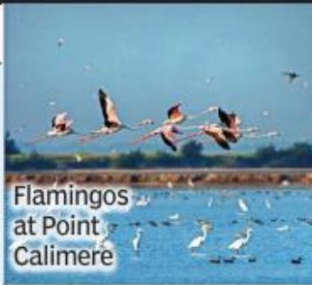


## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 24, 2023

### TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu – has recorded 4.6 lakh birds of 410 species in 644 wetlands across the state, as per the recently concluded synchronized bird census
- ✓ However, the number reported this year is only half of those recorded last year when there were 10 lakh birds of 80 species

ON THE WING	
<b>Phase I - Synchronized bird census by forest dept</b>	<b>Species spotted</b>
Dists	Chennai   79
38	Coimbatore   134
Wetlands	Tiruvannamalai   133
644	Tiruvallur   160
Species	Villup[uram   159
410	Erode   233
Population	Krishnagiri   176
4.6 lakh	Chengalpet   64



Flamingos at Point Calimere

**Great backyard bird census**  
(This year, till Feb 20)

**313 species spotted**

- Coimbatore | 194
- Chennai | 126

- ✓ Out of the 4.6 lakh birds, 1.6 lakh were migratory birds belonging to 78 different species and 60% of them were found in coastal regions
- ✓ The first phase of the synchronised bird census was conducted on January 29 in all bird sanctuaries, marshlands, and other significant wetlands/water bodies simultaneously across all 38 districts in the state
- ✓ Besides, the greater backyard census was held with Chennai accounting for 126 species of the state's 313 species.
- ✓ In 2022, the backyard bird census listed house crow, common myna and black drongo as the top three in urban areas.
- ✓ However, rose ringed parakeets and red vented bulbuls were replaced by feral pigeons in the current census.

# NATIONAL

- On February 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - said around 3 lakh old vehicles of the central and state government would be scrapped under the vehicle scrapping policy.



- ✓ He also said the government has made a provision of Rs 3,000 crore in the 2023-24 budget to encourage vehicle scrapping.
- ✓ While addressing the first post-budget seminar on 'green growth', PM Modi said vehicle scrapping policy is an important part of the green growth strategy.
- ✓ According to the PM, these vehicles are more than 15 years old and include vehicles used by the police, especially the ambulances in hospitals and the buses of public transport.
- ✓ Following the principle of 'Reuse, Recycle and Recovery', the move will also give a new push to the country's circular economy, said the PM
- ✓ Further, the PM said that the increase in production of renewable energy; reducing the use of fossil fuel in the economy; and rapidly moving towards a gas-based economy in the country are "three pillars for green growth and energy transmission"
- ✓ Green growth is one of the seven top priorities of Budget 2023-24 for bringing in industrial and economic transition, environmentally friendly agriculture and sustainable energy in the country.
- ✓ It has envisaged a number of projects and initiatives spread across various sectors, ranging from green hydrogen mission, energy storage projects, green credit programme and vehicle replacement to PM-PRANAM (promote alternative

fertilisers and balanced uses of chemical fertilisers), MISHTI (protecting mangroves), wetland conservation and GOBARdhan (bio-gas) scheme.

- ✓ The series of 12 post-budget webinars organised by the government aims to seek ideas and suggestions for the effective implementation of the initiatives announced in the Union budget

## **SUPREME COURT VERDICT**

- **On February 23, the Supreme Court - upheld the Madras High Court's verdict which allowed Edappadi Palaniswami (EPS) to continue as the interim General Secretary for the AIADMK.**



- ✓ A bench of Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Hrishikesh Roy ruled that the “convening” of the July 11, 2022 meeting of the AIADMK general council “could not have been taken as an act unauthorised”.
- ✓ The plea challenging the high court's verdict was submitted by party leader and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister O Paneerselvam (OPS).
- ✓ The AIADMK general council held on July 11, 2022, had elected Palaniswami as the party’s interim general secretary and expelled OPS.
- ✓ Subsequently, a single bench of HC ordered the status quo in the matter, as existing on June 23, 2022.
- ✓ But this was reversed by a division bench of Madras High Court on September 2, 2022, following which OPS moved the Supreme Court.
- ✓ The multiple rounds of litigation revolved around issues like who was to call the general council meeting, were the members duly intimated and whether or not the 15-day advance notice was mandatory.
- ✓ The division bench of Justices Dinesh Maheswari and Hrishikesh answered almost every point in favour of the Palaniswami faction.
- ✓ With this, the Supreme Court has now dismissed OPS's plea against the high court verdict passed on September 2, 2022.

