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UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION (UNSC)

- India started a four-year term as a member of the UNSC
- UNSC, established in 1946 is the highest body of global statistical system
- Members: Consists of 24 member countries of UN elected by ECOSOC

HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX 2024 (HPI)

- HPI was released by Henley & Partners, a global leader in residence and citizenship planning
- HPI ranks different passports according to number of destinations their holders can visit without a prior visa
- It covers 227 destinations and 199 passports
- Rankings are based on data provided by International Air Transport Association
- India stands at 80th rank in list of most powerful passports

NEWS IN SHORTS IR 3

HAGUE APOSTILLE CONVENTION, 1961

- Allahabad High Court mandates that India, a member of the Apostille Convention, must accept foreign apostille-authenticated documents
- It simplified the global circulation of public documents
- These public documents include certificates of birth, marriage, and death, and educational documents among others
- Contracting parties issue an Apostille certificate to authenticate a document's origin, allowing it to be presented abroad to another Contracting Party
- Non-member countries require extra certification from the State of origin for document acceptance

UAE-INDIA CEPA COUNCIL (UICC)

- UAE-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) Council (UICC) was launched at India- United Arab Emirates (UAE) Business Summit
- UICC will encourage close partnerships and tangible cooperation across all levels of UAE and Indian business communities
- India- UAE CEPA came into force in 2022
- It is the first full free trade Agreement to be signed by India with any country in past decade
- It covers Trade in Goods and services, Rules of Origin, customs cooperation, Dispute Settlement etc



NEWS IN SHORTS IR 3

UN Statistical Commission(UNSC)

- India started its **four-year term** as a member of the **UN Statistical Commission** in 2024.
- The **UN Statistical Commission**, established in **1947**, is the **highest body of the global statistical system**.
- **Members:** It consists of **24 member countries**, elected by the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** for four-year terms.

Hague Apostille Convention (1961)

The **Allahabad High Court** has ruled that India, as a member of the **Hague Apostille Convention (1961)**, must accept foreign documents authenticated through an Apostille certificate. This mandate simplifies public documents being recognized abroad, aligning India with the convention's principles.

The Hague Apostille Convention is an international treaty that simplifies the authentication of public documents for use across borders. Key details include:

1. **Purpose:** It streamlines the global circulation of public documents, removing the need for extensive legalization processes.
2. **Public Documents Covered:** Examples include **birth, marriage, and death certificates**, as well as **educational and legal documents**.
3. **Apostille Certificate:**
 - Contracting parties issue this certificate to authenticate a document's origin.
 - Documents with an Apostille are valid and can be directly used by another **Contracting Party**.
4. **Non-Member Countries:** Documents from non-member nations require additional certification by the issuing State before they can be accepted internationally.

UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC)

The **UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC)** was launched at the **India-UAE Business Summit** to strengthen economic collaboration and partnerships between the two countries. The council focuses on fostering deeper ties across the business communities of both nations.

Key Features of UICC:

1. **Encouragement of Cooperation:** Promotes partnerships at all levels, especially among start-ups, women entrepreneurs, **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**, and the services sector.



2. CEPA Overview:

- **Launch Year:** CEPA came into force in 2022, marking India's first full Free Trade Agreement in over a decade.
- **Scope:** Covers trade in goods and services, rules of origin, customs cooperation, and dispute resolution mechanisms.
- **Growth Impact:** Bilateral trade has risen by approximately 15% since the agreement's implementation.

Henley Passport Index 2024(HPI)

The **Henley Passport Index (HPI)**, published by **Henley & Partners**, is a global ranking of passports based on the number of destinations their holders can travel to without a prior visa. It is a significant tool for assessing the power and accessibility offered by different nationalities.

India's Position:

- Ranked **80th** on the index.
- Indian passport holders have **visa-free access to 62 nations**.

About the Henley Passport Index:

- **Scope:** Evaluates **227 destinations** worldwide and includes **199 passports**.
- **Data Source:** Rankings are based on information from the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**.
- **Top Ranked Passports:**
 - Countries like **France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, and Singapore** share the **number one spot**.
 - Holders of these passports enjoy the highest global mobility.