



Henley Passport Index 2023

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

In the latest [Henley Passport Index 2023](#), Indian passport has climbed seven places to **secure the 80th rank**, up from 87th in 2022, giving its holders visa free access to **57 countries**.

What is Henley Passport Index?

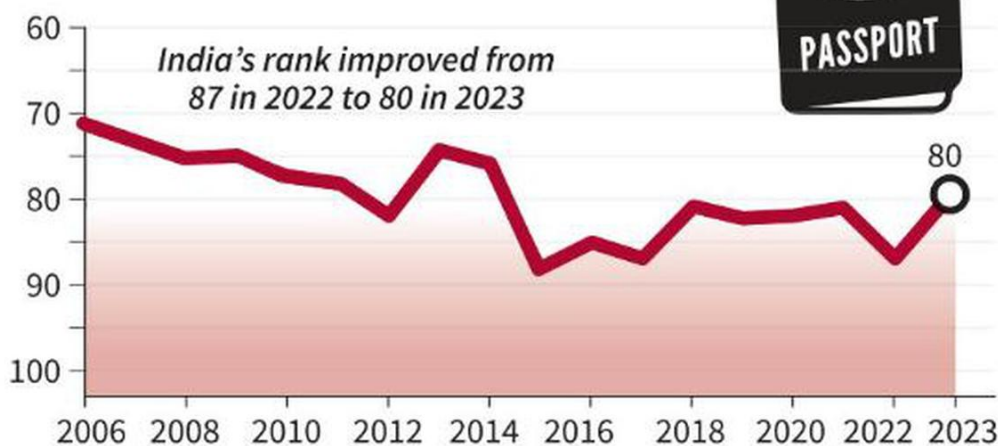
▪ About:

- The Henley Passport Index is a ranking system that evaluates all the world's passports based on the **number of travel destinations their holders can access without the need for a prior visa**.
 - This index encompasses **199 different passports and covers 227 travel destinations**.
- It is compiled and **published by Henley & Partners**, a global citizenship and residence advisory firm.

▪ India's Passport Performance Over the Years:

Slight uptick

A look at India's ranking over the years, according to the Henley Passport Index



▪ Global Rankings and Shifts:

- **Top Position:** [Singapore](#) now holds the most powerful passport in the world, granting its citizens visa-free access to an impressive **192 travel destinations out of 227 worldwide**.
 - **Japan** previously held the top spot on the Henley Passport Index for **five years**.
- **Runners-up:** **Germany, Italy, and Spain** share the second position on the index.

- **Japan, along with Austria, Finland, France, Luxembourg, South Korea, and Sweden,** shares the third spot.
- **Decline of the United States:** Over the past decade, the United States has experienced a steady decline on the index, **falling two places to the eighth spot.**
- **Henley Openness Index:**
 - **About:**
 - Henley & Partners also introduced the **Henley Openness Index**, which measures the number of nations a country allows visa-free access to.
 - In this ranking, **India was placed 94th out of 97 countries**, offering **visa-free access to only four nations.**
 - **Most Open Countries:** The top 20 'most open' countries predominantly comprise **small island nations and African states**, with the **exception of Cambodia.**
 - 12 countries offer exceptional openness, providing **visa-free or visa-on-arrival entry** to all 198 passports in the world (excluding their own).
 - These countries are **Burundi, Comoro Islands, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Micronesia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Samoa, Seychelles, Timor-Leste, and Tuvalu.**
 - **Least Open Countries: Afghanistan, North Korea, Papua New Guinea, and Turkmenistan** were ranked at the bottom of the Henley Openness Index, as they do not permit visa-free access for any passport holders.

Visa-Free Access V/s Visa on Arrival

- **Visa-Free Access:** Visa-free access means that citizens of certain countries can enter another country **without the need to obtain a visa in advance.**
 - They are allowed to **stay for a specified period**, usually determined by bilateral agreements or international treaties, **without the requirement of obtaining a visa.**
- **Visa on Arrival:** Visa on arrival means that travelers from specific countries can **obtain a visa upon arriving at their destination country's airport** or border checkpoint.