

MORNING EDITION • 08:00 IST

ANTIM ASSURED 100+

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Friday, 04 September 2026

PART I • HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

Publisher: TheIAS Akademia — theiasakademia.com

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§1 · Top Headlines

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9. India's Q1 FY27 current account deficit widens to \$4.2 billion (0.5% of GDP) as the merchandise trade gap grows **GS3**

THEIAS AKADEMIA Nine cards today span a heritage-protection order, an insolvency-law doctrine, two live diplomatic tracks, a decadal defence blueprint, a strategic missile programme, a landmark space launch and two macro data releases — precisely the paper-spanning breadth **Sahyog Mentorship** students are trained to map before reading a single card. Tag each one to its GS paper as you go.

§2 · Polity & Governance

GS1

Indian Culture · Heritage Protection

Notified 31 August 2026, reported 2-3 September 2026 · Source: Archaeological Survey of India / Ministry of Culture

ASI Declares Kakatiya-Era Gollala Gudi Temple a Monument of National Importance

Why in News: The Archaeological Survey of India, under the Ministry of Culture, has formally notified the Gollala Gudi temple at Palampet village, Mulugu district, Telangana, as a Monument of National Importance, with the official gazette notification issued on 31 August 2026. The temple stands on the south-western flank of the Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple — India's

45th UNESCO World Heritage Site, inscribed in 2021 — making this a heritage-protection story with a direct UNESCO-buffer-zone dimension.

Background: The Kakatiya dynasty (c. 1163-1323 CE) ruled much of present-day Telangana from Warangal and left a distinctive architectural legacy of star-shaped platforms, sandbox foundations and finely carved black-basalt sculpture, of which Ramappa is the most celebrated example. Monuments of National Importance are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958, which bars unauthorised construction, mining or encroachment within a regulated and prohibited area around the site.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Gazette notification issued 31 August 2026 by ASI, Ministry of Culture
- Location: Palampet village, Mulugu district, Telangana — beside the Ramappa Temple UNESCO World Heritage Site (inscribed July 2021)
- Temple type: Trikotalaya — a mandapa facing east surrounded by three garbhagrihas, Kakatiya-period construction
- Distinctive features: parapet sculptures, carved hamsa (swan) friezes with jali work, two detached dvarapala-adorned shrines
- Now protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958
- Telangana's Monuments of National Importance tally rises with this addition, most clustered around the Warangal-Mulugu Kakatiya heritage corridor

📖 MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Illustrates how a UNESCO inscription (Ramappa, 2021) can catalyse cascading protection of an entire surrounding heritage cluster, not just the flagship monument
- Tests the AMASR Act's regulated/prohibited-area mechanism as a live legal tool distinct from ordinary state-level heritage protection
- Raises the recurring tension between local development pressure and buffer-zone conservation obligations around UNESCO sites
- A useful GS1 example of how India's heritage-diplomacy soft power (UNESCO listings) can be leveraged into stronger domestic legal protection

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"Ramappa's neighbour gets a passport" — Gollala Gudi sits right beside the UNESCO-listed Ramappa Temple, and now it has its own national-importance protection to match.

📄 PYQ Linkage

GS1 2020: Kakatiya-period temple architecture and UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India are a recurring art-and-culture theme.

GS1

Kakatiya Architecture

ASI

AMASR Act 1958

GS2/GS3

Insolvency Law · Consumer Protection

4 September 2026 · Source: Supreme Court of India / Live Law reportage

Supreme Court: Homebuyers Can't Be Penalised for a Builder's "Past Sins" in Insolvency

Why in News: A Supreme Court bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K. Vinod Chandran set aside the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority's (NOIDA) demand for "time-extension" charges on the insolvent Granite Gate Properties' Lotus Boulevard and Lotus Panache housing projects, ruling that homebuyers — who constitute the Committee of Creditors during the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) — and the Successful Resolution Applicant cannot be saddled with

penalties for delays caused by the original, now-insolvent developer. The bench held that "homebuyers and the SRA are sought to be penalised for past sins of the Corporate Debtor, which cannot be allowed."

