

Milkar life aage badhaein



**Gratuity Fund**Monthly Fund Performance

December 2019 Edition





#### Month gone by - A snapshot

Global equity markets ended the year on a buoyant note as a combination of liquidity infusion by central banks, US-China trade truce and a decisive UK election outcome reinforced market sentiments. Profit booking and continuing concerns over the economy led to Indian indices underperforming global benchmarks. MSCI India index was up 1.5% for the month compared to MSCI Emerging Markets Index

rising by 7.2% and MSCI Developed Markets Index rising by 2.9%. The 10-year G-Sec yield rallied by 9bps as disappointment over RBI Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) rate pause was more than made-up by the RBI initiating 'Operation Twist'. Crude was up by 5.7% in the month as optimism about the global economy returned and oil producers reached an agreement to extend production cuts.

#### Inflation concerns preclude rate cut, government retains infrastructure focus

RBI MPC unanimously voted to keep the policy rates unchanged, while emphasizing that 'there is monetary policy space for future action'. The rate cut pause was on account of an increase in inflation in recent months. The uptick in inflation was mainly due to rise in food inflation, while core inflation continued to remain subdued. Rise in food inflation, along with high water reservoir levels, is likely to aid revival of the rural economy. The government has announced a INR 102 lakh crores 'National Infrastructure Pipeline' to help achieve US\$ 5th GDP target. We expect further measures in the upcoming Union Budget for supporting economic growth.

Steady bond yields, expect further monetary easing: Yields remained volatile during the month as initial disappointment over MPC's rate pause led to an increase in bond yields. However, RBI initiated 'Operation Twist' Open Market Operation (OMO) transactions during the month. This entails simultaneous purchase of long term Government Securities and sale of short term Government Securities. These transactions are likely to aid monetary policy transmission by reducing long term yields. Banking system liquidity has continued to remain in surplus and has exceeded INR 3trn. Foreign flows into debt market remained negative in December at US\$ 0.8bn (2019, US\$ 3.7bn).

Outlook: RBI has conducted two tranches of 'Operation Twist' transactions. Even though there are concerns over fiscal slippage and higher crude oil prices, yields are likely to remain range bound. Anticipated measures to increase Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) limits for domestic debt markets will be a positive development. This can aid the inclusion of Indian debt in global bond indices and enable enhanced FII inflows into fixed income market.

Equity market remains buoyant: Indian equity markets gained 1.0% during the month and closed slightly short of life time high levels. Equity market performance was aided by a rally in global markets and continued government measures to revive growth. Metals, Information Technology, and Real Estate significantly outperformed as these sectors were aided either by linkages to a reviving global economy or are beneficiaries of recent government interventions. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth US\$ 0.9bn (2019, US\$ 14.1bn), while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) sold equities worth US\$ 0.1bn (2019, US\$ 6bn).

**Outlook**: Global equity market outlook is expected to remain positive due to several large economies seeing growth revival led by a combination of fiscal and monetary measures. In addition, Indian market sentiment is likely to be aided by increased monetary policy transmission, revival in the rural economy, and government's continued focus on infrastructure development. Given this backdrop, we remain constructive on equities from a medium to long term perspective.

Sanjay Kumar
Chief Investment Officer

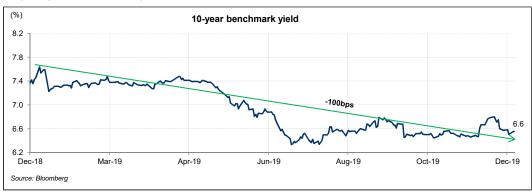
Glossary



Indicators	Dec 2018	Sep 2019	Dec 2019	QoQ Change	YoY Change
Economic indicators					
Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation (%)	2.3	3.3	5.5	2.2	3.2
Gross Domestic Product (GDP Growth) %	7.0	5.0	4.5	-0.5	-2.5
Index of Industrial Production (IIP) (%)	8.4	4.9	-3.8	-8.7	-12.2
Brent crude oil (USD/barrel)	54	61	66	9%	23%
Domestic Markets					
Nifty Index	10,863	11,474	12,168	6%	12%
BSE Mid-cap Index	15,438	14,104	14,968	6%	-3%
10-year G-Sec Yield (%)	7.4	6.7	6.6	-10 bps	-80 bps
30-year G-Sec Yield (%)	7.6	7.1	7.1	0 bps	-50 bps
10-year AAA PSU Corporate Bond Yield (%)	8.3	7.7	7.4	-30 bps	-90 bps
Exchange rate (USD/INR) *	69.8	70.9	71.4	1%	2%
Global Markets					
Dow Jones (U.S.)	23,327	26,917	28,538	6%	22%
FTSE (U.K.)	6,728	7,408	7,542	2%	12%
Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index (China)	2,494	2,905	3,050	5%	22%
Nikkei 225 (Japan)	20,015	21,756	23,657	9%	18%

Source: Central Statistics Organisation (CSO), RBI, Bloomberg. \*Negative growth number signals depreciation while positive growth number signals appreciation.

