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## Budget 2021: Fiscal Deficit Could Be 5 to 5.5% For 2021-22

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By Sunil Fernandes | Updated: Monday, January 25, 2021, 9:04 [IST]

The higher expenditure needed to stimulate economic revival would require the government to be flexible on the fiscal deficit target of 3.3% of GDP in 2021-22, CARE Ratings has stated in its report on Budget Expectations.

"We expect the fiscal deficit to be budgeted at 5 to 5.5% for the year which would be an improvement from the estimated fiscal deficit of 7.8% to 8.4% in 2020-21. There can be a downward bias for the latter depending on the expenditure cuts that could be reckoned in the last two months of the year. The pre-pandemic target of containing the fiscal deficit at 3.1% of GDP by 2022-23 would necessarily have to be revisited given that prolonged higher government spending would be required for sustainable economy recovery." CARE Ratings has stated.



According to the ratings agency, a

in the deficit would have to be

2020-21, the gross market borrowings was budgeted at Rs 7.8 lakh crores but the government

clearly outlined.

feasible roadmap for reigning in the

"Market borrowings are being relied

upon to finance the fiscal deficit. For

revised it to Rs 13.1 lakh crores on





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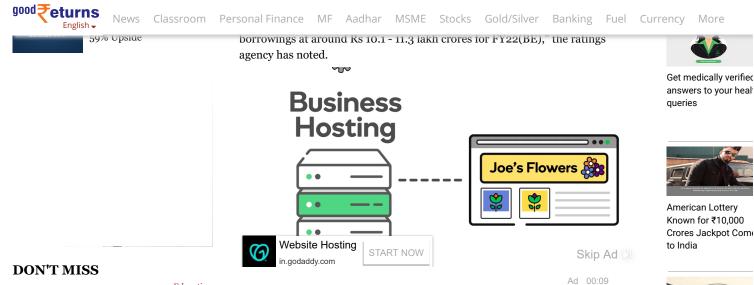
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account of the pandemic led disruptions that severely constrained government revenues and necessitated higher commitments from the central government (including the additional transfer of Rs 1 1 lakh crs to the states as part of th

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According to CARE Ratings, the GSec yields could be pressured to some extent owing to the elevated level of borrowings but the Reserve Bank of India in recent times has managed to keep the yields range-bound and is likely to continue to do so.

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