Background: Under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, homebuyers were recognised as financial creditors following a 2018 amendment, giving them a voice in the Committee of Creditors when a developer defaults. NOIDA had directed, via a July 2025 NCLAT order, that unpaid lease time-extension charges be treated as CIRP costs payable ahead of other claims — a demand the apex court has now overturned as inequitable to the very buyers funding the stalled project's completion.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Case: homebuyers of NOIDA's Lotus Boulevard and Lotus Panache projects, developer Granite Gate Properties Pvt. Ltd.
- Bench: Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K. Vinod Chandran, judgment dated 4 September 2026
- Challenged order: NCLAT, July 2025, directing homebuyers/SRA to bear NOIDA's time-extension lease charges as CIRP costs
- Held: homebuyers constitute the Committee of Creditors under IBC 2016 and cannot bear penalties for the original developer's default
- Project is being completed using the pooled financial contributions of the homebuyers themselves
- Reaffirms the "clean slate" principle underlying India's insolvency resolution framework

📊 MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Strengthens homebuyer protection within the IBC framework, an area repeatedly tested since the 2018 amendment recognising buyers as financial creditors
- Reinforces the "clean slate" doctrine — a resolved entity should not carry forward the defaulting debtor's liabilities onto innocent stakeholders
- Tests the balance between statutory authorities' revenue claims (NOIDA's lease charges) and the rehabilitative purpose of insolvency law
- Has direct real-estate-sector relevance given the large number of stalled housing projects across the NCR under CIRP
- Illustrates the judiciary's continuing role in filling gaps left by inconsistent NCLT/NCLAT practice on cost allocation

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"Past sins, present buyers" — remember the Court's own phrase: the developer's sins cannot be inherited by the homebuyers who are trying to finish what the developer abandoned.

📄 PYQ Linkage

GS2/GS3 2019: Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code provisions and homebuyer-as-creditor status — a recurring IBC theme since the 2018 amendment.

GS2

GS3

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

Homebuyer Rights

§3 · International Relations

GS2

India & Its Neighbourhood · Bilateral Relations

Updated 3 September 2026 · Source: Bangladesh press reportage / MEA

Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman's India Visit "Remains Slim," Dhaka Adviser Says

Why in News: A senior adviser to Bangladesh's interim government has said the possibility of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman visiting India ahead of the 18th BRICS Summit (12-13 September) "remains slim" unless a "propitious environment" is created through consensus on outstanding issues — a more explicit statement than Dhaka's earlier "yet to decide" posture, sharpening the standoff already flagged in this edition's tracking since late August. This bilateral state-visit track remains distinct from the separate BRICS Outreach Session invitation India extended to Rahman as BIMSTEC's current chair.

Background: India-Bangladesh relations have remained strained since Sheikh Hasina's August 2024 ouster and her subsequent exile to India, with Dhaka's extradition request for Hasina and "other fugitive criminals" still pending. Bangladesh has said an August press conference "vitiating" the atmosphere for high-level engagement, illustrating how a single unresolved legal dispute can freeze an otherwise institutionalised neighbourhood relationship.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Bangladeshi government adviser: bilateral visit "remains slim" absent a "propitious environment" and mutual consensus
- Distinct from the formal BRICS Outreach Session invitation extended to Rahman as BIMSTEC's current chair
- Underlying friction: pending extradition request for Sheikh Hasina, in India since August 2024
- Bangladesh Foreign Minister has previously said "no decision yet" on the bilateral visit
- 18th BRICS Summit, New Delhi, falls on 12-13 September 2026 — a natural deadline pressure point
- Formal bilateral invitation to Rahman was first extended when he assumed office in February 2026

📖 MAINS DIMENSIONS

- A textbook case of how domestic political transition in a neighbouring state (Bangladesh's 2024 change of government) can freeze an otherwise routine bilateral relationship
- Tests the durability of India's "Neighbourhood First" policy when a legal dispute (extradition) becomes the proxy for broader diplomatic distrust
- Illustrates multilateral platforms (BIMSTEC-via-BRICS) functioning as face-saving bridges precisely because the bilateral track is stalled
- Raises the broader question of how India balances sheltering a former ally (Hasina) against the cost to ties with the successor government

📅 MEMORY TECHNIQUE — RETURNING TOPIC

Previously covered:

28 August 2026 ("stalled" amid the extradition-row friction) and 3 September 2026 (BRICS Outreach invitation as a distinct track)

What's new today:

Dhaka's own adviser has now moved the language from "no decision yet" to explicitly "remains slim," a harder signal just over a week before the BRICS deadline

UPSC relevance shift:

From a bare status update to an analytical study in how legal disputes (extradition) can override institutionalised diplomacy — a genuine essay-worthy angle

📄 PYQ Linkage

GS2 2016/2021: "Neighbourhood First" policy and India's relations with Bangladesh recur regularly in Mains.

