

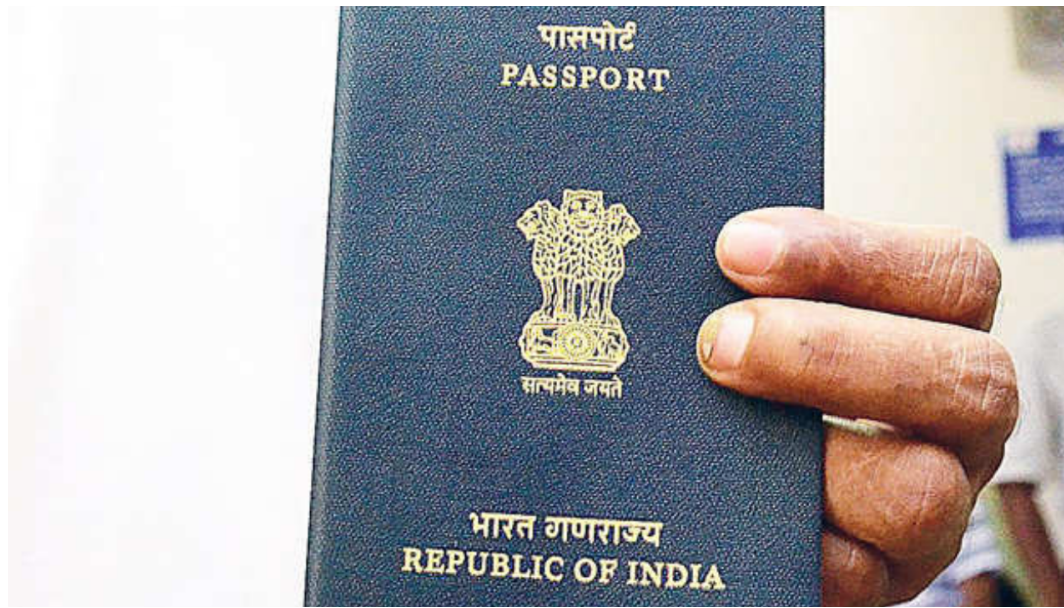
Henley Passport Index 2023

By IASToppers | 2023-07-20 15:45:00



Henley Passport Index 2023

Henley Passport Index 2023 was recently released by **Henley & Partners'** research team.



[Ref – The Economic Times]

About Henley Passport Index:

- The Henley Passport Index is the original, authoritative ranking of all the world's passports according to the **number of destinations** their **holders** can **access without a prior visa**.
 - Visa is a document that is **issued** by **governments** to **foreigners** who want to come to their nation.
- The index is based on data from the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**, the largest and, most accurate travel information database.
 - **IATA** is the **trade association** for the **world's airlines**, that represents airlines with **83% of total air traffic**.
- The index was launched in **2006**.
- It includes **199 different passports** and **227 travel destinations**.

Key findings of the Index:

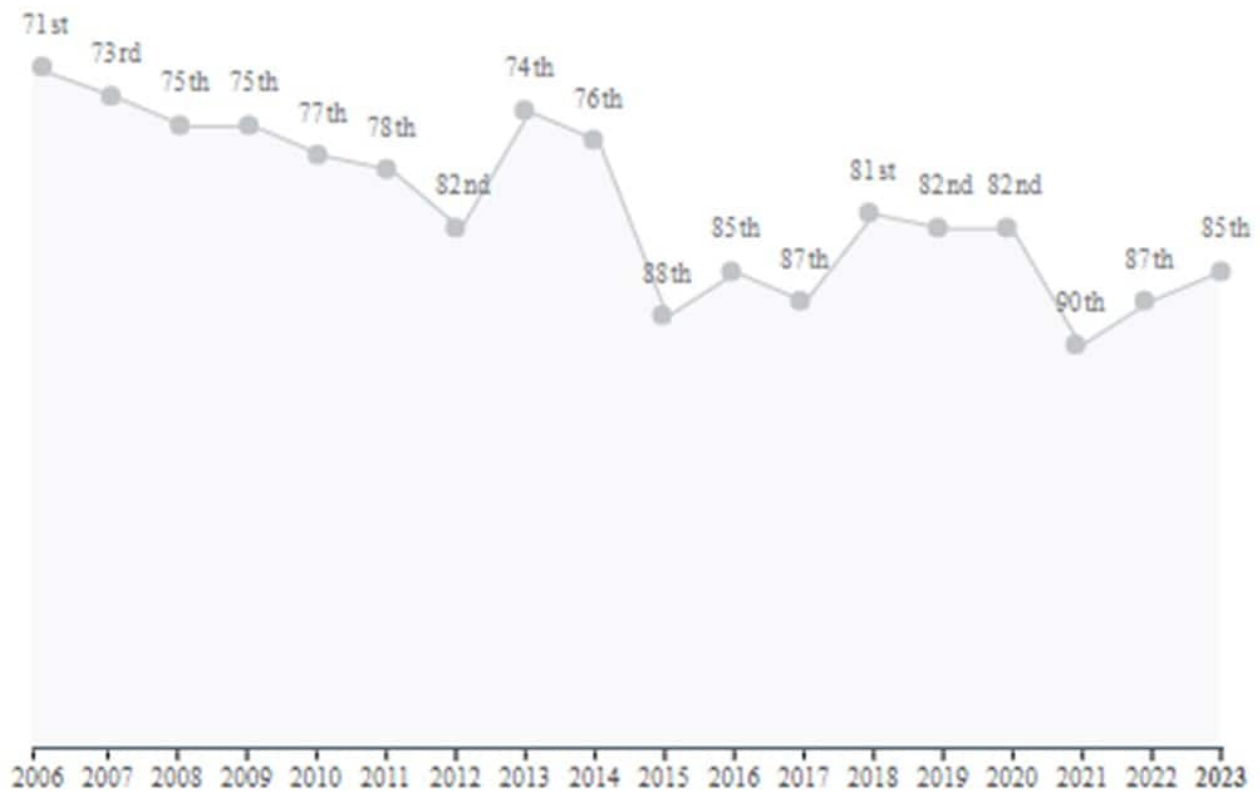
- **Singapore** has **secured the top rank** in **2023 index**.
 - It is now **officially** the **most powerful passport** in the world.
 - Its citizens can **visit 192 travel destinations** out of **227** around the world **visa-free**.

India's performance in Henley Passport Index:

- India secured **80th rank** in Henley Passport Index **2023**.
- Presently, Indian passport holders can arrive in **57 countries** without a prior visa.
- India had ranked **81** in **2021** and **87** in **2022**.
- India now has visa-free access to **57 destinations worldwide**.

India's historical ranking in Henley Passport Index:

Historical Ranking



[ref-IE]

About Henley Openness Index:

- It measures **how many nations** does a **country** allow **visa-free access** to.
- **India** was ranked **94** out of a total of **97 ranks** for **allowing** only **four countries visa-free access**.
- Afghanistan, North Korea, Papua New Guinea, and Turkmenistan scored **zero** for **not** permitting visa-free access for any passport.
- Top 20 **most open countries** are all **small island nations** or **African states**, except for **Cambodia**.
- There are **12 completely open countries** that offer **visa-free** or **visa-on-arrival entry** to all **198 passports** in the world.
 - **Those 12 countries are:** Burundi, Comoro Islands, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Micronesia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Samoa, Seychelles, Timor-Leste, and Tuvalu.

Importance of visa free entry agreements:

- A visa-free agreement is a **symbol** of **trust** between **two** countries, where both countries can reap the **social** and **economic benefits** of **open borders**.

- It can foster **cooperation** and **trade**, and improve international relations.