



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Per. unthalaivar Kamarajar"

India Ranked 78th in Henley Passport Index 2026

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India's passport has been ranked 78th globally in the latest Henley Passport Index 2026, reflecting a decline in its global mobility ranking. ?

According to the index, Indian passport holders currently enjoy visa-free, visa-on-arrival or electronic travel authorisation access to 56 destinations worldwide.

The Henley Passport Index is regarded as one of the world's most recognised rankings measuring the travel freedom offered by passports of different countries.

Top Ranked Countries in 2026

According to the Henley Passport Index:

Singapore – 192 destinations

Japan and South Korea – 188 destinations

Several European nations including Germany and France remain among top performers.

India's Position in South Asia

India ranks above:

Pakistan

Bangladesh

Afghanistan

Maldives continues to hold the strongest passport position in South Asia.

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What is the Henley Passport Index?

Henley & Partners publishes the Henley Passport Index using exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The ranking measures the number of destinations passport holders can access without obtaining a prior visa.

Types of Access Counted in the Index

The index considers:

Visa-free travel

Visa-on-arrival

Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)

E-visa facilities in some cases

Reasons Affecting Passport Strength

Passport rankings are influenced by:

Diplomatic relations

Bilateral visa agreements

International security perceptions

Foreign policy and strategic partnerships

Economic and geopolitical stability

A stronger passport generally reflects:

Better international mobility

Greater diplomatic outreach

Improved global trust and connectivity.

International Air Transport Association (IATA):

Established in 1945

Headquarters: Montreal, Canada

Director General: Willie Walsh

Represents global airlines and supports aviation standards and policies.

A passport is:

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An official government-issued travel document

Used for international travel and identity verification

Issued in India by the Ministry of External Affairs

Types of Indian Passports

India issues mainly three categories of passports:

Blue Passport – Ordinary citizens

White Passport – Government officials

Maroon Passport – Diplomats and senior government officials.

Passport Seva Programme:

Implemented by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Provides online passport services across India.

Operates through Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs).