

# HAJ COMMITTEE OF INDIA

(Statutory body constituted under the Act of Parliament No.35 of 2002)

Under Ministry of Minority Affairs

Haj House, 7-A, M.R.A. Marg, (Palton Raod), Mumbai-400 001.

Ref: HC- 11/182/2019

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## CIRCULAR

Haj-2019

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Sub: **Important information for the pilgrims of Haj-2019**

Consul General of India, Jeddah have conveyed the following information about certain arrangements for the pilgrims of Haj-2019:-

1. **Necessary items to carry in Handbag:** Upon arrival of the HCoI Hajis, their unaccompanied baggage, sometimes reach their respective rooms much later than the Hajis. These Hajis complaint that they do not have any clothing to change or their medicines have remained in their unaccompanied baggage. Also during departure, baggages of Hajis are collected from their buildings in Makkah/ Madinah 24 hours in advance.

It is advisable to all the pilgrims to keep their necessary medicines with doctor's prescription and one pair of clothing for their use in their handbag both during arrival and during departure. If the pilgrims are travelling to Jeddah, keep the Ihram and slippers ready in the handbag. Hajis keep their passport/visa and Health vaccination card for in case, there are Haj pilgrims who have health issues, or any other problems, kindly let HCoI/ Consulate know in advance before their departure so that provide necessary assistance to them in Makkah/ Madinah.

2. **Heightened Security:** All the Hajis may also be advised about the heightened security concerns in the Kingdom due to the volatile security situation in the region. All the Hajis may be advised to carry along their identity cards/materials including e-bracelet, at all times during their stay in the Kingdom and they should be advised to be aware of their surrounding and to be alert at all times.

3. **Haj Visa:** Saudi Government has implemented e-path system for issue of Haj visas. The Haj visa is now printed and stapled on the passport of the Hajis. Hajis are advised to keep a hard copy /soft copy of the Haj visa for ready reference at all time. It would also be advisable to take a snap/photo in their smartphone, if possible.

4. **SIM CARD:** While arrangements are being made to distribute SIM card at Embarkation Points in India, due to the Saudi Government regulations, these SIM cards need to be activated only upon the arrival of the Hajis by taking their fingerprints. The Haji are advised to carry (i) a copy of the e-Haj visa page and (ii) SIM CARD JACKET, which are required for activating the SIM cards Hajis are advised to be aware of this procedure for activation of SIM cards.

5. **Baggage Tags:** Haj Committee of India will provides baggage tags to the Hajis at the embarkation points in India, it may be ensured that all Hajis put those baggage tags on their bags securely for easier identification and delivery of their bags to their buildings in Makkah/Madinah.

6. (A) **Mobile Application:** CGI Jeddah have developed a mobile application- “**Indian Haji Information System**” through which Hajis details are displayed including (i) Passport (ii) Accommodation in Makkah, Madinah and Mina (iii) Flight details (iv) Location of the Haji’s building in Makkah, Madinah and Mina (Maktab location) (v) Emergency contact button whereby a Haji can contact the Indian Haj Pilgrims’ Office through its Toll-Free Telephone No. **8002477786**. Details of the Khadimul Hujjaj as well as co-pilgrims of the concerned Haji. The App also has other features like details of hospitals, restaurants and other important landmarks in Makkah, Madinah and Mashaer region. This year some new features have also been added including (a) ;latest Haj News updates, (b) Dos & Don’ts guidance for pilgrims, (c) A practical guide to perform Haj, (d) Haj Guide, etc. The updated App is available in ‘Play Store’ (in Android phones) and ‘Apple Store’ (in I-Phone) and may be downloaded on your mobile.

(B) This year, CGI have introduced online Survey Form in this App (Indian Haji Information System) wherein Hajis can submit feedback on the Haj service. This survey is available in English, Hindi and Urdu for the convenience of the Hajis. This survey will be activated in the post-Haj phase.

Hajis may also be advised to use this App.

7. **WhatsApp Number:** Consulate also has a common WhatsApp number to receive complaints from pilgrims. The number for use would be **00966543891481**. This may be widely publicized.

8. **Change of flight:** Change of flight schedule for return to India after arrival of pilgrims and change of category from Azizia to NCNTZ or otherwise is **not possible**.

9. **Banned items and other restrictions for the pilgrims:** HCoI makes arrangements for Indian Pilgrims to proceed for Haj pilgrimage from various Embarkation Points. A set of regulations / guidelines are published for the benefit of the pilgrims. There is a specific mention of banned items and other restrictions at para 25 of the Guidelines of Haj – 2019. The items whose import into KSA is banned include Khash Khash, Viagra tablets, Sexual oil and creams, Synthetic Capore, Cystone, Khammera, Gutkha, Khaini, Gul, Peppermint or Narcotics in any form, political literature, photographs, pornographic material of any kind. Person(s) who violate these instructions of carrying banned items shall be liable to serve punishment, including life-time imprisonment and even Death penalty as per law of KSA.

2. Further, it is to state that this year 1440 (H) - 2019 (C.E) Haj Season, no disembarkation card is required for the Haj pilgrims as informed by the Director General, King Abdulaziz International Airport, GACA. Also it has been informed by Custom Authority of India that Gold, Jewellery/Valuable items are not allowed to bring in India. Pilgrims are advised to carry their PAN CARD alongwith them, which is required for purchase of any extra Saudi Riyals. For obtaining 2100 SR PAN CARD will not be required.

  
(Dr. Maqsood Ahmed Khan)  
Chief Executive Officer.

**To:-**

1. The Executive Officer, all State / Union Territory Haj Committees.
2. The Chairman & all Members, Haj Committee of India for information.
3. The JS/MoMA, Director/MoMA, CGI/Jeddah.
4. Air India/Saudi/Spice jet Airlines
5. Haj Camp Incharge, All embarkation point.
6. Computer Section, HCoI for uploading the above Circular on the website of HCoI.