

India Serves

A Monthly Newsletter by

SEPC

SERVICES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

Setup by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India

VOL II, ISSUE V - September, 2021



INDIA

A GREAT DESTINATION FOR MEDICAL TOURISM

SERVICES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
Setup by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India

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India Serves

A SEPC NEWSLETTER

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SEPC

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Maneck E. Davar
Chairman, SEPC



In June 2021, Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India came out with a draft National Medical Strategy & Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism. The draft strategy paper highlights Healthcare and Tourism as the fastest growing industries in the world.

Medical value travel is being promoted as a fusion product of these industries. Medical value travel has grown across the globe and numerous possibilities still remain unexplored. The key drivers of growth of MVT are:

- i. Affordability and Accessibility of good healthcare services
- ii. Facilitation around hospitality services
- iii. Minimal waiting time
- iv. Availability of latest medical technologies and Accreditations

Thailand, Mexico, US, Singapore, India, Brazil, Turkey, and Taiwan are the top destinations in terms of number of patients for Medical Value Travel. The global medical value travel market size is in the range of USD 60-80 Billion and some 14 million people travel across the borders for medical tourism.

SEPC is now closely working with Ministry of Tourism and synergising the efforts to promote MVT and Wellness tourism by focussing on:

- » Developing a brand for India as a wellness destination
- » Strengthening the ecosystem for medical and wellness tourism
- » Enabling digitalization by setting up Online MVT Portal
- » Enhancement of accessibility for MVT
- » Promoting Wellness Tourism
- » Governance and Institutional Framework

While presenting this issue of India Serves featuring Medical Value Tourism, I would request you to participate in B2B, knowledge sessions and business networking being planned during the week of 27 Jan-2 Feb 2022 at World Expo Dubai. We will be focussing on Healthcare systems, Health-tech (tele-medicine), Community-led health delivery and Wellbeing & happiness. You will soon receive a detailed communication on the same.

The announcement of allocation of Rs.10000/- crores under SEIS including pending claims is a recognition of our fervent efforts in getting due acknowledgment of services sector at par with manufacturing and expected continuity of similar kind of incentives in upcoming Foreign Trade Policy. We thank our Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry and Hon'ble Minister of Finance for taking note of SEPC's effort on behalf of services sector.

You are aware that as per DGFT notification No. 26/2015-2020, dated 16th September 2021, the last date for submission of online applications for SEIS (for services exports rendered in FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20) stands revised to 31st December 2021.

Keeping in view this short window for application submission, SEPC is constituting a Special SEIS cell to assist submission of online applications, clarifications on admissible CPC codes and issues related to pending claims. The Cell will be closely co-ordinating with DGFT as well.

Please feel free to write back to us.

Yours Sincerely

Maneck Davar

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES OFFERED BY SEPC



Services
Export Promotion
Council set up in
2006 by Ministry
of Commerce
& Industry,
Government of
India is an apex
trade body to
promote exports
of services
from India.

Key role in Foreign Trade Policy, Export Strategy formulation by Department of Commerce and related Govt Departments.

Interface between Services Sector and Government

Provides inputs on Trade Negotiations

Represents Services Sector in various Joint Trade Committees, Joint Business Councils and Joint Working Groups of Government of India to facilitate export.

Creates Business opportunities in global market place for services exporters

Providing commercially useful information and assistance to members in increasing exports.

Organising visits of delegation of its members abroad to explore overseas market opportunities.

Organising participation of Services exporters in specialised International Trade Fairs.

Dissemination of government notification, orders, information on trade and other relevant information to members.

Facilitates execution of Government Schemes like SEIS.



Services Covered under SEPC

In order to enhance the competitiveness of services exports and enable services industry to generate employment, the Union Cabinet chaired by Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2018 identified 12 Champion Services Sector.

The following table provides the mapping of identified Champion Services vis-a vis the services covered under SEPC and BPM6 classification. Sixth edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6) is developed by IMF in collaboration with compilers and other interested parties worldwide and used by most of the countries to record and report services trade data.

S.N.	Services covered under SEPC	Champion Services	BPM6 Classification
1	Accounting/Auditing and Bookkeeping Services	Accounting and Finance Services	Other business services
2	Consultancy Services	-	
3	Legal Services	Legal services	
4	Architectural Services and related services	Construction and related Engineering services	
5	Environmental services	Environmental services	
6	Marketing Research and Public Opinion Polling Services/ Management services	-	
7	Advertising Services	-	
8	Printing and Publishing services	-	
9	Other services (IT & ITES, Communication Services)	IT & ITES, Communication services	Telecommunications, computer, and information services
10	Hotel and Tourism Related Services	Tourism and Hospitality Services	Travel
11	Education Services	Education services	
12	Healthcare services including services by nurses, physiotherapist and paramedical personnel	Medical Value Travel Services	
13	Maritime Transport Services	Transport and Logistics services	Transport
14	Distribution Services		
15	Other services (Financial Services)	Financial Services	Financial services
			Insurance and pension services
16	Entertainment services including Audio-visual services	Audio-visual services	Personal, cultural, and recreational services
17	Other Services	-	Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.
		-	Government goods and services n.i.e.
		-	Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others
		-	Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.
		Construction and related Engineering services	Construction
			Services not allocated

SERVICE EXPORTS FROM
INDIA SCHEME (SEIS)

