

May - 27

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) took aggressive steps to stabilize the rupee, by selling a record \$398.71 billion in foreign exchange in FY2024-25.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Board has approved the transfer of Rs 2.69 lakh crores as surplus to the government for the financial year 2024-25.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

GI Tag for 'Sivakasi Fireworks'



- ❖ The century-old fireworks industry in Sivakasi has now approached the GI Tag.
- ❖ Fireworks are made at factories and small cottages in villages across Sivakasi, Vembakottai, Virudhunagar, Sattur, Srivilliputhur and in some of the areas in the Kovilpatti region.
- ❖ Over 80% of fireworks in India are manufactured in this region.
- ❖ Its market size is about ₹6,000 crore which is growing annually at 10%.
- ❖ Sivakasi, an arid region, has a climate that is ideal for firework manufacturing.



- ❖ It is known as "Mini Japan" or "Kutty Japan" due to its industrious spirit and thriving industries, especially in printing, fireworks, and safety matches.
- ❖ This nickname was coined by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

NATIONAL NEWS

Doctrine of Presumption of Constitutionality

- ❖ The Supreme Court has declined urgent hearing on a plea seeking to declare the Citizenship (Amendment) Act as constitutional.
- ❖ It also said that there was already a “presumption of constitutionality” to a law passed by Parliament.
- ❖ The term ‘presumption of constitutionality’ is a legal principle that is used by courts during statutory interpretation.
- ❖ This Doctrine is rooted in the belief that legislative bodies are best equipped to create laws that reflect societal needs.
- ❖ The Courts are expected to uphold laws unless there is clear evidence of a constitutional breach.
- ❖ A three-judge Bench in ‘NDMC v State of Punjab’ (1996) spoke the limitations to the doctrine.

Presumption of Constitutionality

- The most fundamental limitation on the exercise of judicial review is the **presumption of constitutionality**. Courts will presume a statute is valid unless it can be shown otherwise (the party attacking its validity bears the burden of this proof).
- The **Narrowness Doctrine**: courts will avoid making broad pronouncements that might have unintended and / or unforeseen consequences.
- **No New Principles Doctrine**: courts will avoid inventing new principles of constitutionality when established principles will serve to dispose with the case.
- **Stare Decisis**: Doctrine of precedent. Courts will follow precedent wherever possible.
- The **Severability Doctrine**: federal courts will generally attempt to excise the unconstitutional elements of a statute while leaving the rest of the law intact.
- **Unconstitutional as Applied**: Courts will not invalidate a statute “on its face” if it has constitutional applications in some circumstances.

Revamped Multi Agency Centre (MAC)

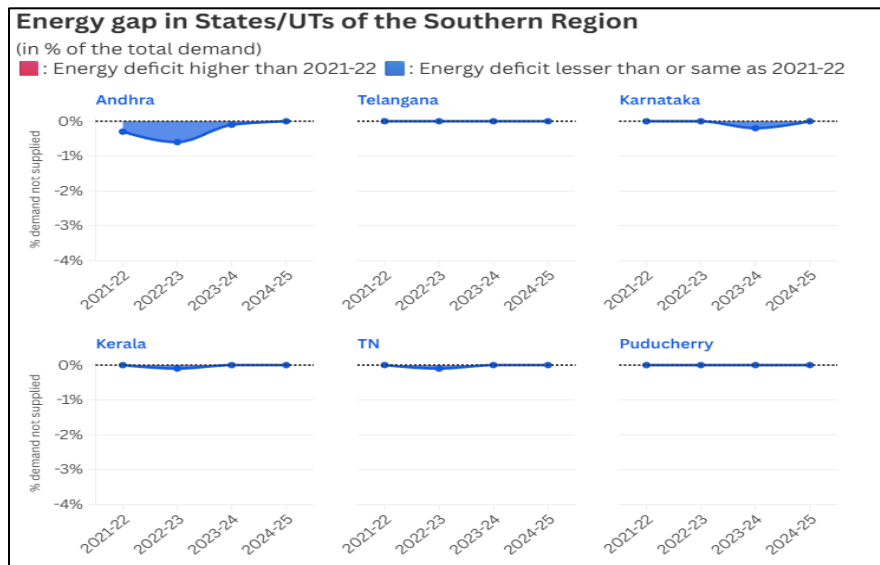
- ❖ The revamped Multi Agency Centre (MAC), a common counter-terrorism grid under Intelligence Bureau (IB), was inaugurated in New Delhi.

- ❖ It was conceptualised in 2001 post the Kargil war.
- ❖ The new MAC network connects all the police districts in the country through a secured network.
- ❖ As many as 28 organisations, including the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), armed forces and State police are part of this platform.

