

# Corp bond market begins to warm up

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**A**fter a muted September quarter, India's corporate bond market is seeing a revival, with major borrowers lining up to raise funds as yields begin to soften following dovish signals from the Reserve Bank of India. Bharti Telecom Ltd and several other companies are preparing sizeable issuances in the coming days, merchant bankers said.

Bharti Telecom plans to raise ₹15,000 crore through short-term bonds maturing in two and three years—one of the largest corporate bond issues so far this financial year. Barclays is said to be the arranger for the offering, which is expected to open next week. Proceeds will be used to refinance debt maturing in the coming months, according to bankers familiar with the plan.

Another major name is real estate developer Signature Global India, which plans to raise ₹875 crore through bonds maturing on 15 January 2029,

at a fixed coupon of 11%, as per the term sheet. The bond issue, rated A+ by CARE, will open on 14 October. The company intends to use the proceeds to repay debt of its subsidiary Signature Global Business Park and to fund land acquisitions.

The renewed activity follows a sharp slowdown in corporate bond sales during the September quarter. Issuances plunged to ₹2 trillion from ₹3.44 trillion in the June quarter and ₹3.2 trillion a year earlier, according

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to data from Prime Database. Borrowers largely stayed away as yields rose amid global uncertainty and ambiguity around the RBI's rate trajectory.

The yield on 10-year bonds issued by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development—a key benchmark for the corporate debt market—climbed 18-20 basis points to 7.24% in the September quarter. That trend, however, appears to be reversing. RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra recently said yields were expected to head lower.

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