Sector coverage

Medical Value Travel

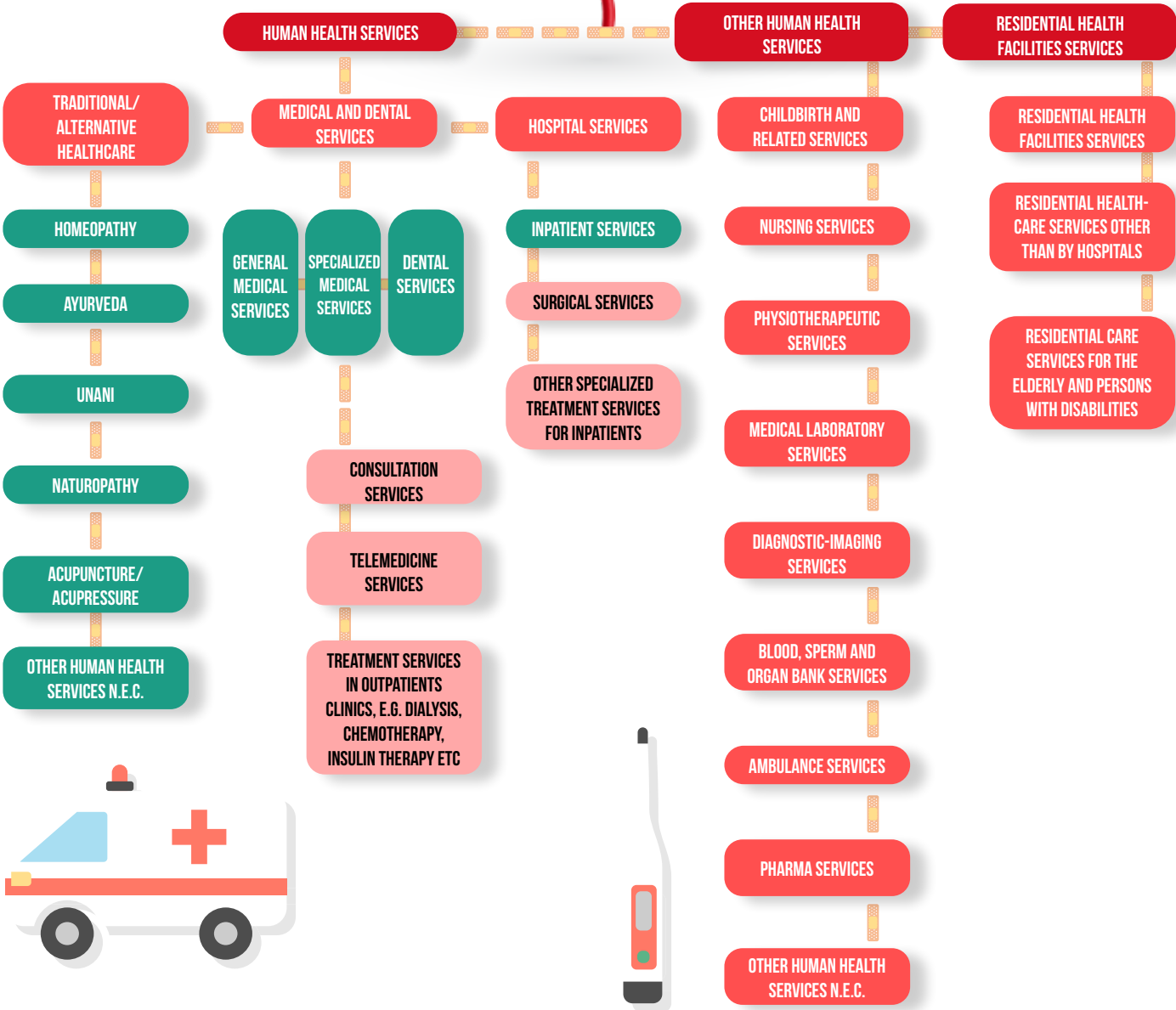


Champion Sectors	SEPC Sectors	GATS (WTO) Classification	UN CPC Provisional CODE	Services Description	Covered under Appendix 3D of SEIS?
Medical Value Travel	Healthcare services including services by nurses, physiotherapist and paramedical personnel	Human Health Services	9311	Hospital services	Covered
			93110	Hospital services	Covered
			9312	Medical and dental services	Covered
			93121	General medical services	Covered
			93122	Specialized medical services	Covered
			93123	Dental services	Covered
			9319	Other human health services	Covered
			93191	Deliveries and related services, nursing services, physiotherapeutic and para medical services	Covered
			93192	Ambulance services	Not Covered
			93193	Residential health facilities services other than hospital services	Not Covered
			93199	Other human health services n.e.c.	Not Covered
		Veterinary services	9320	Veterinary services	Covered
			93201	Veterinary services for pet animals	Covered
			93209	Other veterinary services	Covered



HEALTHCARE SERVICES

MEDICAL VALUE TRAVEL (MVT)



INDIA A GREAT DESTINATION FOR MEDICAL TOURISM

Medical tourism is defined as ‘activities related to travel and hosting a foreign tourist who stays at least one night at the destination region for the purpose of maintaining, improving or restoring health through medical intervention’. [†] Such medical intervention may be broadly classified into following three categories:

Medical Treatment: Treatment for curative purpose that may include cardiac surgery, organ transplant, hip and knee replacement etc.

Wellness & Rejuvenation: Offerings focused on rejuvenation or for aesthetic reasons such as cosmetic surgery, stress relief, spas etc.

Alternative Cures: Access to alternative systems of medicines such as India's offering of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy).

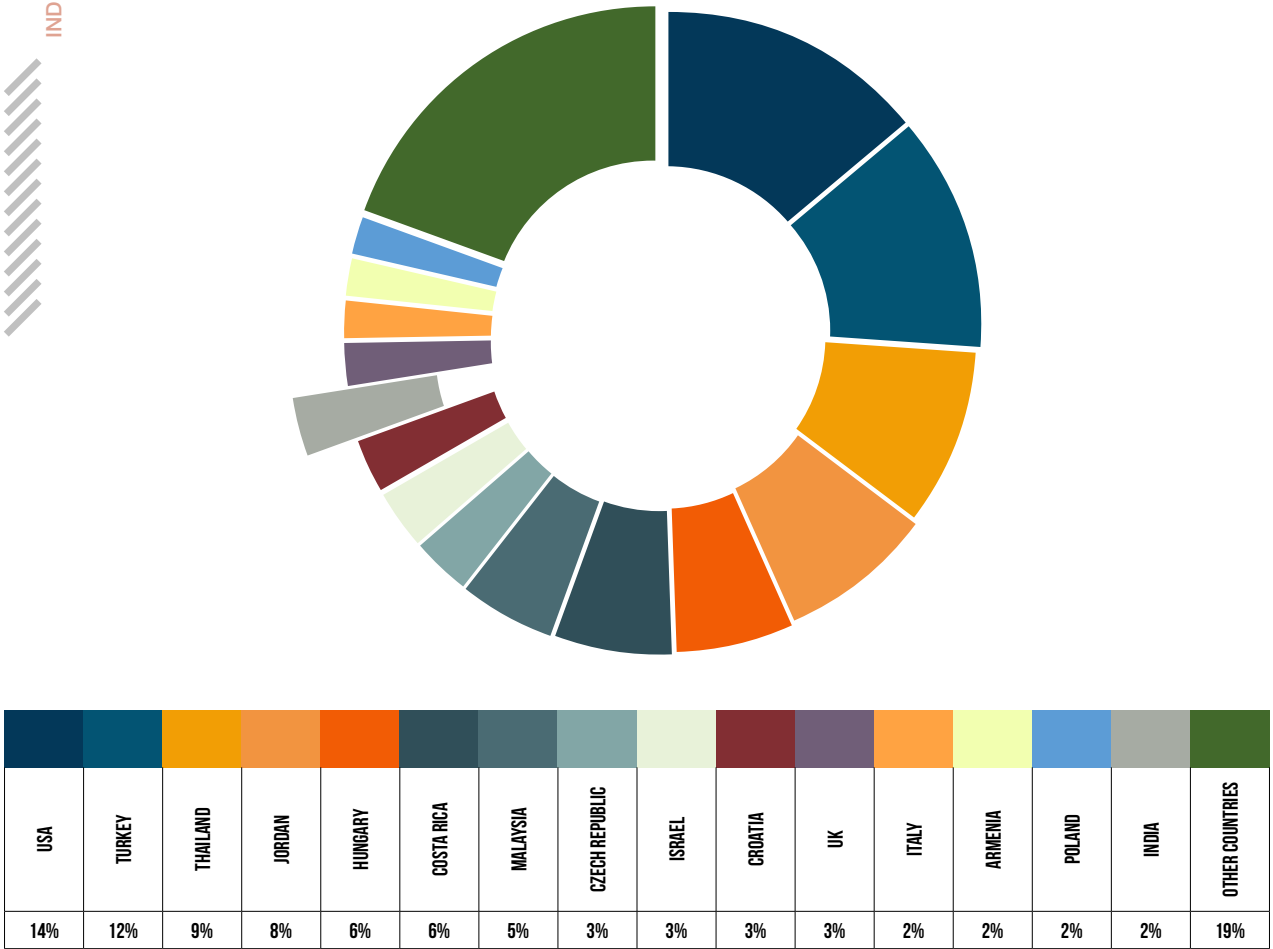
Medical tourism is also often referred as Medical Value Travel (MVT) as it captures patient's healthcare seeking behaviour as well as the wider economic impact of such travel on nations hosting them.

The total global export market of medical value travel services was 8.2 billion USD in the year 2019. United States is the top exporter of medical value travel receiving 14 percent of global foreign patients, followed by Turkey with 12 percent, Thailand with 9 percent, Jordan with 8 percent, Hungary and Costa Rica both with 6 percent and Malaysia with 5 percent. World's top 10 countries represented more than 70 percent of global MVT exports in terms of revenue in 2019. Up until 20th Century, the trend of medical services trade was that wealthy people from less developed countries were used to travel to developed countries for medical and wellness treatment as the developed world was equipped with better facilities and trained medical professionals. This trend is undergoing a major change for last 20-30 years in terms of quality, quantity and direction of flows. The major difference is that now people are travelling from developed countries to less developed countries mostly within regions and as a result a big market for medical tourism is emerging becoming a major source of revenue for some developing and underdeveloped countries.

The key features of the new trend of medical tourism are:

- The number of people travelling for medical and wellness treatment has multiplied;
- There is a shift towards patients from developed countries travelling to less developed countries to access healthcare services, largely because of lower cost treatments, easy movements, cheap and frequent flights, easy access to information through internet and state of the art infrastructure, availability of expertise;
- With liberalisation and privatisation, private sector, many a times with support from foreign investments, and governments are making contributions in promoting medical tourism as a profitable business and great source of foreign revenue.

Figure 1: World’s top exporters of Medical Value Travel services in terms of revenues - 2019

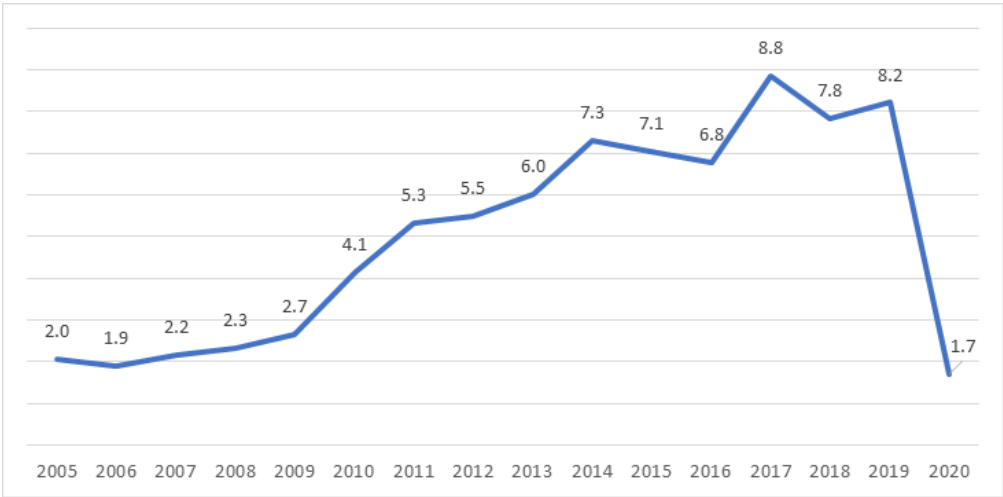


Source: Trade Map

Medical Value Travel has grown around the world at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10 percent between 2005 to 2019. Unfortunately, in the year 2020, it fell down by 79 percent due to Covid-19 pandemic to 1.7 billion USD from 8.2 billion USD in 2019. Top exporters of healthcare services in the world are USA with 14 percent global

market share followed by Turkey with 12 percent share, and Thailand with 9 percent market share. Jordan has 8 percent market share and receives overseas patients from the region of Middle East majorly patients from Saudi Arabia and Syria. India is 15th largest exporter of MVT in the world with around 2 percent global market share.

