

CURRENT AFFAIRS

28 SEPTEMBER 2022



TOPIC: TRADE

Seth allays concerns over forex reserves

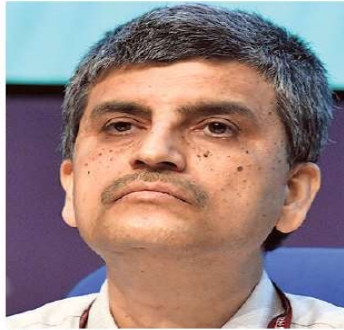
Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth on Tuesday dismissed concerns over depletion of forex reserves as “overblown” and said India had fairly large reserves to tide over the current situation.

Foreign exchange reserves were down for a seventh continuous week, dropping to \$545.65 billion on September 16.

The reserves, which have been dipping as the central bank continued to deploy the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressure caused by global developments, had declined by \$2.23 billion to \$550.87 billion in the previous week.

“There has been a de-



Ajay Seth

pletion as inflows have come down and trade deficit is higher... I don't see this as a concern, India has fairly large reserves to tide over this situation,” Mr. Seth said.

After closing at a record low at 81.67 against the dollar on Monday, the rupee recovered to 81.53 on Tuesday.

Foreign Exchange Reserves:

- ✓ Foreign exchange reserves are assets held on reserve by a central bank in foreign currencies.
- ✓ It needs to be noted that most foreign exchange reserves are held in US dollars.
- ✓ India's Forex Reserve include:
 1. Foreign Currency Assets
 2. Gold reserves
 3. Special Drawing Rights
 4. Reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

TOPIC:SPACE

Bam! NASA spacecraft crashes into asteroid

Associated Press
CAPE CANAVERAL

A NASA spacecraft rammed an asteroid at blistering speed on Monday in an unprecedented dress rehearsal for the day a killer rock menaces Earth.

The galactic slam occurred at a harmless asteroid 11.3 million km away, with the spacecraft named Dart plowing into the space rock at 22,500 kmph. Scientists expected the impact to carve out a crater, hurl streams of rocks and dirt into space and, most importantly, alter the asteroid's orbit.

It will take as long as a

couple of months to determine how much the asteroid's path was changed.

The \$325 million mission was the first attempt to shift the position of an asteroid in space.

Launched last November, the vending machine-size Dart – short for Double Asteroid Redirection Test – navigated to its target using new technology developed by Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory.

The anticipated orbital shift of 1% might not sound like much, scientists noted. But they stressed it would amount to a significant change over years.

Asteroids:

- ✓ Asteroids are rocky objects that orbit the Sun, much smaller than planets.
- ✓ They are also called minor planets.
- ✓ According to NASA, 9,94,383 is the count of known asteroids, the remnants from the formation of the solar system over 4.6 billion years ago.
- ✓ In between Mars and Jupiter.

DART:

- ✓ DART is a low-cost spacecraft
- ✓ The mission is to test the new technology to be prepared in case an asteroid heads towards Earth in the future.
- ✓ The aim is to test the newly developed technology that would allow a spacecraft to crash into an asteroid and change its course.
- ✓ The target of the spacecraft is a small moonlet called Dimorphos (Greek for “two forms”).
- ✓ Dimorphos orbits a larger asteroid named Didymos (Greek for “twin”).
- ✓ It is a suicide mission and the spacecraft will be completely destroyed.

Amid protest, AAP
moves 'confidence
motion' in Punjab
Assembly

TOPIC: STATE EXECUTIVE

Confidence Motion:

- ✓ A Motion of Confidence is a motion of support proposed by a government in a parliament or other assembly
- ✓ The members of parliament (or other such assembly) a chance to register their confidence in a government.
- ✓ The motion is passed or rejected by means of a parliamentary vote (a Vote of confidence).
- ✓ Governments often propose a Motion of confidence to replace a Motion of no confidence proposed by the opposition.
- ✓ Defeat of a Motion of Confidence in a parliamentary democracy generally requires one of two actions: the resignation of the government, or a request for a parliamentary dissolution and the calling of a General Election.