# 10-year government bond yield trend



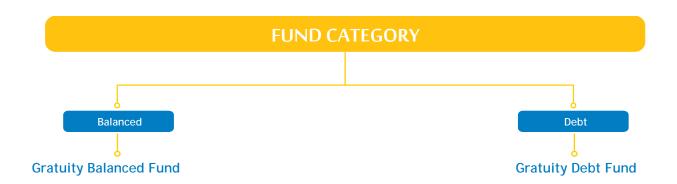
## **Equity Market performance**



Glossary









As on December 31, 2019

SFIN No: ULGF00205/06/04GRABALANCE117

#### **Gratuity Balanced**

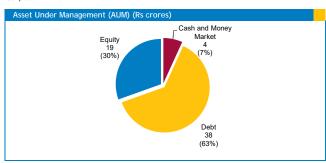
Investment Objective: To generate capital appreciation and current income, through a judicious mix of investments in equities and fixed income securities.

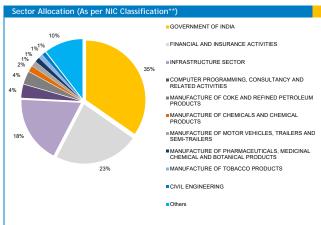
Investment Philosophy: The fund will target 30% investments in Equities and 70% investments in Government & other debt securities to meet the stated objectives.

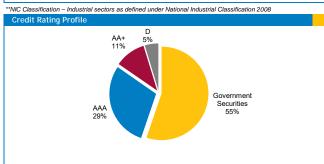
Portfolio Return					As on Dece	ember 31, 2019
Datuma	Absolute	e Return		CA	GR Return	
Returns	Last 1 Month	Last 6 Months	Last 1 Year	Last 2 Years	Last 3 Years	Since Inception
Portfolio return	0.1%	2.5%	7.7%	6.3%	7.8%	8.7%
Benchmark*	0.3%	4.3%	11.1%	8.1%	9.3%	8.8%

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







Maturity by Pr	
	< 1 Year 13%
	> 7 Years 34% 1 to 3 years 8%
	3 to 7 Years 45%



Asset Classes	F&U	Actual
Government and other Debt Securities	25-95%	62.7%
Equities	5-35%	30.4%
Money Market and other liquid assets	0-40%	6.8%

Security	Rating	Net Assets
GOVERNMENT SECURITIES		
7.26% GOI 2029	Sovereign	9.2%
8.13% GOI 2045	Sovereign	5.5%
8.25% SDL 2026	Sovereign	5.2%
7.35% GOI 2024	Sovereign	5.1%
7.72% GOI 2055	Sovereign	3.5%
7.37% GOI 2023	Sovereign	2.6%
7.57% GOI 2033	Sovereign	2.6%
7.17% GOI 2028	Sovereign	0.4%
7.16% GOI 2023	Sovereign	0.3%
TOTAL		34.6%
CORPORATE BONDS		
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD	AA+	6.7%
I &T INFRA DEBT FUND I TD	AAA	5.9%
SIKKA PORTS & TERMINALS LTD.	AAA	5.8%
RURAL ELECTRIFICATION CORPN. LTD.	AAA	3.3%
DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPN. LTD.	D AAA	3.0%
SUNDARAM FINANCE LTD.	AAA	1.7%
POWER FINANCE CORPN. LTD.	AAA	1.7%
TOTAL	AAA	28.1%
TOTAL		20.170
TOP 10 EQUITY SECURITIES		
H D F C BANK LTD.		3.3%
RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LTD.		3.2%
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPN. LTD.		2.0%
INFOSYS LTD.		2.0%
I C I C I BANK LTD.		1.9%
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.		1.2%
ITCLTD.		1.2%
LARSEN & TOUBRO LTD.		1.0%
HINDUSTAN UNILEVER LTD.		0.9%
TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES LTD.		0.8%
Others		12.9%
TOTAL		30.4%
CASH AND MONEY MARKET		6.8%
PORTFOLIO TOTAL		100.0%





As on December 31, 2019

SFIN No: ULGF00105/06/04GRADEBTFND117

## **Gratuity Debt**

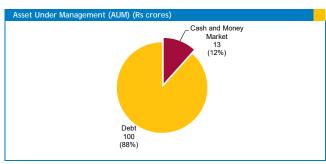
Investment Objective: To earn regular income by investing in high quality fixed income securities.

