

Recently, Forex Reserve of India touched all time high at \$580bn.

This provides a security from foreign shocks, and economists are now of the view to utilise it, since Forex Reserve has gained adequacy.

### Utilising Forex Reserve

(i) Infrastructure investment - when Govt. is struggling in fiscal management.

Pros

- i) Help to free domestic bond market for private sector.
- ii) Diversify fund for govt. to manage infra. needs

Cons

- i) Forex comes under RBI purview and not infrastructure funding, thus independency & credibility of RBI get affected.

(ii) Capitalisation of state-owned banks

Pros

- i) Will not have much impact on domestic currency.

Cons

- ii) But expose state-owned bank to dollar shocks.

iii) To increase impost of goods and service

→ It's the traditional approach which is still going either way.

→ In the call of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' export is the main focus.

(iv) Investment in financial instruments which have higher yields like bond & golds

→ This can be the viable option but foreign bonds like US Treasury bills & EU Bonds provide very low returns post 2008 crisis.

→ There is no alternate fund management system apart from RBI to look after this.

→ Gold today provide more incentive than bond market, which is also liquid and free from external shocks.

common concerns

→ Investment in domestic project will need exchange rate management, manipulation of base rate and monetary policy consequences.

(ii) current account deficit does not allow central bank to park larger fund due to volatile nature of capital inflows due to which forex is on high.

Thus, not only in one sector but a diversified and calculated risk should be taken, at the same time adequate reserve should also be maintained.