TOPIC:WILDLIFE

Threatened habitats: the disappearing song of the Nilgiri blue robin

- ✓The Nilgiri blue robin (*Sholicola major*), also known as Nilgiri shortwing, white-bellied shortwing, Nilgiri sholakili is a species of passerine bird in the endemic to the Shola forests of the higher hills of southern India, mainly north of the Palghat Gap.
- ✓IUCN Endangered



TOPIC: RESOURCES

Govt. app to capture data on groundwater levels

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

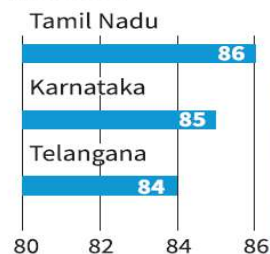
With the rapidly declining water table threatening to push many regions into drought, the Union government on Tuesday launched a mobile application – Jal-doot – jointly developed by the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Ministries to monitor the groundwater levels across the country.

The application was launched by Minister of State for Rural Development Faggan Singh Kulaste in the presence of Ministers Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti and Kapil Moreshwar Patil.

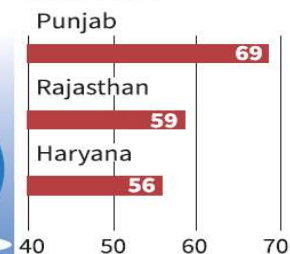
Rise and fall

The Central Ground Water Board measured the groundwater level in wells in November 2021 against the decadal mean of November (2011-2020)

Top 3 major States where % of water level in wells increased



Bottom 3 major States where % of water level in wells dipped

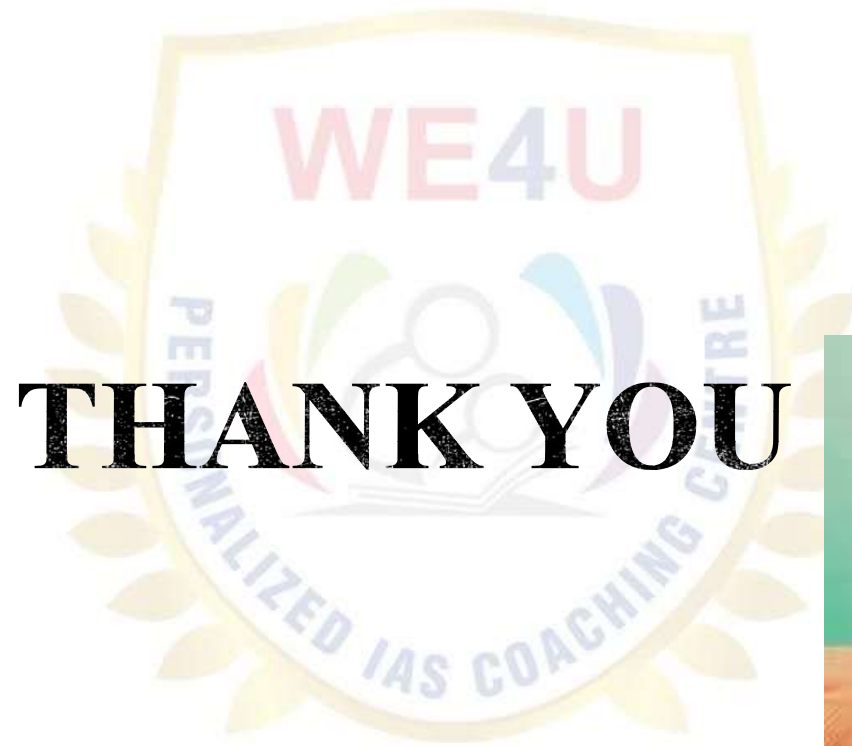


Source: PIB

The app will be used to capture the water levels of two or three open wells in every village twice a year, from May 1 to 31 during the

pre-monsoon time and from October 1 to 31.

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THANK YOU

