



## Saudi, India eye new co-operation areas



Saudi Foreign Minister His Excellency Prince Faisal bin Farhan and his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar during their meeting in New Delhi.

**NEW DELHI:** Saudi Arabia and India held talks here led by their foreign ministers, aimed at identifying new partnerships.

Saudi Arabia's Prince Faisal bin Farhan and S Jaishankar co-chaired the second meeting of

the Ministerial Committee on Political, Security, Cultural and Social Affairs, which falls under the Saudi-India Strategic Partnership Council.

Saudi Arabia is home to about 2.6 million Indian nationals, making

it the third-largest host country for the diaspora, after the UAE and the US. The Kingdom is also India's fifth-largest trading partner, with bilateral trade between the two countries at around \$43 billion in 2023-2024.

Their talks follow the council's first leaders' meeting last September, during which Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over the signing of about 50 initial pacts.

They had also agreed to form a joint task force to enable a \$100 billion Saudi investment in India. Prince Faisal said: "The inaugural meeting of the Saudi-India Strategic Partnership Council ... has set the stage for a new era of co-operation

(Cont. on page-2)

## UAE National Day holiday rush, 56pc surge in bookings

**DUBAI:** With the festive season and National Day long weekend just around the corner, many UAE residents are gearing up for winter getaways. Advance bookings for the holiday season have soared by 56pc compared with last year. Travel experts also note a nearly 11pc increase in airfares as travellers seize early deals before the peak travel period.

"Advance bookings for the winter season are in full swing, with a 56pc increase compared with 2023. High demand is seen for nearby destinations like Istanbul, Tbilisi, Baku and Amman, known for their cultural experiences just hours away," said Rikant Pittie, co-founder, EaseMyTrip.

"This shift towards booking shows a growing trend of travellers planning in advance, with 30pc opting for destinations that require visas. As airfare rises by nearly 11pc

and round-trip tickets exceed Dh2,800 (to the above-mentioned destinations), many are still securing early deals, particularly with the UAE National Day holidays approaching," added Pittie.

Pavan Poojary, a travel expert at Luxury Travels in Abu Dhabi, said that the demand for travel from the UAE during the winter months is massive and it's a busy season for them. "Yes, a lot of our clients are approaching us for deals way ahead of

(Cont. on page-2)

## INMECC business conclave to honour Kerala's entrepreneurs

**KOCHI:** The Indo-Gulf & Middle East Chamber of Commerce (INMECC) is set to host its inaugural "Salute Kerala 2024" awards ceremony, honouring Kerala's entrepreneurs for their outstanding contributions to the state's industrial growth.

The ceremony, scheduled for November 26 at the Hotel TajVivanta in Kochi, aims to recognise visionary leaders whose work has expanded Kerala's business reach beyond national borders. State Industries Minister P Rajeev will inaugurate the

event, with Finance Minister KN Balagopal as the chief guest. Leader of the Opposition VD Satheesan and State Industries Department Secretary Mohammad Haneesh (IAS) are among the key dignitaries set to attend.

The "INMECC Leadership Salute," the event's highest honour, will be presented to renowned entrepreneur Dr P Mohammed Ali of Galfar for his long-standing contributions to hospitality, industry and societal development in Kerala. According to INMECC of-



At the press conference held to announce the awards seen are, Dr NM Sharafudeen, Chairman of INMECC; Dr Sureshkumar Madhusudhanan, Secretary-General, Adv. Unnikrishnan, President of INMECC's Kerala Chapter and Younus Ahmed, Secretary of the Kerala Chapter.

officials, Dr Ali's business acumen and commitment to Kerala's industrial landscape have set an exemplary standard for the next generation of entrepreneurs.

Additionally, 10 prominent industrialists will receive the "INMECC Excellence Salute" award in recognition of their efforts to position Kerala as a hub for entrepreneurship and innovation. The recipients, selected after a rigorous evaluation process, include:

George Jacob Muthoot,  
(Cont. on page-3)

## Indian embassy to hold consular camp in Kuwait

**KUWAIT CITY:** A consular camp is being organised by the embassy of India in Kuwait on November 29, 2024, from 9.30 AM to 3.30 PM. It will be held at Faisal Farm, Wafra ( Block-09, Line 10, Road: 500, near Al Wafra Family Co-operative Society at Al Wafra).

