



Understanding Current Account Deficit





Let's understand this concept through an interesting story!



Rajendra and Vinay travel together to work by train every day. As a usual morning practice, Vinay was reading a business paper when he came across the term 'Current Account Deficit'. He wondered what it meant and asked Rajendra to explain.



Rajendra tells him that if he answers a few questions, the meaning of the term Current Account Deficit will get clear.



Rajendra asks Vinay to name the sources of his income?

Vinay identifies them as Salary, Interest income from Fixed Deposits and Dividends from mutual funds.



On hearing this, Rajendra says, "Ok. But how about festival grants and birthday gifts received in cash?"

Vinay agrees "Yes, sometimes".



Rajendra then asks Vinay to list his expenses?

On hearing this Vinay promptly responds, "Monthly house expenses, Children's school fees, Birthdays & Anniversary, occasional shopping and medical expenses."



Rajendra then explains, "Now assume your expenses exceed your income this month. Then what will you do?"

Vinay after a pause says, "Oh... then I will have to borrow money from someone."



Rajendra continues to speak, "Exactly. When your expenses exceed income, it is known as 'Deficit'. And then you become indebted to the lender who lends you money."

"Ok. That is easy to understand." says Vinay.



Rajendra continues explaining, "Similarly, Current Account for a country is expressed as the difference between the value of <u>EXPORT</u> of goods and services and the value of <u>IMPORT</u> of goods and services.

In this context exports are "earnings" while imports are like "expenses".



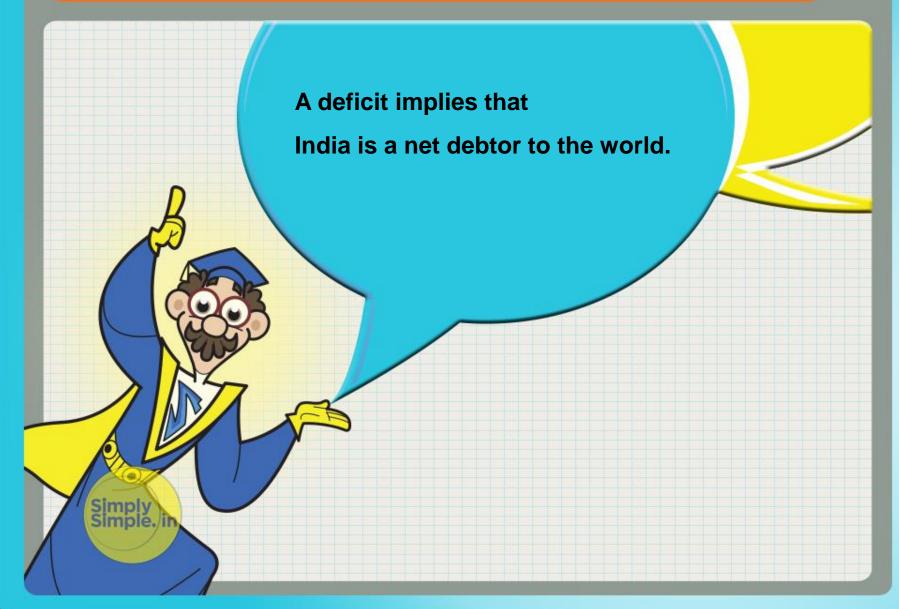
A deficit then means that the "expenses" of the country are more than the income.

In other words the country is importing more goods and services than it is exporting.



Current account also includes net income (such as interest and dividends from Capital Inflows or Outflows) and transfers from abroad (such as Workers' Remittances, Foreign Donations, Aids & Grants and Official Assistance), which are usually a small fraction of the total.







Simply Simple. in Let us see the formula of the

Current Account Balance (CAB)

CAB = X - M + NI + NCT

- X = Exports of goods and services
- M = Imports of goods and services
- NI = Net income abroad [Sa

[Salaries paid or received, credit

/ debit of income from FII & FDI etc.]

NCT = Net current transfers

[Workers' Remittances

(unilateral), Donations,

Aids & Grants, Official

Assistance and Pensions etc]





Hope this story has clarified the

Concept of Current Account Deficit



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