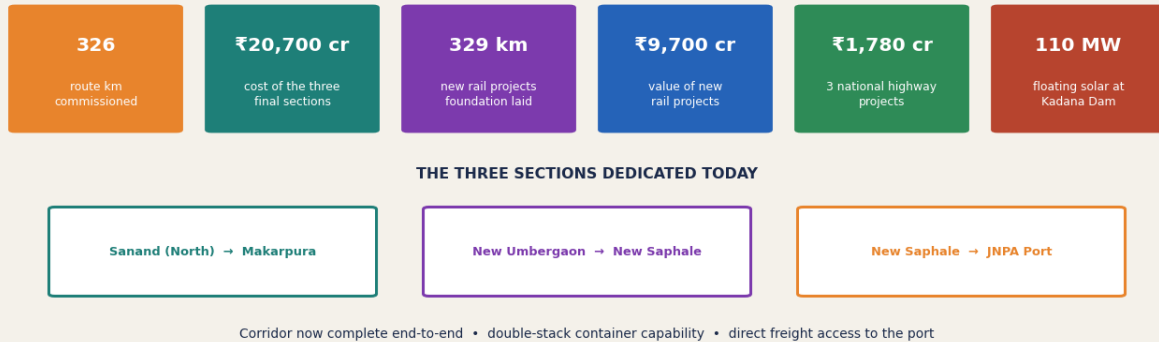


TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- WDFC fully commissioned — last 326 km at a cost of ₹20,700 crore
- PM unveils a ₹35,000 crore rail, highway and urban package at Vadodara
- Defence Acquisition Council clears ₹1.10 lakh crore AoN, 98% indigenous
- EOS-05 is India's first imaging satellite in geosynchronous orbit
- NITI Aayog launches PACT and ZET Marketplace for zero-emission road freight
- Bodhan AI releases 4 open multilingual education models as public goods
- Centre notifies Chief Justices for eight High Courts under Article 217
- India hosts the 11-nation BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam, 12-13 September
- UNGA declares 27 November as the day against child and forced marriage
- August GST gross collection at ₹1,99,853 crore, up 14.8% year-on-year

WESTERN DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR • FINAL SECTIONS COMMISSIONED



StudyForGS.com

SECTION A • GS-III: SCIENCE & TECH, ECONOMY, SECURITY

Western Dedicated Freight Corridor fully operational; ₹35,000 crore Gujarat package dedicated

ECONOMY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: Infrastructure — Ports, Roads, Railways. Prelims: DFCCIL, WDFC route, JNPA, double-stack container operation.
Context	The Prime Minister dedicated the final three sections of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor at Vadodara, completing the corridor end-to-end. The overall Gujarat package announced covers rail, national highway, urban and renewable energy works.
Key Facts	- Three sections totalling 326 route km commissioned at over ₹20,700 crore — Sanand (North)-Makarpura, New Umbergaon-New Saphale and New Saphale-JNPA. - The last link gives the corridor direct freight access to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), Maharashtra. - Foundation stones laid for three rail projects covering 329 km worth over ₹9,700 crore, including the Vadodara-Ratlam third and fourth lines and Vishwamitri-Dabhoi doubling. Three national highway projects worth ₹1,780 crore cleared, including six-laning of Kamrej-Chalthan on NH-48 with major bridges over the Tapi and Narmada. - State-sector works of ₹2,600 crore include Vadodara Ring Road Phase-II and a 110 MW floating solar plant at Kadana Dam.
Way Fwd	Freight modal share must now shift from road to rail; timely completion of the Eastern arm's extensions and last-mile port and industrial-park sidings will decide whether logistics cost actually falls.
Concept	Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd (DFCCIL) is a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Railways. DFCs allow double-stack container trains , higher axle loads and speeds of 100 kmph , and are a core pillar of PM GatiShakti and the National Logistics Policy , which targets cutting logistics cost as a share of GDP.