At the camp the following services can be availed:

1) Passport renewal (Including online form filling, photograph etc), (2) Relationship certificate, (3) Driving licence extract, (4) General power of attorney, (5) signature attestation, (6) Other general attestations and (7) Registration of labour complaints (both visa-20 and visa-18).

Also attested documents will be delivered on spot. Free medical consultation will be rendered by the doctors. Only cash payment will be accepted.



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## Air India merger

Vistara's merger with Air India is a significant and historic event. The Tata owned Air India, already one of the largest airlines, will definitely get a big boost with the merger of Vistara with itself. Air India is already an amalgam of what was Indian Airlines, Vayudoot and a whole host of experiments that seem to have merged into the Air India brand.

The airline industry in India over the recent years had become a fragile sector with many private airlines closing down. Damania, East-West, ModiLuft, Air Deccan, Sahara, GoAir, Kingfisher and recently Jet all have just vanished into the thin air without a trace due to losses. This shows fragmentation of airlines will be suicidal and a united, large entity -- with the backing of a powerful conglomerate like the

Tatas -- can meet the challenges better and garner further growth. What's more, with this merger, Singapore Airlines, will have a 25.1pc stake in Air India which will make the finances of the latter stronger. Singapore Airlines has also announced that it will be injecting an additional Rs 3,194 crore into Air India apart from a sum of Rs 5,020 crore in lieu of a 25.1 pc stake in the airline

Vistara, jointly owned by Singapore Airlines and the Tatas, has had a good track record --- very well managed and has the luxury tag attached to it. No doubt, Vistara set new standards in Indian skies. The food and service standards set it apart for other airlines. Vistara was largely patronised by the corporate sector, very high-end customers and foreigners.

Air India, with this merger, will be operating 5,600 flights in a week to serve over 90 destinations. Credit largely goes to the Tatas for this perfect operational integration and legal merger creating a full-service carrier of scale and marking a significant milestone in the post-privatisation of Air India. It may recalled that earlier, low-cost carriers Air India Express and AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India) merged but will be a separate entity for now.

Managing a merger is a difficult task. The statement made by Air India's Managing Director and CEO Campbell Wilson is worth quoting here: "Over the past two years, teams across the four airlines have worked closely together and with other stakeholders to ensure that the transition of people, assets, operations and most importantly, customers, was as seamless as possible,". This sums up the wonderful work done by the merger team of experts.

Not that everything is smooth in this merger. Already, a section of Air India pilots is unhappy with the merger over different retirement age limits for pilots of the two airlines. Resentment is brewing among Air India pilots as the management is yet to formulate a common superannuation age for the integrated entity. Air India has a retirement age for pilots and other staff at 58 years, whereas at Vistara it is 60 years. While the management was prompt in bringing parity in terms of salary structure etc of the employees of the two airlines, it is yet to address the issue of two different retirement age limits. Such teething troubles are expected in a merger.

### LIPSYNCH

"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."  
— Dr. Mae C. Jemison

## HEERA GROUP'S PONZI SCHEME UAE residents who lost life's savings find hope in India's SC order

DUBAI: UAE residents who have invested their life savings in Heera Group's "schemes" have expressed relief after India's Supreme Court issued an order directing the auction of two properties owned by Heera Group's managing director Nowhera Shaikh. This auction will help recover funds for defrauded investors.

The court also mandated that Shaikh deposit Rs 2.5 crore with Enforcement Directorate (ED) within three months as part of ongoing efforts to compensate those affected by the alleged Ponzi scheme.

The decision has sparked cautious optimism among hundreds of UAE investors who trusted the alleged fraud scheme. Among the affected investors are Na-

sim Rajab from Abu Dhabi, MK from Dubai and Shahid Khan from Sharjah, who had invested Dh120,000, Dh90,000, and Dh75,000, in the company's now-defunct plans.

Last month, India's Apex court cancelled Shaikh's bail due to her failure to raise Rs580 crore (Dh252 million) to settle outstanding claims through property auctions. She was ordered to surrender within two weeks. However, in Monday's hearing, her counsel requested an extension, which the court approved, giving her additional time as her case continues through the legal system.

