

### ❖ National Consumer Rights Day

- Every year on December 24, India observed the National Consumer Day or Bharatiya Grahak Diwas.
- This day is used to make all consumers aware of their powers and rights. This day was made under the Consumer Protection Act, which came to power in 1986 to create awareness and save consumers from market exploitation like defective products or expensive pricing.
- Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, December 24 was marked as National Consumer Day. In 1991 and 1993, certain amendments were made in the Consumer Protection Act. Later, to make it more effective, a couple of changes were made in December 2002, which came into effect on March 15, 2003. A refurbished version of the Consumer Protection Act – Consumer Protection Bill, 2019 was passed by the Indian Parliament in August of that year.

### ❖ National Farmer's Day

- National Farmer's Day being observed on December 23.
- National Farmer's Day is being observed on December 23 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and his contributions towards the upliftment of farmers in the country.
- The Kisan Leader, Chaudhary Charan Singh, served as president from July 28, 1979, until January 14, 1980.
- In 2001, the government declared Kisan Diwas in honor of Charan Singh's birth anniversary.
- On this day, awareness campaigns and drives are organised across the country to educate people about the role of farmers and their contribution to the economy.

### ❖ **Suhel Ajaz Khan appointed India's new ambassador to Saudi Arabia**

- An Indian Foreign Service official of 1997 batch, Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan who is presently the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Lebanon has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- He will replace Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, a 1989 batch IFS officer.
- Khan worked at the Indian Embassy in Riyadh between September 2017 and June 2019 as Deputy Chief of Mission.
- Saudi Arabia is India's fourth largest trading partner after the United States of America, China and the United Arab Emirates.
- More than 18% of India's crude oil imports are sourced from Saudi Arabia.
- King of Saudi Arabia: King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

### ❖ **US President nominates Indian American Richard Verma to top diplomatic position in State Department**

- US President Joe Biden on 23 December nominated Indian American Richard R Verma to a top diplomatic position in the US Department of State.
- Verma is the Chief Legal Officer and Head of Global Public Policy at Mastercard.
- He was the United States Ambassador to India and Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs during the Obama Administration.
- Prior to that he was National Security Advisor to United States Senator Harry Reid (D-NV).
- He has also been Democratic Whip, Minority Leader, and then Majority Leader of the United States Senate.

### ❖ **Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2021-22**

- Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize: The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize has been jointly won by Sudeep Sen for his genre and formbender Anthropocene: Climate Change,

Contagion, Consolation (Pippa Rann Books & Media, 2021) and Shobhana Kumar for her haibun collection A Sky Full of Bucket Lists (Red River, 2021).

- The winners, awarded \$10,000 and a Rabindranath Tagore statuette, were picked from a shortlist of 11 at India International Centre, with the Tagore Prize for social achievement going to Sanjoy K Roy, producer of the Jaipur Literature Festival.
- The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was started in 2018 to annually recognise literary and social accomplishments.
- In 2020, the award was won by Raj Kamal Jha, Chief Editor, The Indian Express, for The City and The Sea (2019, Penguin Books), and in 2019, it was awarded posthumously to Kabir for One Hundred Poems of Kabir, translated by Rabindranath Tagore.

### ❖ 3rd ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation forum

- Ms Shalini Kumari from India received first prize in the Grassroots Innovation Competition at the 3rd ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation forum for her innovation 'Modified walker with adjustable legs'.
- The 2nd and 3rd prize has been won by grassroots innovators from Philippines and Myanmar respectively who have won USD 1000 and USD 500 respectively.
- Ms Shalini Kumari received the prize from H.E Dr. Hul Seingheng, Cambodia COSTI Chairman and Director General, General Department of Science, Technology & Innovation under the Ministry of Industry Science, Technology & Innovation (MISTI), Kingdom of Cambodia.
- She has won the cash prize of USD 1,500 by virtue of being the winner of first prize.
- The three-day 3rd ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation forum organized by the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI).

