

April - 17

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Chandigarh's recently released first-of-its-kind draft cycling policy.
  - It is for the first time that a city has drafted a cycling policy in India.
- ❖ The World Bank and International Monetary Fund have launched a platform to advise the poor countries on funding for conservation and climate activities.
  - Both the financial organizations will use the platform to factor climate change into negotiations about reducing debt burdens of poor countries.
- ❖ The Porsche has joined with Siemens Energy to produce eFuel by 2022 in a project called Haru Oni project at Chile.
  - Electro Fuel are the emerging class of carbon neutral fuels and the complex hydrocarbon.
- ❖ Udhampur of Jammu and Kashmir bags top position at National level for successfully implementing Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during 2020-21.
  - The PMGSY is a programme launched by the Ministry of Rural Development to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages as part of a poverty reduction strategy.

## NATIONAL

### Poshan Gyan

- ❖ It is a national digital repository on health and nutrition.
- ❖ It was launched by NITI Aayog, in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University.

### HGCO19

- ❖ An additional government funding has been received by India's mRNA-based Covid-19 vaccine candidate-HGCO19 for its clinical studies.
- ❖ This funding has been awarded under the 'Mission Covid Suraksha'.
- ❖ It has been developed by Pune-based biotechnology company Gennova Biopharmaceuticals in collaboration with HDT Biotech Corporation, USA.

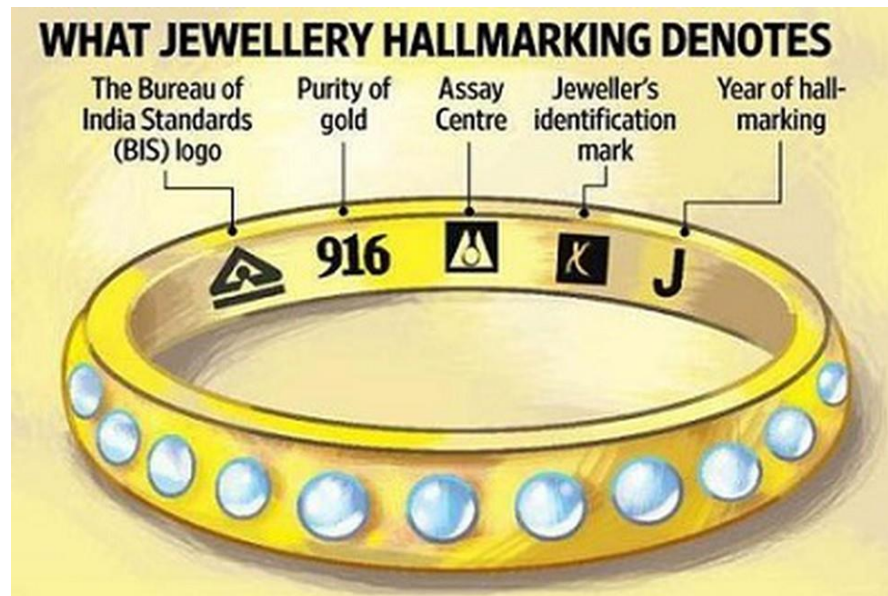
**DBT HAS APPROVED**  
additional funding towards clinical studies of  
**INDIA'S 'FIRST OF ITS KIND' mRNA-BASED**  
**COVID-19 VACCINE - HGCO19**

- Funds provided to Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd. under Mission COVID Suraksha, the Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission, implemented by BIRAC.
- DBT has been hand-holding Gennova's right from the start and has facilitated establishing Gennova's mRNA-based next-generation vaccine manufacturing platform by providing seed funding for the development of HGCO19. Gennova, in collaboration with HDT Biotech Corporation, USA, has developed the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine – HGCO19.
- The establishment of such a technology platform will empower India to handle the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure the preparedness for any future pandemic or endemic stage that will follow by utilizing its rapid development path.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY  
Government of India



## Hallmarking Norms



- ❖ The Government aims to implement mandatory hallmarking of gold artefacts and jewellery from June 1, 2021.
- ❖ Currently, Gold Hallmarking is voluntary in the country.
- ❖ Gold Hallmarking is providing purity certification to the gold jewellery and artefacts.
- ❖ Only three grades of jewellerys will now be hall marked under the new regulations.
- ❖ They are 14-carat, 18-carat and 22-carat.
- ❖ Earlier, ten grades of gold jewellerys were hall marked.
- ❖ The new Gold Hallmark will contain four marks.

- ❖ They are purity in carat, BIS mark, assay centre's name and the identification mark of the jeweller.
- ❖ The Bureau of Indian standards Act, 2016 made gold hallmarking mandatory in India.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan

- ❖ US President Biden recently announced that America is to withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan.
- ❖ The new deadline announced by US coincides with the twentieth anniversary of 09/11 attacks.
- ❖ In February 2020, US and its NATO allies signed a deal to withdraw all troops in fourteen months.

