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**Thursday, 01 February 2024**

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**DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR**





Thursday, 01 February 2024

## Vietnam and Philippines agrees to boost cooperation among their coastguards

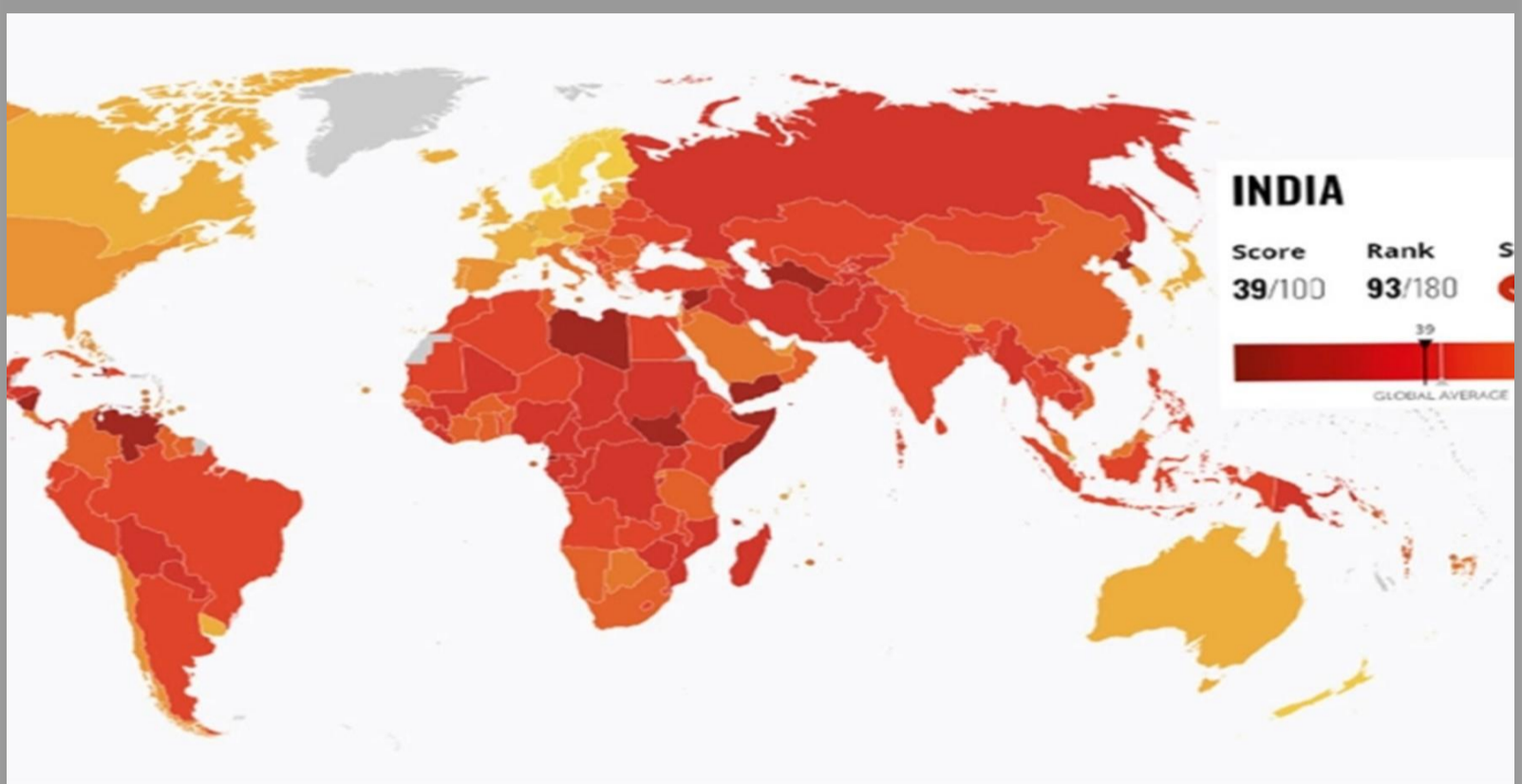
- Vietnam and the Philippines have agreed to boost cooperation among their coastguards and to prevent untoward incidents in the South China Sea.
- This was announced during a state visit to Hanoi by Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.
- The two memoranda of understanding on security covered "incident prevention in the South China Sea" and "maritime cooperation" among coastguards.
- Both Hanoi and Manila have had run-ins with China's coastguard in the past, but altercations have been frequent in the last year between vessels of China and US-ally the Philippines, adding strain to deteriorating relations.