### ❖ Sahitya akademi awards 2022

- Sahitya Akademi announced its awards for literary works in 23 languages .

- Maya Kharangate's 2016 novel 'Amrutvel' has won the Sahitya Akademi Award in Konkani.
- The awards were also given to five other novels, seven poetry books, two short stories, three plays, two essays of literary criticism, a collection of articles, a literary history and an autobiographical essay.
- Writer M. Rajendran from Tamil Nadu has received this award for his novel 'Kala Pani'.
- The awardee will be presented with a cash prize of one lakh rupees and a copper Shield.
- The award has been given by the central government for the best literature of every year.

#### ❖ **“Veer Guardian 23”**

- Veer Guardian 23: Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) are set to hold their maiden bilateral air exercise, “Veer Guardian 23”, from January 16 to 26 at Hyakuri air base and Iruma air base in Japan.
- Japan also participated for the first time in the multilateral exercise MILAN hosted by the Navy early this year.

#### ❖ **Goa to host World Table Tennis Series tournament for the first time in India**

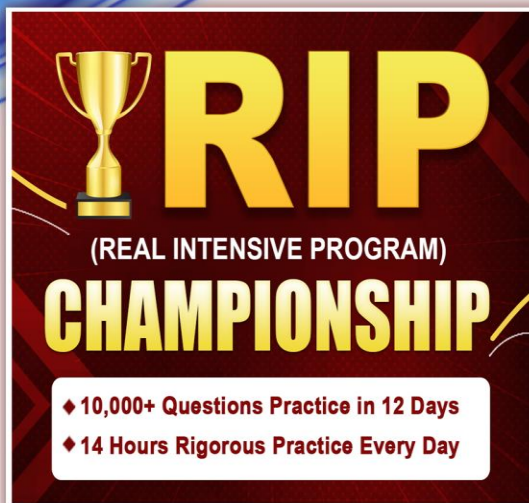
- Goa will host India's maiden World Table Tennis (WTT) series event from February 27 to March 5.
- The top tier WTT Star Contender Goa 2023 will take place at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor stadium, located at the Goa University Campus.
- WTT Series is the official professional table tennis series of events, with the world's best players facing each other off in various category tournaments throughout the year with the four Grand Smashes being the ultimate prize to win.

#### ❖ **Antim Panghal in contention for United World Wrestling 2022 Rising Star of Year award**

- Indian female wrestler Antim Panghal has been nominated for the honour of United World Wrestling Rising Star of the Year.

- In addition to Panghal, the five women nominated for the award include Nonoka Ozaki of Japan, Amit Elor of the US, Emma Malmgren of Sweden, and Andreea Ana of Romania.
- The 18-year-old freestyle wrestler from Haryana is also the reigning Asian champion in the same age category.
- By earning India's first-ever gold medal in the World U20 Wrestling Championships 2022 in August, Antim Panghal made history this year.
- She earned gold medals in the U20 World Championships, U20 Asian Championships, and the senior category competition known as the Zouhaier Sghaier Ranking Series.

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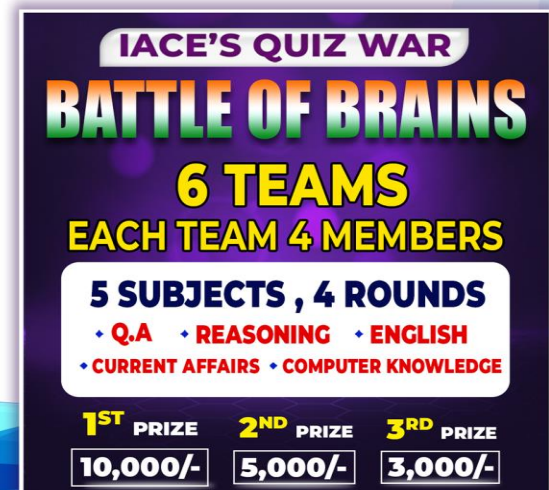
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