Kerala Opposes Scrapping of Tax Officers' Arrest Powers at 57th GST Council Meet

Kerala opposed the complete removal of tax officers' arrest powers at the 57th GST Council meeting, advocating for their retention in cases of serious tax fraud.

The GST Council is a constitutional body established under Article 279A that makes recommendations to the Union and State Governments on issues related to Goods and Services Tax.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The 57th GST Council meeting was held in **New Delhi** on **October 8, 2026**.
- **Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan** attended the council meeting representing the state.
- The state argued that robust deterrence measures are essential to combat large-scale and organized **tax evasion**.
- Kerala suggested retaining arrest powers specifically for serious **tax frauds** and high-value cases.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is constituted under **Article 279A** of the Indian Constitution.

The **Union Finance Minister** serves as the **Chairperson** of the GST Council.

The **101st Constitutional Amendment Act** of **2016** introduced the Goods and Services Tax in India.

GST is an **indirect tax** that replaced multiple cascading taxes levied by the central and state governments.

The GST Council decisions require a majority of not less than **three-fourths** of the weighted votes of the members present and voting.

Article 279A was inserted into the Constitution by the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016.

REVISION FLASHCARD

The GST Council is established under Article 279A of the Indian Constitution, with the Union Finance Minister as its Chairperson.

Syllabus Relevance: Important for understanding the functioning of the GST Council, constitutional provisions related to taxation, and fiscal federalism in India.

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