"I'm finally seeing a glimmer of hope after six -long years," said the Dubai resident. Heera Group marketed

three investment plans in the UAE: Heera Gold, which promised monthly payouts of Dh3,250 for a minimum investment of Dh1 lakh with a one-year lock-in period; Heera Textiles, offering annual returns of 65-70 percent on a minimum deposit of Dh15,000 with a two-year lock-in period and Heera Foodex, promising annual profits of up to 80pc on a Dh15,000 deposit with a two-year lock-in period. Lured by the high returns, many investors even took out bank loans to participate in these schemes.

In 2018, when the promised returns stopped coming, Heera Group collapsed, and Nowhera Shaikh was arrested. Alarmed by the developments, many UAE investors rushed to Heera Group's office in Jumeirah Lake Towers, only to find it locked. Visits to warehouses in Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah also yielded no answers, deepening the sense of betrayal and uncertainty among investors.

Shahbaz Ahmad Khan, a whistleblower and president of the All India Heera Group Victims Association, welcomed the court's decision but warned that many investors would still miss out. Khan emphasised that only those who filed claims with India's Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) would receive funds from selling Shaikh's properties.

## Saudi, India eye new....

(Cont. from page-1)

across various fields and we look forward to further enhancing the council's capabilities and efficiency in achieving our shared objectives."

He added: "We are confident that advancing co-operation serves our mutual interests as well as benefits the region more broadly and I look forward to exploring the diverse aspects of our co-operation."

Trade and investments are "important pillars" in Saudi-India relations, Jaishankar said during the meeting as he high-

lighted recent efforts to boost co-operation, including in technology and renewable energy. "Saudi's Vision 2030 and Viksit Bharat 2047 hold complementarities for our industries to build new partnerships. I am glad to note that our businesses are collaborating intensively," he said, referring to the Kingdom's transformation plan and India's goal to become a developed nation. "While we may be time-tested friends, our partnership is premised on progress and focused on the future."

## UAE National Day holiday rush, 56pc....

(Cont. from page-1)

their travel. They don't want to miss out on their travel, whether it's winter or summer," he said.

Poojari added that UAE residents dominantly prefer destinations with snowfall during the winter. "Considering this, the budget destinations residents prefer are the Caucasian countries like Georgia and the nearby countries

of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan," said Poojari.

Experiencing snowfall in European countries remains a favourite for those with higher budgets. "Residents with Schengen visas prefer countries like Finland, Austria and the Czech Republic, while those without Schengen visas opt to visit Turkey and Balkan countries among

others," said Poojari.

On platforms like Holiday Factory, packages are listed for various countries for the winter and National Day holidays. Due to the increasing demand, several packages have already sold out. Some packages to Uzbekistan, Rome, Greece, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan are showing sold out due to the high demand.

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**FOREX RATES**  
As on 14th November, 2024 (In rupees)

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	84.79	83.89
Euro	92.70	91.75
Australian Dollar	57.47	56.37
Japanese Yen	0.58	0.56
Canadian Dollar	61.92	60.97
Singapore Dollar	65.16	64.11
Swedish krona	9.07	7.28
UAE Dirham	23.32	22.72
Swiss Franc (CHF)	98.98	97.58
British Pound	110.44	109.39
New Zealand Dollar	52.11	51.01
Thai Baht	2.62	2.49
Hong Kong Dollar	11.77	10.46
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.89	22.14
Bahraini Dinar	230.12	215.12
Chinese Yuan	12.78	10.38
Danish Krone	12.81	11.81
Kuwaiti Dinar	280.03	265.03
Malaysian Ringgit	20.20	19.40
Omani Rial	224.33	212.33
Qatari Riyal	23.82	22.07
South African Rand	5.24	4.30

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<b>INSTRUMENT SUPERVISORS</b>	Diploma (Elect) with 5 years in Construction & commissioning with Oil/Gas industries in shutdown experience or ITI passed with min 10 years' electrical experience in E&I works, including cabling, instrument installation, loop checking, commissioning etc.
<b>ELECTRICAL SUPERVISORS</b>	Diploma (Elect) with 5 years in Construction & commissioning with Oil/Gas industries in shutdown experience or ITI passed with min 10 years' electrical experience in LV, MV, transformer installation, UPS operation, and commissioning etc.

