



Henley Passport Index 2021

Why in News

India has been ranked **85th** in the most powerful passport report '**Henley Passport Index 2021**'.

Key Points

▪ About the Index:

- The **Henley Passport Index** is the **original ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations** their holders can access **without a prior visa**.
- Originally **created by Dr. Christian H. Kaelin** (chairman of Henley & Partners), the ranking is based on exclusive data from the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**, which maintains the world's largest and most accurate database of travel information.
- It was **launched in 2006** and **includes 199 different passports**.

▪ Latest Rankings:

◦ Top Rank Holders:

- **Japan continues to hold the number one position** on the index, with passport holders able to access 191 destinations around the world visa-free.
- **Singapore** is in **second place** (with a score of 190) and **South Korea ties with Germany in third place** (with a score of 189).
- The top spots were traditionally held by EU countries, the UK, or the US. This year, it is the Asia-Pacific (APAC) passports which are the most powerful in the world as it includes some of the first countries to begin the process of recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic.

◦ Bottom Rank Holders:

- **Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan** continue to be the countries with the worst passport to hold with a passport score of 29, 28 and 26 respectively.

◦ India's Performance:

- India **ranks 85th**, with a **visa-free score of 58**.
- The Indian passport **ranked higher in both 2020** (84th) and **2019** (82nd).

◦ Comparison with Neighbouring Countries:

- **Pakistan** was ranked **107th** and **Nepal** was ranked **104th**.

▪ Related Government Initiatives:

- The **government has been making efforts to increase the number of countries that provide visa free travel, visa-on-arrival and e-visa facilities** so as to further ease international travel for Indians.

- While **issuance of visa and visa related process is the sovereign and**

unilateral decision of the respective country, the matter regarding easier and liberalised visa policy for Indian nationals is taken up regularly in bilateral meetings and forums with foreign countries.

Source: Mint

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