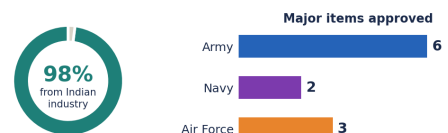
Defence Acquisition Council clears ₹1.10 lakh crore of capital acquisitions

DEFENCE COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: Security — defence indigenisation, Atmanirbharta. Prelims: DAC, Acceptance of Necessity, Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020, CBRN.
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Context	The Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by the Defence Minister, granted Acceptance of Necessity to proposals across all three services. It is the largest single tranche of AoNs cleared this financial year.
Key Facts	- Total value approximately ₹1,10,000 crore, with about 98% of the value to be sourced from Indian industry. Army: CBRN Reconnaissance Vehicles, High Mobility Vehicles, Self-Propelled Mechanical Mine Layers, Advanced Light Helicopters, Trawl Tanks and the Sarvatra Bridge System. Navy: Arudhra radars and design and development of indigenous Marine Gas Turbines. Air Force: fighter, transport and helicopter upgrades, a Ground-Based Multi-Purpose Jammer and the DEFSAC smart-card access system. Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) is only the first administrative stage under the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020; tendering, trials and contract signature follow.
Way Fwd	AoN-to-contract conversion, not announcement value, is the real indicator; compressing trial timelines and widening the private-sector and MSME vendor base will determine delivery.
Concept	The DAC is the apex body for capital procurement in the Ministry of Defence, headed by the Raksha Mantri . Categories under DAP 2020 run from Buy (Indian-IDDM) — the most preferred, requiring indigenous design, development and manufacture — down to Buy (Global) . CBRN stands for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear.

DAC clears ₹1.10 lakh crore of acquisitions



ARMY	CBRN Recce Vehicles • High Mobility Vehicles • Mine Layers • ALH • Trawl Tanks • Sarvatra Bridge
NAVY	Arudhra Radars • indigenous Marine Gas Turbines
AIR FORCE	Fighter, transport & helicopter upgrades • Ground-Based Multi-Purpose Jammer • DEFSAC

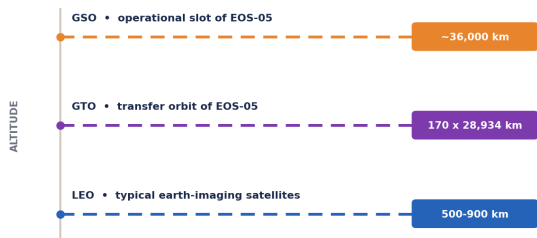
AoN = Acceptance of Necessity, the first stage under DAP 2020

EOS-05: India's first imaging satellite in geosynchronous orbit

SCI-TECH COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: Space technology and its applications. Prelims: GSLV, GTO vs GSO vs LEO, hyperspectral imaging, Satish Dhawan Space Centre.
Context	The earth observation satellite EOS-05 was placed in a sub-geosynchronous transfer orbit and is raising itself to a geosynchronous slot. Unlike low-earth-orbit imagers that pass over a site for a few minutes, it can stare at the same region near-continuously.
Key Facts	- Launched on 4 September 2026 by GSLV-F17, the 19th flight of the GSLV, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre-SHAR, Sriharikota. - Payload mass about 2,367 kg; injected into a sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit with perigee 170 km, apogee 28,934 km and inclination 19.28 degrees. - It is India's first imaging satellite operating from geosynchronous orbit, roughly 36,000 km above the equator. - Persistent staring capability supports disaster management, agriculture monitoring, maritime domain awareness and border surveillance. - Carries a hyperspectral earth-surface imager, allowing discrimination of crops, water bodies and surface materials by spectral signature.
Way Fwd	Geostationary imaging must be fused with the existing polar-orbiting Cartosat and RISAT constellations so that near-real-time alerts reach state disaster authorities, not just central agencies.
Concept	A geosynchronous orbit has an orbital period equal to earth's rotation (about 24 hours) at roughly 35,786 km ; a geostationary orbit is the special case with zero inclination , appearing fixed over a point on the equator. GSLV uses an indigenous cryogenic upper stage burning liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen.