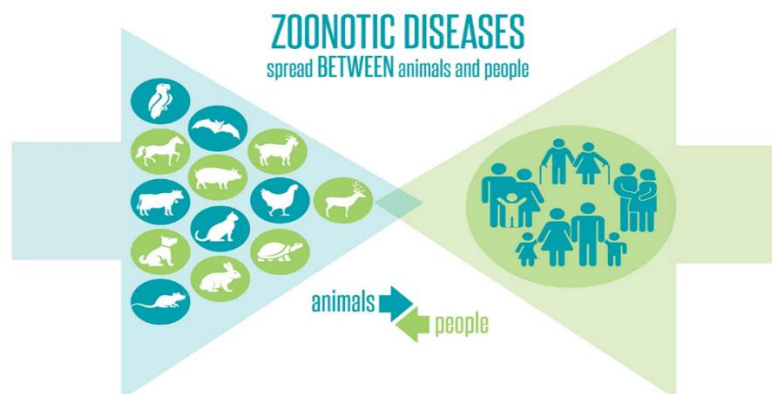
## ECONOMY

### Special Refinance Facility 2021

- ❖ The National Housing Bank recently launched the “Special Refinance Facility”, 2021.
- ❖ Rs 10,00 crores has been allocated to this facility.
- ❖ The main objective of the facility is to provide short term refinance support to the housing finance companies and other eligible Primary Lending Institutions.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### WHO Guidelines on Zoonosis





- ❖ The World Health Organisation, United Nations Environment Programme and the World Organisation for Animal Health laid down fresh guidelines.
- ❖ It aims to reduce the risk of transmission of zoonotic pathogens to humans in food production.
- ❖ Zoonosis is an infectious disease that transfers from non-human animals to humans.
- ❖ These pathogens may be viral, bacterial or parasitic.
- ❖ They spread to humans through direct contact, water, food and environment.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **FSRU**

- ❖ India's first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) has arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh Terminal in the Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra.
- ❖ FSRU based LNG Terminals aim at providing the ability to enhance the pace of natural gas import capability in an environment-friendly and efficient manner.
- ❖ The port is the first deep water, 24×7 operational private port in Maharashtra.
- ❖ It will deliver regasified LNG to the 56-km long Jaigarh-Dabhol natural gas pipeline.

### **Bill on Climate change for Financial firms**

- ❖ New Zealand recently introduced a bill on Climate Change for financial firms.
- ❖ The bill is the first of its kind in the world.
- ❖ New Zealand has fixed 2050 as the deadline to become carbon neutral.

### **Hydrogen Roundtable**

- ❖ The Hydrogen Roundtable, the first of its kind, was titled as "The Hydrogen Economy - New Delhi Dialogue 2021".
- ❖ It was organised by the Energy Forum (TEF) and the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI), under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ❖ Hydrogen economy is an economy that relies on hydrogen as the commercial fuel that would deliver a substantial fraction of a nation's energy and services.
- ❖ The term 'hydrogen economy' was coined by John Bockris in 1970.

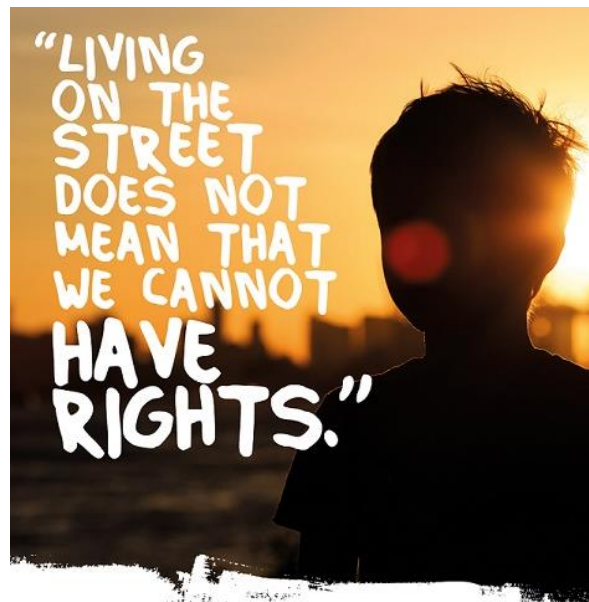
## IMPORTANT DAYS

### ICCR Foundation Day – April 09

- ❖ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) celebrating its 71st Foundation Day.
- ❖ It was founded in 1950 by India's first Education Minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- ❖ It is an autonomous organisation.
- ❖ It is with the objective of fostering and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and the world.
- ❖ It also aims to promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people.
- ❖ It also administers the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, established by the Government of India in 1965.

### International Day for Street Children – April 12

- ❖ It has been celebrated globally since 2012.
- ❖ It is to recognise the humanity, dignity and defiance of street children.
- ❖ The street children have rights enshrined in United Nations Convention on rights of Children (1990).



**EQUALITY FOR STREET  
CHILDREN STARTS HERE.  
LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN.**

**INTERNATIONAL  
DAY FOR STREET  
CHILDREN 12 APRIL**  
#STREETCHILDRENDAY

### 37th Siachen Day – April 13

- ❖ On this day in 1984, Indian troops first unfurled the tri colour at Bilafond La pass launching Operation Meghdoot.
- ❖ This was the codename for the Indian Armed Forces' operation to seize control of the Siachen Glacier in Kashmir.
- ❖ Siachen is the highest battlefield in the world.
- ❖ Bilafond La was pass a prominent feature in the Siachen Conflict between India and Pakistan.
- ❖ Bilafond La in Ladakh is on the ancient Silk Route linking the Indian Subcontinent and China.
- ❖ Also known as the Saltoro Pass, it is a mountain pass situated on Saltoro Ridges in Himalayas.



### International Turban Day - April 13

- ❖ It is celebrated every year on April 13 since 2004.
- ❖ It aims to bring awareness of the strict requirement on Sikhs to put the turban as a mandatory part of their religion.
- ❖ The 2021 Turban Day marks the 552nd birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev and the festival of Baisakhi.