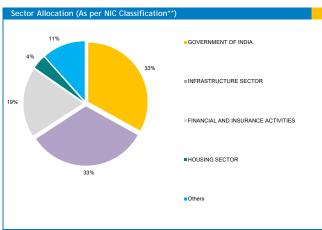
Investment Philosophy: The fund would target 100% investments in Government & other debt securities to meet the stated objectives.

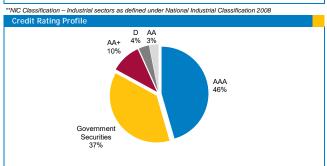
Portfolio Return					As on Dece	ember 31, 2019
Dotumo	Absolute	e Return		CA	GR Return	
Returns	Last 1 Month	Last 6 Months	Last 1 Year	Last 2 Years	Last 3 Years	Since Inception
Portfolio return	-0.1%	0.0%	3.9%	3.6%	3.6%	7.7%
Benchmark*	0.1%	4.8%	10.7%	8.3%	7.1%	8.5%

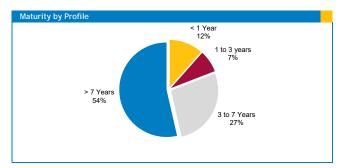
Note: Past returns are not indicative of future performance.

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





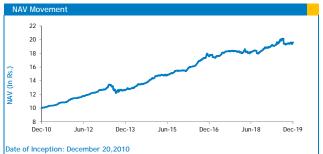






Asset Classes	F&U	Actual
Government and other Debt Securities	60-100%	88.4%
Money Market and other liquid assets	0-40%	11.6%

Security	Rating	Net Assets
TOP 10 GOVERNMENT SECURITIES		
7.26% GOI 2029	Sovereign	12.1%
7.57% GOI 2033	Sovereign	5.4%
7.72% GOI 2055	Sovereign	3.8%
8.83% GOI 2041	Sovereign	2.6%
7.69% GOI 2043	Sovereign	2.4%
7.59% GOI 2026	Sovereign	2.3%
7.06% GOI 2046	Sovereign	1.8%
7.68% GOI 2023	Sovereign	1.4%
7.17% GOI 2028	Sovereign	1.2%
8.13% GOI 2021	Sovereign	0.1%
Others		0.0%
TOTAL		33.0%
TOP 10 CORPORATE BONDS SIKKA PORTS & TERMINALS LTD.	AAA	7.3%
L&T INFRA DEBT FUND LTD	AAA	4.7%
N H P C I TD.	AAA	4.7%
RURAL FLECTRIFICATION CORPN. LTD.	AAA	4.6%
SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE CO. LTD.	AA+	4.6%
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD	AA+	4.5%
POWER FINANCE CORPN. LTD.	AAA	3.9%
POWER GRID CORPN. OF INDIA LTD.	AAA	3.8%
INDIAN RAILWAY FINANCE CORPN. LTD.	AAA	3.8%
STATE BANK OF INDIA	AAA	3.8%
Others		9.7%
TOTAL		55.3%
CASH AND MONEY MARKET		11.6%





# **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.
- Bond yield Bond yield is the amount of return an investor realizes on a bond. Several types of bond yields exist, including nominal yield (interest paid divided by the face value of the bond) and current yield (annual earnings of the bond divided by its current market price). Yield to maturity (YTM), a popular measure where in addition to coupon return it also additionally incorporates price decline/increase to face value of the bond over the maturity period.

#### Macroeconomic Indicators

- Macroeconomics Macroeconomics is the branch of economics that studies the behavior and performance of an economy as a whole. It focuses on the aggregate changes in the economy such as unemployment, growth rate, gross domestic product and inflation. Macroeconomics analyzes all aggregate indicators that influence the economy. Government and corporations use macroeconomic models to help in formulating of economic policies and strategies.
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) GDP is one of the primary indicators used to gauge the health of a country's economy. It represents the total value of all goods and services produced over a specific time period. It can be stated in real terms or nominal terms (which includes inflation).
- Gross value added (GVA) GVA is a productivity metric that measures the contribution to an economy, producer, sector or region. Gross value added provides a value for the amount of goods and services that have been produced, less the cost of all inputs and raw materials that are directly attributable to that production.
- Index of Industrial Production (IIP) 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.
- HSBC Purchasers Managers' Index (PMI) 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.
- Inflation Inflation measures the change in the prices of a basket of goods and services in a year. From a calculation standpoint, it is the percentage change in the value of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) / Consumer Price Index (CPI) on a year-on-year basis. It occurs due to an imbalance between demand and supply, changes in production and distribution cost or increase in taxes on products. When economy experiences inflation, i.e. when the price level of goods and services rises, the value of currency reduces.



