

February - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Sensex index was closing above the 50,000-point mark for the first time on February 03.
- ❖ Zoho's founder Sridhar Vembu has been appointed as member to the National Security Advisory Board.
- ❖ Reliance Industries Ltd has received the world's first consignment of 'carbon-neutral oil' from Oxy Low Carbon Ventures (OLCV).
 - OLCV is a division of United State oil major Occidental.

NATIONAL

Voluntary Vehicle Scrappage Policy

- ❖ This proposal was made during the presentation of the Union Budget for Financial Year 2022.
- ❖ It will help to scrap out the unfit and pollution-causing vehicles.
- ❖ It will also help in encouraging the fuel-efficient and environment-friendly vehicles.
- ❖ Thus, it will reduce the vehicular pollution and cut the India's huge oil import bills.
- ❖ The voluntary scrappage policy will be based on fitness tests.
- ❖ Life has been set at 20 years in case of private vehicles while 15 years have been set for commercial vehicles.
- ❖ This policy would apply to central and state government-owned vehicles from April 1, 2022.



The infographic is divided into two columns: 'The What...' and 'The Why...'. The background features a close-up of a car's front end. The 'The What...' column lists three points: 1. Old and polluting cars to be sent to scrapyards. 2. Owners of such vehicles to be compensated based on certain conditions. 3. The compensation amount may be equal or more to resale value of such vehicles. The 'The Why...' column lists three points: 1. Taking old and polluting vehicles off roads can help the environment. 2. Many parts from old vehicles can be recycled. Parts that cannot be recycled need to be disposed off in an environmentally-safe manner. 3. Can create boost in demand for new vehicles.

The What...	The Why...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old and polluting cars to be sent to scrapyards.• Owners of such vehicles to be compensated based on certain conditions.• The compensation amount may be equal or more to resale value of such vehicles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taking old and polluting vehicles off roads can help the environment.• Many parts from old vehicles can be recycled. Parts that cannot be recycled need to be disposed off in an environmentally-safe manner.• Can create boost in demand for new vehicles.



Agricultural infrastructure and development cess (AIDC)

- ❖ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed the imposition of AIDC during her Union Budget 2021.
- ❖ The cess is not uniform and will vary from product to product.
- ❖ Cess of Rs 2.5 per litre on petrol and Rs 4 per litre on diesel are announced.
- ❖ Consequently, unbranded petrol and diesel will attract basic excise duty of Rs 1.4 and Rs 1.8 per litre respectively.
- ❖ Further, Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) on unbranded petrol and diesel shall be Rs 11 and Rs 8 per litre respectively.
- ❖ Blended fuel will be exempted from cesses and surcharges.
- ❖ It includes M-15 petrol and E-20 petrol.

PM AatmaNirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana and the Mission Poshan 2.0

- ❖ Finance Minister of India has announced two new centrally sponsored scheme namely,
 - The PM Aatma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana and
 - The Mission Poshan 2.0
- ❖ This was announced in addition to the National Health Mission (NHM).
- ❖ PM Aatma Nirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana aims to establish additional health care and allied infrastructures.
- ❖ Mission Poshan 2.0 is aimed at improving and strengthening nutritional content, delivery and outcomes.
- ❖ This scheme will merge the Poshan Abhiyan and the Supplementary Nutrition Programme.
- ❖ The mission seeks to improve the nutritional outcomes across 112 Aspirational Districts.

New Asset Reconstruction and Asset Management Company

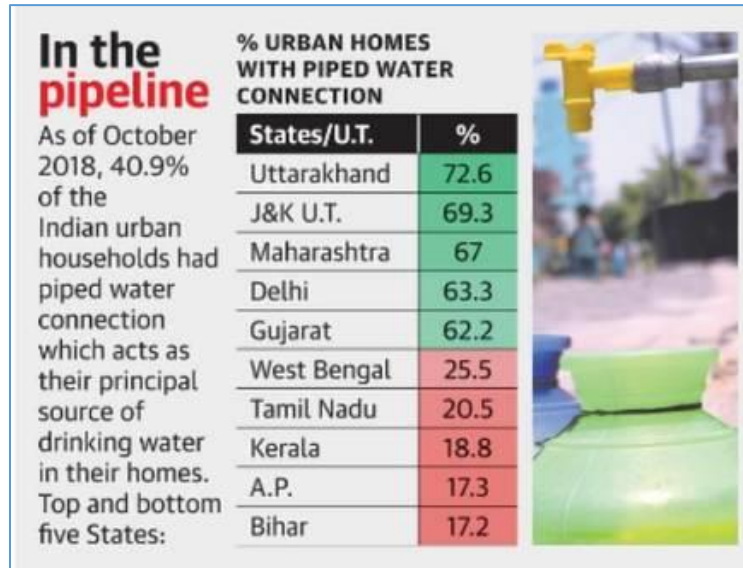
- ❖ The Union Budget 2021 announced the creation of new asset reconstruction and asset management company.
- ❖ The new Asset reconstruction and asset management company will look after the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of stressed banks.
- ❖ New amendments will be incorporated so that the Asset reconstruction depositors can get easy and time-bound access to their savings.
- ❖ This in turn will help depositors in banks that are currently under stress.

