

Striking a balance

Rahul Goswami, 40, CIO, fixed income, ICICI Prudential AMC, may come across as a bit of a serious person at first glance, but he prefers to describe himself as “uncomplicated and straightforward; someone who likes to always keep things simple and efficient”. With exposure to mainly debt funds in his professional career, he currently heads a six-member in-house research team with a view to exploit opportunities in managing funds and creating value for investors. He joined ICICI Prudential in 2004 as co-head of fixed income and remained with the company until 2009, after which he moved to Standard Chartered Bank. In September 2012, he rejoined ICICI Prudential for the challenge and overall responsibility that the company offers. “It’s not just one job here, but a combination of things. I see a very exciting and dynamic market emerging, and, in addition to being one of the largest fixed-income fund houses in the country, it is probably one of



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the best, in my opinion.” He oversees 19 funds, with an AAUM of ₹63,226 crore in the fixed-income and money market; of these, he directly manages eight funds, with an AAUM of ₹30,000 crore.

Against the fund house framework of safety, liquidity and returns (SLR), Goswami’s personal investment strategy is focussed on striking the right balance between risk and return, with a high focus on

credit quality. “In the current environment, I would look at investing in short and moderate maturity buckets like short-term plans, income funds and dynamic bond funds, which we believe remain attractive in terms of risk adjusted returns.” Moreover, with rate cuts around the corner and the government demonstrating a strong commitment and willingness to pass more reforms to contain the fiscal deficit, the present investment climate, he feels, is a tremendous opportunity for investors too, while simultaneously cautioning that they should be judicious and calculative of the risk and manage their return expectations accordingly. “The investor must be able to differentiate between under-owning and over-owning risk, because both scenarios are risky. Ultimately, in the long run, the guy who runs the optimal level of risk comes out a winner. That’s my philosophy.”

Goswami has a B.Sc from Sagar University in Madhya Pradesh and an MBA from Bhopal University. He enjoys reading and watching both soccer and Formula One.

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