### Vietnam:

- Capital: Hanoi
- President: Võ Văn Thưởng
- Prime Minister: Phạm Minh Chính
- Currency: Vietnamese đồng

**Q.** With which country, Vietnam has agreed to enhance cooperation between their coast guards and prevent untoward incidents in the South China Sea? **Philippines**





Thursday, 01 February 2024

## India ranks 93 among 180 countries in Global Corruption Index

- More than two-thirds of the 180 listed countries received a score below 50 on the scale, indicating a prevalence of corruption. The CPI ranks countries based on their perceived levels of public sector corruption, which range from zero (extremely corrupt) to 100 (very clean).
- This was revealed by the executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

### Least corrupt countries in the world

- Denmark tops the index for the sixth year in a row, with a score of 90, owing to its "well-functioning justice systems".
- Finland and New Zealand are in second and third place, with scores of 87 and 85 respectively.
- This year's top ten countries are Norway (84), Singapore (83), Sweden (82), Switzerland (82), the Netherlands (79), Germany (78), and Luxembourg (78).

### Most corrupt countries in the world

- Taking the bottom spots in the CPI are Somalia (11), Venezuela (13), Syria (13), South Sudan (13), and Yemen (16). These countries are all affected by protracted crises, primarily armed conflicts.
- Nicaragua (17), North Korea (17), Haiti (17), Equatorial Guinea (17), Turkmenistan (18), and Libya (18) are the subsequent lowest performers on the index.

**Q.** What is the rank of India in the latest Global Corruption Index? **93**





**Thursday, 01 February 2024**

## **Sultan Ibrahim sworn in as Malaysia's 17th king**

- The billionaire sultan who rules Malaysia's Johor state was sworn in as the nation's new king under a unique rotating monarchy system.
- Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, 65, took his oath of office at the palace and signed the instrument of the proclamation of office in a ceremony witnessed by other royal families, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and Cabinet members.
- One of the richest men in the country, Sultan Ibrahim has an extensive business empire ranging from real estate to telecoms and power plants. The candid monarch has close ties with Anwar and his rule could bolster Anwar's unity government, which faces a strong Islamic opposition.
- Nine ethnic Malay state rulers have taken turns as king for five-year terms under the world's only such system since Malaysia gained independence from Britain in 1957. Malaysia has 13 states but only nine have royal families, some that trace their roots to centuries-old Malay kingdoms that were independent states until they were brought together by the British.
- Sultan Ibrahim's election to the national throne by his fellow rulers in October was widely expected based on an established rotation order. Sultan Nazrin, the ruler of Perak state and next in line to the throne, was reelected as deputy king.

**Q.** Who is the 17th king of Malaysia? **Sultan Ibrahim**





Thursday, 01 February 2024

## Govt appoints 3 full-time, 1 part-time member of 16th Finance Commission

- The government appointed three full-time and one part-time member of the 16th Finance Commission which was constituted on December 31, 2023.
- The full-time members appointed include Ajay Narayan Jha, a former member of 15th Finance Commission and former secretary of Expenditure, Annie George Mathew, former special secretary of Expenditure, and Niranjana Rajadhyaksha, executive director of Artha Global.
- Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic advisor of State Bank of India has been appointed as the part-time member of the 16th Finance Commission.
- The government had appointed former NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya as the chairman of the panel and bureaucrat Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey was named its secretary.
- The Finance Commission is a constitutionally mandated body established once every five years to devise a formula for distributing net tax proceeds between the Centre and the states as well as among states and local bodies. Currently, India shares 41 per cent of federal taxes with states as recommended by the 15th panel.
- The Commission would also review the present arrangements for financing disaster management initiatives with reference to the funds constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

**Q.** Name the full-time members of the 16th Finance Commission which was constituted on December 31, 2023? **Ajay Narayan Jha, Annie George Mathew, Niranjana Rajadhyaksha**





Thursday, 01 February 2024

## **TCS bags 15-year contract with UK-based Aviva**

- Tata Consultancy Services has bagged a 15-year deal with the UK's insurance, wealth and retirement provider Aviva to transform its UK life business.
- This partnership will serve more than 5.5 million life and pensions policies and will also enhance the IT major's growth momentum in the UK.
- TCS has been in the UK for over 45 years and works with over 200 businesses including British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, Sainsbury's, Nationwide, M&S, Asda and Boots. It currently employs more than 23,000 people in the UK and Ireland, making it among the region's biggest IT employers.

### **Tata Consultancy Services:**

- Founded: 1968; 56 years ago
- Founder: J. R. D. Tata
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairman: Natarajan Chandrasekaran

**Q.** Recently, TCS has secured how many-year deal with UK insurance, wealth and retirement provider Aviva to transform its UK life business? **15**





Thursday, 01 February 2024

## Marut Drones delivers India's first mineral exploration drones to NMDC

- Marut Drones, India's leading drone manufacturer provided drones to National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) to pioneer drone-based mineral exploration in the country.
- NMDC procured two customised Octacopter drones from Marut Drones.
- This collaboration marks a significant leap forward in the field of mineral exploration, introducing advanced technology to enhance precision in mineral exploration and mapping for sustainable mining practices.
- Marut claims to have achieved a historic milestone by producing India's inaugural set of custom drones. These drones not only mark a first for the country but also introduce advanced sensors that are being utilised for the initial time in India, specifically designed for mineral exploration.

