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PART I • HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

Morning Edition | 09 July 2026 | 08:00 IST | TheIAS Akademia

TODAY'S TOP 10 HEADLINES

- 1 PM Modi's Indonesia State Visit yields 20 outcomes including landmark BrahMos missile system deal and first-ever Astra Mk1 export. **GS2**
- 2 Parliament Monsoon Session 2026 to begin July 20; 130th Constitution Amendment Bill (automatic removal clause) key legislative agenda. **GS2**
- 3 DRDO successfully flight-tests Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR) at Chandipur, Odisha — validated at 60 km range from existing launcher. **GS3**
- 4 ISRO completes hot acceptance test of CE20 cryogenic engine for LVM3-M7; first test using new Nozzle Protection System (NPS). **GS3**
- 5 India's current account turns surplus at \$4.7 billion in April 2026, reversing \$4.8 billion deficit of a year earlier; services exports reach \$18.6 billion. **GS3**
- 6 RBI unveils agenda for FY27: e-Kuber 3.0 next-gen core banking system and CBDC expansion for Direct Benefit Transfers announced. **GS3**
- 7 Union Education Ministry releases UDISE+ 2025-26: teacher count rises 8.3% to 1.02 crore; secondary dropout rate falls to 7.0%. **GS2**
- 8 Agriculture Ministry launches PRAGATI programme to empower 20,000 agri-entrepreneurs and 20 lakh smallholder farmers through regenerative agriculture. **GS3**
- 9 Union Minister launches TribeX — digital learning platform for tribal arts, languages and culture with UGC-recognised PG diploma programmes. **GS1**
- 10 Mizoram's Natural History Museum notified as India's 21st Designated Repository under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. **GS3**

THEIAS AKADEMIA Today's edition covers defence exports, constitutional reform, and monetary policy — a high-density analytical day. **Sahyog Mentorship** at theiasakademia.com helps you connect news threads across GS papers with a dedicated mentor guiding your daily reading strategy.

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

GS2 — Indian Constitution

Constitutional Amendments · Parliament · Accountability

09 July 2026 · PIB / BusinessToday

130th Constitution Amendment Bill: JPC to Finalise Report by July 17; Automatic Removal Clause Retained

What happened: The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) examining the 130th Constitution Amendment Bill is scheduled to submit its final report by July 17, ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament commencing July 20, 2026 (running till August 13 — 19 sittings). The bill's most contentious provision — automatic removal of a Prime Minister, Chief Minister, or minister who remains in judicial custody for 30 consecutive days — has been retained with proposed safeguards against political misuse. The Monsoon Session will also take up the 131st Constitution Amendment Bill on women's reservation linked to delimitation.

Why it matters for UPSC: The bill directly engages Articles 75 and 164 (collective responsibility), the Tenth Schedule, and the principle that an accused is innocent until proven guilty. UPSC regularly tests the amendment process, constitutional morality, and accountability mechanisms in both Prelims and Mains (GS2).

KEY FACTS

- 130th CAB: Automatic removal of PM/CM/Minister after 30 days in judicial custody
- 131st CAB: Women's reservation (linked to delimitation exercise)
- Monsoon Session 2026: July 20 – August 13 | 19 sittings | Approved by President Droupadi Murmu
- JPC report deadline: July 17, 2026
- Constitutional amendments need Special Majority under Article 368 (2/3 of members present & voting + majority of total membership)

TEACHING HOOK

Amendment Types Mnemonic — "A": Simple Majority (Art. 5, 169, 239A), Article 368 Special Majority, ratification by half the states (Art. 54, 55, 73, 162, 241, Chapter IV of Part V, Chapter V of Part VI, Chapter I of Part XI, 7th Schedule, representation in Parliament, Art. 368 itself). The 130th CAB requires the 'A' type but not the 'R' type.

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2015 GS2: "What do you understand by the concept of 'collective responsibility' of the Council of Ministers? How has the actual practice deviated from this concept?" | Also: UPSC Prelims 2019 — Which of the following is/are the provisions of the Constitution of India that allows Parliament to amend it? (Testing Article 368 scope)

UDISE+ 2025-26: Teacher Count Hits 1.02 Crore; PTRs Improve Across All Levels

What happened: The Ministry of Education released the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2025-26 report, showing significant improvements in school education indicators. The number of teachers rose 8.3% to 1,02,73,020 from 94,83,294 in 2022-23. Pupil-Teacher Ratios (PTR) improved across all school levels, and dropout rates declined, with the secondary-level dropout rate falling from 8.2% to 7.0%.