Multi Agency Centre (MAC)

- ❖ It is a counter-terrorism grid under the Intelligence Bureau (IB).
- ❖ It was originally conceptualised in 2001 after the Kargil war to improve national security coordination.
- ❖ The new MAC securely connects all police districts across India.
- ❖ A total of 28 organisations, including RAW, armed forces, and State police, are integrated into the platform.
- ❖ MAC facilitates real-time sharing of intelligence inputs among various security agencies.
- ❖ The platform is aimed at countering terrorism and its links with organised crime.

Power Sufficient in 2025 – India



- ❖ In the past four years, the gap between the energy demand and the capacity has fallen to 0.1% and total installed capacity has increased to 470 GW.
- ❖ India's generation has increased from 13,74,024 MU in 2021-22 to 15,46,229 MU in 2024-25, closing the gap from 0.4% in 2021-22 to 0.1% in 2024-25.



- ❖ Currently, energy produced by thermal fuels (coal, diesel, lignite and natural gas) is 12,41,261 million Units (MU).
- ❖ Nuclear and hydro-electric sources account for to 51,962 MU and 1,39,780 MU respectively.
- ❖ Renewable sources accounted for 2,30,868 MU in energy production.
- ❖ Among this wind stood at 78,214 MU, solar at 1,27,339 MU, biomass 3392 MU, bagasse 8349 MU, small hydro 10,951 MU and others at 2621 MU.
- ❖ The contribution of renewable contribution as a percentage has gradually increased from 11.5% in 2021-22 to 13.78% in 2024-2025.
- ❖ The National Grid is maintained by the government-run Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd to monitor, regulate and facilitate inter-State power flow.
- ❖ The South & West two regions cover India's largest power consuming states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana.
- ❖ They have managed to keep their energy gap limited to 0.1% through the years.
- ❖ In the West, Maharashtra is the largest power consumer as its requirement grew from 1,72,823 MU in 2021-22 to 2,07,018 MU in 2023-2024.
- ❖ However, it has managed to meet its power requirement keeping its energy gap a mere 0.1%.
- ❖ Gujarat, the region's second biggest power consumer, saw its requirement increased from 1,29,953 MU to 1,45,768 MU; but its energy gap remained at 0%.
- ❖ The power demand of Tamil Nadu is the highest 1,09,816 MU to 1,26,163 MU but the energy gap is 0%.
- ❖ Similarly, Telangana and Karnataka have maintained a 0% energy gap.
- ❖ But, East grid's States like Bihar and Jharkhand have been unable to meet their power demands.

ECONOMY NEWS

India - Top Potato Producer by 2050

- ❖ India is on track to become the world's top potato producer, overtaking China by 2050.
- ❖ India's annual potato production could rise from the current 60 million tonnes to 100 million tonnes by 2050.
- ❖ It was introduced to India by Portuguese traders in the 17th century.
- ❖ Potato is the India's fourth most important food crop after rice, wheat, and maize.

- ❖ It is grown in 23 states, but 85% of production comes from the Indo-Gangetic plains in North India.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar are the top 3 producers of Potato.



► **India** Set to Become World's Top **Potato Producer** by 2050

Key Highlights in the News:

- India is poised to surpass China as the world's leading potato producer by 2050, according to scientists from the Peru-based International Potato Center (CIP).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

