Daily Current Affairs 03.08.2022

Important News: National

Nilekani Center is set up by IIT-M to promote Indian Language Technology

Why in News:

- The 'Nelekani Center in AI4India' was launched by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras to promote the state of Indian language technology with the aim of creating a social impact.

Key points:

- Inaugurated by Nandan Nilekani, the center is supported by Rohini and Nandan Nilekani.
- During the launch ceremony of the Nilekani Centre, a workshop was organized for students, researchers, and start-ups to discuss the resources available for building Indian language technologies.

- AI4India was formed as an initiative of IIT Madras to develop an open-source language AI for Indian languages.
- The AI4India team has made several contributions to Indian language technology including machine translation and state-of-the-art models for dialect recognition.
- Under AI4India, many state-of-the-art resources have been created open source by the center which can be used by any person.
- The models released by AI4 India are available free of cost and can be downloaded from their webpage.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras was established in the year 1959 and at present Kamakoti Veezhinathan is working as its director.

Source: Indian Express

8 Years of MyGov Platform

Why in News:

- The program was launched by the Minister of Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnav in New Delhi to celebrate "8 years of MyGov".
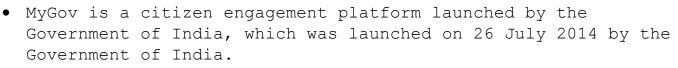
Key points:

- Responsible AI for Youth 2022 was also launched by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav during the event.
- Youth 2022 AI has been developed by the National e-Governance Division of the Ministry of Electronics and IT in collaboration with Intel India.
- The Ministry of Education also extended its support to the program.
- Youth 2022 AI will be opened to all school students who are pursuing education in classes 8-12 in India.
- Youth 2022 AI aims to encourage a deeper understanding of AI-Tech as well as encourage youth to become human-centered designers.

- MyGov is a citizen engagement platform launched by the Government of India, which was launched on 26 July 2014 by the Government of India.
- MyGov facilitates two-way communication between government and citizens and is a leading platform for participatory governance.
- The MyGov app has been developed on the basis of three pillars, which include 'Do', Discuss, and Disseminate.
- Presently more than 2.5 crore citizens have been registered on the MyGov app.

Source: The Hindu

Important News: State

Aurangabad: India's first smart city to get data from Google's EIE

Why in News:

- Aurangabad becomes the first smart city in India to get data from Google's EIE.

Key points:

- According to Aurangabad Smart City Development Corporation Limited, Google's Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) data has been officially released in Aurangabad, and Aurangabad is the first city in the country to do so. Google's EIE Dashboard for Aurangabad was introduced by Google during an event in New Delhi.
- Google with its EIE feature helps cities measure, analyze carbon emissions sources and identify strategies to reduce emissions, which is critical to creating the strategies needed to reduce air pollution.
- Currently, the EIE data is used by the states of Aurangabad, Bangalore, Chennai, and Pune for climate action plans, but the city of Aurangabad has been selected as the first city in the country to make transport emissions data public.
- The latest development for Aurangabad is in line with the city's commitment to the 'Race to Zero' and 'Race to Resilience' campaigns of the United Nations.
- Google's EIE parameter for Aurangabad and its official study will be made available to the public.

Source: Times of India

West Bengal will create 7 new districts, making a total of 30 districts

Why in News:

- In an effort to streamline administrative processes, the Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal government has decided to create seven new districts in the state.

Key points:

- West Bengal Sunderbans, Ichmeti, Ranaghat, Bishnupur, Jangipur, Behrampur, and Basirhat have been included as new districts.
- With the newly formed 07 states, the number of districts in West Bengal has increased to 30.
- The power to create new districts or to change or abolish the boundaries of existing districts is vested in the State Government.
- The new district can be formed by the state government either through an executive order or through a law passed by the state legislature.
- West Bengal is India's fourth most populous and thirteenth largest state in terms of area with 90.3 million inhabitants.
- West Bengal shares borders internationally with Bangladesh to the east, Nepal, and Bhutan to the north, and West Bengal is a part of the Bengal region of the Indian subcontinent.
- West Bengal shares a national border with the states of Assam, Jharkhand, Bihar, Sikkim, and Odisha.
- According to the 2011 census, there were a total of 593 districts in the country, out of which 46 districts were created by the states between 2001 and 2011.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Economy

1st October is the deadline for card tokenization by RBI

Why in News:

- The card tokenizes service deadline has been extended by RBI from July 1, 2022, to October 1, 2022.

Key points:

- An order has been issued by the RBI to tokenize credit and debit cards by 1 October 2022 for making online payments on merchant websites.
- Card tokenized system has been introduced by RBI to make the convenience and security of the customers more effectively.
- Tokenization refers to the replacement of credit and debit card details with alternate codes called tokens, under which, online merchants will have to use token numbers in place of card data to store their customers' cards on their platform.

- As per the instructions issued by RBI, a token will be valid only for one card and one merchant, if the credit card is tokenized for one e-commerce site, then a separate token of that card will be made available on the other site.
- Merchants have been instructed by RBI to store a unique code for online payment, which will not be your original card number.
- The purpose of card tokenization conducted by RBI is to prevent frauds from sharing card information.

Source: Economic Times

Important Awards

Canadian Jeffrey Armstrong receives 'Distinguished Indologist for 2021' award
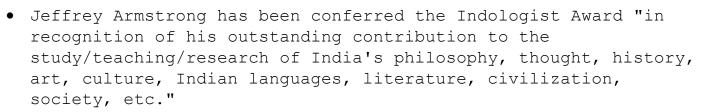
Why in News:

- Canadian scholar Jeffrey Armstrong has been awarded the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)'s prestigious Indologist Award for the year 2021.

Key points:

- Jeffrey Armstrong has been conferred the Indologist Award "in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the study/teaching/research of India's philosophy, thought, history, art, culture, Indian languages, literature, civilization, society, etc."
- Armstrong, founder of the Vedic Academy of Science and Arts and author of The Bhagavad Gita Comes Alive, was nominated for the Indologist Award this year.
- The Indologist Award was instituted in the year 2015 during the 1st World Indology Conference organized by the then President of India.
- The objective of the Indologist Award is to promote Indian studies abroad and to bring the world's leading Indologists on one platform with Indian scholars.
- Professor Heinrich Freiherr von Steitenkorn from Germany was the first person to receive the Indologist Award.
- The Indologist Award carries a citation, a gold medal, and an amount of USD 20,000.

Source: Hindustan Times

Important Personality

Indian woman Savitri Jindal: Asia's richest woman

Why in News:

- India's Savitri Jindal has become the richest woman in Asia at present.

Key points:

- Savitri Jindal has overtaken Yang Huayan of China to become the richest woman in Asia at present.
- Savitri Jindal is the richest woman in India and Asia with a net worth of $18 billion.
- Savitri Jindal is the only woman on the list of 10 richest Indians in the year 2021 list released by Forbes.
- In the year 2015, Savitri Jindal was named as the Emeritus Chairperson of OP Jindal Group under her husband Om Prakash Jindal at the age of 55.
- According to a Bloomberg report, Yang Huiyan was the richest woman in Asia for the last 5 years.
- OP Jindal Group was established in the year 1952 by Om Prakash Jindal who has served as India's largest business organization active in various key sectors of the Indian economy over the last three decades.
- The rankings are provided by Forbes based on four parameters sales, profit, assets and market value.

Source: Livemint