# Macroeconomic Indicators

- Nominal interest rate Nominal interest rate is the interest rate that does not take inflation impact into account. It is the interest rate that is quoted on bonds and loans.
- Real interest rate Real interest rate adjusts for the inflation and gives the real rate of a bond or a loan.
- Monetary Policy Monetary policy is the macroeconomic policy laid down by the Central bank. It involves management of money supply and interest rates to achieve macroeconomic objectives like inflation, consumption, growth and liquidity. Depending on growth-inflation dynamics, the central bank can either pursue an easy or a tight monetary policy. An expansionary/easy/ accommodative monetary policy involves expansion of money supply, mainly by keeping interest rates low, to boost economic growth. A contractionary/tight monetary policy involves reduction in money supply to control inflation in the economy.
- Liquidity The Central bank of a country has to maintain an appropriate level of liquidity to help meet the credit demand of the country as well as maintain price stability. This is done by way of direct monetary policy tools such as policy rates and cash reserves to be maintained with it by banks. It is also done by indirect means such as Open market Operations (OMO) which involve sale and purchase of Government securities.
- 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 (CAD) Current account deficit is a measurement of a country's trade where the value of
  imports of goods and services as well as net investment income or transfer from abroad is greater than the value
  of exports of goods and services for a country. 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.
- Investment In private investment, the funds come from a private, for-profit business. A few examples of private investment are a private company's manufacturing plant, a commercial office building, or a shopping mall. In public investment, the money exchanged comes from a governmental entity such as a city, state, country, etc. It would involve roads, airports, dams and other public infrastructure.

#### 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.



## **Fixed Income Indicators**

- 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**

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) The GST is one of the biggest indirect tax reforms, with an aim to make India one unified common market. It is a single tax on the supply of goods and services, right from the manufacturer to the consumer. Credits of input taxes paid at each stage will be available in the subsequent stage of value addition, which makes GST essentially a tax only on value addition at each stage. The final consumer will thus bear only the GST charged by the last dealer in the supply chain, with set-off benefits at all the previous stages.
- Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) FIIs are those institutional investors who invest in the assets belonging to a different country other than that where these organizations are based. These are the big companies such as investment banks, mutual funds etc, which invest considerable amount of money in Indian equity and fixed income markets, and consequently have a strong bearing on the respective market movement and currency.
- Domestic institutional investors (DIIs)- DIIs are those institutional investors who undertake investment in securities and other financial assets of the country they are based in. Institutional investment is defined to be the investment done by institutions or organizations such as banks, insurance companies, and mutual fund houses in the financial or real assets of a country.
- Emerging market (EM) economy- An emerging market economy describes a nation's economy that is progressing toward becoming more advanced, usually by means of rapid growth and industrialization. These countries experience an expanding role both in the world economy and on the political frontier.
- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)- The OPEC was formed in 1960 to unify and
  coordinate members' petroleum policies. This was aimed at ensuring the stability of oil markets in order to secure
  an efficient, economic, and regular supply of petroleum to customers as well as a steady income to producers
  with a fair return. Members of OPEC include Iran, Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United
  Arab Emirates (or UAE), Oman, and Yemen. The OPEC countries produce 40% of the world's crude oil.
- Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC)- The FOMC is the monetary policymaking body of the Federal Reserve System. The FOMC is composed of 12 members - seven members of the Board of Governors and five of the 12 Reserve Bank presidents.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)- The IMF, formed in 1945, is an international organization of 189 countries, headquartered in Washington, D.C. The key objectives include fostering global monetary cooperation, securing financial stability, facilitating international trade, promoting high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reducing poverty around the world.



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PNB MetLife is present in over 110 locations across the country and serves customers in more than 8,000 locations through its bank partnerships with PNB, JKB and Karnataka Bank Limited.

PNB MetLife provides a wide range of protection and retirement products through its Agency sales of over 6,000 financial advisors and multiple bank partners, and provides access to Employee Benefit plans for over 1,200 corporate clients in India. The company continues to be consistently profitable and has declared profits for last five Financial Years.

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IRDAI Registration number 117

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Compound annual growth rate (CAGR) is rounded to nearest 0.1%

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