



June - 16

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to Government has initiated a project called “Project O2 for India”.
  - It aims in ensuring supply of critical raw materials like zeolites, Manufacturing of compressors and setting up of small oxygen plants.
- ❖ India’s Nagraj Adiga has been elected as the Asia-Oceania Representative.
  - He was elected at the recently concluded 2021 International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) Congress.
- ❖ Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has penned his memoir ‘Home in the World’.
  - The book will be published in July by Penguin Random House.
- ❖ Israel will become the world’s first mask-free country in the Corona period.
  - This was announced by Israel’s Health Minister Yuli Edelstein.

## TAMIL NADU

### Keezhadi excavation – 7<sup>th</sup> phase

- ❖ A baby bone was found during excavation in Manalur area.
- ❖ Konthagai was only considered as the burial site.
- ❖ Keezhadi, Agaram and Manalur were residential areas.
- ❖ This is the first time a baby bone has been found in the Manalur area.

## NATIONAL

### FAME-II scheme - Amended

- ❖ Ministry of Heavy Industry has announced major amendments in ongoing FAME-II scheme.
- ❖ Ministry has fixed incentives for India-made electric two-wheelers.
- ❖ Earlier, subsidy rate for electric two-wheelers was Rs 10,000/kWh.
- ❖ It has been increased to Rs 15,000/kWh.

## 44th meeting of GST Council

### Recommendations of 44<sup>th</sup> GST Council meeting

S. No.	Description	Present GST Rate	GST Rate recommended by GST Council
<b>A. Medicines</b>			
1.	Tocilizumab	5%	Nil
2.	Amphotericin B	5%	Nil
3.	Anti-Coagulants like Heparin	12%	5%
4.	Remdesivir	12%	5%
5.	Any other drug recommended by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Dept. of Pharma (DoP) for Covid treatment	Applicable Rate	5%
<b>B. Oxygen, Oxygen generation equipment and related medical devices</b>			
1.	Medical Grade Oxygen	12%	5%
2.	Oxygen Concentrator/ Generator, including personal imports thereof	12%	5%
3.	Ventilators	12%	5%
4.	Ventilator masks / canula / helmet	12%	5%
5.	BiPAP Machine	12%	5%
6.	High flow nasal canula (HFNC) device	12%	5%
<b>C. Testing Kits and Machines</b>			
1.	Covid Testing Kits	12%	5%
2.	Specified Inflammatory Diagnostic Kits, namely D-Dimer, IL-6, Ferritin and LDH	12%	5%
<b>D. Other Covid-19 related relief material</b>			
1.	Pulse Oximeters, incl personal imports thereof	12%	5%
2.	Hand Sanitizer	18%	5%
3.	Temperature check equipment	18%	5%
4.	Gas/Electric/other furnaces for crematorium, including their installation, etc.	18%	5%
5.	Ambulances	28%	12%

These rate reductions/exemptions shall remain in force up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

- ❖ 44th meeting of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council was chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on June 12, 2021.
- ❖ GST Council has accepted recommendations of Group of Ministers (GoM) which was set up to look on tax relief on Covid-19 medical supplies.
- ❖ Several changes in GST rate have been made.
- ❖ This would be applicable till September 30, 2021.
- ❖ GST rate for ambulances has been reduced from 28 percent to 12 percent.
- ❖ GST rate for COVID-19 testing kits, medical-grade oxygen and ventilator have been reduced from 12 percent to 5 percent.

- ❖ Rate on hand sanitisers has been reduced from 18 percent to 5 percent.
- ❖ For temperature check equipment, rate was reduced from 18 percent to 5 percent.
- ❖ 5% GST tax will be applicable on pulse oximeters, including personal imports, from earlier 12 percent.
- ❖ On specified inflammatory diagnostic kits was reduced from 12 percent to 5 percent.
- ❖ GST rates on gas or electric or other furnaces used in crematorium including the installation charges has been reduced to 5% from 18%.
- ❖ No GST rate would be imposed on Covid-19 related drugs including Tocilizumab and Amphotericin B.
- ❖ Earlier it was kept at 5 percent.
- ❖ GST rates on anticoagulants such as Heparin and Remdesivir have been cut to 5 percent from 12 percent.
- ❖ 5% tax would be applied on ventilator masks or cannula or helmets.

### **Copperplate inscriptions found at Srisailam temple**



- ❖ The Bhramarambha Mallikarjuna Devasthanam, engaged in reviving ancient Ganta Matham near Srisailam temple complex.
- ❖ Six sets of copperplate inscriptions were found.
- ❖ 18 copper leaves were found.
- ❖ It could be dated back to somewhere between 14 and 16 centuries.

- ❖ Out of the six sets,
  - four have inscriptions in Sanskrit and Nandi-Nagari script and
  - the other two plates are in Telugu script.