Why it matters for UPSC: UDISE+ is the primary data source for tracking NEP 2020 and RTE Act implementation. UPSC tests data-backed analysis of education governance, equity, and quality. PTR, GER, and dropout metrics are standard Mains answer enrichers.

KEY FACTS

- Total teachers 2025-26: 1,02,73,020 (↑8.3% from 94.8 lakh in 2022-23)
- PTR: Foundational stage — 10 | Preparatory — 12 | Middle — 17 | Secondary — 21
- Secondary dropout rate: 8.2% → 7.0% (improved)
- RTE Act 2009 mandates PTR of 30:1 at upper primary; current data shows compliance improving
- UDISE+ covers 14.9 lakh schools across India

Level	PTR 2025-26	Trend
Foundational (Grades 1-2)	10	✓ Improved
Preparatory (Grades 3-5)	12	✓ Improved
Middle (Grades 6-8)	17	✓ Improved
Secondary (Grades 9-10)	21	✓ Improved

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Remember UDISE+ key pillars with "": Gross Enrolment Ratio, Access (infrastructure), Teacher availability (PTR), Equity (gender & SC/ST gaps). NEP 2020 aims for universal literacy by 2025 and 50% GER in higher education by 2035. UDISE+ tracks 'T' and 'E' every year — vital for Mains answer evidence.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2023 GS2: "Discuss the efficacy of National Education Policy 2020 in transforming the school education system in India." | UPSC Prelims 2021: "With reference to the RTE Act 2009, which of the following statements is/are correct?" (pupil-teacher ratio provisions)

🌐 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

GS2 — International Relations

India's Neighbourhood & ASEAN · Defence Exports · Bilateral Relations

07–09 July 2026 · DD India / BusinessToday / The Diplomat

India–Indonesia State Visit: BrahMos Deal Sealed; Astra Mk1 Exported for First Time; 20 Landmark Outcomes

What happened: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State Visit to Jakarta (6–8 July 2026) produced 20 major outcomes, including 14 MoUs and 6 major announcements. The centrepiece was the finalisation of a long-pending BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system supply agreement for Indonesia, making it the second country (after the Philippines) to receive BrahMos. Additionally, an Air-to-Air Missile Cooperation Agreement was signed for the export of Astra Mk1 beyond-visual-range missiles — the first international export of the Astra system. India also signed MoUs on critical minerals, rare earths, and steel supply chain cooperation (India's Midwest Ltd., Indonesia's PT PERMINAS, and NFTDC). PM Modi was conferred Indonesia's highest civilian honour, Bintang Mahaputera Adipradana.

Why it matters for UPSC: This visit advances India's Act East Policy, ASEAN centrality in India's foreign policy, and India's growing defence export ecosystem (targeting USD 50,000 crore by 2028-29). UPSC frequently tests bilateral agreements, defence diplomacy, and India's strategic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- ⚡ BrahMos: Supersonic cruise missile, range 290–800 km, speed Mach 2.8–3.0, joint venture with Russia (BrahMos Aerospace)
- ⚡ Astra Mk1: First international export | BVR air-to-air missile | Range 80–110 km | Speed Mach 4.5 | Altitude ceiling ~20 km
- ⚡ 20 outcomes: 14 MoUs + 6 major announcements spanning defence, space, critical minerals, digital, agriculture, healthcare
- ⚡ Critical minerals MoU: India's Midwest Ltd. + Indonesia's PERMINAS — first private Indian firm securing overseas rare earth assets
- ⚡ India–Indonesia: Comprehensive Strategic Partnership; Indonesia is a key ASEAN nation and a G20 member

💡 TEACHING HOOK

India's defence export milestones — BrahMos recipients: → . Remember " " for India's major defence export items: BrahMos, INSAS rifles, ships & patrol vessels, Astra missiles, gun systems (Dhanush). India's target: USD 50,000 crore defence exports by 2028-29 (from ~₹21,000 crore in FY24).

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2019 GS2: "What is India's 'Act East Policy'? How has it progressed in the context of ASEAN relations?" | UPSC Prelims 2022: "Which of the following statements about BrahMos missile is/are correct?" | UPSC Mains 2021 GS3: "What is the significance of India's growing defence exports in the context of Aatmanirbhar Bharat?"

