

## CURRENT AFFAIRS= 20-11-2020

### SAFAIMITRA SURAKSHA CHALLENGE



Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri launched Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge across 243 Cities to ensure that no life of any sewer or septic tank cleaner is ever lost again owing to the issue of 'hazardous cleaning'.

#### About:

- The Challenge, launched on the occasion of World Toilet Day, is aimed at preventing 'hazardous cleaning' of sewers and septic tanks and promote their mechanized cleaning.
- Representatives from 243 cities across the country took a pledge to mechanize all sewer and septic tank cleaning operations by 30th April 2021.
- The initiative is in line with PM Modi's vision, who has always placed the safety and dignity of sanitation workers at the core of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U)
- The actual on-ground assessment of participating cities will be conducted in May 2021 by an independent agency and results of the same will be declared on 15 August 2021.
- Cities will be awarded in three sub-categories – with population of more than 10 lakhs, 3-10 lakhs and upto 3 lakhs, with a total prize money of ₹52 crores to be given to winning cities across all categories.

### WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY



World Children's Day is being observed on 20 November.

#### About:

- World Children's Day is UNICEF's annual day of action for children, by children.
- World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on

20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.



- November 20th is an important date as it is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Since 1990, World Children's Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on children's rights.

## INDIA-LUXEMBOURG SUMMIT



**Prime Minister Modi and the Prime Minister of Luxembourg held the first-ever India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit on 19 November 2020.**

### About:

- Luxembourg is a founding member of the EU. In this context, the two leaders exchanged views on further strengthening India EU relations including forward movement on India EU trade agreements and investment agreements.
- The Luxembourg Prime Minister conveyed the intention of Luxembourg to join the International Solar Alliance. Mr Modi invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- The leaders looked forward to the 17th Joint Economic Commission between India and the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union to review the economic and trade relations.
- Three agreements were signed coinciding with the Summit. The agreements were MoU between India International Exchange (India INX) and Luxembourg Stock Exchange MoU between State Bank of India and Luxembourg Stock Exchange. MoU between Invest India and Luxinnovation

## VATAYAN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



**Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' will be conferred with the Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award at a virtual ceremony on 21st November, 2020.**

### About:

- Vatayan International Awards given by the Vatayan-UK organization in London, honours poets, writers and artists

for their exemplary work in their respective fields.



- Earlier many eminent personalities like Praseon Joshi, Javed Akhtar have been awarded the Vatayan Awards for their literary contribution.

Shri Pokhriyal has penned more than 75 books on wide ranging issues, which have also been translated into many national and foreign languages.

The German version 'nureinWunsch' of Shri Nishank's story collection 'Just a Desire', is published in Afro Asian Institute, Hamburg. His 'Sparsh Ganga' initiative was included in Mauritius school curriculum.

He has earlier received several awards in the field of literature including Sahitya Bharati Award by the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Sahitya Gaurav Samman by Former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam etc.

### **DELHI-GHAZIABAD-MEERUT REGIONAL RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM PROJECT**

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited (NCRTC) and the New Development Bank (NDB) signed a loan agreement for lending 500 million dollars for the 'Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project'.



#### **About:**

- The Rapid Transit System will provide a fast, reliable, safe and comfortable public transport system in the National Capital Region.
- Due to lack of efficient public transport options, the number of private vehicles in NCR has increased. It

can take about 3 to 4 hours to travel between Delhi and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh by road during peak hours. Rapid growth in vehicular traffic has made NCR one of the most polluted regions in the world.