



Henley Passport Index 2021

 drishtias.com/printpdf/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