### **Pyrostria laljii**

- ❖ A 15-metre-tall tree that belongs to genus of the coffee family has recently been discovered in Andaman Islands.
- ❖ The new species *Pyrostria laljii*, is also the first record of the genus *Pyrostria* in India.
- ❖ Trees belonging to these species are usually found in Madagascar.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Prime Minister of Israel**

- ❖ Naftali Bennett took oath as the Prime Minister of Israel.
- ❖ He is the former Defence Minister and leader of the Yamina party.
- ❖ He replaces Benjamin Netanyahu.
- ❖ Netanyahu is the longest-serving PM of Israel (12 years).

### **Firmina - longest undersea cable**

- ❖ Alphabet's Google is all set to build world's longest undersea cable.
- ❖ It will connect United States, Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.
- ❖ This undersea cable will boost internet connection capacity in these regions.
- ❖ The Undersea cable is called as Firmina.



### **New Atlantic Charter**

- ❖ US President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson held meeting recently in Cornwall (England).
- ❖ The meeting inspected documents related to Atlantic Charter and signed a document titled “New Atlantic Charter”.
- ❖ New Atlantic Charter was signed with the objective of defending principles & institutions of democracy and strengthening & adapting the institutions.
- ❖ Atlantic Charter is a declaration signed in August 1941 (after the end of second world war).
- ❖ It was signed by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- ❖ The recent Atlantic charter is a new version of the Atlantic Charter of 1941.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **3D-printed Masks coated with anti-viral agents**

- ❖ Thincr Technologies India Private Limited, has developed an 3D-printed Masks coated with anti-viral agents.
- ❖ Thincr Technologie is a Pune-based start-up firm.
- ❖ Masks are coated with anti-viral agents known as virucides.
- ❖ These cost-effective masks are more effective in containing spread of COVID-19.
- ❖ This project received financial support from TDB (Technology Development Board).



- ❖ Masks were developed with support from Merck Life Sciences.



### **EnVision**

- ❖ European Space Agency is now developing its own probe to study Venus.
- ❖ The mission is named as “EnVision”.
- ❖ It will probably be launched to the planet in early 2030.
- ❖ ESA will undertake this mission with contributions from NASA.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Operation Olivia**

- ❖ Coast Guard have enforced laws and started operation Olivia to protect Olive Ridley turtles in Odisha.
- ❖ Operation Olivia was started by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), first in early 1980s.
- ❖ This operation helps in protecting Olive Ridley turtles every year.

## **STATES**

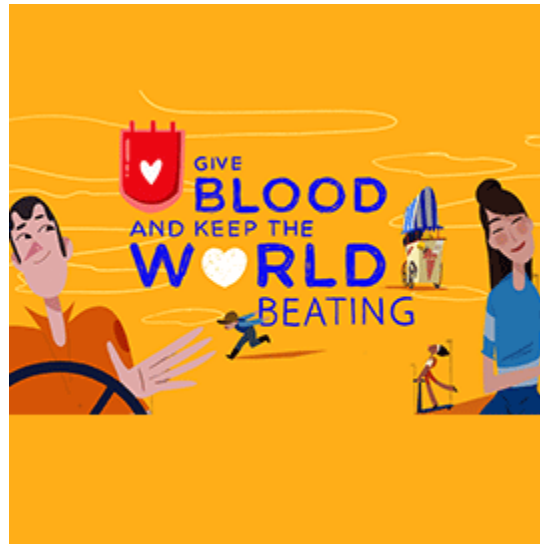
### **Aerosol nucleation**

- ❖ The Scientists from the University of Hyderabad have found frequent formation of sub-3 nanometres aerosol particles in the atmosphere.
- ❖ This is measured using AIRMODUS nano Condensation Nucleus Counter.

- ❖ The formation of small molecular clusters of sub-3nm size is technically called aerosol nucleation.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Blood Donor Day - June 14



- ❖ The day was observed with the aim of creating awareness about need for safe blood and life-saving components of blood which is required for transfusion.
- ❖ Theme for this year is “Give blood and keep the world beating”.
- ❖ The host country for World Blood Donor Day 2021 is Rome, Italy.
- ❖ The day was first organised in 2005.
- ❖ It was then a joint initiative of World Health Organization, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
- ❖ World Blood Donor Day is celebrated on 14th June to mark birthday anniversary of Karl Landsteiner.
- ❖ Landsteiner was awarded with Nobel Prize for his discovery of ABO blood group system.

### World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15

- ❖ The day is observed globally to raise a voice for the elderly who are abused and victimized.
- ❖ The theme for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is 'Access to Justice'.



- ❖ The day was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2011.
- ❖ It was recognized following a request from the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA).

## **WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY 2021**

**Theme: Access To Justice**