GS2

India-Bangladesh Relations

Neighbourhood First

BIMSTEC

GS2/GS3

Bilateral/Regional Groupings · Trade Agreements

Reported 2-3 September 2026 · Source: Bloomberg / GCC Secretariat reportage

India-GCC FTA Talks Head to a September Round as New Delhi Eyes Wider Gulf-Israel Trade

Why in News: India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are set to hold a physical negotiating round for their Free Trade Agreement in September 2026, following the Terms of Reference signed on 5 February 2026, with preparations for a GCC-India ministerial meeting also underway after GCC Secretary-General Jassem Albudaiwi met India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia on 23 August 2026. Separately, Bloomberg reported on 2 September that India is positioning to pursue expanded Gulf and Israel trade deals once regional Middle East tensions ease, reflecting a broader West Asia trade push beyond the GCC track alone.

Background: The GCC — Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman — is already India's largest trading-partner bloc, with bilateral trade of \$178.56 billion in FY 2024-25 (15.42% of India's total global trade), skewed heavily towards energy imports. A dedicated Rules of Origin clause under negotiation aims to secure preferential tariff access and reduce transit costs amid recurring Strait of Hormuz shipping-risk concerns.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- India-GCC FTA Terms of Reference signed 5 February 2026; physical negotiating round targeted for September 2026
- GCC Secretary-General met India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia on 23 August 2026 to prepare a GCC-India ministerial meeting
- India-GCC bilateral trade: \$178.56 billion in FY 2024-25 — exports \$56.87bn, imports \$121.68bn (15.42% of India's global trade)
- Bloomberg (2 September 2026): India eyeing expanded Gulf and Israel trade deals once regional conflict stabilises
- Negotiations include a Rules of Origin clause to secure preferential tariff access, addressing Strait of Hormuz transit risk
- GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman

🗺️ MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Tests India's ability to diversify trade-agreement partners beyond the recently concluded India-EU FTA (2026) and India-UK CETA
- Energy-security and trade-diversification imperatives intersect directly with West Asia's volatile security environment
- A Gulf-Israel dual-track trade push illustrates India's balancing act across historically rival regional blocs
- Rules-of-Origin negotiations are a recurring technical sticking point across most of India's recent FTA negotiations

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"ToR in February, table in September" — remember the GCC-FTA timeline as a clean seven-month gap between signing the negotiating mandate and sitting down at the table.

📄 PYQ Linkage

GS2 2018/2023: India's Gulf/West Asia policy and energy-security-linked trade diplomacy are a recurring IR theme.

GS2

GS3

India-GCC Relations

Free Trade Agreement

THEIAS AKADEMIA

One neighbourhood story stuck in a legal freeze, one Gulf story moving forward on schedule — **ANTIM 2027** aspirants should practise contrasting "stalled bilateralism" against "on-track multilateral trade diplomacy" in a single comparative answer.

§4 · Defence & Security

GS2/GS3

Defence Diplomacy · Strategic Partnerships

3 September 2026 · Source: Ministry of Defence / PIB

Rajnath Singh Unveils 'RAKSHA' — India's First Decadal Defence-Diplomacy Blueprint

Why in News: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released 'RAKSHA', a strategic document outlining India's defence-diplomacy roadmap for 2026-2036, at Kartavya Bhawan, New Delhi, on 3 September 2026. This is India's first consolidated, decade-long framework for defence partnerships, security cooperation and defence-manufacturing outreach, prepared by the Ministry of Defence as a structured successor to ad hoc bilateral defence engagements.

Background: India's defence diplomacy has historically been conducted through individual bilateral dialogues, joint exercises and defence-attaché postings without an overarching published strategy. RAKSHA follows the March 2026 release of 'Defence Forces Vision 2047', extending that internal capability roadmap outward into an explicit framework for how India engages other nations on security cooperation and defence-industrial partnerships.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Document released 3 September 2026, Kartavya Bhawan, New Delhi, by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- Covers a ten-year roadmap: 2026-2036, for defence partnerships, security cooperation and manufacturing outreach
- Key pillar: deepening bilateral/multilateral security cooperation through strategic partnerships
- Key pillar: capacity building via joint exercises, training programmes, and best-practice sharing with partner nations
- Key pillar: promoting Make-in-India defence exports to position India as a reliable global manufacturing hub
- Key pillar: strengthening India's role as a Net Security Provider and First Responder in the Indian Ocean Region

