

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 1, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **Taiwanese electronics giant Foxconn - to invest Rs.1,600 crore for setting up a high-end electronic component manufacturing unit at Kanchipuram near Chennai.**
- ✓ On July 31, Foxconn Industrial Internet, a subsidiary of Foxconn, signed a deal with the Tamil Nadu government to establish a manufacturing facility that will provide jobs to 6,000 people.
- ✓ This new facility will be independent of Foxconn's units in Sriperumbudur that currently assemble flagship Apple iPhones for the domestic and international markets.



- ✓ The proposed investment was finalised during a meeting between Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Foxconn chairman Young Liu at the state secretariat in Chennai.
- ✓ After the meeting, the Tamil Nadu government and Foxconn signed a letter of intent for a new facility to manufacture electronics components in the state.

- ✓ State Industries Minister T R B Rajaa, Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena, additional chief secretary– Industries S Krishnan, Guidance CEO V Vishnu and senior officials were present during the meeting.
 - ✓ Besides, Foxconn has also signed a research and innovation agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and the state government's investment arm, Guidance
 - ✓ The MoU enables Foxconn to support the development of research and development capabilities in partnership with IIT Madras to improve the skills and industry-readiness of the talent pool
 - ✓ A key supplier of Apple products, Foxconn has its iPhone assembly facility at Sriperumbudur near Chennai, manufacturing high-end iPhone 13 and iPhone 14.
 - ✓ In 2021, Foxconn's annual revenue reached \$175 billion and was ranked 20th in the 2022 Fortune Global 500
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu has emerged as the largest electronics manufacturing state in India for FY23 clocking \$5.3 billion in electronics exports
 - ✓ The state has two exclusive Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for Electronics and Hardware manufacturing in Sriperumbudur, 50 km from Chennai, and in Oragadam, 70 km from Chennai, spread over 800 acres.
- **On July 31, Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin - inaugurated Mahindra & Mahindra's battery test lab established at the Mahindra Research Valley in Chengalpet.**



- ✓ The Rs 210 crore facility was inaugurated through video conferencing and the proposed unit will generate employment to more than 1,000 people.
- ✓ CM Stalin also laid the foundation stone for Mahindra & Mahindra's EV crash test lab being established at an investment of Rs 290 crore at the Sipcot industrial park in Cheyyar, Tiruvannamalai district.
- ✓ The battery test lab has been inaugurated within a year since Mahindra & Mahindra Co entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Guidance Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ As per the MoU in July last year, the company had committed an additional investment of Rs 500 crore creating over 850 employment opportunities in the next four years.
- ✓ Minister for industries T R B Rajaa, chief secretary Shiv Das Meena, additional chief secretary industries S Krishnan, Guidance Tamil Nadu MD & CEO V Vishnu were present on the occasion.

NATIONAL

- **Lok Sabha – has passed the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023, on July 31, during the Parliament's ongoing Monsoon Session.**
 - ✓ The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 20 July, 2023 and passed post discussion on July 27.
 - ✓ The bill will now be presented to the President of India before it is signed into law.
 - ✓ The bill prohibits the recording or assistance in recording any film being exhibited at a cinema theatre using audio-visual devices to combat film piracy.
 - ✓ It aims to curb the menace of piracy with provisions including three months' imprisonment and a fine of Rs.3 lakh, which can be extended up to three years imprisonment and a fine up to 5% of the audited gross production cost.
 - ✓ Moreover, the Bill seeks to improve the procedure for certification of films for public exhibition by the Central Board of Film Certification, as well as improve categorisations for the same.
 - ✓ It has introduced age-based categories of certification by further sub-dividing the existing UA category into three age-based categories--seven years (UA 7+), 13 years (UA 13+), and 16 years (UA 16+), instead of only 12 years.
 - ✓ The Bill also allows for recertification of edited films for television broadcast, as only Unrestricted Public Exhibition category films can be shown on television.
 - ✓ The validity of the certificate issued by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for films shown on TV is changed from 10 years to in perpetuity.
 - ✓ The bill seeks to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952, and was tabled by Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur in Lok Sabha.
- **Union Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan - launched the logo, slogan - Jan Jan Sakshar and mobile application of ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram at the Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on July 30**
 - ✓ The launch took place on the occasion of three years of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
 - ✓ The ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) initiative aims to revolutionise education and literacy across India
 - ✓ The programme primarily targets citizens aged 15 and above who missed the opportunity to attend formal schooling



- ✓ It seeks to impart basic education, digital and financial literacy and critical life skills to citizens aged 15 and above who could not go to school.
- ✓ According to government data, a total of 12,53,019 students are out of school in the year 2022-23 with the number of boys greater than girls.
- ✓ The ULLAS mobile phone application has the potential to bring these students back to learning by providing them learning resources through the DIKSHA portal of NCERT
- ✓ The initiative is being implemented through volunteerism.

