India Medical Travel Report 2026: Source Markets

Every official figure on who travels to India for treatment, from where, and how that is changing.

By Nikhil Sharma, Founder · Updated 15 November 2026 · How we write and check

Published 14 November 2026 · Updated 15 November 2026 Data to 2025

India received 507,244 foreign arrivals for medical treatment in 2025, down from 644,387 in 2024 and 697,453 in 2019, according to the Government of India. Bangladesh is by far the largest source country, with 325,127 arrivals in 2025, followed on the official list by Iraq, Uzbekistan, Somalia, Turkmenistan, Oman and Kenya. This report brings every published figure together in one place, with the original document for each.

IndiaMedica

Key figures

507,244
Medical arrivals in 2025
PIB, May 2026

325,127
From Bangladesh in 2025
PIB, May 2026

172
Countries eligible for e-Medical visas
PIB, May 2026

22,748
Medical attendant visas in 2025
MHA, Jul 2026

18.93%
Africa's share in the 2024 regional breakdown
Ministry of Tourism

17.88%
Middle East share in the 2024 regional breakdown
Ministry of Tourism

Key official figures on medical travel to India

1. How many people travel to India for treatment?

Foreign arrivals for medical treatment, 2019–2025

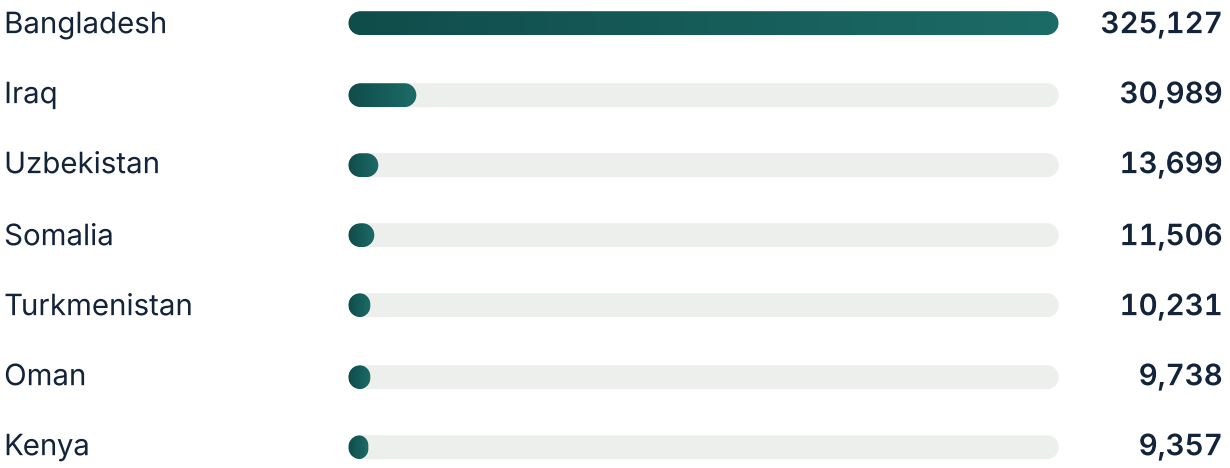


2019–2024: Bureau of Immigration via Lok Sabha reply, 9 Feb 2026. 2025: full-year figure from PIB, 2 May 2026 (about 5.5% of 9.15 million foreign arrivals). Sources: Lok Sabha reply, Feb 2026; PIB, May 2026.

Medical arrivals fell sharply in 2020 and recovered to 659,356 in 2023, close to the 2019 level. They eased in 2024 and fell further in 2025. The official sources do not give reasons for the 2025 fall, so we do not offer one. Industry bodies have pointed to conflict in the Middle East, but those are industry claims, not official figures.

2. Which countries send the most patients?

Top source countries, 2025



The Government of India's 2025 list. It is not stated to be a complete ranking, and no figures are published for other countries. Source: PIB, May 2026.

Five-year trend for the top five, 2020–2024

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Medical arrivals by country, 2020–2024

Country	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Bangladesh	99,155	186,633	326,805	499,951	482,336
Iraq	16,647	15,357	30,701	28,758	32,008
Somalia	—	—	1,006	15,947	11,717
Oman	4,328	7,610	11,121	13,397	10,431
Uzbekistan	—	—	6,768	7,081	8,921

Medical arrivals from Bangladesh, Iraq, Somalia, Oman and Uzbekistan, 2020 to 2024

Source: Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 2219, 7 August 2025 (Bureau of Immigration). The official annexure shows identical 2020 and 2021 values for Somalia and Uzbekistan, which looks like an error, so those cells are left blank here.

The top ten in 2017 and 2022

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Top ten source countries, 2017 and 2022

Country	2017	2022
Bangladesh	221,694	327,055
Iraq	47,638	30,690
Yemen	11,904	13,962
Oman	28,155	11,125
Maldives	45,352	10,971
Sudan	6,908	6,856
Kenya	7,495	5,826
Nigeria	5,530	4,381
Tanzania	5,047	4,088
Myanmar	1,788	3,288

Top ten source countries for medical travel to India in 2017 and 2022

Source: India Tourism Statistics 2018 and 2023, as reproduced in ICRIER Policy Brief 29 (secondary). Counts exclude Nepal and Bhutan, whose nationals need no visa. 2022 values differ slightly from the Bureau of Immigration series above, so the two are not mixed.