**Q.** Which leading drone manufacturer of India recently provided drones to NMDC to pursue drone-based mineral exploration in the country? **Marut Drones**





**Thursday, 01 February 2024**

## **Uttar Pradesh launches Caravan Tourism**

- The Uttar Pradesh's Tourism Department, in partnership with Motohom, has launched Caravan Tourism in the state, signalling a significant move to enhance travel experiences focused on families.
- The initiative aims to address accommodation challenges in regions where proper facilities are lacking.
- Caravan Tourism is poised to bring a fresh perspective to tourism in Uttar Pradesh, catering specifically to family-oriented travel. The Motorhome Caravan accommodates six to eight people, offering sleeping arrangements for up to six individuals.
- The vehicle is well-equipped with two washrooms and cooking facilities, ensuring a comfortable and convenient travel experience. Booking for the Caravan can be made through UP Tourism State Development Corporation Limited.
- To mark the launch, a promotional offer allows full-day booking at approximately Rs 35,000. This covers travel up to 350 km, with an additional charge of Rs 150 per kilometre for distances beyond the initial limit.

**Q.** Which state has launched Caravan Tourism in partnership with Motohom, a Provider of Luxury Rental Caravans, Camper Vans, Vanity Vans etc? **Uttar Pradesh**





Thursday, 01 February 2024

## H&M names Daniel Erver as new CEO amid struggles to boost sales

- H&M surprised investors with a new CEO, Daniel Erver, taking over with immediate effect as the Swedish fashion retailer struggles to boost sales in a fiercely competitive market.
- The world's second-biggest listed fashion retailer after Inditex, H&M is aiming to reach an operating margin of 10 per cent this year and has focused on profitability rather than sales volumes.
- But it has struggled to compete with Inditex and low-priced fast fashion giant Shein, both of which have seen strong sales growth.
- Erver 42, has been at H&M for 18 years, most recently as head of the retailer's core H&M brand, a role he will keep alongside the CEO job.

### H & M Hennes & Mauritz AB:

- Founded: 1947
- Founder: Erling Persson
- Headquarters: Stockholm, Sweden
- Chairman: Karl-Johan Persson
- CEO and president: Daniel Erver

**Q.** Who is the new CEO of H&M, the second largest international clothing retailer? **Daniel Erver**





**Thursday, 01 February 2024**

## **BCCI Secretary Shah reappointed as ACC chairman for third successive year**

- Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah appointed as the president of the Asian Cricket Council for a third consecutive term.
- Shah's extension was proposed by the Sri Lanka Cricket president Shammi Silva for the second time and the nomination was unanimously backed by all the members of the ACC at its annual general meeting in Bali.
- Shah initially assumed the role in January 2021, succeeding Bangladesh Cricket Board President Nazmul Hassan.
- Under Shah's leadership, the ACC successfully organised the Asia Cup in T20 format in 2022 and in ODI format in 2023.

### **BCCI:**

- Founded: 1 December 1928
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- President: Roger Binny
- CEO: Hemang Amin
- Vice president: Rajeev Shukla
- Secretary: Jay Shah
- Men's coach: Rahul Dravid
- Women's coach: Amol Mazumdar

**Q.** Who has been appointed as the president of the Asian Cricket Council? **Jay Shah**





Thursday, 01 February 2024

## **MS Dhoni-backed Garuda Aerospace launches Droni consumer drone**

- Chennai-based Garuda Aerospace announced the launch of consumer drone 'Droni' at an introductory price of Rs 85,000 on Amazon.
- Garuda Aerospace, a company in which cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni has invested, said the Droni drones are also launched on the social handles of Dhoni and Chennai Super Kings, the Indian Premier League cricket team.
- According to Garuda Aerospace, India is home to over 7 lakhs consumer drones, and nano drones i.e. under the 250 gram category that doesn't require DGCA Certifications or Pilot Licences.
- Most of the consumer drones and toy drone segment originate from China with customers traditionally preferring DJI, the company said.
- Droni is a compact small-sized foldable quadcopter nano drone weighing under 250 gms which can fit into one's pocket. It has a 48 MP camera with wide angle lens and has a flight time of 60 minutes.

**Q.** Which Chennai-based aerospace has announced the launch of consumer drone 'Droni'? **Garuda Aerospace**





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