',
5 Vani Vilas Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004.
Toll Free: 1-800-425-6969
www.pnbmetlife.com

PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited Registered office address: Brigade Seshamahal, 5 Vani Vilas Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004, Karnataka. IRDAI Registration number 117. CI No: U66010KA2001PLC02B883, Call us Toll-free at 1-800-425-6969, Website: www.pnbmetlife.com, Email: indiaservice@pnbmetlife.co.in. or write to us 1st Floor, Techniplex -1, Techniplex Complex, Off Veer Savarkar Flyover, Goregaon (West), Mumbai - 400062. Phone: +91-22-41790000, Fax: +91-22-41790203. PNB MetLife is an affiliate of MetLife, Inc. LD/2016-17/001 EC001.

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