



ANUSHKA IAS

D.N.A.

**DAILY NEWS
ANALYSIS**

BY : HARSHIL KUMAWAT

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Get in touch with us : 9521516171, 8233033033

www.anushkaacademy.com

IRIDIUM PHONES (THE HINDU)

COVERED IN GS : 3 (SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY)

NEWS

Fifteen signatures of Iridium satellite phones, used by the U.S.-led allied forces in Afghanistan, and Wi-Fi-enabled thermal imagery devices that help terrorists to escape security cordons have been found in the militancy-hit Kashmir Valley.

ABOUT

- ❖ Bodies such as the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) and the Defence Intelligence Agencies (DIA) have been tasked with finding and giving out real-time information about the presence of these satellite phones in the Kashmir Valley.
- ❖ In the aftermath of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) first restricted the use of Iridium and Thuraya satellite phones and infrastructure, and in 2012 completely banned them under the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act.



ELECTRIC VEHICLES (THE IE)

COVERED IN GS : 3 (ECONOMICS)

NEWS

Two-wheel EV maker Okinawa Autotech has said it was recalling 3,215 units of its Praise Pro scooter to fix any issues related to batteries. This is the first instance of a voluntary recall by an electric vehicle manufacturer in India.

About:

- ❖ The development comes weeks after an Okinawa scooter burst into flames claiming the lives of a man and his thirteen-year-old daughter. The recall also comes in the backdrop of Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant urging manufacturers to voluntarily recall EV batches involved in fire incidents.
- ❖ In the last few weeks, over a dozen electric scooters have caught fires including those manufactured by Ola Electric, Pure EV and Jitendra EV, aside from Okinawa.



- ❖ The Road Transport Ministry, has also ordered a probe into the incidents and roped in the Centre for Fire Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES), a unit of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), to constitute an independent team and carry out an investigation into the incidents.

RURAL INFLATION (THE HINDU)**COVERED IN GS : 3 (ECONOMICS)****NEWS :**

Official data pegs rural inflation in March at 7.66%, with several States reporting even higher inflation, including West Bengal (8.85%), Uttar Pradesh and Assam (8.19%) as well as Madhya Pradesh (7.89%).

About:

- ❖ Urban inflation has usually tended to be higher than rural inflation by an average of about 0.8 percentage points through most of 2021 — the only exceptions being August when both stood at 5.3% and May when rural inflation was 6.6% and urban inflation was 5.9%.
- ❖ In March, the gap between the two has surpassed 1.5% with urban inflation at 6.12% and rural areas clocking 7.66%.
- ❖ While food inflation was the key driver for the headline inflation rate jump in March, with the overall consumer food price index racing to 7.68% from 5.85%



in February, the spike was far more pronounced in rural India where food inflation hit 8.04%.

- ❖ While high inflation affects the poor the most in general, the fact that price rise in food, the largest component of their consumption basket, is driving the current surge is particularly burdensome.

GABÈS (THE INDIAN)**COVERED IN GS : 3 (INTERNATIONAL)****NEWS :**

Tunisian authorities intensified efforts to avoid an environmental disaster after a merchant fuel ship carrying one thousand tonnes of fuel sank off the coast of Gabes.

About:

- ❖ The Tunisian Navy had rescued all seven crew members from the ship, which was heading from Equatorial Guinea to Malta, and sent a distress call 11 km away from southern city of Gabes.
- ❖ The cause of the incident was bad weather, the Environment Ministry said, adding that water had seeped into the ship, reaching a height of two metres.



- ❖ Gabès is the capital city of the Gabès Governorate in Tunisia. It is located on the coast of the Gulf of Gabès.

TENURE OF GREEN PERMITS (THE HINDU)

COVERED IN GS : 3 (ENVIRONMENT)

NEWS :

Easing norms for infrastructure projects, the Union Environment Ministry has extended the tenure of environmental clearances (EC) granted for existing or new projects.

About:

- ❖ The EC for river valley projects will now have a 13-year validity, and nuclear power projects or those involving the processing of nuclear fuel 15 years. Projects and activities other than the mining and river valley projects will have their EC valid for 10 years.
- ❖ Explaining its rationale, the Ministry said that nuclear power projects and hydropower projects had “high gestation” period due to “geological surprises, delays in forest clearance, land acquisition, local issues, rehabilitation and resettlement and such other factors which are often beyond the control of project proponents.



- ❖ In this context, the Central government “deems it necessary” to extend the validity of Environmental Clearance (EC) for such projects.

P.T.O.

- ❖ An EC is a long-drawn process that is mandatory for projects beyond a certain size and often involves an environment impact assessment of a potential project and sometimes public hearings involving the local populace who might be affected by the project.
- ❖ One of the conditions of an EC is that a project must begin construction in the period that it has been granted an EC and if unable, a fresh process must begin. This leads to projects being financially unviable.
- ❖ Mining leases are now granted for a period of 50 years but the Environment Clearance is valid for 30 years.

e-Sanjeevani (THE INDIAN EXPRESS)

COVERED IN GS : 3 (HEALTH)

NEWS

Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya virtually launched e-Sanjeevani Tele-consultation facility at one lakh centres on the occasion of 4th Anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres.

About:

- ❖ More than one lakh 17 thousand Health and Wellness Centres have been operationalized in the country so far.
- ❖ Now the common citizens will also be able to take advice from the big doctors of the country through e-Sanjeevani Tele-consultation facility.



- ❖ E-Sanjeevani is providing affordable and accessible health care as envisioned by the Prime Minister. Teleconsultation services are very crucial for people in remote areas and are helpful in making healthcare services accessible for all.