## **PERSONALITIES**

- **On February 23, US President Joe Biden - nominated Indian-American business executive Ajay Banga to become president of the World Bank**



- ✓ Banga is vice chairman of General Atlantic, a US private equity firm that has invested over \$800 million in EV charging solutions, solar power and sustainable farming
- ✓ Banga, who was appointed Mastercard chief soon after the 2008-09 financial crisis, tripled the company's revenue during his tenure of over a decade, tapping into the surge in online shopping.
- ✓ He retired in December 2021 after 12 years as the president and CEO of Mastercard Inc, where he set a target of bringing 1 billion people and 50 million micro- and small businesses into the digital economy by 2025, and led work on climate, gender and sustainable agriculture.
- ✓ At the World Bank, Banga will be replacing David Malpass, a former Trump treasury official
  - ✓ Former US President Donald Trump appointed Malpass as World Bank chief in 2019 for a five-year period.
  - ✓ Malpass had recently announced that he will resign by July, months ahead of his five-year term, which was due to expire in April 2024.
- ✓ Banga, 63, is the son of an Indian Army officer and was raised in Pune.
- ✓ Banga graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University followed by PGP in Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
- ✓ He began his career at Nestle in 1981 and then joined PepsiCo in India and then moved to the US in 2000, working for the Citigroup in New York
- ✓ Banga became a US citizen in 2007 and was awarded the Padma Shri in 2016.
- ✓ By tradition, the United States gets to nominate the head of the World Bank and European members reserve the right to pick the head of the International Monetary Fund
- ✓ Another major Indian American appointment by the Biden administration was in 2021 when Gita Gopinath was nominated as number Two in the IMF, a position that traditionally goes to the US
- ✓ If confirmed by the World Bank Board of Directors, Banga would be the first-ever Indian-American and Sikh-American to head either of the two top international financial institutions: International Monetary Fund and the World Bank

- ✓ Banga will only be the second non-white American and the second Asian after Jim Yong Kim (2012-19) to head the World Bank.

<b>INDIAN-ORIGIN CEOs ON WORLD STAGE</b>				
				
<b>SATYA NADELLA</b>   MICROSOFT	<b>SUNDAR PICHAI</b>   ALPHABET	<b>SHANTANU NARAYEN</b>   ADOBE	<b>ARVIND KRISHNA</b>   IBM	<b>IVAN MENEZES</b>   DIAGEO
<b>PUNIT RENJEN</b>   SAP		<b>NIKESH ARORA</b>   PALO ALTO NETWORKS		
<b>REVATHI ADVAITHI</b>   FLEX		<b>R RAGHURAM</b>   VMWARE		
<b>ANJALI SUD</b>   VIMEO		<b>GEORGE KURIAN</b>   NETAPP		
<b>VASANT NARASIMHAN</b>   NOVARTIS		<b>RAJEEV SURI</b>   INMARSAT		
<b>SANDEEP MATHRANI</b>   WEWORK		<b>LEENA NAIR</b>   CHANEL		
<b>JAYSHREE ULLAL</b>   ARISTA NETWORKS		<b>RAJ SUBRAMANIAM</b>   FEDEX		
<b>SANDEEP KATARIA</b>   BATA GROUP		<b>C S VENKATAKRISHNAN</b>   BARCLAYS		
<b>SANJAY MEHROTRA</b>   MICRON		<b>L NARASIMHAN</b>   STARBUCKS (INCOMING)		

- ✓ According to the White House, over the course of his career, Banga has become a global leader in technology, data, financial services and innovating for inclusion.
- ✓ He is honorary chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce, serving as chairman from 2020-2022.
- ✓ Banga is also the chairman of Exor, an independent director at Temasek, an advisor to General Atlantic's climate-focused fund, BeyondNetZero, and has previously served on the Boards of the American Red Cross, Kraft Foods and Dow Inc.
- ✓ He held various positions at Citigroup Inc., including as CEO of the Asia-Pacific region.
- ✓ Banga is a member of the Trilateral Commission, a founding trustee of the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum, a former member of the National Committee on United States-China Relations, and Chairman Emeritus of the American India Foundation.
- ✓ He is co-founder of The Cyber Readiness Institute, Vice Chair of the Economic Club of New York and served as a member of President Barack Obama's Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity.
- ✓ Banga is a past member of the US President's Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.
- ✓ He was awarded the Foreign Policy Association Medal in 2012, the Ellis Island Medal of Honour and the Business Council for International Understanding's Global Leadership Award in 2019, and the Distinguished Friends of Singapore Public Service Star in 2021.
- ✓ The World Bank, a group of 187 nations, lends money to developing countries to help reduce poverty

# DEFENCE

- **INS Sindhukesari - has become the first Indian submarine to dock in Indonesia on February 22**



