

## **October 9, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits**

### **1. GST Council Removes Arrest Powers of GST Officials**

(i) The decision was taken at the 57th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi.

(ii) The meeting was attended by finance ministers from various states, including Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Maria Wilson. The Council approved a proposal to restrict the powers of officials to charging higher interest and imposing penalties on those who delay filing tax returns, provide incorrect information, or fail to pay taxes by the prescribed deadlines.

(iii) The Council also decided to remove the power to arrest individuals for failing to pay GST properly and to raise the threshold for prosecution from ₹1 crore to ₹5 crore.

### **(iv) Introduction of Online Assessment**

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters that the general penalty would be reduced from ₹25,000 to ₹10,000.
- The Central Government plans to introduce a single-window online tax assessment system at the beginning of the financial year 2027–28 for Central GST (CGST) taxpayers registered in multiple states.
- The Government has also decided to expand the scope of refunds available under the inverted duty structure for input services.
- The Finance Minister stated that the GST Council had successfully overcome various challenges, both before 2019 and during the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating cooperation between the Central and state governments.

### **(v) Implementation from Next Year**

- All the reforms proposed at the GST Council meeting are scheduled to come into effect on April 1, 2027.
- Currently, 69.5 lakh taxpayers fall under the CGST framework in India. Notably, around 2 lakh of them are registered under the CGST framework in one or more states.

### **2. China has nominated its senior health official, Zhang Li, for the post of Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO).**

(i) The third five-year term of the current Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, will end in August next year. Under the organisation's rules, he is not eligible to contest again. Therefore, the next Director-General is scheduled to be elected at the World Health Assembly in May.

(ii) The nomination comes amid China's continued efforts to strengthen its influence in international organisations. Zhang Li has worked extensively during the COVID-19 and SARS outbreaks and has considerable experience in maternal and child health and international health policy.

(iii) Apart from Zhang Li, medical experts from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Belgium, Spain, Indonesia and

Botswana have also been announced as candidates for the post.

3.Four astronauts who spent approximately eight months conducting research aboard the International Space Station (ISS) have safely returned to Earth.

(i) They were brought back aboard a spacecraft operated by SpaceX. The four astronauts were NASA's Jessica Meir and Jack Hathaway, France's Sophie Adenot, and Russia's Andrey Fedyayev.

(ii) The crew safely splashed down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Los Angeles.

4.South Korea has successfully tested its first domestically developed hypersonic missile, capable of travelling at speeds exceeding five times the speed of sound and evading enemy missile defence systems.

(i) South Korean President Lee Jae-myung witnessed the test in person and described it as a major milestone in strengthening the country's conventional defence capabilities.

(ii) The missile separated from its booster rocket at the planned altitude, manoeuvred vertically and horizontally, and struck its designated target.

(iii) The missile is capable of carrying out surprise attacks against key enemy targets on the Korean Peninsula. During the test, President Lee Jae-myung also inspected the country's powerful Hyunmoo-5 ballistic missile.

(iv) Tensions on the Korean Peninsula have increased following a landmine explosion near the North Korea–South Korea border last month that injured three South Korean soldiers.

5.Employees of several leading IT companies, including Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Wipro and HCLTech, have reportedly been temporarily barred from applying for permanent residency, known as a Green Card, while working in the United States on H-1B visas.

(i) Microsoft, Cognizant, Capgemini and Adobe have also been included on the list of affected companies. US Vice-President J. D. Vance announced the measure during a press conference at the White House, accusing the companies of engaging in fraud.

(ii) Supporters of President Donald Trump have long opposed the H-1B visa programme, arguing that it takes jobs away from American workers and that the programme is increasingly affected by irregularities.

6.The Union Sports Ministry will review India's performance at the Asian Games on the 13th of this month. Representatives of national sports federations and associations will participate in the review. The meeting will focus particularly on the disappointing performances of several experienced athletes in badminton, shooting and athletics.

