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Important News: International

Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

Why in News:

- Singapore's T. Raja Kumar has been appointed as the chairman of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an anti-money laundering watchdog.



key points:

- Raja Kumar will replace current FATF President Marcus Player and has been appointed for a two-year term.
- The Financial Action Task Force is also known in French as the Groupe d'action financial (GAFI).
- The FATF is an intergovernmental organization established in 1989 as an initiative of the G7 to develop policies and combat money laundering.
- The FATF functions with the objectives of establishing standards and promoting the effective implementation of legal, operational, and regulatory measures to combat terrorist financing, money laundering, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

Source: Business Times

Important News: National

'Women's tribute' scheme

Why in News:

- The “Nari Ko Naman” scheme is launched by the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Jai Ram Thakur for the women of the state.



key points:

- Under this scheme, the Himachal Pradesh government has announced a 50% discount on ticket prices for women in state government buses.
- Under this scheme, along with giving concessions to women in tickets, it was also announced by the government reduced the minimum fare in HRTC buses from Rs 7 to Rs 5.
- HRTC is a state-owned road transport corporation in Himachal Pradesh, HRTC is one of the first RTCs in India to provide the facility of online booking of tickets in all types of buses.
- HRTC was established in the year 1958 by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, the Government of Punjab, and Railways as “Mandi-Kullu Road Transport Corporation”.
- On October 2, 1974, this corporation was merged with the Government of Himachal Pradesh, and its name was changed to Himachal Road Transport Corporation.

Source: Indian Express

States Startup Ranking 2021

Why in News:

- The results of the 3rd edition of Startup Ranking of States have been released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with an aim to support the startup ecosystem.



key points:

- According to the States' Startup Ranking 2021, the states of Gujarat and Karnataka have been placed at the top in the Best Performer category, while Meghalaya has topped the UTs and Northeastern States category.
- The Startup India initiative of the Government of India envisages building a strong startup ecosystem in the country with the objective of promoting innovation and providing opportunities to budding entrepreneurs.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry releases the startup rankings of the states from the year 2018.
- The Startup Ranking of the States is of utmost importance in highlighting the progress made by the States/UTs in promoting the Startup Ecosystem.

- State Startup Ranking 2021 aims to facilitate States/UTs to identify, learn and replicate good practices.

Source: Indian Express

Capacity Building Training Program

Why in News:

- A one-day 'Capacity Building Training Program' was organized by the National Commission for Women (NCW) in collaboration with the State Women's Commission for the overall development of the women traders of Manipur and to create more and more entrepreneurial opportunities for them.



key points:

- Ima Keithel in Manipur is said to be the largest women's market in Asia, where a large number of women manage their stalls.
- The training program was divided into three technical sessions, the first session on the topic 'Knowledge of relevant banking schemes and how to use online banking' while the second

session on 'Knowledge of tax laws/GST laws and tax compliances' and the third session on Based on the theme 'e-commerce performance'.

- Various government departments and eminent personalities from the banking sector have been invited by the commission as resource persons to inform and educate women on important topics like e-commerce, banking, tax laws.

Source: Indian Express

Important News: Science & Tech

Technology Innovation Center-Tihan

Why in News:

- The Technology Innovation Center on State-of-the-art Autonomous Navigation - Tihan to develop Unmanned Aerial Vehicles - was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Science and Technology at the IIT Hyderabad campus.



key points:

- The Ministry of Science and Technology has provided support for emerging IIT Hyderabad innovations in the field of next-generation smart mobility technologies.

- With the required focus on R&D of interdisciplinary technologies in the specific domain area of Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems, the center also caters to the need for urgent solutions to various challenges related to Unmanned and Autonomous Vehicles.
- The Center for Technology Innovation based on Autonomous Navigation System or Autonomous Navigation System for Unmanned Aircraft and Remotely Controlled Vehicles is known as the 'Tihan Foundation' at IIT Hyderabad.
- It is a multi-disciplinary initiative involving researchers from Electrical, Computer Science, Mechanical & Aerospace, Civil, Mathematics, and Design at IIT Hyderabad with collaboration and support from reputed institutions and industries.
- This is an important step towards 'Self-reliant India', 'Skill India', and 'Digital India'.

Source: The Hindu

Infrared light

Why in News:

- Scientists have discovered a new material that can emit, discover and modify infrared light with high efficiency to make it useful for solar and thermal energy conservation and optical communication devices.



key points:



- Electromagnetic waves are renewable energy sources, used in power generation, telecommunications, defense and security technologies, sensors, and health services.
- Infrared light applications require intelligence and state-of-the-art materials that can enable excitation, modulation, and detection in the desired spectral range with high efficiencies.
- Bangalore-based Jawaharlal Nehru Center for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), has discovered a new material called single-crystalline scandium nitride (SCN) by researchers from this institute which has high efficiency. It can also emit, detect and modify infrared light.
- Like scandium nitride, this material is compliant with modern complementary-metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) or Si-chip technology because of its affinity to the same family as gallium nitride (GaN).

Source: The Hindu