**REPORTING TIME : 8:00 AM SHARP**

**CLIENT INTERVIEW LOCATIONS**

15th November 2024 (CHENNAI)	20th November 2024 (COCHIN)
RAJ PARK HOTEL, 180, TT Krishnamachari Rd, Parthasarathypuram, Alwarpet, CHENNAI, Tamil Nadu 600018	HOLIDAY INN HOTEL, A-Junction, 33/1739, National Highway, Bypass, Chakkaparambu, Vennala, KOCHI, Ernakulam, Kerala 682028

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## INMECC business conclave to honour....

(Cont. from page-1)  
Muthoot Finance, Dr. Viju Jacob, Synthite Industries, GokulamGopalan, Gokulam Group, VK Mathews, IBS Software, Dr KV Tolin, TolinsTyres, K Muraleedharan, Muralya and SFC Group, VK Razak, VKC Group, SheelaKochouseph, V Star Creations, PK Mayan Mohamed, Western Plywoods and Dr AV Anoop, AVA Medimix Group.

The event will also feature the unveiling of Kerala's new Industrial Policy by the Principal Secretary, intended to foster a more invest-

tor-friendly business environment and promote sustainable economic growth. INMECC officials highlighted that this inaugural event is the first of its kind in Kerala, aiming to inspire young entrepreneurs to contribute to the state's economic and industrial transformation.

"Salute Kerala 2024" is part of INMECC's larger initiative to celebrate and promote Kerala's entrepreneurial spirit within India and abroad. Plans are underway to replicate similar events in other states, creating a broad-

er platform to honour entrepreneurial excellence and further boost India's reputation as a hub for business, innovation and opportunity.

At the press conference held to announce the awards, Dr NM Sharafudeen, Chairman of INMECC; DrSureshkumarMadhusudhanan, Secretary-General, Adv. Unnikrishnan, President of INMECC's Kerala Chapter and MrYounus Ahmed, Secretary of the Kerala Chapter, expressed their pride in organising this landmark event.

**IPEPCIL - ADVISORY**  
**BEWARE OF UNSCRUPULOUS AGENTS FOR OVERSEAS JOBS**

Seeking employment abroad can be an exiting opportunity, but it also comes with risks if the intended job-seekers go through unauthorised agencies / personnel.

Unscrupulous agents / persons may exploit these job-seekers through social media advertisements and channels, leading to financial losses, unsafe working conditions, fraudulent activities or even human trafficking. Therefore, it is crucial to stay informed and CAUTIOUS - among the overseas job aspirants. Job-seekers are advised to protect themselves by following means:

- 1) Verify credentials of the recruitment agency / persons. Ensure that, the recruitment agency / persons are licensed by the Ministry of External Affairs, OE, PROTECTOR GENERAL OF EMIGRANTS, Government of India.
- 2) Avoid any upfront payment in case asked for.
- 3) Seek legal advice through trusted advisors or Regional Protector of Emigrants Offices.
- 4) Do not enter any dealings with lack of physical office or any credibility of the advertisers without referring their websites.
- 5) Do not deal with the unscrupulous agencies who are inconsistent or give evasive answers to your questions.
- 6) Reporting Fraud:

If you suspect that an agent / person is doing fraudulent activities related to overseas recruitment / employment, report it to the nearest POE Office, police station etc. etc; your report can help to prevent others from falling victims to scams.

Your safety and well-being are paramount, by staying vigilant and informed, you can avoid falling prey to unscrupulous agents and ensure a secure legitimate path towards overseas employment. - VS Abdulkareem (President, Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council - IPEPCIL).



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**Andhra Pradesh :** Andhra Pradesh is famous for its rich cultural heritage, stunning temples, and picturesque landscapes

**Karnataka :** Karnataka is famous for temples, majestic architecture, and princely vibe.



# GULF FAQs

## Dubai property prices to remain stable

Can you please say something about the outlook of Dubai property prices?