Figure 2: Global exports of Medical Value Travel services - 2005-20

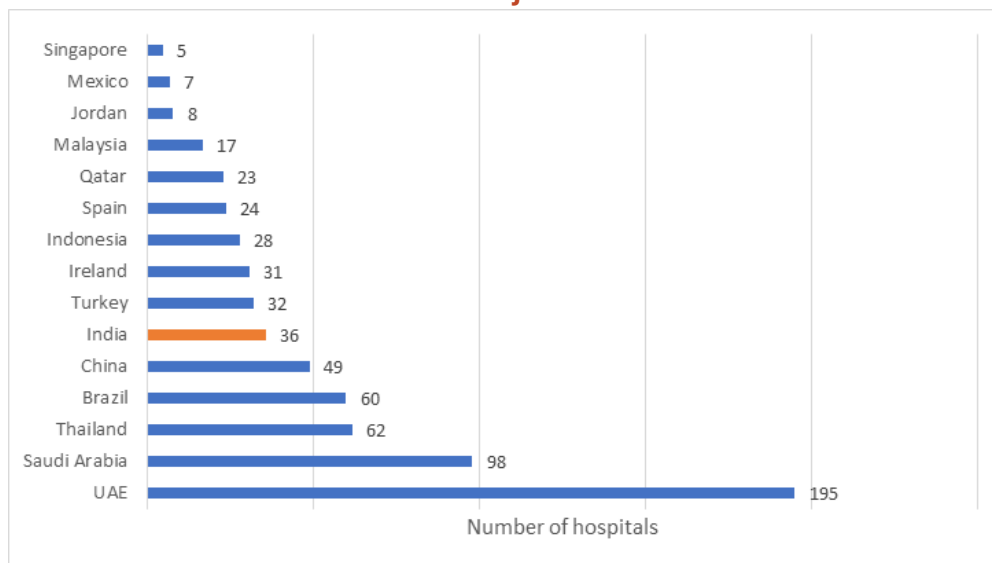


Patients Beyond Borders pegged the medical tourism market size at USD \$74-92 billion, based on approximately 21-26 million cross-border patients worldwide in 2019, spending an average of USD \$3550 per visit, including medically-related costs, cross-border and local transport, inpatient stay and accommodations. As per their estimates, some 2.1 million Americans travelled outside the US for medical care in 2019.

International accreditation has become one of the biggest drivers in the growth of the medical tourism in a country. The US-based Joint Commission launched its international affiliate agency in 1999, the Joint Commis-

sion International (JCI) for accreditation standards. In order to be accredited by the JCI, an international hospital must meet the same set of rigorous standards set forth in the US by the Joint Commission. More than 950 hospitals and clinical departments around the world have now been awarded JCI accreditation and that number is growing by about 20% per year. Also, there are agencies that accredit outpatient clinics, such as The Accreditation Association of Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) and The American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAASF) who have launched international initiatives that address ambulatory care.

Figure 3: Number of JCI accredited hospitals in selected major countries - 2021



United Arab Emirates has highest number of JCI accredited hospitals in the world followed by Saudi Arabia. Thailand which is among the top destinations for overseas patients has third largest number of JCI accredited hospitals with 62 hospitals as on August 2021. JCI is no doubt an important determinant for

the inflow of overseas patients in the country for medical treatment but there are countries who have been performing very well as a destination for medical solution but they have very less JCI accredited hospitals such as Singapore, Mexico, Jordan and Malaysia.



Table 1: Medical Tourism Index (2020-21)

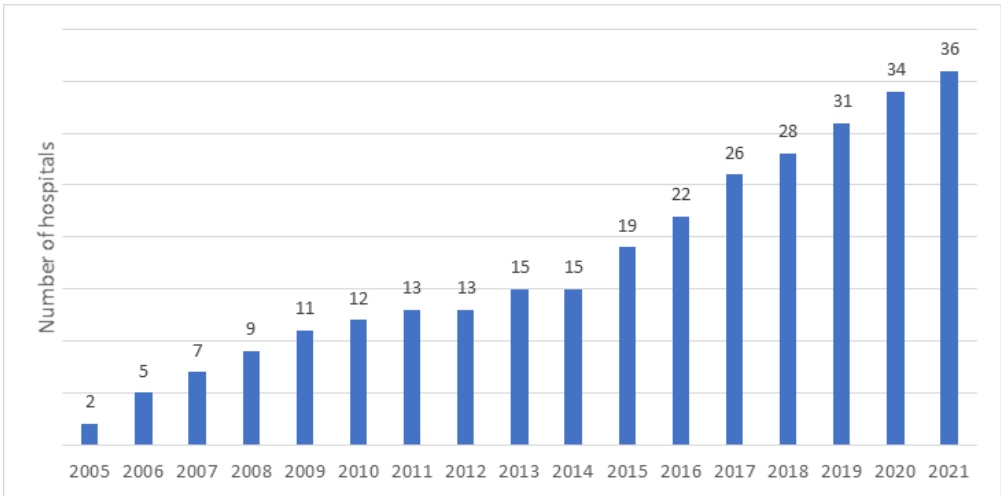
Rank	Country	Score
#1	Canada	76.47
#2	Singapore	76.43
#3	Japan	74.23
#4	Spain	72.93
#5	United Kingdom	71.92
#6	Dubai	71.85
#7	Costa Rica	71.73
#8	Israel	70.78
#9	Abu Dhabi	70.26
#10	India	69.80

Source: Medical Tourism Association

Medical Tourism Index (MTI) is constructed by Medical Tourism Association considering factors like tourist popularity, medical facility quality, hospital accreditation, healthcare costs, economic stability, and the overall environment of the destination.

