

FIRST LIGHT 05 March 2025

#### RESEARCH

# **BOB ECONOMICS RESEARCH | BONDS WRAP**

Fortnightly review

### **BOB ECONOMICS RESEARCH | CURRENCY UPDATE**

Fortnightly forex review

### **SUMMARY**

#### INDIA ECONOMICS: BONDS WRAP

Uncertainty on global economic growth and heightened market volatility amidst lingering geopolitical tensions, tightening financial conditions and escalated concerns around possible impact of tariff war, has kept the global investors on the edge. US 10Y yield moderated given the growing risk of slowing economy and the same has been reflected by weaker consumer sentiment and retail sales print. On the domestic front, given the moderation in inflation and evolving liquidity conditions, India's 10Y yield eased. Extensive efforts by RBI in managing liquidity through VRR auction supported bond yields. Going forward, the 10Y yield is expected to trade in the range of 6.65%-6.75% in Mar'25, with certain upside risk including tightening liquidity conditions amidst tax outflows. On policy rate, we anticipate RBI will wait and watch before taking any action in Apr'25 given the moderation in headline inflation.

Click here for the full report.

### INDIA ECONOMICS: CURRENCY UPDATE

INR depreciated by 1% in Feb'25, marking its 5th straight monthly decline. Persistent FPI outflows and uncertainty over US tariffs have kept INR under stress. Since Oct'24, domestic markets have witnessed outflows of over US\$ 22bn. An expected rebound in domestic GDP growth, range bound oil prices and strong external buffers are positive for INR. However, given the continued volatility in global financial system, the scope of INR appreciation looks limited. US tariff policies and hence the dollar, will play a greater role in where the INR goes from here. We expect a range of 86.75-87.75\$ (and could also touch Rs 88 before reverting to this range) in the coming month.

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## **BONDS WRAP**

04 March 2025

# Fortnightly review

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Jahnavi Prabhakar Economist

### Movement in global yields in Feb'25:

There was significant variation in movement in global yields in Feb'25 across global economies. While 10Y yield in US fell by 33bps, yields in Singapore was down by 18bps and for China and Japan, the bond yields were up by 15 and 13bps respectively.

Table 1. 10Y yield movement globally

Countries	10Y sovereign yield, 31 Jan 2025	10Y sovereign yield, 28 Feb 2025	Change in bps (MoM)
China	1.63	1.78	15
Japan	1.25	1.38	13
India	6.70	6.73	3
Germany	2.46	2.41	(5)
UK	4.54	4.48	(6)
Indonesia	6.99	6.91	(8)
Korea	2.86	2.70	(16)
Singapore	2.91	2.73	(18)
US	4.54	4.21	(33)

Source: Bloomberg, Bank of Baroda Research

US 10Y yields ended lower by 33bps in Feb'25. US Fed in its last meeting paused the rate cut cycle and signaled cautious note on the outlook of interest rates given the ongoing concerns around inflation. The same was reiterated in the Fed minutes noting 'committee could hold policy rate at a restrictive level if the economy remained strong and inflation remained elevated'. The Fed has kept the benchmark policy rate at 4.25-4.50% level.





# **CURRENCY UPDATE**

04 March 2025

## Fortnightly forex review

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Aditi Gupta Economist

### Movement in global currencies:

Global currencies showed mixed movements in Feb'25 as uncertainty over US tariffs continued to impinge on investor sentiments. Despite a 0.7% decline in the DXY index, a majority of currencies were weaker against the dollar. JPY was amongst the most notable exception, rising by 3%. Expectations of rate hikes by the BoJ as well as its safe-haven appeal contributed to the increase. Currencies of both Mexico and Canada also gained despite looming US tariff deadline. On the other hand, major EM currencies were lower against the dollar as the constant back and forth on US tariff policies led to a capital flight from EM markets. Both CNY and EUR depreciated, as the threat of US tariffs continued.

Figure 1: Movement in global currencies in Feb'25



Source: Bloomberg, Bank of Baroda Research | Note: Data as of 28 Feb 2025 | Figures in brackets denote depreciation against the dollar

### INR performance:

INR depreciated by 1% in Feb'25. This followed a depreciation of 1.2% in Jan'25. The pressure on INR has stemmed largely from external factors with the US tariff policies and Fed stance working against the rupee. Fears of higher tariffs on India by the new US government, along with a broader escalation in tariff tensions, continue to weigh on investor sentiments.





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