Property prices and rents in Dubai will remain stable over the next 18 months and could decline afterwards due to increasing supply following a large number

sold over 2022-2023 will be delivered. This is significantly higher than the average of 40,000 units delivered per year over 2019-2023," said Sapna Jagtiani, primary credit analyst at S&P Global.

Rents and property prices in most of Dubai's areas have been consistently on

are willing to pay a higher price per sqft for new constructions," said Jagtiani.

Dubai has launched the D33 agenda to push the growth of the real estate market and attract more foreign direct investment into the sector.

"We expect Dubai's economy will remain relatively resilient. Despite geopolitical tensions in the region, we assume a protracted, direct Israel/US-Iran conflict will not emerge. We expect that real GDP growth will remain close to three per cent on average over 2024-2027, following a growth of 3.3pc in 2023 and that Dubai's GDP per capita will be about \$38,000 in 2024," said S&P.

The study noted that the pace of new launches will decrease over the next 12-24 months as the market has absorbed the supply so far but does not seem sustainable over the long run.

"While developers are in a sound financial position, given strong cash collection, we expect they will remain agile in adjusting new project launches to demand evolution, that is, selling smaller units when prices are increasing. In a weaker environment, we expect less established developers will start to ease payment plans to maintain sales figures," said Sapna Jagtiani.

According to Property Monitor's Sept report, new off-plan development project launches remained at record highs, with just over 13,500 off-plan units added to the market for sale with an anticipated combined gross sales value of Dh28.9 billion. During the first nine months, new project launches reached slightly less than one lakh units and Dh242.7 billion in aggregate sales value. This surpasses the volume of units launched in 2023,

however, falls short by Dh30 billion in sales value by comparison.

S&P projected that the share of luxury developments will reduce in 2025 since developers will continue to focus on affordable and mid-market properties. "Even though

luxury developments generate a higher margin, the market for luxury apartments remains relatively small in comparison. We believe developers will adjust the property mix and size to offer more affordable apartments and villas."



of new project launches after the pandemic, analysts at S&P Global has said.

A note issued by the international ratings agency said that Dubai's property market will remain resilient and there has been no impact of the regional geopolitical conflict on the local market, thanks to demand from local and international investors and several visa reforms that provide stability.

It said rental growth will stabilise as the stock of available units increases in 2025, first in non-prime areas and then to the wider market afterwards.

"Property prices will remain stable over the next 18 months and could decline afterwards due to increasing supply. A potential increase in supply could saturate the unfulfilled demand, and lead to lower prices and rents. The market expects residential supply stock will increase by about 1.82 lakh units over 2025-2026, given that the large number of properties that were pre-

the rise due to unprecedented demand seen in the post-pandemic period.

However, she added that the real estate inventory absorption rate, among others, depends on the annual growth of Dubai's population – which is expected to grow about 3.5pc over 2025-2026 – and investor demand.

"So far though, deliveries in 2024 have not kept pace with those in 2023. Significant delays in delivery, which are not uncommon for the industry – often due to construction capacity constraints – could tighten the market and support upward price trends, at least over the short term. Yet we expect the residential real estate market to balance out by 2026 at the latest," said Jagtiani.

"Given our expectation of population growth, high prevailing rents, and the high value per square foot returns on real estate investments in Dubai exceed those in most European countries. Therefore, off-plan sale transactions are twice as high in the first half of 2024 as the secondary market and buyers

## In Dubai, owners need to give 12-month notice for eviction

**I have been renting my apartment in Dubai to a tenant for the last three years. I now wish to move into the flat. What is the procedure? And how long will it take?**

In Dubai, an owner may request the eviction of a tenant from the rented apartment by serving a 12-month notice attested by a notary public if he or she intends to use the apartment for his own personal use or use of his first-degree family members.

This is in accordance with Article 25 (2)(c) of Law No. 33 of 2008 Amending Law No. 26 of 2007 regulating the relationship between owners and tenants in the emirate of Dubai, which states: "Upon expiry of the rent contract, the owner may seek eviction of the tenant from the real property only if:

\* the real property owner wishes to retake possession of the real property for his own use or use by any of his first-degree relatives, provided that the owner proves that he does not own any alternative real property that is suitable for this purpose;

For the purposes of paragraph-2 of this Article, the owner must notify the tenant of the eviction reasons at least 12 months before the date of eviction and the notice must be served through a notary public or by registered mail."