EOS-05 • INDIA'S FIRST GEO IMAGING SATELLITE



Launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre-SHAR, Sriharikota

2,367 kg payload mass	GSLV-F17 19th GSLV flight	4 Sep 2026 launch date	19.28 deg orbit inclination
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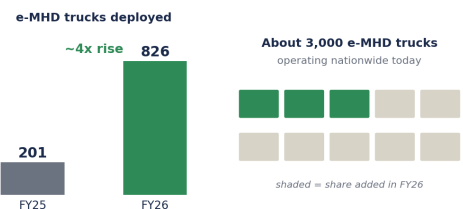
NITI Aayog launches PACT and ZET Marketplace for zero-emission freight

ENVIRONMENT COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: Infrastructure, energy transition, conservation and pollution. Prelims: NITI Aayog, e-MHD trucks, net-zero 2070, PM E-DRIVE.
Context	NITI Aayog launched the Platform for Aggregating Clean Transport (PACT) along with a Zero Emission Trucking (ZET) Marketplace to accelerate electric truck deployment on identified freight corridors through demand aggregation rather than fresh subsidy.

Key Facts	PACT aggregates freight demand from shippers and logistics providers and channels it into deployment along identified corridors. - The ZET Marketplace links e-truck manufacturers, logistics firms, charge point operators, financiers and technology providers. - Electric medium and heavy-duty truck deployments rose from 201 units in FY25 to 826 units in FY26 — roughly a four-fold increase. - About 3,000 e-MHD trucks are estimated to be operating nationwide at present. - Partner ministries are the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the Ministry of Heavy Industries; the model is market coordination and financing linkage, not direct subsidy.
Way Fwd	Charging depots along freight corridors and cheaper long-tenor finance are the binding constraints; total-cost-of-ownership parity, not sticker price, will drive fleet switching.
Concept	Road freight is among the hardest-to-abate segments: heavy-duty trucks are a small share of the vehicle fleet but a disproportionate share of transport emissions and diesel demand. This feeds India's net-zero by 2070 pledge and the Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

Zero-emission trucking: PACT & ZET Marketplace



TWO PILLARS OF THE NITI AAYOG PUSH

PACT	ZET MARKETPLACE
Platform for Aggregating Clean Transport — pools freight demand along identified corridors	Links e-truck makers, logistics firms, charge point operators, financiers and technology providers

Market coordination and financing linkage — not direct subsidy

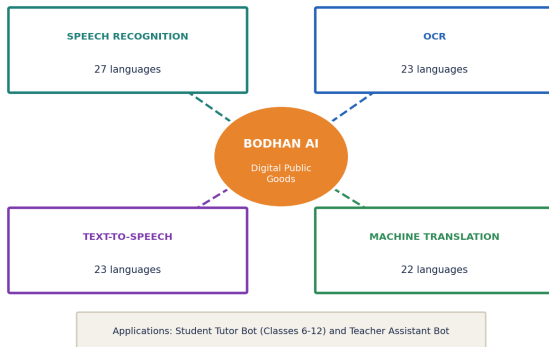
Bodhan AI releases four open multilingual education models as Digital Public Goods

SCI-TECH COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 & GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: Education and government policies. GS-III: Awareness in IT and computers. Prelims: Digital Public Goods, DPI, NEP 2020, foundation models.
Context	A centre of excellence at IIT Madras released four open-weight Indian-language foundation models for education, positioned as Digital Public Goods within a Bharat Education AI Stack, along with student and teacher assistant bots.
Key Facts	Four models released — automatic speech recognition covering 27 Indian languages, and OCR and text-to-speech covering 23 languages each. - A machine translation model covers 22 languages, aligned to the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. - Applications include a Student Tutor Bot for Classes 6-12 and a Teacher Assistant Bot. - Models are released as open weights and designated Digital Public Goods, allowing free reuse by states and edtech developers. - Positioned as the education layer of India's Digital Public Infrastructure, alongside identity and payments layers.
Way Fwd	Value will come from classroom integration and teacher training, not model releases; low-bandwidth offline deployment is essential for rural government schools.

Concept **Digital Public Goods** are open-source software, open data, open AI models, open standards and open content that adhere to privacy and applicable laws and help attain the **Sustainable Development Goals**. India's **DPI** model — identity, payments and data exchange — is now being extended to education under **NEP 2020's** mother-tongue instruction goal.