(i) Despite sufficient funding being released under the support scheme for Olympic medal prospects, India won fewer medals this time than at the previous Asian Games, where it secured 106 medals. The reasons for the decline will be discussed.

(ii) Ministry sources stated that the meeting would also discuss the claims made by some athletes that

they were injured before the competition, despite the Government spending crores of rupees to prepare them for the event. The ministry considers such explanations unacceptable and intends to examine the issue.

(iii) At the Asian Games held in Japan, 495 Indian athletes participated in 36 sports. India finished fourth in the overall standings, winning:

- Gold: 21 medals
- Silver: 27 medals
- Bronze: 37 medals
- Total: 85 medals

The Union Sports Ministry had stated that approximately ₹700 crore had been spent over three years in preparation for these Asian Games.

7. President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders extended their greetings to Indian Air Force personnel on the occasion of Indian Air Force Day.

(i) October 8 is observed as Indian Air Force Day to commemorate the establishment of the Indian Air Force and honour the sacrifices made by its personnel.

8. Canadian writer, poet and translator Anne Carson, aged 76, has been announced as the winner of the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature.

(i) The award has been announced in recognition of her bold and innovative works, which create new forms of contemporary literature by combining classical literary traditions with a playful, conversational approach.

(ii) The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded annually by the Swedish Academy to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to literature. This year, the award has been announced for Anne Carson.

(iii) Born in Toronto, Canada, Carson currently lives in Iceland with her family. She has written numerous poems, essays and works of fiction drawing on themes and stories from ancient Greek and Roman literature.

(iv) According to Ingrid Carlberg, the Permanent Secretary of the Swedish Academy, when the Academy attempted to contact Carson to inform her of the award, she was listening to the sound of the wind. Carlberg also stated that Carson was greatly surprised to learn that she had been selected for the Nobel Prize.

(v) Some of Carson's best-known books include:

- Eros the Bittersweet
- Autobiography of Red
- Men in the Off Hours
- Norma Jeane Baker of Troy

(vi) Nobel Peace Prize to Be Announced Today

- The 2026 Nobel Prizes in Physiology or Medicine, Physics and Chemistry have already been announced.
- The Nobel Prize in Literature has now also been announced.
- The Nobel Peace Prize is scheduled to be announced on Friday, October 9.
- The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences is scheduled to be announced on Monday.

9. K. Parasaran – legal scholar and former Attorney General of India

(i) Key Occasion and Milestone

- October 9, 2026, marks the 100th birthday of the legal scholar and former Attorney General of India, K. Parasaran.
- He is celebrated as one of post-independence India's most respected legal figures, renowned for combining constitutional intelligence, courtroom advocacy, personal humility, and moral integrity.

(ii) Early Life and Family Lineage

- Parasaran was born during the late British colonial era into a prominent legal and socio-cultural environment.
- His father, Kesava Iyengar, was an eminent Madras legal figure whose voice resonated in the Federal Court of India in New Delhi.

(iii) Key Career Milestones & Major Cases

- Parasaran was appointed Attorney General of India in 1983, succeeding Lal Narayan Sinha.
- His arguments in the landmark 1981 "First Judges Case" brought his legal expertise into widespread public prominence.
- During the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s, he remained one of the country's most sought-after senior advocates and legal advisors.
- Ram Janmabhoomi Case (2018): In 2018, he took up the responsibility of representing the Ram Janmabhoomi case, which he viewed as a once-in-a-century responsibility entrusted to him by destiny and divine will.

(iv) Professional Ethics and Personal Qualities

- Widely referred to by the legal fraternity as the "Pitamaha (Grand Patriarch) of the advocate family" due to his humility, warmth, and accessibility.
- Described as an "open-source" repository of knowledge whose advice is driven by genuine care, moral clarity, and deep wisdom rather than commercial motives.
- Possesses a unique ability to draw immediate parallels between Eastern literature and Western legal philosophy, synthesizing ancient Indian cultural heritage with modern constitutional jurisprudence.