

September 3, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The officials said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the northeastern states of Manipur and Mizoram on September 13.
 - i. The Prime Minister Modi is traveling to Manipur for the first time since major riots broke out between the Maithili and Kuki tribes in Manipur in May, 2023.
 - ii. The Security arrangements are being tightened as he is expected to inaugurate the Bhairabi-Sairang railway line there.
 - iii. Since 2023, sporadic violence between the Maithili and Kuki tribes has claimed 260 lives, with thousands of displaced people sheltering in relief camps.
2. The Supreme Court has held that due to the delays in approving bills in some cases, it cannot be justified to impose a deadline on the President and Governors to approve them.
 - i. The Tamil Nadu Government filed a case in the Supreme Court alleging that Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi is delaying decisions on the bills.
 - ii. The bench comprising Supreme Court Justices J.P. Parr Diwala and R. Mahadevan, who ruled in this case, said that "Governors must take a decision on bills within a month; if they are to send bills to the President, they must do so within three months."
 - iii. The deadline set for the President to take a decision on the bills within three months if the Governor sends them for the President's consideration.
3. The Central Water Commission has said that the expansion of more than 400 glacial lakes in the Indian part of the Himalayas is a cause for concern and is closely monitoring this. The Central Water Commission (CWC) has released its June report on glacial lakes and catchment areas.
 - i. It states that 432 glacial lakes in Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh are being closely monitored as they can cause major damage if they overflow.
 - ii. The Central Commission is concerned that out of the 681 glacial lakes in the Indian territory, 432 lakes have accumulated water and spread over a larger area in June 2025 than in 2023. These can cause a disaster.
 - iii. Compared to 2011, the area of glacial lakes in the Himalayas has increased from 1,917 hectares to 2,508 hectares, an increase of 30.83 percent.
 - iv. Of these, Arunachal Pradesh has the highest number of glacial lakes, with 197, followed by Ladakh with 120, Jammu and Kashmir with 57, Sikkim with 47, Himachal Pradesh with 6 and Uttarakhand with 5. A total of 1,435 glacial lakes are expanding in the Himalayan region.

- v. With this in mind, immediate steps should be taken to share state-of-the-art monitoring systems and satellite-based early warning information with the people living there.
 - vi. The Union Water Ministry, National Disaster Management Authority, and State Disaster Management Authority should work together with Bhutan and China on this issue. This is because much of the water from many lakes across the Indian border flows into Indian rivers.
 - vii. The report states that the Himalayan region is facing various disaster challenges, including glacier melting, due to climate change.
4. The Indians continue to top the list of tourists visiting Sri Lanka. A total of 1,98,235 tourists visited Sri Lanka in August, compared to 1,64,609 in the same month in 2024.
- i. During that month, the highest number of tourists came from India, 46,473. After India, 17,764 tourists came from Britain, followed by 12,500 from Germany.
 - ii. It is reported that many tourists have also come from countries such as China, Italy, France, Spain, Australia, the Netherlands, and Japan.
5. The death toll from a powerful earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan on Monday has crossed 1,400. A UN official said that the search for survivors trapped in the rubble has become a time-consuming challenge as the landslides have affected remote villages and mountainous areas, in the earthquake, which measured 6.0 on the Richter scale.
6. Belgium has announced its intention to recognize Palestine as a separate state.
- i. The process of granting statehood to Palestine has begun and this decision will be announced at the UN General Assembly meeting to be held on September 9th.
 - ii. However, the decision would be implemented only on two conditions: all hostages in Gaza must be released and Hamas must relinquish control of Gaza.
 - iii. The only solution to the long-standing Palestinian problem is recognising Israel and Palestine (the territory comprising the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem) to function as separate, independent states, recognizing each other (Two-state solution). This has been the position of international countries, including India.
7. The Finance Ministry will begin work on preparing the Union Budget for the financial year 2026-27 in October.
- i. The 2026-27 budget assumes significance in the backdrop of global geopolitical uncertainty and the imposition of a 50 percent import duty by the US on Indian goods.
 - ii. The 2026-27 Budget will be presented on February 1 next year. During the last Budget session, the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had the distinction of

becoming the first Finance Minister to present the Budget for the 8th consecutive time in the country.

8. The Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh launched a new app called 'Kapas Kisan' to facilitate seamless procurement of cotton at the Minimum Support Price.
 - i. The Ministry said that this app, which empowers farmers through facilities, such as self-registration, choosing a convenient time for procurement, and checking payment status, will ensure greater transparency and convenient-quick operation in the cotton procurement process.
9. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and attended by the Finance Ministers of all states and Union Territories, will be held for two days starting from Wednesday (September 3).
 - i. The meeting is expected to take a major decision on reducing the GST rates to 5% and 18% and imposing a 40% tax on certain items like tobacco, gutka and paan.
 - ii. GST was introduced on July 1, 2017, by integrating 17 taxes and 13 additional taxes in the country, apart from a few state taxes. Under it, tax is levied at four rates: 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%.
 - iii. To compensate for the revenue loss to the states due to this tax, a tax of 1 to 290 % was imposed on luxury and harmful goods. This procedure was initially implemented for 5 years until June 2022. It has since been extended until March 1, 2026.
 - iv. In his Independence Day speech, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the next-generation reform (GST 2.0) will be rolled out by Diwali to further simplify GST, marking 8 years of its introduction.
 - v. Following this, the Finance Ministry had given a proposal to the Group of State Finance Ministers (GoM) to do away with GST rates of 12% and 28% and adopt a two-rate regime of 5% and 18% and levy 40% tax only on certain items like tobacco, gutkha and pan masala.
 - vi. This proposal was approved by the GoM during its consultative meeting held on August 20 and 21.