BHARAT EDUCATION AI STACK • OPEN MODELS



SECTION B • ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

DATA POINT OF THE DAY

₹1,99,853 crore (+14.8% year-on-year)

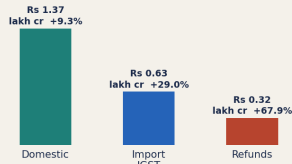
Gross GST collection, August 2026

Domestic revenue rose 9.3% to about ₹1.37 lakh crore while import IGST surged 29% to ₹62,604 crore. Refunds jumped 67.9% to ₹31,795 crore, so net collection grew a slower 8.3% to about ₹1.68 lakh crore. April-August gross stood at ₹10.43 lakh crore, up 11%.

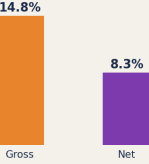
GST collections, August 2026

gross ₹1,99,853 crore, up 14.8% year-on-year

Components of the month



Year-on-year growth



₹1,99,853 cr

gross GST, August 2026

₹1.68 lakh cr

net collection after refunds

₹10.43 lakh cr

April-August gross, up 11%

SECTION C • GS-II: GOVERNANCE, POLITY & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Centre notifies Chief Justices for eight High Courts

POLITY **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

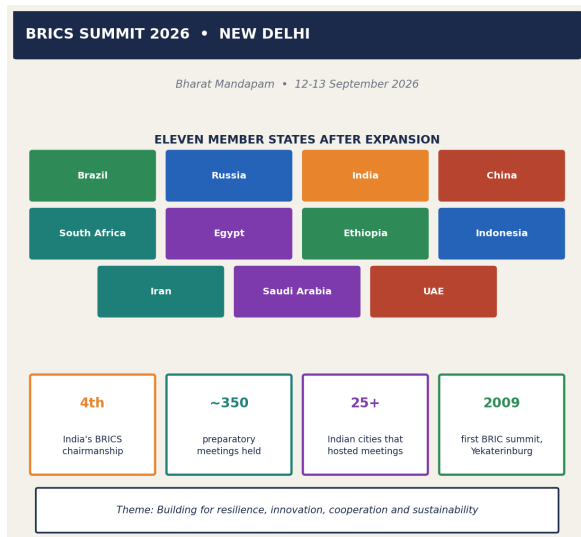
Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: Structure, organisation and functioning of the Judiciary. Prelims: Articles 214-231, collegium, Memorandum of Procedure, NJAC verdict.
Context	The Ministry of Law and Justice notified the appointment of Chief Justices to eight High Courts, following Supreme Court Collegium recommendations. The move fills long-pending leadership vacancies across several large High Courts.

Key Facts	- Appointments cover the Patna, Calcutta, Rajasthan, Bombay, Punjab & Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Courts. Article 217 governs the appointment of High Court judges by the President, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of the state and, for a puisne judge, the Chief Justice of that High Court. Article 216 provides that a High Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and such other judges as the President may appoint. - The collegium for High Court Chief Justices comprises the CJI and the two senior-most Supreme Court judges. - The process operates under the Memorandum of Procedure, a document still not finalised between the executive and the judiciary.
Way Fwd	Timely notification of collegium recommendations and a finalised Memorandum of Procedure with fixed timelines would reduce the vacancy-pendency spiral in High Courts.
Concept	The collegium system evolved through the Three Judges Cases (1981, 1993, 1998) . The 99th Constitutional Amendment and the NJAC Act, 2014 sought to replace it but were struck down in 2015 for violating judicial independence , part of the basic structure . Article 222 allows the President to transfer a judge from one High Court to another.

