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Henley Passport Index 2025 — Passport Power Rankings

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SUBJECTS COVERED

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ISSUING BODY
Henley & Partners (data from IATA)
FREQUENCY
Quarterly
INDIA'S RANK
85 / 199 -5
TOP PERFORMER
Singapore
KEY FINDINGS

- India ranked 85th in Q1 2025, down from 80th in 2024, with visa-free access to 57 destinations
- Singapore topped the index with visa-free access to 193 destinations
- Japan (189 destinations) and South Korea (190) held 2nd and 3rd positions
- 199 passports ranked based on IATA data covering 227 travel destinations
- The gap between the most and least powerful passports widened to a record 166 destinations
- Afghanistan remains last with access to only 27 destinations

ABOUT THE INDEX

The Henley Passport Index is the original and most authoritative ranking of all the world's passports based on the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa. The index is published quarterly by **Henley & Partners**, a global citizenship and residence advisory firm, using exclusive data from the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**.

The ranking methodology is straightforward:

- Each passport is scored by the number of destinations its holders can access **visa-free or with visa-on-arrival**
- 199 passports are assessed against 227 travel destinations
- The index is updated quarterly to reflect changes in visa policies

The Henley Passport Index was first launched in 2006 and has become the global benchmark for passport mobility.

INDIA'S PERFORMANCE

India ranked **85th** in the Henley Passport Index 2025 (Q1), a decline of five positions from 80th in 2024. Indian passport holders can access **57 destinations** visa-free or with visa-on-arrival.

India's ranking places it in the lower half of the global mobility spectrum, reflecting its relatively restrictive visa requirements from most high-income countries.

Recent additions to India's visa-free destinations include the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

India's passport power has been gradually improving — in 2015, India was ranked 88th with access to only 44 destinations, compared to 57 destinations today.

Regional / South Asian Comparison

COUNTRY	RANK	VISA-FREE DESTINATIONS
India	85th	57
Sri Lanka	99th	42
Bangladesh	100th	41
Nepal	101st	39
Pakistan	103rd	33
Afghanistan	104th	27

Top 5 Most Powerful Passports (2025 Q1)

RANK	COUNTRY	DESTINATIONS
1	Singapore	193
2	South Korea	190
3	Japan	189
4	Germany, Spain, Italy, France	188
5	UK, Finland, Austria, others	187

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF LATEST EDITION

- Singapore holds the top spot with visa-free access to 193 of 227 destinations

- The “passport power gap” between the strongest (193 destinations) and weakest (27 destinations) passports is the widest ever at 166 destinations
- European passports dominate the top 10, with Germany, Spain, Italy, and France at 4th (188 destinations)
- Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria remain the weakest passports globally
- The index reflects a growing trend of “mobility apartheid” where citizens of wealthy nations enjoy near-universal travel freedom while others face significant barriers
- UAE has shown the fastest improvement over the past decade, rising from 62nd (2015) to the top 15

UPSC RELEVANCE

Index publisher (Henley & Partners), data source (IATA), India’s rank and visa-free score, top passport (Singapore), total passports ranked (199) **Mains GS-2:** *India’s foreign policy, bilateral visa agreements, diaspora mobility, passport diplomacy, India’s visa-free agreements with developing countries* **Interview:** *“Should India actively pursue more visa-free agreements to improve its passport ranking, or does the ranking not reflect India’s true diplomatic standing?”*

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