Automotive technology e-portals from International Centre of Automotive Technology (ICAT)

NATIONAL NEWS

High-level segment of UN ECOSOC took place at United Nations, New York

- The High-level segment of the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** session held at the United Nations in New York.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has delivered keynote address virtually at the session.
- The theme of the High-Level Segment of the ECOSOC this year is **"Multilateralism after COVID19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary".**
- This year marks the **75th** anniversary of founding of United Nations.

Fact: UN headquarters – **New York, USA**

Secretary General - **António Guterres**

Automotive technology e-portals from International Centre of Automotive Technology (ICAT)

- **Department of Heavy Industries (DHI)** has released five portals to embark the mission to promote innovation, R&D and product development in India in various fields.
- The five portals by various organisations are namely,

BHEL for power sector equipment,

HMT for machine tools,

CMFTI for manufacturing technology,

ICAT and ARAI for automotive sector.

- The objective of these portals is to create an ecosystem, which will bring together solution seekers and problem solvers of various sectors.
- ICAT is developing technology platform for automotive industry called **ASPIRE - Automotive Solutions Portal for Industry, Research and Education.**
- Ultimately these portals targets to promote the Indian Automotive Industry to become more self-reliant by introducing it to more innovative global technologies.

PM SVANidhi launched to bring Microcredit facility for street vendors

- A mobile application of PM Street Vendor's **Atmanirbhar Nidhi**, **PM SVANidhi** was launched to bring micro-credit facility for street vendors at their doorsteps.
- It aims to provide user-friendly digital interface for lending institutions and their field functionaries for sourcing and processing loan applications of street vendors under the scheme.
- The app is developed to enhance the use of digital technology and will enable field functionaries to ensure maximum coverage of the scheme.

Fact: Secretary of Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry – **Durga Shankar Mishra**.

Government approves Zonal Master Plan of Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone

- The government has approved the Zonal Master Plan of Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone, informed by the **Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar.**
- This approval is to make the execution of the Chaardhaam Project faster and to enhance the **conservation of ecology and developmental activities.**
- Chaardhaam Project is an under construction two-lane express National Highway project in Uttarakhand which connects **Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri.**
- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSMEs has chaired the meeting on **CHAARDHAAM all-weather road project** in the State of Uttarakhand via Video Conference on July 17th 2020.

Fact: Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSMEs – **Nitin Gadkari.**

South Central Railway's Ongole Sub-Division Office bags WATER HEROES AWARD

- The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, has given the WATER HEROES AWARD to the Ongole Sub-Division Office of **Vijayawada Division, Andhra Pradesh** of South Central Railway.
- Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India has organized a contest for the period from 1st September, 2019 to 30th June 2020 in order to honour the efforts in connection with water conservation and sustainable development of water resources.
- The Ongole Sub-Division Office has bagged the award for the **month of April 2020.**

Fact: Union Minister of Jal Shakti - **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India's CERT and Israel's INCD inked MoU to expand cooperation in cyber security

- **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)**, a unit of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and **Israel's National Cyber Directorate (INCD)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- The MoU is signed to further expand their collaboration in dealing with **cyber threats** in **cooperation, mutual commitment and exchange of information**.
- This agreement was made following the increase in digitization of the world during this global lockdown.

Fact: Headquarters of CERT-In – **New Delhi.**

UN designated Pakistan Taliban leader Noor Mehsud as global terrorist

- United Nations has designated **Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)** terror group's leader **Noor Wali Mehsud**, as a global terrorist.
- This was announced after he has participated in the financing, planning and perpetrating acts on behalf of and in support of entities associated with al-Qaida.
- Noor Wali Mehsud was added to the **ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List** by the UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee.

RANKINGS

India Ranked 3rd in 2020 Global Manufacturing Risk Index

- According to the **"Cushman & Wakefield's 2020 Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI)"** India has ranked 3rd in the list of most-suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in terms of cost competitiveness and operating conditions.
- Cushman & Wakefield plc is a **global commercial real estate services firm.**
- **China tops** the index followed by the **United States at the 2nd position**.
- In terms of Cost, India is at the 3rd position after China and Vietnam, whereas in terms of risk factor India ranked 30th which was topped by Canada.

Fact: Cushman & Wakefield Headquarters - **Chicago, Illinois, United States (US)**

Global Skills Index 2020 Report

- The global skills index report benchmarks the skill proficiency for 60 countries, 10 industries and 11 fields of study in the domain of Data Science, Business and Technology.
- **"Coursera"**, World's largest online learning platform, prepares the report of Global Skills Index 2020.
- India's ranks in the index:

  Ranked 51 globally in the **Data Science Domain**.

  Ranked 34 globally in the **Business Domain**.

  In the **Technology domain**, India secured 40th rank globally.

ECONOMIC NEWS

NABARD Launched Development Projects worth Rs 44 lakhs in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** launched development projects of Rs 44 lakhs in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to enhance the **Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative**.

- The development projects include formation and development of **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** in promoting rural entrepreneurship at the micro level.
- NABARD has also collaborated with the **Centre of Agriculture Research Institute (CARI)** to conduct agricultural programmes with an amount of **Rs 20 lakh.**
- NABARD has also sanctioned **Rs 795 crore** to **West Bengal** for Reconstructing Infrastructure Damaged by **Cyclone Amphan.**
- This was sanctioned once after the state governments appeal to the NABARD for **Rs 1,028 crore** under **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).**

Fact: Headquarters of NABARD – **Mumbai, Maharashtra**

Chairman– **G R Chintala**