In terms Medical Tourism Costs, India is at third position after Canada and Costa Rica. In terms of Facility and Services, India is at fourth position after Canada, Singapore and Israel. India scores low in the indicator of “Destination environment”.

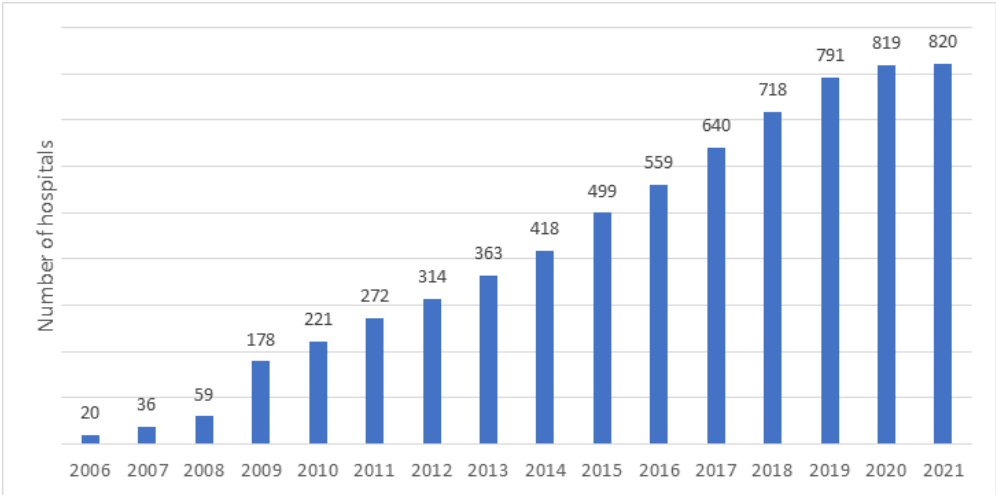
Figure 4: Number of JCI Accredited Hospitals in India (2005 – 2021)



Source: Joint Commission International

India has its own accreditation agency, National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Health-care Providers (NABH) which was established in 2005 by Quality Council of India. There are 820 hospitals as on August 2021, who have been accredited by NABH in India. Besides this, there are 36 hospitals in India which have been awarded JCI accreditation as well. On average 2-3 Indian hospitals receive JCI accreditation and more than 50 hospitals receive NABH accreditation every year.

Figure 5: NABH Accredited hospitals in India (2006-2021)



Source: NABH

As per the latest information available, India is among the countries that offer healthcare services at lowest rates. As per the analysis of Patients Beyond Borders, using US costs across a variety of specialties and procedures as a benchmark, average range of savings for the most-travelled destinations is;

S.N.	Country	Savings
1	Brazil	20-30%
2	Costa Rica	45-65%
3	India	65-90%
4	Malaysia	65-80%
5	Mexico	40-65%
6	Singapore	25-40%
7	South Korea	30-45%
8	Taiwan	40-55%
9	Thailand	50-75%
10	Turkey	50-65%



Table 2: Cost comparison of medical treatment among selected countries - 2021

Medical Treatments (Cost in USD)	Colombia	India	Jordan	Mexico	S. Korea	Thailand	Ukraine	Vietnam
Angioplasty	\$11,700	\$5,500 - 6,200	NA	\$5,000 - 12,000	NA	\$10,938	\$4,000	\$8,510 - 12,290
Heart Bypass	\$11,200	\$7,000	NA	\$15,000 - 35,000	- NA	\$17,188	\$12,000 - 22,000	- NA
Heart Valve Replacement	\$20,000	\$11,500 - 8,500	NA	\$10,000 - 35,000	- NA	\$21,188	\$6,000 - 8,000	NA
Hip Replacement	\$8,000	\$14,000 - 7,000	\$5,640 - 7,050	\$13,500	\$25,000	\$7,813	\$3,500 - 4,500	\$6,280 - 9,860
Hip Resurfacing	\$8,000	\$8,800	NA	\$12,000	NA	\$7,000	\$3,500 - 4,500	NA
Knee Replacement	\$8,000	\$6,000 - 12,000	\$4,230 - 5,640	\$12,500	\$20,000	\$6,563 - 12,500	\$3,500 - 4,500	\$6,900 - 9,490
Spinal Fusion	\$27,000	\$12,000	NA	\$16,000	\$23,000	\$9,500	\$3,000	\$6,800 - 7,160
Dental Implant	\$1,500	NA	\$635 - 915	\$975	\$1,500	\$1,719 - 2,813	\$500 - 700	\$1,800 - 2,200
Lap Band	NA	\$6,500	NA	\$5,000	NA	\$13,000	NA	\$7,200 - 8,750
Gastric Sleeve	\$5,500	\$7,500	\$2,540 - 3,245	\$6,500	\$18,000	\$9,000 - 15,000	\$5,000	\$7,010 - 8,290
Gastric Bypass	\$7,000	\$9,000	\$3,950 - 6,350	\$8,000	\$20,000	\$16,800	\$5,500	NA
Hysterectomy	\$5,200	\$3,800	\$2,820 - 3,530	\$6,000	\$11,000	\$3,585 - 7,700	\$1,500 - 2,000	\$2,600 - 3,110
Breast Implants	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$2,120 - 2,540	\$4,200	\$5,000	\$1,750	\$3,650	\$3,610 - 5,240
Rhinoplasty	\$3,000	\$6,200	\$2,120 - 3,250	\$3,600	\$4,100	\$313 - 625	\$3,500	\$780 - 3,110
Face Lift	\$5,200	\$7,200	NA	\$6,200	\$6,000	\$2,813	\$4,050	\$2,320 - 3,220
Liposuction	\$4,500	\$4,800	\$2,540 - 3,530	\$2,500	NA	\$1,875	\$270	\$5,110 - 6,480
Tummy Tuck	\$5,000	\$7,800	\$3,530 - 4,230	\$4,200	NA	\$7,143	\$3,800	\$3,770 - 4,080
Lasik (both eyes)	\$1,000	NA	\$775 - 920	\$1,400	\$2,700	\$2,650	\$800 - 1,200	\$1,320 - 1,530
Cornea (per eye)	\$2,500	NA	\$4,940 - 5,640	NA	NA	\$5,188	\$800 - 1,500	\$690 - 1,070
Cataract Surgery (per eye)	\$2,000	\$1,400	\$1,060 - 1200	\$2,500	\$2,700	\$1,800	\$600 - 2,000	\$1,000 - 1,260
IVF Treatment	\$13,000	\$6,500	\$2,540 - 5,640	\$6,500	\$8,000	\$3,750 - 15,625	\$1,500 - 3,500	NA