- ✓ The 3,000-tonne conventional diesel-electric submarine reached the Indonesian capital of Jakarta to dock after traversing through the nearby Sunda Strait.
- ✓ The exercise was part of INS Sindhukesari's first operational turnaround.
- ✓ The long-range mission not only highlights the capabilities of the Indian Navy, but is also part of the diplomatic and military outreach from India towards ASEAN countries
- ✓ Apart from the INS Sindhukesari, the US aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, one of the largest warships in the world, is also positioned in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Indonesia, following the Chinese incursion.
- ✓ Indonesia is among a long list of countries that are locked in a maritime dispute with China in the highly contested South China Sea.
- ✓ INS Sindhukesari is part of the Russian-made Sindhughosh-class submarines.
- ✓ The submarine was first commissioned to the Indian Navy in December 1988 before being refitted at Severodvinsk in Russia in 2018.
- ✓ The Rs 1,197-crore refit included improved weapon systems as well as a 25-year service extension for the submarine.
- ✓ This is as part of the ongoing plan to upgrade four old Sindhughosh class (Russian-origin Kiloclass) and two Shishumar class (German HDW) submarines to avoid depletion in the underwater fleet.
- ✓ INS Sindhukesari's deployment to Indonesia comes after India conducted operational training to handle the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles for 21 military personnel from Philippines at Nagpur earlier this month
- ✓ India will supply three missile batteries of the shore-based anti-ship systems of the BrahMos, under the \$375 million contract signed in January last year
  - ✓ BrahMos is a deadly conventional (non-nuclear) weapon that flies almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8 with a strike range of 290-km
- ✓ The first such BrahMos export order to Philippines is expected to pave the way for such deals with other ASEAN countries like Indonesia and Vietnam.

# APPOINTMENTS

- **Comptroller and Auditor General G C Murmu - has been selected as external auditor of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva.**



- ✓ He has been elected External Auditor of Geneva for a period of 4 years, from 2024 to 2027.
  - ✓ ILO had formed a selection panel and invited bids from the supreme audit institutions.
  - ✓ Girish Chandra Murmu will replace the ILO's current external auditor, the Supreme Audit Institution of the Philippines.
  - ✓ The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), G C Murmu, has also recently assumed the chairmanship of the CAG institutions of the G-20 countries from the CAG of Indonesia
- **On February 22, the \$32-billion German Software company SAP - announced the appointment of former Deloitte CEO Punit Renjen as the new chairman of the company's supervisory board**



- ✓ SAP's board nominated Renjen, global CEO of Deloitte from 2015 until the end of 2022, to stand for election as a new member of the supervisory board

- ✓ He will be replacing current chairman and SAP co-founder Hasso Plattner, whose tenure ends in May 2024 after two decades
- ✓ Plattner, who co-founded SAP in 1972 alongside four other former IBM employees, stepped down from active management in May 2003 to head the supervisory board.
- ✓ The 79-year-old Plattner was re-elected for two years in 2022 despite resistance from shareholder representatives, and promised at the time to present a successor at least six months before the end of his term
- ✓ The SAP handover process will begin when shareholders elect Renjen at the company's annual general meeting on May 11.
- ✓ Renjen, born and raised in Haryana, holds a master's degree in management with honours from Willamette University.
- ✓ Last year in November, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited (Deloitte Global) announced the selection of Joe Ucuzoglu as its new CEO, replacing Punit Renjen
- ✓ Deloitte has awarded him the honorary title of global CEO emeritus.
- ✓ Under Renjen's leadership, Deloitte's revenue increased from \$35 billion to more than \$59 billion in seven years
- ✓ Before taking over the CEO role, he served as the Deloitte US member firm Chairman.
- ✓ Before that, Renjen served as the CEO of Deloitte Consulting LLP in the United States
- ✓ Renjen also spearheaded WorldClass — a global effort to prepare 100 million underprivileged people for multiple opportunities and WorldClimate initiative, an effort to reduce greenhouse gas till 2030 as validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi).

## SPORTS

- **Indian shooter, Anish Bhanwal - bagged the bronze medal in men's 25m rapid fire pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Cairo on February 23**



- ✓ This is his first World Cup medal, five years after he started competing in the senior category.



- ✓ The Haryana shooter, 20, prevailed over Rio Olympics gold medallist and Beijing bronze winner Christian Reitz of Germany for the third place.
- ✓ The gold was won by Italy's Massimo Spinella, while the silver went to France's Clement Bessagnet.
- ✓ The rapid fire pistol event is one of the toughest in shooting and no other Indian has managed to win a medal in a World Cup, apart from Vijay Kumar
- ✓ London silver medallist Vijay Kumar is the only Indian who had won two World Cup silver medals (2009, 2011) till now.