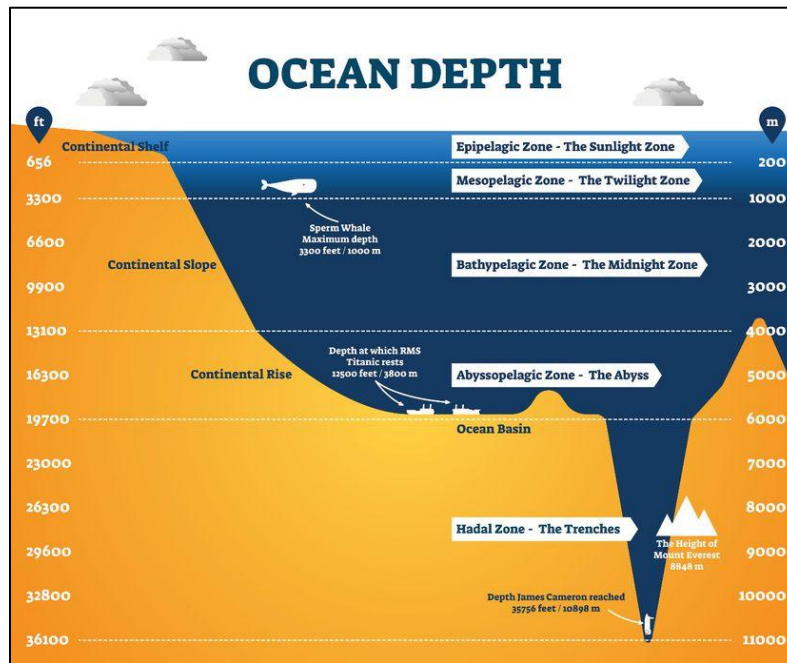
India-Japan's LUPEX Mission



- ❖ Chandrayaan-5, also known as LUPEX (Lunar Polar Exploration), is a joint project between ISRO and JAXA.
- ❖ Weighing 6.5 tonnes, it is proposed to lift off on a Japanese rocket, H3, sometime in 2027-28.
- ❖ It is aimed at deeper exploration of the Moon's surface, mainly for water.

- ❖ The team will soon commence the preliminary design phase of the lander and the rover.
- ❖ ISRO is developing Chandrayaan-5's lander whereas JAXA is building the 350-kg rover.

Study on Earth's Deep Seafloor



- ❖ Two-thirds of the earth's surface consists of the deep ocean- parts of the surface 200 m or more below sea level.
- ❖ It's thus the world's largest as well as least explored ecosystem.
- ❖ Till date, the researchers collected 43,681 records of deep-sea visual dives from 34 institutions in 14 countries, spanning activities in 120 exclusive economic zones and the high seas.
- ❖ Thus, the researchers concluded that visual observations have covered 0.001% at best of the deep seafloor.
- ❖ More than 97% of all dives have been conducted by just five countries — the US, Japan, New Zealand, France, and Germany.
- ❖ The ocean's average depth, about 12,080 ft (3,682 m), makes it virtually very inaccessible.
- ❖ Around the two-thirds of the ocean's 700,000 to 1 million species (excluding microbes) have yet to be identified or described.
- ❖ Deep ocean experiences severe cold with an average temperature of only 4°C.

- ❖ It is also subject to the extreme pressure, from about 40 to over 110 times the pressure of Earth's atmosphere.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Two mixed green manure kits

- ❖ The National Seeds Corporation (NSC) has introduced two mixed green manure kits to promote mixed green manure cropping.
- ❖ This practice involves the cultivation of multiple green manure crop species with complementary characteristics together and incorporated back into soil to enrich the soil.
- ❖ Certain species release natural compounds that inhibit weed germination, while others grow densely enough to physically suppress weed growth.
- ❖ Green Manure refers to crops specifically grown to be incorporated back into the soil rather than harvested.
- ❖ These crops decompose in the field, enriching the soil with organic matter and essential nutrients.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Child Wellbeing in an Unpredictable World – UNICEF

- ❖ The report, titled Report Card 19: Child Wellbeing in an Unpredictable World, has compared data from 2018 and 2022.

- ❖ It is offering a perspective on how the COVID-19 pandemic and global shutdowns affected children in 43 OECD and EU countries.
- ❖ The top three countries are the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Denmark and France and they also lead on mental health, physical health and skills.
- ❖ Across the 43 countries, an estimated 8 million 15-year-olds are not functionally literate and numerate.
- ❖ Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia rank high for mental health but rank in the lowest third for physical health.
- ❖ Japan, the Republic of Korea and Slovenia are in the top third rank for skills, but in the bottom third rank for mental health.
- ❖ Czechia and Iceland rank high for physical health but rank low for both mental health and skills.
- ❖ Children's life satisfaction declining substantially in 14 of 32 countries.
- ❖ Levels of overweight increased substantially in 14 out of 43 countries with available data, continuing a long-term trend.
- ❖ Between 2018 and 2022, suicide rates among adolescents fell in 18 countries but increased in 17 countries.

Overall rank	Country	Mental health	Physical health	Skills
1	Netherlands	1	4	11
2	Denmark	3	3	8
3	France	11	2	9
4	Portugal	2	10	22
5	Ireland	24	11	1
6	Switzerland	13	7	6
7	Spain	4	25	16
8	Croatia	9	31	3
9	Italy	8	16	23
10	Sweden	14	13	14
11	Hungary	6	30	13
12	Austria	16	20	7

STATES' NEWS

First Fully Literate State – Mizoram

- ❖ Mizoram has become the first state in India to be officially declared fully 'literate' under the ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) initiative.



- ❖ The state was ranked 3th in India with a literacy rate of 91.33%, according to the 2011 Census.
- ❖ As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS 2023–2024), Mizoram achieved a literacy rate of 98.2%.