Source: Medical Tourism Association

India in Medical Value Travel Market:

India has one of the largest healthcare industries in the world with one of the largest networks of hospitals. India has a total of 69,364 hospitals (43,486 private hospitals, and 25,778 public hospitals) with 1.2 million registered doctors, achieving WHO recommended doctor population ratio. Indian doctors and nurses are not only offering their services domestically but also globally. Every 7th doctor in the United States is Indian, India is the largest exporter of doctors and nurses to Europe. Overall, India's healthcare industry is worth around US\$100 billion.

Significant reforms have been carried out in the field of medical education. During the last six years, MBBS Seats in the country have increased by 56% from 54,348 seats in 2014 to 84,649 seats in 2020 and the number of PG seats have increased by 80% from 30,191 seats in 2014 to 54,275 seats in 2020.

During the same period, 179 new medical colleges have been established and now the country has 558 (Govt: 289, Pvt: 269) medical colleges.

India is performing quite well in the Medical Value Travel and has been able to attract large number of foreign patients. India was included among top 10 best medical services providers in the world by Medical Treatment Index (MTI), 2020-21. This is despite the fact that India is among the lowest spending countries in the world on healthcare services. Share of India's healthcare expenditure as a percentage of GDP is only 3.6 percent, whereas world's average is around 10 percent. India's MVT competitors spend much higher than India; Canada – 10.8 percent, Israel – 7.5 percent, Japan – 11 percent, Jordan – 7.8 percent, Korea – 7.6 percent, Thailand – 3.8 percent.

Figure 6: Top origins of foreign patients in India - region wise

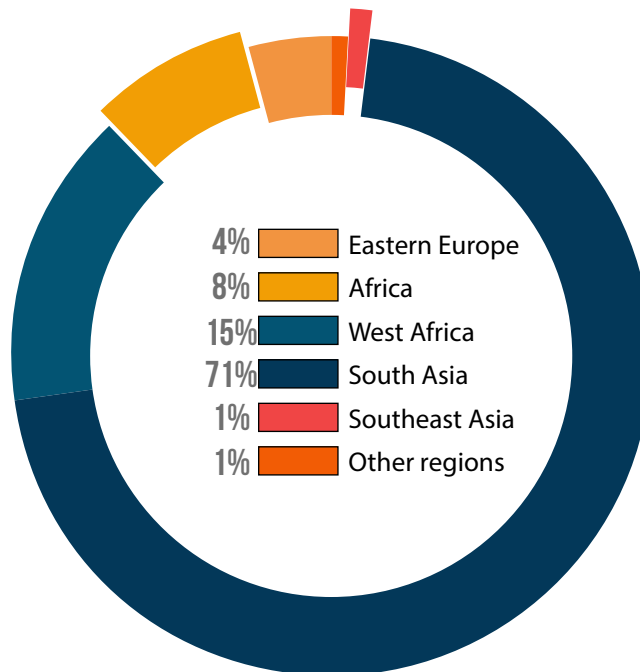
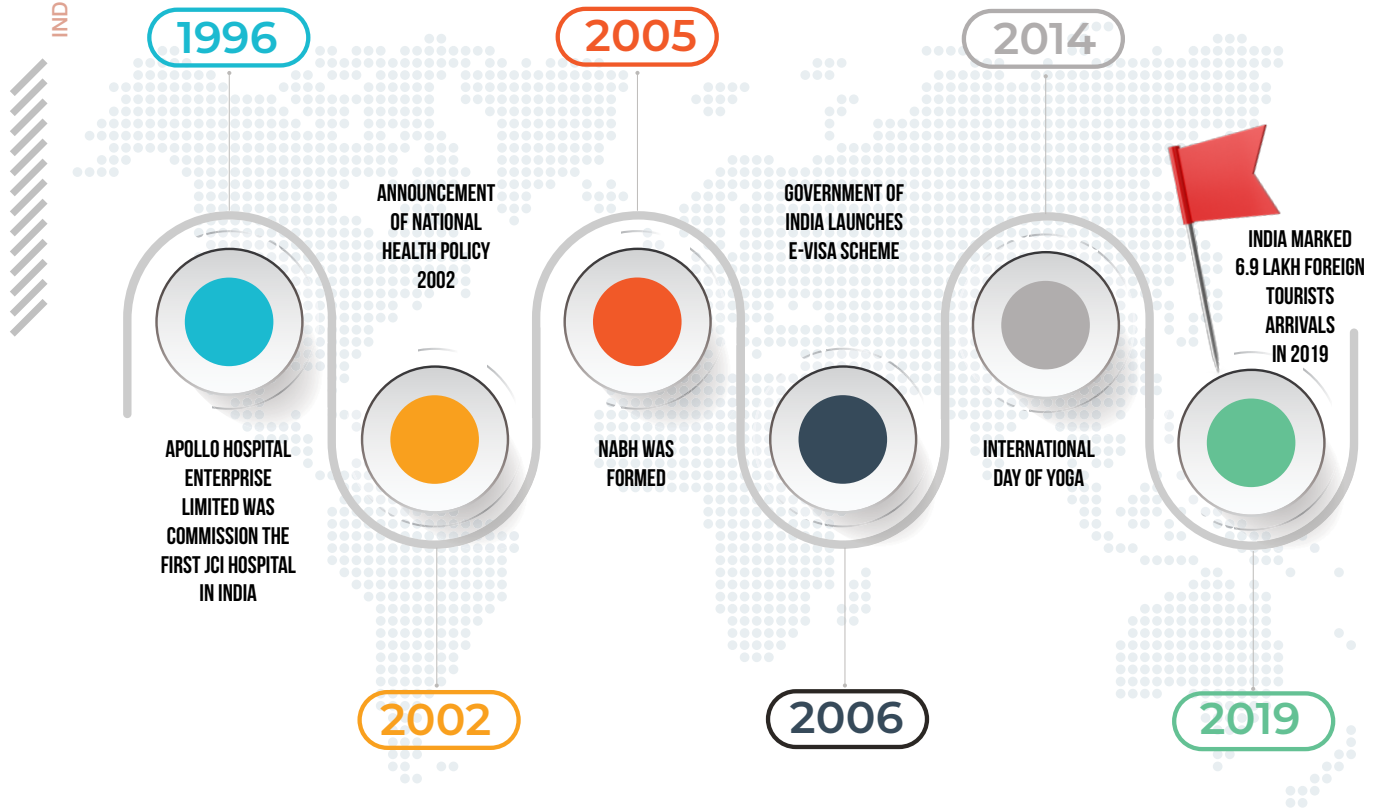