Furthermore, an owner upon evicting a tenant

on grounds of using the rented apartment for his own use or use by a first-degree relative is prohibited from renting out the said apartment for at least two years if it is residential, or three years if it is non-residential, from the date the owner taking possession of the rented apartment.

This is in accordance with Article-26 of the Amended Rent Law states: "Where the tribunal rules in favour of the owner retaking possession of the real property for his own use or for use by any of his first-degree relatives, in accordance with sub-paragraph (2) (c) of Article 25 of this Law, the owner may not rent the real property to a third party before the lapse of at least two years in case of residential real property or three years in case of non-residential real property, from the date of retaking possession of the same. Otherwise, the tenant may request the tribunal to award him fair compensation."

Based on the aforementioned provisions of law, as you intend to live in your own apartment, you may notify the tenant to vacate the apartment by serving upon the tenant a 12 month's notice attested by a notary public and upon having possession of the said apartment, you may not rent it to any third party at least for two years from the date of taking possession of the apartment.

# GLOSSARIES-HR HIRING /TRAVEL&TOURISM

## FAQs regarding the New Passport Rules-2024

### PASSPORT INDEX

#### What is a passport index?

A passport index is a tool that rates international passports according to a set of standards and criteria for evaluating each passport's strength and the degree of worldwide mobility it offers its holders. The number of countries that grant visa-free entry, visa-on-arrival, or electronic travel authorization (eTA) to holders of a particular passport determines that passport's global mobility. The ability of people worldwide to travel without a visa is tracked by the Passport Index. The total number of countries that you can easily access with all of your passports is known as your Personal Mobility Score (PMS).

**Importance of passport index:** Passport indices have numerous benefits and applications for the general public, particularly travelers, as well as for governments, travel agencies, and the media. The following are some of the main advantages of the passport index: **Determining the strength of a passport** - In terms of the degree of international mobility that passports allow their holders, Passport Index offers a thorough and current evaluation of passport strength. Through this evaluation, people can learn how strong their passport is and how many places they can visit without applying for a visa in advance.

**A comparison of passports** - The Passport Index makes it simple to compare passports from different nations based on their strength and the degree of freedom they grant their holders to travel. These comparisons may be helpful for a number of reasons, including research or choosing citizenship through investment programs to get a more robust second passport and increase the freedom of travel abroad.

**Efficient arrangements for travel** - Travelers planning leisure trips can use passport indices to find places they can visit without a prior visa. With this information, they can effectively plan business or leisure travel, avoiding complicated visa requirements and even combining several des-



The reasons for traveling are numerous. While some individuals travel for work, others do so for leisure. Some travel to study further, while others travel to take a break from life. Similarly, others have business reasons to travel. Travel is a wonderful way to learn a lot of things in life, be it for job search, employment, entertainment or knowledge. Whatever the reason, travel opens a huge door for us to explore the world beyond our imagination and immerse ourselves in many things.

The fields of Overseas Manpower Recruitment and Travel and Tourism are full of jargon and acronyms. In order to make the ensuing journeys entertaining, educational, and potentially life-saving, SKILLSGURU presents a few glossaries explaining the domains of overseas manpower recruitment and travel and tourism. Skills Guru hopes that people who are unfamiliar with it will find this glossary helpful. Let us continue with Passport that ranks first in these fields even though it is not regarded as a glossary.

tinations into a single trip. They can also use the index to quickly identify visa-free locations that are appropriate for short-term educational programs, medical treatments, and business travel.

**Planning for strategic policy** - Governments can improve travel opportunities for their citizens and negotiate visa agreements with other nations by using passport index 2024 data for diplomatic initiatives and strategic planning. The Passport Index helps governments stay up to date on changes to visa requirements and entry requirements for other countries by providing information on the latest updates to the visa policies of various countries. Countries can use this useful dataset to identify their competitors in the competitive tourism industry and market themselves as desirable travel destinations.