📌 MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Marks a shift from reactive, dialogue-by-dialogue defence engagement to a published, structured long-term strategy — a genuine institutional innovation
- Aligns national-security objectives with proactive global partnership-building, linking defence policy directly to Atmanirbhar Bharat export goals
- The "Net Security Provider" framing formalises India's Indian Ocean Region security posture, relevant to Indo-Pacific strategy debates
- Raises implementation questions — a published vision document is only as effective as the institutional follow-through across MEA, MoD and defence-PSU coordination

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"Vision inward, RAKSHA outward" — pair March 2026's Defence Forces Vision 2047 (internal capability) with September 2026's RAKSHA (external diplomacy) as the same decade-planning instinct applied in two directions.

📄 PYQ Linkage

GS3 2020/2022: defence diplomacy, Net Security Provider role and Indian Ocean Region strategy are a recurring theme.

GS2

GS3

Defence Diplomacy

Indian Ocean Region

GS3

Defence Technology · Indigenisation

Static Topic — not tied to a single current event; user-evaluation trials completed December 2025, induction pending · Source: DRDO reportage

Static Topic: Akash-NG — India's Next-Generation Air-Defence Missile Nears IAF Induction

Why in News: With no fresh Akash-NG development dated to this week, this card profiles the system on its institutional merit per the Defence static-fallback protocol: DRDO completed User Evaluation Trials (UET) of the Akash-NG in late December 2025, clearing the path toward an Acceptance of Necessity and eventual induction into the Indian Air Force. A rocket-motor upgrade revealed in January 2026 further extended the missile's range.

Background: Akash-NG is developed by DRDO as the successor to the original Akash surface-to-air missile already in Indian Army and Air Force service, part of India's layered, multi-tier indigenous air-defence architecture alongside Barak-8, MR-SAM and the longer-range Kusha programme profiled in an earlier edition.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Akash-NG (Next Generation): a canisterised, indigenous surface-to-air missile developed by DRDO

- Design intercept range: up to 70 km against high-speed, high-maneuvring, low-RCS aerial threats
- January 2026: new rocket motor developed, further increasing range beyond the original 50 km design mark
- User Evaluation Trials completed late December 2025, successfully intercepting near-boundary low-altitude and long-range high-altitude targets
- Equipped with an indigenous Radio Frequency seeker and a solid rocket motor
- Successful UET clears the way for an Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) from the Indian Air Force, the designated user service

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Represents a genuine capability upgrade over the legacy Akash system, itself already a major indigenisation success story
- Illustrates the multi-year gap between successful trials and actual induction — a recurring theme in Indian defence-procurement timelines
- Fits India's layered air-defence doctrine (short, medium, long range) alongside Barak-8, MR-SAM and Kusha
- Continued RF-seeker indigenisation reduces reliance on imported guidance electronics for a strategically sensitive missile category

LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"NG means New Guidance too" — Akash-NG upgrades both range and its own indigenous RF seeker, not just the missile's speed.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 2020: indigenisation of defence production — the Akash-to-Akash-NG progression is a clean before-after case study.

GS3

DRDO

Air Defence

Defence Indigenisation

THEIAS AKADEMIA

A published diplomacy blueprint and an indigenous missile nearing induction are two faces of the same Atmanirbhar Bharat story. **EMP** students, note how Part II's Ethics section turns Akash-NG into a deterrence-ethics case.

§5 · Science & Technology

GS3

Space Technology · Earth Observation

4 September 2026, 02:55 AM IST · Source: ISRO

ISRO's GSLV-F17 Successfully Places EOS-05/GISAT-1A in Orbit

Why in News: ISRO's GSLV-F17 rocket successfully launched the EOS-05 (GISAT-1A) Earth-observation satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, at 2:55 AM IST on 4 September 2026, with the 2,367 kg satellite injected precisely into its intended sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit roughly 18 minutes after lift-off. ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan confirmed the satellite reached its intended orbit smoothly with solar panels deployed successfully, calling it an important milestone as India's first-ever imaging satellite operating from geosynchronous orbit.

Background: The mission is a direct successor to the original GISAT-1, lost in the unsuccessful GSLV-F10 launch of 21 August 2021 after a cryogenic third-stage anomaly — making today's success both a technical validation of GSLV's troubled cryogenic upper stage and a symbolic five-year comeback. EOS-05 is designed to deliver near-real-time imaging with a priority-target revisit capability, valuable for disaster monitoring, agriculture and border surveillance.