Figure 7: Timelines of major developments in India's healthcare sector



As per Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, India holds advantage as a medical tourism destination due to following factors:

- Most of the doctors and surgeons at Indian hospitals are trained or have worked at some of the medical institutions in the US, Europe, or other developed nations.
- Most doctors and nurses are fluent in English.
- Top-of-the-line medical and diagnostic equipment from global international conglomerates is available at many Indian hospitals.
- Indian nurses are among the best in the world. Nearly 1000 recognized nurses-training centers in India, mostly attached to teaching hospitals, graduate nearly 10,000 nurses annually.
- Even the most budget-conscious traveller can afford first-rate service with luxury amenities
- Indian government's measures to promote Medical Tourism
- Medical Value Travel has been included in the list of 12 champion services sectors identified by

Government of India for promotion.

- A new category of 'Medical Visa' has been introduced, which can be given for specific purpose to foreign tourist coming to India for medical treatment.
- The Ministry of Tourism has included the promotion of Medical Tourism as new initiatives. The Marketing Development Assistance Scheme (MDA), administered by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, provides financial support to approved tourism service providers.
- SEPC with financial support from Ministry of Commerce, organises a global event named 'India Heals' every year to promote India's medical services in the international market.
- NABH has established a robust framework for accreditation of hospitals. The same needs to be highlighted in various source markets.



- The strong outbound medical tourism spending in Nigeria, the highest spending origin market for medical tourism, is driven by a booming population and a domestic health system which is under pressure as a result of rising. Nigeria's outbound medical tourism spending represents a 19% of residents' total tourism spending abroad.
- In addition to being the world's top inbound medical tourism destination, the United States is also the third world's leading outbound medical tourism market. US citizens spent around US\$ 716 million in 2019 on medical services abroad, particularly in North America. While the USA accounts for 8% of global outbound spending on medical tourism, this amounts to 1 % of the total US outbound Travel & Tourism expenditure.
- Kuwait is the second largest origin market for outbound medical tourism, largely due to its government policies which support medical procedures abroad. While the share of outbound medical tourism spend as a proportion of overall outbound spending is 12.7% for the country; the government is in the process of implementing new regulations to significantly reduce outbound medical tourism and privatise healthcare.
- In Oman, outbound medical tourism spending accounts for 22% of total outbound spending. This is the result of reported long delays in public healthcare facilities domestically, and a high cost of private medical services. Omanis are also drawn to foreign countries' leisure facilities which are offered alongside healthcare treatments by some providers.
- The Maldives' large share of medical tourism is the result of a 2012 government policy of Universal Health Care (UHC), which is a comprehensive benefit package that includes subsidised treatment abroad for services unavailable in the country. The result was immediate; within one year of the implementation of the scheme, \$11.6 million was spent by the government to treat patients abroad with 276,000 citizens (84% of the population) benefitting from the scheme¹⁸.

Furthermore, some of the key trends in medical tourism expected to pick up and grow until the year 2025 include organ transplants, cosmetic surgeries, fertility treatment, increase in demand for orthopaedic surgery etc. The growth of this niche market has been swiftly identified by medical service providers who have recognised the opportunities to promote access to quality care, safety, privacy, lower cost procedures, and procedures that are not available in patients' home countries.



Table 3: Foreign Direct Investment in Services Sector in India (2000-2021)

Services Sectors (Value in Million USD)	2000-2021	Share Total FDI Inflows
SERVICES SECTOR (Fin., Banking, Insurance, Non-Fin/Business, Outsourcing, R&D, Courier, Tech. Testing and Analysis, Other)	87,063.18	16%
COMPUTER SOFTWARE & HARDWARE	71,055.91	13%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	37,663.06	7%
TRADING	30,203.17	6%
INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (INCLUDING PRINT MEDIA)	9,522.03	2%
HOTEL & TOURISM	15,657.93	3%
HOSPITAL & DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES	7,228.09	1%
EDUCATION	4,495.19	1%
RETAIL TRADING	3,465.08	1%
CONSULTANCY SERVICES	6,773.25	1%
SEA TRANSPORT	4,536.09	1%
AIR TRANSPORT (INCLUDING AIR FREIGHT)	2,956.02	1%
AGRICULTURE SERVICES	2,288.98	0%
Total Services	282,907.98	53%

Source: DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce

Table 4: World's Top Services Exporting Countries - 2020

Country	Exports - 2020 (Million USD)	Share in global market	Global Ranking
United States of America	705,643	14%	1
United Kingdom	342,439	7%	2
Germany	310,661	6%	3
China	280,629	6%	4
Ireland	262,704	5%	5
France	245,578	5%	6
India	203,253	4%	7
Singapore	187,564	4%	8
Netherlands	186,644	4%	9
Japan	160,287	3%	10

