

India's Ranking in Travel and Tourism Development

- **Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 report published by the World Economic Forum (WEF)**
- **Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024:**
 - India is ranked **39th out of 119 countries**.
 - Previous rank in **2021 was 54th; adjusted to 38th** due to methodology revision.
- **Improvement Areas:**
 - Prioritization of Travel & Tourism
 - Safety & Security
 - Health & Hygiene
- **International Tourist Arrivals (2022):**
 - **Global:** 975 million
 - **India:** 14.3 million (1.47% of global market share)
 - **India's share in Asia & Pacific:** 15.66%
- **Ministry of Tourism Initiatives:**
 - Integrated marketing and promotional strategy within India and overseas.
 - Collaboration with travel trade, State Governments, and Indian Missions.
 - Promotion through the Ministry's website and social media.
 - Participation in international travel fairs/exhibitions.
- **Champion Service Sector Scheme (CSSS):**
 - Reimbursement of Rs. 226 Crore to the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the UDAN (RCS) scheme.
 - 53 operational tourism routes under RCS UDAN Tourism for better connectivity to key tourist places.

India is the 2nd Largest Aluminium Producer in the World

- The production of key minerals in **India**, particularly **iron ore and limestone**, has shown significant growth in the first quarter (Q1) of the financial year 2024-25. This follows record production levels in the previous financial year (FY 2023-24).
- **India ranks** as the **2nd largest** aluminium producer globally. **Grew by 1.2% from 10.28 lakh tons (LT)** in Q1 FY 2023-24 to 10.43 LT in Q1 FY 2024-25.
 - **India ranks** as the **3rd largest limestone producer, and 4th largest iron ore producer** in the world.

World Development Report 2024: The Middle-Income Trap

- Release by **World Bank**.
- A report offers a detailed roadmap to help developing countries escape the "**Middle-Income Trap**."
- This trap occurs when countries with a GDP per capita between **\$1,136 and \$13,845** struggle to maintain rapid economic growth and fail to transition to high-income status.
- **Key Highlights**
 - **Middle-Income Trap:** Middle-Income Trap is when countries in the **middle-income range (\$1,136 to \$13,845 GDP per capita)** experience stagnated growth and cannot achieve high-income status.
 - **Growth Slowdown:** Countries often hit a growth plateau at about **10% of U.S. GDP per person (\$8,000)**, making further rapid economic growth challenging.
 - **Successful Transitions:** **Since 1990, only 34 middle-income countries (MICs)** have successfully transitioned to high-income status.
 - **Current Middle-Income Countries:** As of the end of 2023, there are **108 MICs**, which are home to **75%** of the global population and contribute over **40% of global GDP**.
 - **India's Status:** India became a lower-middle-income country in **2007** and remains in this category with a current **GNI per capita of \$2,540**.
 - At current growth rates, it would take India 75 years to reach one-quarter of the **U.S. income per capita**.

Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) (Domestic)

- The **Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) (Domestic)** has been updated to allow states to purchase rice directly from the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** without participating in the e-auction, starting from **August 1, 2024**.
- This change aims to manage surplus stocks before the new procurement season begins.
 - **Purpose:** To reduce surplus stocks of rice before the new procurement season starts.
 - **Updated Scheme:** States can now buy rice from the FCI directly, bypassing the e-auction process.
 - **OMSS - Domestic:** The scheme involves selling food grains (wheat and rice) in the open market at prices set by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution through e-auction.
 - **Objectives:** To control market prices and curb inflation.

World Trade Statistical Review (WTSR) 2023

- The **World Trade Statistical Review (WTSR) 2023**, the **World Trade Organization's** flagship statistical publication, provides the latest data and developments in global trade, including merchandise and commercial services.
- **Key Highlights**
 - **India's Rankings:**
 - 8th in global agriculture exports.
 - 18th in merchandise exports.
 - 7th in services exports.
 - **Top Exporters in 2022:**
 - China, USA, and Germany remained the top three merchandise exporters.

Signing of Donor Agreement between Ministry of Ayush, Government of India and WHO

- The **Donor Agreement** recognizes the establishment of the **WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC)** as a key knowledge hub for evidence-based **Traditional Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM)**.
- The aim is to enhance the health and well-being of people and the planet. India will donate **\$85 million over 10 years (2022-2032)** to support the operations of the WHO GTMC in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**.
- **About Traditional Medicine**
 - Traditional Medicine includes knowledge and practices based on the beliefs and experiences indigenous to different cultures, used for the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of illness.
 - **Examples:** Herbal medicine, yoga, Ayurveda, acupuncture, etc.
 - **Usage:** Over 80% of the world's population in more than 170 of WHO's 194 Member States use some form of traditional medicine.
 - **2018 Declaration of Astana:** This declaration on primary health care acknowledges the need to include traditional medicine knowledge and technologies in the delivery of primary health care.
- **Concerns**
 - **Health Risks:** Traditional medicine products can have negative health effects, especially when combined with other medications or taken in high doses.
 - **Regulation:** Most traditional medicine products are unregulated.

Ransomware

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has temporarily suspended payments in banks that might be affected by a ransomware attack.
- **About Ransomware**
 - Ransomware is a type of malware that locks a victim's sensitive data or device, demanding a ransom to unlock it.
 - **Examples:** WannaCry, REvil, Crypto Locker etc.
 - **Methods of Attack:**
 - Phishing
 - Exploiting existing vulnerabilities
 - Malicious downloads
- **Types of Ransomware**
 - **Crypto Ransomware:** Encrypts the victim's data, holding it hostage.
 - **Leakware/Doxware:** Steals sensitive data and threatens to publish it.
 - **Wipers:** Threatens to destroy data if the ransom is not paid.