India to host expanded 11-nation BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam

IR **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: Bilateral, regional and global groupings involving India. Prelims: BRICS members, New Development Bank, Contingent Reserve Arrangement, chairmanship.
Context	New Delhi is in final preparations to host the BRICS Summit under India's chairmanship. It is the first summit since the grouping's expansion settled at eleven members, and comes amid pressure on global trade rules.
Key Facts	- Scheduled for 12-13 September 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi; theme is 'Building for resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability'. - This is India's fourth BRICS chairmanship, supported by around 350 preparatory meetings across more than 25 Indian cities. - Membership stands at 11 countries — Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. - India's stated priorities include more balanced intra-BRICS trade, trade in services, resilient global value chains and improved access to finance for small businesses. - BRICS institutions include the New Development Bank (NDB), headquartered in Shanghai, and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA).
Way Fwd	India's balancing act is to keep BRICS a Global South economic platform on trade, finance and technology without letting it harden into an anti-Western bloc that complicates its other partnerships.
Concept	BRIC was coined in 2001 ; the first summit was held in 2009 at Yekaterinburg , with South Africa joining in 2010 to form BRICS . The NDB was created by the Fortaleza Declaration (2014) . Chairmanship rotates annually and the summit is the apex of a year-long sherpa and ministerial track.



UN General Assembly declares 27 November as day against child, early and forced marriage

IR COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: Important international institutions; issues relating to women and children. Prelims: UNGA resolutions, SDG 5, PCMA 2006.
Context	The UN General Assembly adopted without a vote a resolution designating an International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage. India was among the co-sponsoring countries.
Key Facts	- Resolution A/RES/80/309 was adopted without a vote during the 80th session of the UN General Assembly. - All 193 UN Member States supported it; more than 70 countries co-sponsored, including India. - The observance date is 27 November, with the first observance in 2026. - UNGA resolutions on such observances are recommendatory, not legally binding on member states. - In India the governing law is the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, which sets 18 years for women and 21 years for men.
Way Fwd	Symbolic observance matters less than convergence between education retention, cash-transfer and child-protection schemes at the district level, where marriage-age violations actually cluster.
Concept	SDG Target 5.3 seeks to eliminate all harmful practices including child, early and forced marriage by 2030 . India is a party to the CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of the Child . The UNGA is the only UN organ with universal membership , where each state has one vote .

India-US trade agreement said to be in final legal drafting stage

ECONOMY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2 & GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-II: India and its bilateral relations; effect of policies of developed countries. GS-III: External sector, trade. Prelims: BTA, WTO, tariff terms.
Context	The US Ambassador to India indicated that the bilateral trade agreement is essentially settled in principle and is in the final legal drafting stage, with Indian officials travelling for concluding rounds.

Key Facts	- The agreement is described as 'in principle almost done', with only final legal scrubbing pending. - The United States has been among India's largest trading partners and a major destination for Indian services exports. - Sensitive Indian red lines have historically included agriculture, dairy and genetically modified products. - A Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) differs from a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement in coverage and depth of tariff elimination. - Trade agreements must be consistent with WTO Article XXIV on customs unions and free-trade areas.
Way Fwd	The test is whether market access gains for labour-intensive exports outweigh concessions demanded on agriculture and digital trade; parliamentary and stakeholder scrutiny of the final text matters.
Concept	Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment requires equal tariff treatment for all WTO members; National Treatment requires no discrimination between imported and domestic goods once inside the market. Reciprocal tariffs depart from MFN and are a key point of contention in current global trade practice.

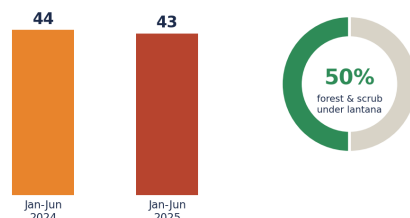
State of India's Environment 2026 flags changing tiger behaviour and invasive spread

REPORT COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: Conservation, biodiversity, human-wildlife conflict. Prelims: Project Tiger, NTCA, Lantana camara, tiger reserves, invasive alien species.
Context	An annual environment report highlighted that tiger behaviour is shifting as reserves saturate and invasive vegetation degrades prey habitat, pushing conflict into human-dominated landscapes.
Key Facts	43 people were killed near tiger reserves between January and June 2025, against 44 in the same period of 2024. - Tigers are present in 20 states; about 60 million people share nearly 40% of tiger-occupied landscape. Lantana camara, an ornamental introduced in the 1800s, now covers about 50% of India's forest and scrubland area. - Lantana creates predator-friendly structure in prey-poor landscapes, making livestock an easier target for tigers. - Reserves at saturation capacity push dispersing tigers into buffer and human-use areas, raising conflict.
Way Fwd	Conflict management must move from compensation to prevention — lantana removal with prey-base restoration, secured corridors and community-led early warning around buffer villages.
Concept	Project Tiger was launched in 1973 ; the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 , as amended in 2006 . Tiger reserves have a core or critical tiger habitat and a buffer zone . Invasive alien species are a recognised direct driver of biodiversity loss.