Source: Trade Map



Prime Minister's Virtual Interaction with Various Heads of Indian Missions in Abroad Along with Various Stakeholders

Chairman and DG, SEPC along with a group of members participated in a Virtual Interaction with Shri Hon'ble Prime Minister on 6th August 2021. This meeting was organised by the Government, in the backdrop of India's current status and the road ahead to achieve a target of 400 billion USD for merchandise exports in 2020-21. SEPC represented this interaction with its members from New Delhi, Mumbai offices and also from MSME office with SEPC officials. As a follow up of the meeting Chairman, SEPC wrote to Hon'ble Prime Minister with a fervent appeal that the services export sector be given due attention and focus in the forthcoming new foreign trade policy, especially to start-ups and MSMEs, and continue to incentivise the sector to not only sustain but also enhance its contribution to India's GDP.

Board of Trade Meeting With Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry

Chairman and DG, SEPC participated in an interaction of Shri Piyush Goel, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry with all Export Promotion Councils which was held on 19th August 2021 in Mumbai. Chairman, during his speech, mentioned about the issues which services sector faces and what the service exporters require for encouragement in terms of acknowledgement of the contribution. Also, he requested that the services sector to be treated on some parity with merchandise exports in the terms of benefits to be given to the services exports, to increase the competitiveness of the services sector.

Hon'ble Minister in his concluding remarks mentioned that two dedicated divisions would be coming up for the services sector within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to strengthen those wings and our own effort is that services exports which is about 200 billion USD should add the ability to grow much faster than merchandise.

DG, SEPC had a virtual meeting with Mr Ran- ga Naik, Joint CEO & Mr Ghorpade, General Manager of MIDC (Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation), Government of Maharashtra on 18th August 2021 and made presentation on setting up a Trade Information and Facilitation Centre for Services Exports within which he explained the importance of service sector to the economy and the scope of export services. Joint CEO of MIDC mentioned that MIDC's purview is restricted to certain sectors like logistics and IT, however they did reciprocate with interest. SEPC is to prepare a roadmap and a budget and send it to MIDC for their consideration to take it forward.



INDUSTRY • NEWS

- Gross goods and services tax (GST) collections came in at an impressive Rs 1.16 lakh crore in July up a third on year and a quarter on month, reflecting a smart economic recovery after the second Covid-19 wave. The average daily e-way bill generation was 8.8% higher than the level in June and 54% higher than in May indicates the August collections (from July sales) could be even higher. With progressive steps taken by the Government of India to improve compliance and a shift of business away from the informal sector. (Financial Express)
- Ministry of Finance launched the Ubharte Sitare Fund (USF) for export-oriented small and mid-sized companies and startups, the ambitious programme is to support the champion sectors. The fund, jointly sponsored by Exim Bank and SIDBI, has a size of Rs 250 crore with a green shoe option of Rs 250 crore. The fund will invest by way of equity, and equity-like products, in export-oriented units, both in the manufacturing and services sectors. (Financial Express)
- Byju's, the world's most valuable edtech company with a valuation of \$16.5 billion, reported its revenues for 2019-20 at Rs 2,434 crore, an 81 per cent jump over the previous financial year. (Business Standard)
- The labour ministry is developing a mechanism to allow portability of social security benefits when a worker shifts from formal to informal sector. The ministry has kick-started discussions on integrating the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and the recently launched e-Shram portal for unorganised workers so that workers moving from informal to formal sector or vice-versa can continue to get social security benefits. (Economic Times)
- India's GDP grew at 20.1% in the quarter ending June — in line with expectations — although the high number is the result, not of a V-shaped recovery in the economy, but a favourable base effect. Compared to the last quarter of 2020-21, the country's GDP actually contracted by 16.9%, although this can be attributed to the bruising second wave of the pandemic in April and May. And compared to the first quarter of 2019-20, it contracted 9.2%. (Hindustan Times)
- Chartered accountants' apex body ICAI is coming out with eight new forensic accounting and investigation standards, whereby forensic auditors will be required to issue a precise and unambiguous report. The new forensic audit standards are likely to render several existing forensic audit reports untenable, especially where lenders have used ambiguous and inconclusive reports to classify borrower loan accounts as fraud. (Economic Times)

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION

- The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was recently passed by the Lok Sabha. The bill aims to encourage smaller airports in the country to expand air connectivity to far-flung and relatively remote regions.
- An exercise of cleansing and updation of IEM data has been taken up by Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) with the objective of elimination of obsolete data and providing authentic industrial data to various industry/business communities and other users. The process envisages updation//revalidation of data by the entrepreneurs in respect of IEMs issued to them. The DPIIT has already launched a revamped G2B portal (<http://services.dipp.gov.in/lms>) for filling of IEM applications w.e.f 25.03.2021, and a single IEM is being issued in favour of a company/business entity, irrespective of location of units. A separate window has been provided in G2B portal w.e.f 15.07.2021 to facilitate the applicants to update/revalidate data in respect of their IEM by logging in to the portal.
- The union cabinet approves Memorandum of Understanding between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Institute of Professional Accountants of Russia (IPAR). The aim of MoU is to work together to develop a mutually beneficial relationship for the best interest of ICAI members and the two respective organizations. It is expected to provide an additional impetus to prospects of the ICAI Members to get professional opportunities in Russia in short to long term future.
- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has invited application from eligible entities, which are desirous of setting up and operating the ITFS, to apply in the prescribed format along with supporting documents to the IFSCA by 15th of September 2021. The ITFS would be an electronic platform for facilitating the trade finance requirements of exporters and importers by providing access to multiple financiers. It will play an instrumental role in arranging credit for exporters & importers from global institutions through Factoring, Forfaiting and other trade financing services at competitive cost. The platform is expected to be leveraged by exporters and importers across the world for availing trade finance services, thereby making GIFT IFSC a preferred location for international trade financing.





SERVICES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
Setup by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India

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