OBITUARY

- **Russi Cooper, who was the oldest living First-Class cricketer in the world – passed away in South Bombay on July 31**



- ✓ Cooper celebrated his 100th birthday on December 14 last year
- ✓ Before his death, Cooper was the only living Indian to have played in the Pentangulars, the pre-Independence league that hosted teams formed on community lines, and the Ranji Trophy.

- ✓ He played for the Parsees (1941-42 to 1944-45), Bombay (1943-44 to 1944-45) and Middlesex (1949-1951).
- ✓ Cooper featured in 22 First Class matches including the 1944-45 Ranji Trophy final, in which he scored a century for Bombay (as Mumbai was called back then) against Holkar at the Brabourne Stadium
- ✓ At the age of just 23, he went to the London School of Economics.
- ✓ In 1947, while studying at the LSE, he played for Middlesex County with the likes of Dennis Compton, JJ Warr and Bill Edrich.
- ✓ From 1940-55, he played with and against the best cricketers of that time.

SPORTS

- **MI New York - defeated Seattle Orcas to clinch the first-ever Major League Cricket trophy at Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas in the USA**



- ✓ MI New York captain Nicholas Pooran played a blistering knock of 137* off just 55 balls to be adjudged player of the match.
- ✓ He also recorded the fastest half-century of the season (16 balls) during the knock.
- ✓ Pooran hit multiple boundaries in form of 13 sixes and 10 fours to record the second-highest score by a captain batting second in T20s
- ✓ Nicholas Pooran scored 388 runs at a strike rate of 167 with 34 sixes in the inaugural Major League Cricket season and emerged as the highest scorer of the tournament.
- ✓ Deservedly, Pooran was awarded the Most Valuable Player of the MLC season with Seattle Orcas' pace bowler Trent Boult taking home the award for being the leading wicket-taker.(22 wickets)
- ✓ With this, the MI franchise added the MLC league title to their list of trophies, that also has five IPL and two Champions League.
- ✓ The MI franchise has had a fantastic year as they were also named the first-ever champions of the Women's Premier League.

GLOBAL TIGER RECOVERY PROGRAMME – A REPORT

The first **Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP)** was launched in **2010** to bring together all **Tiger Range Countries (TRCs)** and like-minded organizations for saving the wild tiger. GTRP 2.0 (2023-24) aims to strengthen tiger governance in the next 10 years. The GTRP 2.0 document prepared by **Global Tiger Forum** and **Global Tiger Initiative Council** was released at Thimphu, Bhutan, on **International Tiger Day**

Graphic: Rammurti Nerlay

A 10-YEAR ROAD MAP TO SAVE WILD TIGERS GLOBALLY

CONCERNS

While South Asia and Russia improved their wild tiger status during the period from 2010 to 2022, it is alarming in South East Asia. Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam have lost tigers. The situation is grim in other TRCs

TIGER RANGE COUNTRIES

Bangladesh, **Bhutan**, Cambodia, **China**, India, **Indonesia**, Lao PDR, **Malaysia**, Myanmar, **Nepal**, Russia, **Thailand** and Vietnam



Kazakhstan

Has historical tiger presence; aiming for reintroduction



#SAVING OUR STRIPES

The 1st tiger reserve in South East Asia started in Malaysia

GOAL

WILDLIFE crime across tiger landscapes is effectively addressed

TIGERS SHOULD REMAIN WILD IN PERPETUITY

INSTITUTIONS for tiger governance are strengthened across range states

LANDSCAPE scale approaches with stakeholder involvement for tiger conservation are widely adopted

DEVELOPMENT supporting holistic green growth, social equity, and climate resilience is mainstreamed into tiger conservation



THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

It was signed by 188 countries, including all tiger range countries. It provides a blueprint to 2030 for the coordinated global effort to reverse a dangerous and accelerating biodiversity crisis



ACTIONS NEEDED IN TIGER RANGE COUNTRIES

- ▶ Antipoaching steps
- ▶ Habitat protection
- ▶ Addressing human-wildlife conflict
- ▶ Prey augmentation
- ▶ Tiger monitoring using state-of-the-art protocol
- ▶ Intelligence-based enforcement, deployment of frontline staff
- ▶ Preventing forest loss due to commercial needs
- ▶ Enhanced sovereign funding support
- ▶ Climate smart practices
- ▶ Smart green infrastructure and others

CHALLENGE

To secure existing wild tiger populations, while expanding their range



Global count up by 43% in 7 years

2016 **3,890** 2023 **5,574**

Tiger Range Country	Estimated tiger numbers	
	April 2016	July 2023
India	2,226	3,682
Russia	433	500
Indonesia	371	393
Nepal	198	355
Thailand	189	161 (148-89)
Malaysia	250	150
Bhutan	103	131
Bangladesh	106	114
China	>7	>60
Myanmar	NA	28
Vietnam	<5	0
Lao PDR	2	0
Cambodia	0	0