



**कौटिल्य एकेडमी**

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**PRELIMS+MAINS QUICK REVISION**



## Henley Passport Index 2023

- ➔ According to the Henley Passport Index 2023, Singapore has become the most powerful passport, while the Indian passport has now come down to the 80th position. In which now you can roam in 57 countries.
- ➔ According to the ranking, Japan has been replaced by Singapore, which now officially has the most powerful passport in the world. Singapore citizens can travel visa-free to 192 out of 227 travel destinations around the world.



- **Germany, Italy and Spain** are in **second place**.
- **Japan**, which topped the Henley Passport Index for five years, slipped to the third spot.
- **Austria, Finland, France, Luxembourg, South Korea and Sweden** are in third place with **Japan**.
- **Henley Passport Index** for its citizens is a global ranking of countries according to travel freedom.
- It originated in 2006 as the Henley & Partners Visa Restrictions Index (HVRI).
- This is a ranking of all passports in the world by the number of destinations their holders can reach without prior visas.
- The index covers **199 different passports** and **227 different travel destinations**.
- The number of countries a particular passport can access becomes its visa-free '**score**'.
- In collaboration with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and based on official data from their global database, Henley & Partners analyzes visa regulations for all countries and territories in the world.



# दुनिया के दस सबसे

## शक्तिशाली पासपोर्ट

- 1 सिंगापुर
- 2 जर्मनी, इटली, स्पेन
- 3 ऑस्ट्रिया, फिनलैंड, फ्रांस, जापान, साउथ कोरिया, लक्जमबर्ग, स्वीडन
- 4 डेनमार्क, आयरलैंड, नीदरलैंड, ब्रिटेन
- 5 बेल्जियम, चेक रिपब्लिक, माल्टा, न्यूजीलैंड, नार्वे, पुर्तगाल, स्विटजरलैंड
- 6 ऑस्ट्रेलिया, हंगरी, पोलैंड
- 7 कनाडा, ग्रीस
- 8 लिथुआनिया, अमेरिका
- 9 लातविया, स्लोवाकिया, स्लोवेनिया
- 10 एस्टोनिया, आइसलैंड

स्रोत - हेनले पासपोर्ट इंडेक्स 2023

## UK illegal immigration bill

- **UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's** illegal immigration bill has cleared a long-standing parliamentary roadblock and will soon become law after **King Charles III's** royal assent.
- The legislation would make it the Home Secretary's duty to remove illegal immigrants from the UK and make significant changes to existing protections for asylum seekers.



क्यों नावों से  
पहुंचने वालों  
को  
घुसपैठिया  
मान रहा  
ब्रिटेन?

- ➔ By reducing access to asylum routes, the bill seeks to prevent illegal migration into the country – particularly through small boats **crossing the English Channel**.
- ➔ According to one figure, those arriving in the UK via small boats for asylum will comprise **about 45%** of the applications made in 2022, which was **close to 89,000**.
- ➔ The Home Secretary can detain people coming to the UK illegally and send them to either Rwanda or another **"safe"** third country.
- ➔ Migrants will be denied the right to bail or judicial review for the first 28 days of their immigration detention.
- ➔ The bill would also seek to set a limit on the number of refugees who **"may be allowed to settle in the UK through safe and legal routes"**.
- ➔ At the moment, this only applies to people from **Afghanistan** and **Ukraine** or holders of British national status in Hong Kong.
- ➔ The new bill will also allow the government to detain children for up to eight days, and that too only if they have applied for bail.

# यूनाइटेड किंगडम

स्कॉटलैंड

उत्तरी आयरलैंड

इंग्लैंड

वेल्स



## New Guidelines for Senior Advocates

- The Supreme Court has published new guidelines titled '**Guidelines for Designation of Senior Advocates by the Supreme Court of India, 2023**' for how lawyers will be appointed as senior advocates in the apex court.
- The guidelines come after a recent judgment delivered by a three-judge bench in a case seeking amendment of the '**Senior Advocate**' designation guidelines.
- Following the **Indira Jaising vs Union of India, 2017 judgment**, the bench modified the guidelines issued by the **SC in 2018**.
- In February 2023, the Central Government filed an application seeking an amendment to the Guidelines for Designation of Senior Advocates issued by the Supreme Court following the **2017 judgment**.
- The 2017 guidelines were based on a point-based system, with 40% weightage given to publications, personality and suitability via interview.
- The Center argued that the system is subjective, ineffective, and "undermines the honour and dignity traditionally accorded.



- ➔ The new guidelines fix the minimum age for applying for the post of **'Senior Advocate' at 45 years.**
- ➔ This age limit can be relaxed by the Standing Committee, the **Chief Justice of India** or a Judge of the Supreme Court if they have recommended the name of an advocate.
- ➔ Earlier, the guidelines stated that 15 marks were set aside for publications. However, the new guidelines state that **"publications of academic articles, teaching experience in the field of law"** and **"guest lectures delivered at law schools and professional institutions affiliated with law"** will be given only 5 marks.
- ➔ The 2023 guidelines specify that the CJI "may recommend in writing the name of an advocate for designation with any judge of the Supreme Court.
- ➔ Further, the weightage given to reported and unreported judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) has been **increased from 40 to 50 marks** in the new guidelines.



**वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता पदनाम के लिए नए दिशानिर्देश**  
**स्थायी समिति के विचाराधीन पिछले**  
**आवेदनों को अपडेट करना होगा**

# Democratic Republic of Congo

→ **Capital:** Kinshasa

→ **The United Arab Emirates** has signed a **\$1.9 billion deal** with a state-owned mining company in the African country of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to develop at least four mines in the restive eastern region.





- ➔ The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the largest country in **Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)**.
- ➔ The DRC is endowed with extraordinary natural resources, including minerals such as cobalt and copper, hydroelectric potential, significant arable land, vast biodiversity, and the world's second-largest rainforest after the Amazon.
- ➔ State-owned **Sakima** has mining concessions for tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold in that part of the DRC.
- ➔ The DRC has substantial reserves of untapped gold, cobalt and high-grade copper, but a lack of infrastructure poses equally significant security risks.
- ➔ Cobalt, one of the key metals for the production of electric vehicles, places the DRC in a strategic position for the energy transition.
- ➔ In 2020, the DRC was the world's largest cobalt miner with a production of **95,000 tonnes** or **about 41% of the world's cobalt**.
- ➔ **Democratic Republic of the Congo** is a country located in Central Africa.

- It is bordered by the **Central African Republic** and **South Sudan** to the north, **Uganda**, **Rwanda**, **Burundi** and **Tanzania** to the east; **Zambia** to the southeast; And in the southwest it is **surrounded by Angola**.
- **Major river:** Congo River (formerly Zaire River).
- **Highest mountain:** Mount Stanley.
- **Resources:** Diamonds, cobalt and copper.