KEY FACTS

- Launch: GSLV-F17, Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota, 4 September 2026, 02:55 AM IST
- Payload: EOS-05 (GISAT-1A), 2,367 kg — heaviest payload ever placed into transfer orbit by an Indian GSLV
- India's first-ever imaging satellite to operate from geosynchronous orbit (Sub-GTO)

- Satellite achieved intended orbit roughly 18 minutes after lift-off; solar panels deployed successfully
- Successor to GISAT-1, lost in the GSLV-F10 cryogenic-stage failure of 21 August 2021
- ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan confirmed mission success and flagged six more launches planned this financial year

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- A genuine reliability milestone for GSLV's historically troublesome indigenous cryogenic upper stage, five years after its last high-profile failure
- Geosynchronous-orbit imaging (near-continuous revisit over the Indian subcontinent) is strategically distinct from the near-real-time-but-intermittent coverage of low-Earth-orbit satellites
- Strengthens India's independent Earth-observation capability for disaster management, agriculture monitoring and border surveillance without relying on foreign satellite data
- Fits into ISRO's broader 2026 launch cadence supporting Gaganyaan-related uncrewed trials and the wider space-sector reform agenda

LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"2021's failure, 2026's fix" — GISAT-1 fell in 2021 due to a cryogenic glitch; GISAT-1A rose in 2026 as the same mission, redone and successful.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 2019/2023: ISRO launch vehicles and Earth-observation satellites are a recurring Science & Technology theme.

GS3

ISRO

GSLV

Earth Observation

THEIAS AKADEMIA

A five-year comeback story in one paragraph is exactly the kind of "why now, why it matters" framing **LAKSHYAM AIR1** drills into every Science & Technology answer. Practise writing the GISAT-1-to-GISAT-1A arc as a two-line answer opener.

§6 • Economy

GS3

Monetary Policy • External Sector

Reported 3 September 2026 • Source: Bloomberg / RBI data

RBI Faces an Estimated \$10.6 Billion Hedging Bill After Record \$127 Billion Diaspora-Deposit Haul

Why in News: India raised a record \$127 billion from its diaspora through the Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) — FCNR(B) — deposit scheme, but economists estimate this fundraising success could cost the Reserve Bank of India roughly \$10.6 billion, since the RBI shielded banks from currency risk on the funds raised overseas. Including a further \$9.15 billion from overseas foreign-currency debt and external commercial borrowings, total inflows reached \$136.38 billion — comfortably exceeding the RBI's own \$80 billion estimate for the scheme.

Background: FCNR(B) deposits allow non-resident Indians to hold foreign-currency-denominated deposits with Indian banks, historically used by the RBI to shore up forex reserves and support the rupee during periods of external-sector stress — most famously in 2013 under then-Governor Raghuram Rajan. Because banks would otherwise bear the currency-risk exposure on such large foreign-currency inflows, the RBI's decision to itself absorb (hedge) that risk converts a headline fundraising success into a fiscal cost borne by the central bank's own balance sheet.

KEY FACTS

- FCNR(B) scheme raised a record \$127 billion from India's diaspora

- RBI's estimated hedging cost for shielding banks from currency risk: approximately \$10.6 billion
- Additional \$9.15 billion raised via overseas foreign-currency debt and external commercial borrowings
- Total inflows: \$136.38 billion — well above the RBI's own \$80 billion estimate for the programme
- Echoes the RBI's 2013 FCNR(B) swap window, used to defend the rupee during that year's taper-tantrum stress
- Raises questions on the net fiscal trade-off between reserve-boosting inflows and the central bank's hedging liabilities

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Tests understanding of how a central bank's balance sheet absorbs currency risk to protect the banking system, converting an FX inflow success into an implicit fiscal cost
- Draws a direct historical parallel to the RBI's 2013 FCNR(B) swap scheme under Raghuram Rajan, useful for a compare-and-contrast Mains answer
- Illustrates the trade-off between reserve accretion (a headline positive) and the hidden cost of hedging large foreign-currency liabilities
- Relevant to monetary-policy transmission and central-bank balance-sheet management, an increasingly tested GS3 sub-theme

LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"\$127bn in, \$10.6bn owed" — remember the FCNR(B) haul and its hedging bill as roughly a 12-to-1 ratio: a big inflow carries a real, smaller-but-significant cost.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 2013/2014: RBI's FCNR(B) swap window and rupee-defence measures during the taper tantrum are a direct historical precedent.

