

Indian Express

Govt. and Politics

- **Israel's Gantz meet Modi and Rajnath, defence ties to deepen (Page no 10) (GS Paper 2/ GS Paper 3), (Bilateral Relation)**

India and Israel agreed to deepen defence ties as Israel's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Benjamin Gantz met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and held bilateral talks with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

On his first official visit to India, Gantz told Modi, "We have a great opportunity to deepen defence cooperation between our countries and to build on our shared values in order to contribute to global stability."

He said India is an "industrial superpower and Israel is a technological superpower — cooperation between our countries will expand the capabilities of both countries to contend with developing challenges."

The visit marks 30 years of diplomatic ties between the two countries. Israel is among the top exporters of arms to India – together with Russia, France and the United States — and India has bought weapons worth US\$ 2.9 billion from Israel in the last decade. The main purchases include missiles, radars and UAVs.

Express Network

- **Legal frame soon to stop levy of service charge by eateries: Govt. (Page no. 11) (GS Paper3), Indian Economy**

Even as representatives of restaurant owners' association stood their ground during a meeting with the government on the issue of service charge and said collecting service charge is neither illegal nor in violation of law, the government said it will soon release a "robust framework" to ensure strict compliance of its 2017 guidelines, which bars charging for service by hotels and restaurants.

According to 2017 guidelines, charging for anything other than "prices displayed on the menu card along with the applicable taxes", without "express consent" of the customer, is "unfair trade practices".

Idea Page

- **Tax by Persuasion (Page no. 15) (GS Paper 3), Indian Economy**

The recent ruling of the Supreme Court on the nature of recommendations made by the GST Council has attracted widespread comments because of the important observations made on Indian federalism, especially on it being a dialogue between cooperative and uncooperative federalism.

The states, the court held, were free to use means of persuasion ranging from collaboration to contestation.

The Gujarat High Court had quashed the two notifications that levied IGST (Integrated GST) on the ocean freight component in a CF (cost, insurance and freight) contract.

Briefly, the high court held that these notifications were unconstitutional and amounted to double taxation.

The Supreme Court, in appeal, had to merely consider the correctness of this judgment.

The constitutional status of the GST Council and issues relating to fiscal, collaborative, and cooperative federalism were never raised before the high court.

However, before the Supreme Court, the Union of India made far-reaching submissions that led to this landmark ruling on federalism in general, and fiscal federalism in particular.

Article 246A confers simultaneous or concurrent powers on Parliament and the state legislatures to make laws relating to GST.

Economy Page

- **Social Media: Appeal panels may be set up for grievances (Page no. 17) (GS Paper 3), Science and Tech**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has proposed the setting up of government-appointed appellate committees that will be empowered to review and possibly reverse content moderation decisions taken by social media companies like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

In a draft of proposed amendments to the Information Technology Rules 2021 (IT Rules), "The Central Government shall constitute one or more Grievance Appellate Committees, which shall consist of a Chairperson and such other Members, as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint".

Under the IT Rules, released in February last year, social media companies like Facebook and Twitter are mandated to appoint India-based resident grievance officers as part of their due diligence as ‘intermediaries’ who enjoy legal immunity from third-party content on their platform.

These officers are responsible for overseeing the grievance redressal mechanism of complaints from the people who use their services.

This means that if a user has an issue with an account or a piece of content on a social media platform, they can complain about it to the company’s grievance officer who will have to act and dispose of that complaint within 15 days.