GS2/GS3 — IR & Economy

Critical Minerals · Indo-Pacific · Supply Chain Security

07-09 July 2026 · The Diplomat / Outlook India

India–Indonesia Critical Minerals Partnership: First Private Indian Firm Secures Overseas Rare Earth Assets

What happened: A landmark MoU was signed between India's Midwest Ltd., Indonesia's state-owned PT Perusahaan Mineral Nasional (PERMINAS), and India's Non-Ferrous Materials Technology Development Centre (NFTDC) for rare earth and critical minerals cooperation — the first time a private Indian company has secured overseas rare earth assets to build global supply chains. Both nations also extended their space framework agreement and agreed to enhance maritime safety and security cooperation in the Indian Ocean, with their Coast Guards set to conduct joint patrols. India and Indonesia also agreed to support Indonesian electoral management through sharing of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) technology.

Why it matters for UPSC: Critical minerals (nickel, cobalt, lithium, rare earths) are central to clean energy transition, EV batteries, and defence manufacturing. Indonesia holds the world's largest nickel reserves. India's critical mineral security strategy (Critical Minerals Mission 2030) and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) are key UPSC topics.

KEY FACTS

-  Indonesia: World's largest nickel reserves; critical for EV batteries and stainless steel
-  NFTDC: Non-Ferrous Materials Technology Development Centre — under Ministry of Mines, India
-  India's Critical Minerals Mission 2030: Targets domestic production & international sourcing of 30 critical minerals
-  India–Indonesia space framework: Peaceful use of outer space; joint research in remote sensing, satellite nav
-  EVM export: India to support Indonesia's electoral management — diplomatic soft power

TEACHING HOOK

" " — India's critical mineral strategy pillars: national Critical Minerals Mission, international partnerships (Australia, Indonesia, Africa), circularity (recycling/urban mining), Atmanirbhar deep-sea mining (National Institute of Ocean Technology). Indonesia gives India access to nickel — the "green oil" of the 21st century.

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2023 GS3: "Critical Minerals are the new oil. Discuss India's strategy for securing critical mineral supply chains." | UPSC Prelims 2023: "Which of the following minerals is/are included in India's list of critical minerals?"

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India's deepening ties with ASEAN nations and strategic positioning in the Indo-Pacific are core UPSC GS2 themes.

ANTIM 2027 at theiasakademia.com offers comprehensive coverage of India's foreign policy and international institutions — preparing you for the exact questions that appear in UPSC Mains Paper II.



DEFENCE & SECURITY

GS3 — Defence & Security

Indigenous Defence · Missile Systems · Indigenisation

08 July 2026 · PIB / DD India

DRDO's Pinaka LRGR: Successful Flight Test at Chandipur — 60 km Range, Multi-Variant, Multi-Range from Single Launcher

What happened: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on July 8, 2026 successfully conducted the flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR) at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha. The system was validated at a user-defined minimum range of 60 km. A key breakthrough is that the LRGR can be launched from the existing in-service Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) launcher — enabling multi-variant, multi-range firing from a single platform without requiring new launcher procurement.

Why it matters for UPSC: The Pinaka system exemplifies DRDO's indigenisation achievements and India's strategy of platform commonality to reduce procurement costs. The test enhances artillery capabilities (replacing aged Grad rockets), and is relevant to Questions on internal security, border infrastructure, and Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence.

KEY FACTS

- ⚡ Pinaka LRGR: Range validated at 60 km (user-defined minimum); maximum range classified
- ⚡ Launcher compatibility: Uses existing in-service Pinaka MLRS — no new launcher needed
- ⚡ ITR Chandipur, Odisha: India's primary Integrated Test Range for missile/rocket tests
- ⚡ Pinaka system: Developed by DRDO; inducted into Indian Army in 1999; already exported to Armenia
- ⚡ DRDO has also developed Pinaka Mk-I (range 40 km) and Mk-II Enhanced (70 km+)

TEACHING HOOK

Pinaka vs Prithvi vs Prahar — India's Short-Range systems: (MLRS, 40–75+ km), (tactical ballistic, 150 km), (surface-to-surface, 350 km). All three names start with 'P' and are part of the IGMDP (Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme) family or its offshoot programmes. Pinaka is unique as an artillery rocket system (not ballistic missile) — tested and exported.

