Government's Plan on Borrowing

Why in news?

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Union government plans to borrow Rs 2.88 trillion in FY 2018-19.

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What is union government's plan on borrowing?

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- Union government has planned to borrow Rs 2.88, against market expectation of Rs 3.3-3.6 trillion.
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- To meet its fiscal demands government usually borrows from the bond market and by using other instruments.
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- The normal practice of borrowing from the bond market will be around 60-65 per cent.
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- For now first half of borrowing government has planned 47.5% of budgeted amount for 2018-19.
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- The weekly borrowing size would also be Rs 120 billion, against the usual Rs 150-180 billion.
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- The Union will also reduce its planned buyback of government securities (G-Secs) by Rs 250 billion.
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How this borrowing has been planned?

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- The government plans to draw an additional Rs 250 billion from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) to finance the fiscal deficit for

2018-19.
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- For this RBI, on behalf of the government, will be issuing bonds in 1-4 year maturity, raising Rs 240 billion through the papers.
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- Inflation-indexed bonds linked to the consumer price index (CPI), and floating rate bonds will be used to raise 10 per cent of the first-half borrowing.
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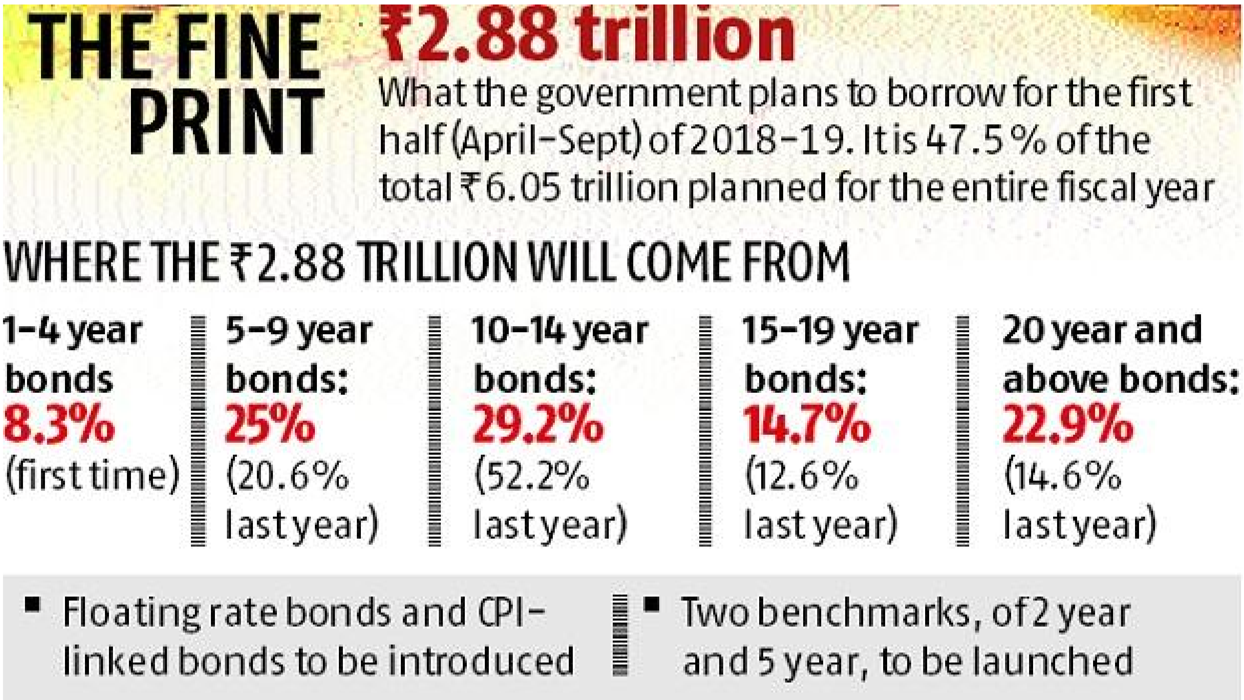

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- The borrowing will also be done through instruments that have been in demand in the market, instead of a maturity profile in the shape of 10-14 years.
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- The government also said it would introduce new benchmarks in the 2-year and 5-year categories.
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What are the benefits of this move?

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- Government’s move had been welcomed by bond market player as it will ease pressure on the market considerably by reducing the first-half borrowing.
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- The borrowing plan will allow the government to meet all its expenditure requirements without getting into an overdraft situation.
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- CPI-linked bonds will have much better chance of success compared to WPI linkers.
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- The borrowing profile will help banks and other investors invest in bonds again.
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- This will also ease the redemption pressure on the government at the cost of duration risk on the bank credits.
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- Introduction of benchmarks allows government to raise money through bonds and liquidity and allows to create many other derivatives.
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Source: Business Standard

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