

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.844
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2018

VISA FREE ACCESS

844. DR. GOKARAJU GANGA RAJU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to the 2018 Henley Passport Index, India is at its lowest ranking with regard to the visa-free access to more countries and China has surpassed India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to improve its passport rankings in providing visa-free access to more countries on the globe?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) As per information available on the website www.henleyglobal.com, the Henley Passport Index ranks all the passports of the world according to the number of countries their holders can travel to visa free. The ranking is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association and lists the countries that can be accessed visa-free, with an electronic visa (e-Visa), with a visa on arrival, or with a normal visa.

According to the Henley Passport Index available on this website (**Annexure-I**), India is ranked at 86 with 49 countries providing visa free access. China is ranked 75 with 60 countries providing visa-free access.

(c) The Government has recently liberalised the visa policy with the objective of promoting investments and tourism into India from other countries. The e-Visa scheme has been liberalised to allow business visits and medical treatment in India. The number of entries and validity of e-Visas has been increased and the scheme has been expanded to include 163 countries and territories till date. These initiatives are expected to encourage other countries to reciprocate and facilitate travel of Indian passport holders to their countries.

Rank	Passport	Score
1	Germany	177
2	Singapore	176
	Switzerland	
3	Denmark	175
	Finland	
	France	
	Italy	
	Japan	
	Norway	
	Sweden	
	United Kingdom	
4	Austria	174
	Belgium	
	Luxembourg	
	Netherlands	
	Spain	
	United States	
5	Ireland	173
	Portugal	
	South Korea	
6	Canada	172
7	Australia	171
	Greece	
	New Zealand	
8	Czech Republic	170
	Iceland	
9	Malta	169
10	Hungary	168
11	Liechtenstein	167
	Slovakia	
	Slovenia	
12	Latvia	166
	Lithuania	
	Malaysia	
13	Estonia	165
14	Poland	163
15	Monaco	162
16	Chile	161
17	Cyprus	159
18	Argentina	158
	Brazil	
19	Andorra	157
	San Marino	
20	Bulgaria	156
	Croatia	
	Romania	
21	Hong Kong (SAR China)	155
22	Brunei	153
23	Israel	150
24	Barbados	146
25	Mexico	144
26	Bahamas	142
27	Seychelles	141
28	Uruguay	139
	St. Kitts and Nevis	
29	Vatican City	137
30	Costa Rica	136
31	Antigua and Barbuda	135
32	Mauritius	134
	Taiwan	
	United Arab Emirates	
33	Trinidad and Tobago	133
34	Paraguay	130
	St. Lucia	
	Venezuela	
35	Panama	129
	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	
36	Grenada	127
	Macao (SAR China)	
37	Guatemala	123
	Honduras	
38	Dominica	122
39	El Salvador	121
40	Peru	120
41	Serbia	119
42	Solomon Islands	117
43	Samoa	116
	Vanuatu	
44	Nicaragua	114
	Ukraine	
45	Russian Federation	113
	Tonga	
46	Colombia	112
	Macedonia (FRYOM)	
	Marshall Islands	
	Tuvalu	
47	Kiribati	111
48	Moldova	110
	Montenegro	
49	Palau Islands	108
50	Micronesia	107
	Turkey	
51	Bosnia and Herzegovina	105
52	Albania	100
	South Africa	
53	Georgia	99
54	Belize	96
55	Ecuador	88
56	Timor-Leste	85
57	Fiji	84
	Guyana	
58	Kuwait	83
	Maldives	
59	Nauru	82
60	Jamaica	79
	Papua New Guinea	
61	Botswana	78
62	Bolivia	77
	Qatar	
63	Bahrain	75
	Namibia	
	Suriname	
64	Thailand	73
65	Belarus	71
	Kazakhstan	
	Oman	
66	Swaziland	70
67	Kenya	69
	Lesotho	
	Malawi	
	Saudi Arabia	
68	Gambia	68
	Tanzania	
69	Tunisia	66
70	Zambia	65
71	Uganda	64
72	Azerbaijan	63
	Cape Verde Islands	
	Cuba	
	Indonesia	
	Philippines	
73	Dominican Republic	62
	Ghana	
	Sierra Leone	
74	Benin	61
	Morocco	
	Zimbabwe	
75	China	60
76	Armenia	59
	Kyrgyzstan	
77	Burkina Faso	58
	Sao Tome and Principe	
78	Mauritania	57
	Mozambique	
79	Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	56
	Senegal	
	Togo	
80	Mongolia	55
81	Guinea	54
	Mali	
	Niger	
	Tajikistan	
	Uzbekistan	
82	Haiti	53
83	Bhutan	52
	Chad	
	Comores Islands	
	Gabon	
	Madagascar	
	Rwanda	
84	Guinea-Bissau	51
85	Turkmenistan	50
86	Cambodia	49
	Central African Republic	
	India	
87	Angola	48
	Egypt	
88	Algeria	47
	Equatorial Guinea	
	Laos	
	Liberia	
	Vietnam	
89	Cameroon	46
	Congo (Rep.)	
	Nigeria	
90	Burundi	45
	Djibouti	
	Jordan	
91	Congo (Dem. Rep.)	43
92	Myanmar	42
93	Sri Lanka	41
94	Sudan	40
95	Ethiopia	39
	North Korea	
	South Sudan	
96	Bangladesh	38
	Iran	
	Kosovo	
	Lebanon	
97	Eritrea	37
	Palestinian Territory	
98	Libya	36
	Nepal	
99	Yemen	35
100	Somalia	32
101	Pakistan	30
102	Syria	28
103	Iraq	27
104	Afghanistan	24

This graph shows the full Global Ranking of the 2018 *Henley Passport Index*. In certain cases, a rank is shared by multiple countries because these countries all have the same level of visa-free access.

The information provided here is based on the 2018 *Henley Passport Index* ranking, as of 16 January 2018.