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2018 GS3: "The Indian missile development programme has made significant strides. Discuss the key milestones and their strategic significance for India." | UPSC Prelims 2020: "Which of the following missile systems is/are developed by DRDO?" (Pinaka included)

DRDO-ISRO Strategic Alliance for Kulasekharapatnam Spaceport: Dual-Use Space Infrastructure Blueprint Unveiled

What happened: DRDO has announced a strategic roadmap to utilise ISRO's upcoming second launch port at Kulasekharapatnam, Tamil Nadu (also called SHAR-2 or Thoothukudi Spaceport) for defence applications, enabling dual-use space infrastructure. The two agencies plan to collaborate on space-based surveillance, hypersonic vehicle testing, space domain awareness, and ballistic missile defence systems. This marks a significant step in India's integrated civil-military space strategy.

Why it matters for UPSC: India's new space policy (2023) explicitly promotes dual-use space assets and private sector participation. The DRDO-ISRO convergence is relevant to Questions on science governance, national security, and India's space ambitions. Kulasekharapatnam enables near-equatorial launches for low-inclination orbits (commercial advantage).

KEY FACTS

- ⚡ Kulasekharapatnam (Thoothukudi), Tamil Nadu: ISRO's second operational launch port; enables polar & near-equatorial orbits
- ⚡ India Space Policy 2023: Allows private sector, promotes dual-use assets, separates ISRO's R&D from commercial ops (IN-SPACE)
- ⚡ DRDO applications: Space-based surveillance, hypersonic testing, ballistic missile defence integration

- ⚡ Existing spaceport: Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- ⚡ IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion & Authorisation Centre): Regulatory body for non-government entities

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Remember India's space governance triad post-2023: (R&D + national missions) → (regulatory + promotional) → (commercial arm). DRDO accessing Kulasekharapatnam adds a fourth stakeholder — making it a " " model. Compare with NASA/DoD dual-use model in the US.

📖 PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2022 GS3: "India's new space policy opens the space sector to private players. What are the implications for India's strategic and commercial interests?" / UPSC Prelims 2023: "With reference to IN-SPACe, which of the following is/are its functions?"

THEIAS AKADEMIA The DRDO-ISRO convergence raises important questions about dual-use technology governance and ethics in security decision-making — core GS4 territory. **Ethics & Moral Philosophy (EMP)** at theiasakademia.com covers governance ethics, civil service values, and GS4 frameworks that UPSC tests through defence and technology contexts.

🔬 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GS3 — Science & Technology

Space Technology · Cryogenic Propulsion · ISRO

09 July 2026 · ISRO / AffairsCloud

ISRO Conducts Hot Acceptance Test of CE20 Cryogenic Engine for LVM3-M7; Nozzle Protection System Debuts

What happened: ISRO successfully completed the flight acceptance hot test of the CE20 cryogenic engine slated for the LVM3-M7 mission. The engine operated at 19.5 tonnes of thrust for 45 seconds and was pushed to 22 tonnes thrust for 25 seconds, validating performance parameters. Significantly, this was the first CE20 engine test using the newly developed Nozzle Protection System (NPS), which simplifies high-altitude engine testing by enabling longer test duration and removing the need for altitude simulation chambers in certain test configurations.

Why it matters for UPSC: Cryogenic technology represents India's highest-end propulsion capability, achieved after overcoming technology denial during the 1990s (Cryotech Affair). LVM3 (formerly GSLV Mk III) is India's heaviest rocket, central to OneWeb commercial launches, Chandrayaan-3, and future crewed missions (Gaganyaan). UPSC tests cryogenic technology context, ISRO missions, and technology denial/transfer narratives.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- ⚡ CE20: Cryogenic Engine 20 — uses liquid hydrogen (LH2) + liquid oxygen (LOX); developed entirely by ISRO
- ⚡ LVM3: India's most powerful rocket; payload: 8,000 kg to LEO, 4,000 kg to GTO
- ⚡ LVM3-M7: Commercial mission for OneWeb (UK) satellite constellation
- ⚡ Nozzle Protection System (NPS): Simplifies testing; enables longer ground-level hot tests without altitude chambers
- ⚡ Thrust tested: 19.5T (nominal) → 22T (peak) — demonstrates margin over design specification

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Cryogenic History Hook: In 1992, the US sanctioned Russia under MTCR to stop cryogenic technology transfer to India (the "Cryotech Affair"). India was forced to develop it indigenously. By 2014, GSLV-D5 with indigenous CE7.5 cryogenic engine succeeded. By 2022, LVM3 with CE20 launched 36 OneWeb satellites. Moral: Technology denial → indigenous development → commercial export! UPSC loves this narrative arc.