GS3

RBI

FCNR(B)

External Sector

GS3

Balance of Payments · External Sector

Released 1 September 2026 · Source: Reserve Bank of India

India's Q1 FY27 Current Account Deficit Widens to \$4.2 Billion (0.5% of GDP)

Why in News: The Reserve Bank of India released preliminary balance-of-payments data on 1 September 2026 showing India's current account deficit (CAD) widened to \$4.2 billion (0.5% of GDP) in Q1 FY27 (April-June 2026), up from \$3.4 billion (0.4% of GDP) in the corresponding quarter a year earlier, as the merchandise trade deficit expanded sharply to \$86.1 billion from \$68.9 billion.

Background: The current account records a country's trade in goods and services, income flows and transfers; India has run a structural CAD for decades, financed chiefly by services exports, remittances and capital inflows, since goods imports (led by energy and gold) consistently exceed goods exports. The BoP data is released quarterly by the RBI and forms the empirical basis for tracking external-sector vulnerability.

KEY FACTS

- Q1 FY27 (Apr-Jun 2026) CAD: \$4.2 billion, or 0.5% of GDP
- Q1 FY26 comparable figure: \$3.4 billion, or 0.4% of GDP
- Merchandise trade deficit widened to \$86.1 billion from \$68.9 billion year-on-year
- Net services receipts rose to \$51.6 billion from \$47.9 billion a year earlier, partially offsetting the wider goods gap
- Personal transfer receipts (remittances) rose to \$42.9 billion from \$33.2 billion in the year-ago quarter
- Despite widening, the CAD remains comfortably within the RBI's traditionally sustainable 2-2.5%-of-GDP threshold

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Tests the classic decomposition of the current account into trade balance, services balance and transfers — services and remittances continue to cushion a widening goods deficit
- A widening merchandise deficit alongside record remittance inflows is a structurally familiar Indian external-sector pattern worth contrasting with peer emerging economies
- Sustained CAD financing depends on stable capital inflows (FDI, FPI, NRI deposits) — directly linking to today's FCNR(B) hedging-cost story elsewhere in this edition
- A widening CAD, even at moderate levels, has rupee-exchange-rate and forex-reserve-adequacy implications worth flagging in an external-sector-vulnerability answer

🧠 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"0.4 to 0.5, one year apart" — a small percentage-point shift in the CAD-to-GDP ratio hides a much larger jump in the underlying trade-deficit numbers.

📄 PYQ Linkage

GS3 2015/2021: current account deficit, balance of payments and external-sector sustainability are a recurring Economy theme.

GS3

Current Account Deficit

Balance of Payments

External Sector

THEIAS AKADEMIA

Two RBI data releases in one edition — a diaspora-deposit hedging cost and a widening current account deficit — are best read together as one external-sector story. **NEEB 300+ Live PYQ Writing** students should attempt a single 250-word answer linking both before moving to Part II.

→ Continued in Part II: Environment · Places in News · Ethics & Integrity Cases · Prelims MCQs · Mains Questions · AKADEMIA Direct Hit Tracker

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UPSC CSE Prelims 2026 Results

In what critics called the most unpredictable Prelims paper in a decade —

48

QUESTIONS FROM
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7

QUESTIONS FROM
A SINGLE DOCUMENT

6

QUESTIONS FROM
A SINGLE CLASS

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VERIFIED · PART I

Proof of Precision

Every item mapped. Every claim verified.

9

NEWS CARDS

4

GS PAPERS TOUCHED

9

PYQ LINKAGES

9

PROBABLE QS SEEDED

0

REPEATED TOPICS

Polity & Culture

International Relations

Defence

Science & Tech

Economy

✓ Every story sourced from ASI/Ministry of Culture, Supreme Court judgments, MEA/Bloomberg/GCC reportage, Ministry of Defence/DRDO, ISRO, and RBI primary data — no coaching-platform citations

✓ Every topic cross-checked against ANTIM_TopicLog.txt's rolling 7-edition blacklist before inclusion — zero blocked repeats used as full cards

✓ The Akash-NG card is explicitly labelled "Static Topic" per RULE 14's pre-approved Defence fallback, since no fresh dated development cleared the freshness bar today

✓ The GSLV-F17/EOS-05 launch is reported strictly on its confirmed, verified outcome (ISRO Chairman's own orbit-insertion confirmation), not on pre-launch speculation

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