Tiger-human conflict and invasive spread

Human deaths near tiger reserves



Tigers present in 20 states • about 60 million people share nearly 40% of tiger landscape

Botanical Survey of India records new plant species in Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve

ENVIRONMENT COMMON: Prelims GS3

Syllabus Linkage	GS-III: Biodiversity and conservation. Prelims: Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve, Western Ghats, UNESCO MAB, Melastomataceae, endemism.
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Context	A new woolly-haired flowering plant species was described from the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve straddling Kerala and Tamil Nadu, adding to the Western Ghats' record of endemism.
Key Facts	- The species is named Osbeckia ulotricha, belonging to the family Melastomataceae. - It was recorded at elevations of 1,200 to 1,500 metres in the Kerala-Tamil Nadu stretch of the reserve. - The description was published in the international taxonomic journal Lilloa. Agasthyamala was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2016 and lies in the southern Western Ghats. - The Western Ghats are one of the world's biodiversity hotspots and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Way Fwd	New descriptions from a well-studied range show survey gaps persist; sustained taxonomic capacity and habitat protection above 1,000 metres are needed before such micro-endemics are lost.
Concept	A biosphere reserve under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme has three zones — core, buffer and transition . Endemic species occur naturally in one geographic area only. India's Botanical Survey of India (1890) and Zoological Survey of India (1916) are the nodal taxonomic organisations.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Completing the Dedicated Freight Corridors is a necessary but not sufficient condition for reducing India's logistics cost. Critically examine, with reference to modal-share targets and last-mile connectivity. (250 words, 15 marks)

Hint: Open with the freight modal-share problem — rail's declining share against road. Use today's WDFC completion and the JNPA link as the supply-side gain. Then argue the binding constraints: first-and-last-mile sidings, warehousing and multimodal parks, terminal charges, and empty-return imbalance. Link to PM GatiShakti, the National Logistics Policy and the zero-emission trucking push. Conclude on integrated corridor economics rather than track alone.

ONE-LINE REVISION — WDFC complete with 326 km and ₹20,700 crore; DAC clears ₹1.10 lakh crore at 98% indigenous; EOS-05 is India's first geosynchronous imager; BRICS-11 meets at Bharat Mandapam on 12-13 September; August GST gross ₹1,99,853 crore, up 14.8%.

Compiled & simplified by the **StudyForGS.com** Research Team

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SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1.	Arudhra is an indigenous medium power radar cleared for the Indian Navy by the Defence Acquisition Council.
2.	JNPA in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra is India's largest container-handling port and the western terminus of the WDFC.
3.	Osbeckia ulotricha , the newly described plant, belongs to the family Melastomataceae .
4.	Article 217 deals with the appointment and conditions of office of a High Court judge .
5.	The New Development Bank , a BRICS institution, is headquartered at Shanghai, China .
6.	Kadana Dam , site of a new 110 MW floating solar plant, is on the Mahi river in Gujarat .

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC), consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Railways.
2. Its western terminus provides direct freight connectivity to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority.
3. Dedicated Freight Corridors permit double-stack container train operation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d) All three are correct. DFCCIL is the SPV under the Ministry of Railways; the last commissioned section links the corridor to JNPA; and DFCs are engineered for double-stack container movement with higher axle loads.

Q2. Consider the following statements about a geosynchronous orbit:

1. Its orbital period is approximately equal to the earth's rotation period.
2. Every geosynchronous orbit is necessarily geostationary.
3. It lies at an altitude of roughly 36,000 km above the earth's surface.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Statement 2 is wrong: a geostationary orbit is the special case of a geosynchronous orbit with zero inclination over the equator, so an inclined geosynchronous orbit is not geostationary.