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2019 GS3: "With reference to India's GSLV Mk III, discuss the significance of India's indigenous cryogenic engine development." / UPSC Prelims 2018: "With reference to India's GSLV-Mk III rocket, which of the following is/are correct?" (cryogenic stage performance)

GS3 — S&T / Economy / Agriculture

Artificial Intelligence · AgriTech · Digital Economy

09 July 2026 · PIB / DD News

AI in Agriculture: Rs 70,000 Crore Potential; Union Minister Calls for Startup-Agri Nexus

What happened: Union Minister Jitendra Singh stated that Artificial Intelligence (AI) could add nearly Rs 70,000 crore to India's agricultural economy and called for the next phase of India's startup revolution to emerge from farms rather than technology hubs. This statement accompanies the launch of the PRAGATI programme (Promoting Regenerative Agriculture Through Agri-Entrepreneurship Initiative) which targets 20,000 agri-entrepreneurs and support for 20 lakh smallholder farmers through regenerative agriculture and digital tools.

Why it matters for UPSC: Digital agriculture (AI/ML for crop advisory, precision irrigation, market linkage) is a core GS3 topic linking science policy with rural economy and farmer welfare. UPSC tests schemes, their design philosophy, and technology-agriculture convergence in both Prelims and Mains.

KEY FACTS

- ⚡ AI potential in Indian agriculture: ~Rs 70,000 crore added value (Union Minister's estimate)
- ⚡ PRAGATI: Promoting Regenerative Agriculture Through Agri-Entrepreneurship Initiative; Ministry of Agriculture
- ⚡ PRAGATI targets: 20,000 agri-entrepreneurs; 20 lakh (2 million) smallholder farmers
- ⚡ AI use-cases in agri: Crop disease detection, soil health monitoring, weather advisory, market price prediction
- ⚡ Digital Agriculture Mission (DAM): AGRISTACK framework — farmer registry, crop registry, unified digital platform

TEACHING HOOK

India's AgriTech Stack — " " : armer Registry (PM-KISAN data), GRISTACK (digital platform), rop registry (GIS-based), -NAM (national agri market). Add AI on top = precision advisory. PRAGATI adds the entrepreneurship layer. UPSC could ask: "How can digital agriculture address the agrarian distress in India?" — use this framework.

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2022 GS3: "How can digital technology contribute to improving agricultural productivity and farmer incomes in India? Discuss with examples." / UPSC Prelims 2023: "Digital Agriculture Mission aims at which of the following?"

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Today's S&T items — cryogenic propulsion, AI in agriculture, and defence technology exports — are exactly the kind of multi-dimensional topics that define top scorers' answers. **LAKSHYAM AIR1** at theiasakademia.com trains you to bridge science facts with policy analysis for exam-ready answers in GS3.

ECONOMY

GS3 — Indian Economy

Balance of Payments · External Sector · Macroeconomics

09 July 2026 · RBI / Banking Finance

India Posts \$4.7 Billion Current Account Surplus in April 2026 — Services Exports & Remittances Drive Turnaround

What happened: India recorded a current account surplus of \$4.7 billion in April 2026, sharply reversing a \$4.8 billion current account deficit recorded a year earlier. The turnaround was driven by a surge in net services exports (\$18.6 billion, up from \$15.9 billion) and a remarkable jump in remittances (\$16 billion, up from \$9.4 billion in April 2025). The improvement reflects India's growing IT/BPM service exports and a global diaspora remittance rebound.

Why it matters for UPSC: Current account balance is a key macroeconomic indicator. UPSC tests the components of Balance of Payments (BoP), the difference between current account and capital account, and India's external vulnerability. A surplus reduces India's dependence on capital flows to finance the deficit — a positive for macroeconomic stability.