Electricity distribution reform programme

- ❖ Rupees 3.05 trillion worth electricity distribution reform programme are announced in the Union Budget 2021.
- ❖ It will help in reducing the losses and improve the efficiency of electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs).
- ❖ A framework was also announced during the budget presentation.
- ❖ It allows a choice of electricity supplier to consumers.
- ❖ The government is also considering to table the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban)

- ❖ The urban water supply mission under the Jal Jeevan Mission was announced in the Budget.
- ❖ It would include rejuvenation of water bodies as well as 20% of supply from reused water.
- ❖ There is an estimated gap of 2.68 crore urban household tap connections.



- ❖ The Mission would seek to bridge that gap in all 4,378 statutory towns.
- ❖ It would also aim to bridge the gap of 2.64 crore sewer connections in the 500 cities.
- ❖ It will be under the existing Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

- ❖ This mission would include rejuvenation of water bodies to boost the sustainable freshwater supply.
- ❖ It would also include the creation of green spaces.

Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) Scheme

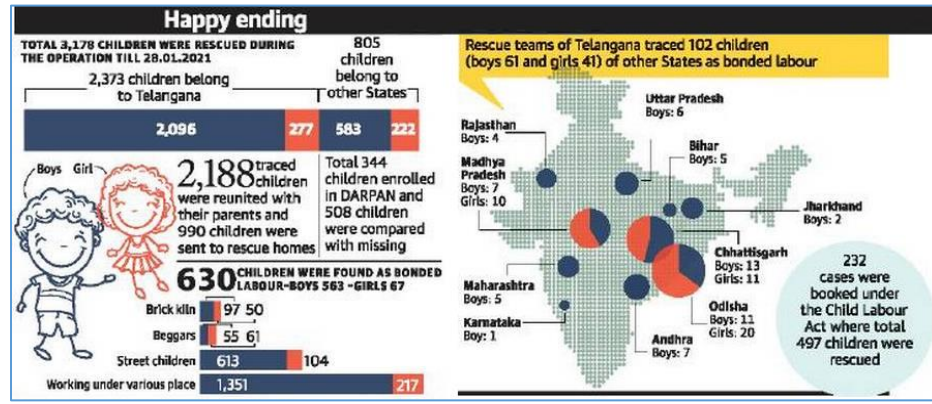
- ❖ The Finance Minister has proposed setting up of a scheme of Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) Scheme.
- ❖ It aims to enable the textile industry to become globally competitive, attract large investments, and boost employment generation and exports.
- ❖ It will create world-class infrastructure with plug and play facilities to enable create global champions in exports.



STATES

Operation smile

- ❖ Under 'Operation Smile – VII' from January 1 till January 29, 2021, the Cyberabad police of Telangana rescued as many as 389 children.
- ❖ Out of the total rescued children, 249 (222 boys and 27 girls) belong to the Telangana state, whereas 140 (114 boys and 26 girls) belong to 14 other states.
- ❖ Under 'Operation Smile', missing children details were entered in DARPAN app.
- ❖ This app is a unique facial recognition tool developed by the Telangana police.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Youngest female pilot

- ❖ Ayesha Aziz, a 25-year-old from Kashmir is the youngest female pilot in the country.
- ❖ In the year 2011, Ayesha Aziz became the youngest student pilot to get a license at the age of 15.
- ❖ She underwent training to fly a MIG-29 jet at Russia's Sokol airbase.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Safer Internet Day (SID) – February 09



- ❖ It was first initiated in 2004.
- ❖ It is as part of the EU's 'Better Internet for Kids' policy.
- ❖ Each year, the SID initiative aims to increase awareness about emerging online issues



- ❖ It includes concerns such as cyberbullying.
- ❖ It chooses a topic reflecting current concerns.
- ❖ The theme of this year is 'An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world'.