3. Visas: patients and the people who come with them

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Medical and Ayush visas issued, 2023–2025

Visa category	2023	2024	2025
Medical visa (incl. e-Medical)	643,541	624,761	482,786
Medical attendant visa	15,650	18,510	22,748
Ayush visa	0	1,054	2,321
Ayush attendant visa	0	104	475
Total	659,191	644,429	508,330

Medical, attendant and Ayush visas issued by India, 2023 to 2025

Visas for medical attendants rose every year, from 15,650 in 2023 to 22,748 in 2025, even as medical visas fell. Ayush visas for treatment under Indian systems of medicine, introduced in 2023, reached 2,321 in 2025. These are visa counts from the Ministry of Home Affairs, a separate series from arrivals.

Source: Lok Sabha Unstarred Question 2222, 31 July 2026.

4. Regions

The Ministry of Tourism's 2025 compendium names South Asia (20.27%), Africa (18.93%) and the Middle East (17.88%) in its 2024 regional breakdown of medical tourism. The document does not define exactly what the percentages measure, so treat them as indicative.

REGIONAL GUIDE

Middle East and the Gulf

Patients from the Middle East have long been among India’s largest groups of medical travellers. Iraq was second on the Government of India’s 2025 list of top source countries, with 30,989 arrivals for treatment, and Oman sent 9,738, according to the Government of India.

REGIONAL GUIDE

Africa

Africa is one of the fastest-growing sources of medical travel to India. Somalia sent 11,506 patients for treatment in 2025 and Kenya 9,357, according to the Government of India, and the Ministry of Tourism puts Africa at 18.93% in its 2024 regional breakdown of medical tourism.

REGIONAL GUIDE

Central Asia and the CIS

Central Asia is a growing source of medical travel to India. Uzbekistan sent 13,699 patients for treatment in 2025, up from 8,921 in 2024, and Turkmenistan sent 10,231, according to the Government of India.

REGIONAL GUIDE

South Asia

South Asia sends more patients to India than any other region. Bangladesh alone accounted for 325,127 medical arrivals in 2025, far more than any other country on the Government of India’s list.

REGIONAL GUIDE

UK, USA, Canada and Australia

Patients from the UK, USA, Canada and Australia can use India’s e-Medical visa, available to nationals of 172 countries. Many are members of the Indian diaspora arranging care for themselves or a parent.

5. What changed in 2026

- **Visa reform.** On 11 November 2026 the Government cut visa categories from 13 to 9. Medical visas for conventional (M-1) and Ayush (M-3) treatment, including e-Visa versions, will be granted for one year with multiple entries by default once IT systems are updated, expected by the end of the year. Attendants travel on M-2 and M-4 visas; their validity was not stated.

- **e-Medical visa reach.** Nationals of 172 countries can now apply online, up from 167 in 2024 and 171 in 2025.
- **Air links.** Air links changed often in 2026 because of the Middle East conflict. Status as reported up to November 2026. Always check with the airline before you book.
- **Policy.** The 2025-26 Union Budget committed to promoting medical tourism and Heal in India with the private sector.

6. Market reports

One page per source country with an official figure: the numbers by year, the visa route, flights and language support.

MARKET REPORT

Bangladesh

325,127 medical arrivals in 2025.

MARKET REPORT

Iraq

30,989 medical arrivals in 2025.

MARKET REPORT

Somalia

11,506 medical arrivals in 2025.

MARKET REPORT

Oman

9,738 medical arrivals in 2025.

MARKET REPORT

Uzbekistan

13,699 medical arrivals in 2025.

MARKET REPORT

Turkmenistan

10,231 medical arrivals in 2025.

MARKET REPORT

Kenya

9,357 medical arrivals in 2025.

MARKET REPORT

Yemen

13,962 medical arrivals in 2022.

MARKET REPORT

Maldives

10,971 medical arrivals in 2022.

MARKET REPORT

Sudan

6,856 medical arrivals in 2022.

MARKET REPORT

Nigeria

4,381 medical arrivals in 2022.

MARKET REPORT

Tanzania

4,088 medical arrivals in 2022.

MARKET REPORT

Myanmar

3,288 medical arrivals in 2022.

What the data does not show

- Which treatments patients from each country had. No official breakdown by treatment is published.
- Outcomes, satisfaction or spending per patient. We do not estimate these.
- Figures for most Gulf states, Western countries and many African countries. Where no official figure exists, we say so rather than estimate.

Method

We compiled every figure on medical arrivals and visas that the Government of India has published in parliamentary answers, PIB releases and Ministry of Tourism documents up to 14 November 2026. Each figure is quoted exactly with its source. Where two official series differ, we keep them separate. Secondary sources are marked.

How to cite this report

IndiaMedica (2026). *India Medical Travel Report 2026: Source Markets.* Published 14 November 2026. https://www.indiamedica.com/reports

Journalists and researchers may reuse the compiled figures with credit to IndiaMedica and the original government sources.

Sources

PIB — Lok Sabha reply, Status and Growth Potential of Medical Tourism, 9 Feb 2026 (Bureau of Immigration data)

PIB — Medical and Wellness Tourism in India, 2 May 2026

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question 2222, 31 Jul 2026 — medical and Ayush visas by year (MHA data)

Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 2219, 7 Aug 2025 — top five source countries 2020–2024 (Bureau of Immigration data)

ICRIER Policy Brief 29, Table 1 — top ten source countries 2017 and 2022, citing India Tourism Statistics (secondary)

Ministry of Tourism — India Tourism Data Compendium 2025

PIB — Government of India rationalises Indian visa regime, 11 Nov 2026

PIB — Union Budget 2025-26: Heal in India with the private sector, 4 Feb 2025

Khaleej Times — Indian airlines and Gulf flight disruption, 2026

Checked 15 November 2026