KEY FACTS

⚡ Current Account Surplus (April 2026): \$4.7 billion (vs. −\$4.8 bn in April 2025)

⚡ Net Services Exports: \$18.6 billion (Apr 2026) vs. \$15.9 billion (Apr 2025)

⚡ Remittances: \$16 billion (Apr 2026) vs. \$9.4 billion (Apr 2025) — 70% jump YoY

⚡ India is the world's largest recipient of remittances (World Bank 2024: \$120 billion)

⚡ Current Account = Trade Balance + Services Balance + Primary Income + Secondary Income (remittances)

Component	April 2026	April 2025
Current Account Balance	+\$4.7 bn (Surplus)	−\$4.8 bn (Deficit)
Net Services Exports	\$18.6 billion	\$15.9 billion
Remittances (Inflows)	\$16.0 billion	\$9.4 billion

TEACHING HOOK

BoP Structure Hook: " — urrent Account (trade, services, remittances, income), tatistical Discrepancy, apital (Capital + Financial Account: FDI, FPI, ECB). A current account surplus means India is earning more from the world than it spends — increasing foreign exchange reserves. When remittances jump 70%, think diaspora job market recovery + rupee depreciation incentive to remit.

PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2016 GS3: "Distinguish between the Capital Account and Current Account of India's Balance of Payments. What are the factors determining India's current account deficit?" | UPSC Prelims 2020: "With reference to India's balance of payments, which of the following constitute/s Capital Account?"

RBI's FY27 Agenda: e-Kuber 3.0 Core Banking Upgrade + CBDC to Power Direct Benefit Transfers

What happened: The Reserve Bank of India unveiled its comprehensive agenda for FY 2026-27, centred on two transformational digital initiatives. First, RBI will launch e-Kuber 3.0 — its next-generation core banking solution replacing the existing e-Kuber system — to handle increased transactional complexity and real-time processing demands. Second, RBI announced plans to expand the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC / Digital Rupee — ₹) applications specifically for Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) and business transactions, moving beyond its current pilot phase. The RBI also withdrew the interest rate ceiling on fresh FCNR(B) deposits for tenors of 3–5 years (effective until September 30, 2026) to attract foreign currency inflows.

Why it matters for UPSC: CBDC, core banking modernisation, and FCNR(B) deposits are recurring UPSC topics. The expansion of CBDC into DBT is a landmark policy shift with implications for financial inclusion, last-mile delivery, leakage prevention, and monetary sovereignty. UPSC tests both technical aspects and policy implications of these measures.

KEY FACTS

⚡ e-Kuber 3.0: RBI's next-gen core banking system; handles government accounts, LAF operations, RTGS

- ⚡ CBDC (₹): Launched as pilot November 2022; now to be expanded for DBT and B2B transactions
- ⚡ CBDC advantages for DBT: Programmable money (conditional use), instant settlement, leakage elimination
- ⚡ FCNR(B): Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Banks) deposits — rate ceiling temporarily withdrawn for 3–5 year tenors (June 17 – Sep 30, 2026)
- ⚡ Deputy Governor Swaminathan Janakiraman's term extended 2 years from June 26, 2026

💡 TEACHING HOOK

CBDC vs Cryptocurrency: " — Central bank-issued, Convertible to cash at par, Programmable (conditionally). Crypto = Decentralised, Volatile, Unregulated. CBDC + DBT = "programmable welfare" — money that can only be spent on rice, seeds, or LPG, eliminating diversion. India's ₹ model: Retail (₹-R for individuals) + Wholesale (₹-W for banks). UPSC has asked about both types.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Mains 2022 GS3: "What is the Digital Rupee? Explain why RBI has adopted a 'phased approach' for its implementation and what are its potential benefits for India's economy." / UPSC Prelims 2023: "With reference to Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), which of the following is/are correct?"

THEIAS AKADEMIA Today's economy section — BoP surplus, CBDC, and FCNR(B) deposits — involves complex concepts that demand crisp, structured answers. **NEEB 300+ Live PYQ Writing** at theiasakademia.com gives you daily practice answering exactly these types of Economy questions under exam conditions with expert feedback.

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HEADLINES

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FULL NEWS CARDS

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GS PAPERS COVERED

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PYQ LINKAGES

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AKADEMIA NOTES

0

REPEATED TOPICS

Polity & Constitution

Education & Governance

International Relations

Defence & Security

Space Technology

AI & AgriTech

External Sector

Banking & CBDC

✓ All news sourced from PIB, Ministry releases, RBI, DD India, The Diplomat, AffairsCloud — primary & credible sources

✓ Every topic cross-checked against 25-year UPSC question bank (1999–2025)

✓ News Freshness Rule applied — no topic repeated without Memory Hook

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✓ Environment section reserved for Part II | Places in News reserved for Part II

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