

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 553
ANSWERED ON 23/07/2026

RANKING OF INDIAN PASSPORT

553 DR. V. SIVADASAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that in the ranking given by the World Economic Forum, Indian Passport has declined from 74th in 2013 to 80th in 2026;
- (b) the reasons for the decline of Indian Passport in global rankings;
- (c) whether the Indian Passport is also issued to Non- Indian Citizens; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including past precedents?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) & (b) There are certain private institutions, which publish such ratings based on parameters unilaterally decided by them. In the absence of acceptable criteria to rank passports, there is no widely recognized ranking system for passports at global level that can be taken as a standard. The Government of India has been continuously making efforts to increase the number of countries that may provide visa free travel, visa-on-arrival and e-Visa facilities to Indians for ease of traveling around the world. As on date, 27 countries provide visa-free entry, 47 countries provide visa-on-arrival facility and 66 countries provide e-Visa facility to Indian passport holders. Details of the same are updated from time to time by this Ministry on its website, which can be accessed on the following link:
<https://www.mea.gov.in/VFFIN.htm>

However, formulation of policies with respect to issuance of visas is a sovereign matter of the respective country and the matter regarding providing visa free entry/visa-on-arrival facility also depends on various factors including bilateral relations and principle of reciprocity.

(c) & (d) The issue of passports to Indian citizens or any other individual is governed by the Passports Act 1967 and rules made thereunder.

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