

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

8TH July 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ **Artist Namboothiri, iconic illustrator passes away**

- K M Vasudevan Namboothiri, who was popularly known as Artist Namboothiri, passed away at Kottakkal in Malappuram district.
- His iconic illustrations gave life to many mythical characters in Malayalam literature.
- He inspired a golden era of painting and sculpture in Kerala through his unique three-dimensional sketches.
- He had received many honors like Kerala Lalita Kala Akademi's Raja Ravi Varma Award and the State Institute of Children's Literature award.

❖ **PNB launches its virtual branch in the Metaverse**

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched its virtual branch, PNB Metaverse.
- It is a virtual branch of the bank, which will deliver a unique experience of banking to existing and new customers.
- With the help of this, customers can explore the bank's products and services such as bank deposits, retail/MSME loans, digital products, women/senior citizens, 'Do It Yourself', and government flagship schemes.
- The bank will offer an immersive 3D experience to the customers.

❖ **India's first Vedic-themed park unveiled in Noida**

- India's first Vedic-themed park has been opened to the public at Sector 78, Noida, inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath.
- This park is also known as Ved Van Park.

➤ It will also highlight excerpts from the four Vedic literature pieces- Rig Veda, Atharva Veda, Yajur Veda, and Sama Veda- via laser shows, wall paintings, and sculptures.

➤ The place is home to over 50,000 plants, such as banyan, kalpavriksha, and coconut, which have been mentioned in Vedic literature.

❖ **Tamim Iqbal announces retirement from international cricket**

➤ Bangladesh one-day captain Tamim Iqbal has announced his retirement from international cricket before the team begins its ODI World Cup campaign in India.

➤ He played 70 Test matches for Bangladesh scoring 5134 runs at an average of 38.89 with 10 tons to his name.

➤ As far as the ODIs is concerned, he played 241 matches amassing 8313 runs at an average of 36.62 with 14 centuries and 56 half-centuries.

➤ He last played in the format in April against Ireland.

❖ **Flipkart, Axis Bank tie-up to offer upto Rs 5 lakh in lending to customers**

➤ Flipkart has joined hands with Axis Bank to offer loans for up to Rs 5 lakh to customers.

➤ The lending service is accessible through Flipkart's app and boasts a 30-second approval time while removing the need for document submission.

➤ By introducing personal loans, Flipkart is expanding its range of financial services, which already includes a 'buy now, pay later' option, EMI payments, and a co-branded credit card.

➤ It will empower consumers to make big-ticket purchases.

❖ **Odisha announces state forest rights scheme**

➤ Odisha government has launched the 'Mo Jungle Jami Yojana' to saturate recognition of rights pertaining to the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and speed up the post-rights recognition activities within the prescribed time frame.

➤ Under the scheme, designed by the ST & SC Development department, it has been decided to constitute forest rights cells at the tehsil and district level with human resources to ensure and assist in the effective implementation of FRA, 2006.

➤ Additional chief secretary of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department Satyabrata Sahu and commissioner-cum-secretary of ST & SC Development department Roopa Roshan Sahoo have asked all collectors to address critical issues related to the forest rights of the forest dwellers in a campaign mode by constituting forest rights cells at the district level.

❖ **J&K launches India's first chatbot for people in mental distress**

➤ India's first Tele-MANAS (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States) chatbot was launched in Jammu & Kashmir.

➤ The service was launched by J&K LG Manoj Sinha.

➤ This chatbot will start an instant conversation with people in distress.

➤ Tele-MANAS is a two-tier system - Tier 1 comprises State Tele MANAS cells and Tier 2 comprises specialists at District Mental Health Programme /Medical College resources for physical consultation.

❖ **Third World Hindu Conference organized in Bangkok**

➤ According to the World Hindu Foundation, the third 'World Hindu Congress' (WHC) 2023 will be organized in Bangkok in November.

➤ The three-day Vishwa Hindu Sammelan will be organized by the Vishwa Hindu Foundation from November 24 at the Convention Center in Bangkok.

➤ The World Hindu Congress is being organized by the World Hindu Foundation. Its trustee is Swami Vigyananand.

➤ Swami Vigyanananda is the Managing Trustee of the Vishwa Hindu Foundation as well as the Joint General Secretary of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP).

Invited members from India:

- Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath, Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Mohan Bhagwat and Ma Amritanandamayi have been invited to this event.
- Representatives of Hindu organizations and prominent Buddhist teachers from all over the world have been invited to the conference.
- Among politicians from India, only Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has been invited.
- The first World Hindu Congress was held in Delhi in 2014 and the second in 2018 in Chicago, USA.
- The first Congress was attended by 1800 delegates and the second Congress by over 2400 delegates. This time the number of delegates has been limited to 2500.

❖ Shraddha Kapoor appoints as brand ambassador of Asics

- Asics India Private Limited, a sports gear company, has appointed actor Shraddha Kapoor as its new brand ambassador.
- The company said it will focus on the theme of 'Sound Mind, Sound Body' and the actor will endorse the brand's footwear and women's sportswear segment.
- The association will also see ASICS India strengthen its market presence with a shared vision to promote a balanced and active lifestyle while ensuring style and comfort are not compromised.
- ASICS operates 88 stores in India with an aim to provide quality sportswear and footwear to Indian consumers.
- In absolute terms, celebrity brand valuations accounted for \$1.6 billion in 2022 as compared to \$1.4 billion in 2021, as per a report by corporate investigation and risk consulting firm Kroll titled Celebrity Brand Valuation.

❖ India and Panama agree on electoral cooperation

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Electoral Tribunal (ET) of Panama signed an MoU on Electoral Cooperation.
- Under this agreement, both the countries will set up an institutional framework for ongoing cooperation in the field of election management and administration.
- A three-member Election Commission delegation led by Chief Election Commissioner of India Rajeev Kumar met with Alfredo Junca Vendheke, Presiding Magistrate of the Electoral Tribunal of Panama, to strengthen cooperation and exchange of knowledge between the Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of the two countries. discussed.
- This MoU reflects the commitment of the Election Commission to engage with election bodies around the world and strengthen democratic processes.
- The Election Commission is expanding its connectivity and collaboration with foreign Election Management Bodies (EMBs) through the 'International Cooperation Programme'.