#### Sources of information for Passport Index

Information for the passport index is gathered from numerous credible and official sources. Data provided by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) is its main source of information. This information is cross-checked and complemented with reliable data collected from relevant government websites, including government tourism agencies, foreign affairs ministries, and diplomatic missions, including embassies and consulates, worldwide. It also gets information from official, knowledgeable sources in

the area of visa policies, including major international airlines.

#### CATEGORIES OF DESTINATIONS TO WHICH PASSPORTS ARE LINKED IN PASSPORT INDEX-

Each passport is linked to five primary categories of destinations. **Visa-free access:** encompasses destinations that can be visited without a visa. **Visa on arrival:** This refers to destinations where a visa can be acquired at the airport or border crossing. **Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA):** Referring to destinations where holders of passports can apply for an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA). **Visa Online:** Identifying locations that require the online application of an e-Visa prior to travel. **Visa Required:** Denoting destinations that require the conventional visa application procedure, which frequently involves a visa sticker attached to the passport and is completed at embassies, consulates, or visa application centers (VACs).

#### How useful is the passport index?

**Check the rank of your passport:** The rank of each passport (its place among all international passports) and comprehensive lists of visa-free travel destinations accessible to passport holders are among the details included in the passport index. **Explore the destinations that do not require a**

**visa:** The lists of all travel destinations and their classifications, whether they allow visa-free access, offer visas on arrival, provide electronic travel authorizations (ETA), require e-visas, or demand traditional visas, can be explored using the passport index. **Passport comparison:** The Passports Index also makes it simple to compare various passports in terms of their ranking, strength, and the quantity and specifics of visa-free travel locations that each one permits.

#### POWERFUL PASSPORT?

A powerful passport is one that enables its bearer to enter numerous nations without a visa or with a visa on arrival. Diplomatic ties, political stability, economic power, and regional agreements are some of the factors that affect a passport's strength. The average number of visa-free travel destinations worldwide has almost doubled, rising from 58 in 2006 to 111 in 2024. But now more than ever there is a global mobility gap between the top and bottom of the index. In 2024, for instance, a Singaporean passport holder can enter 169 more countries without a visa than a person with an Afghan passport. Singapore's passport has regained its position as the most powerful in the world. With a visa-free destination score of 58, Indian passport holders are ranked 83rd on the index. The most powerful passport belongs to the nation with the highest score for visa-free travel.

#### What Makes Some Passports More Powerful Than

#### Others?

Depending on your passport, traveling abroad can be easy or difficult. The power of a passport is based on the number of countries that its bearer can enter visa-free (If the passport holder can enter the country without prior permission from the destination's governing authorities, the destination is said to be visa-free. E-visas upon arrival would still be regarded as visa-free under this classification) or with one upon arrival. This improves global mobility by lowering travel restrictions. Furthermore, the strength of a nation's economy, stability, and diplomacy are all reflected in its passport. Individuals benefit from increased personal freedom, new business prospects, and simple access to global markets. In summary, having a strong passport gives you access to a lot of exciting new opportunities. It can help you grow your business network or provide your family with a top-notch education and lifestyle.

#### Here follows the Global Passport Ranking-2024:

\* Singapore (195 locations)  
\* France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain (192 locations)  
\* Denmark, Austria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden (191 locations)  
\* Belgium, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom (190 locations)  
\* Australia, Portugal (189 locations)  
\* Greece, Poland (188 locations)  
\* Canada, Czech, Hungary, Malta (187 locations)  
\* United States (186 locations)  
\* Estonia, Lithuania, United Arab Emirates (185 locations)  
\* Iceland, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia (184 locations)  
\* Croatia, Malaysia (183 locations)  
\* Liechtenstein (182 locations)  
\* Cyprus, Monaco (178 locations)  
\* Bulgaria, Romania (177 locations)  
\* Chile (176 locations)  
\* San Marino, Argentina (172 locations)  
\* Andorra, Brazil, Hong Kong (171 locations)  
\* Israel (170 locations)  
\* Brunei (166 locations)  
\* Barbados (165 locations).

(Glossary of Passport concludes here / Glossary will be continued)