

**Ministry of Minority Affairs,
(Haj Division)
Government of India**

**New Haj Policy of Haj Committee of India Pilgrims
for Haj 2018-2022**

I. Division of Haj Seats between HCOI and PTOs	Government of India (GOI) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) sign a Haj Agreement every year in which the number of Haj seats allocated to India is incorporated. Out of the total number of Quota allocated to Government of India (GOI), 70% will be allocated to the HCOI and the remaining 30% will be allocated to PTOs.
II. Once in a life time Haj through HCOI	<p>Those who have performed Haj earlier through HCOI will not be eligible to apply.</p> <p>In the case of “Mehram” for lady pilgrims and of companions accompanying pilgrims over 70 years of age, repeaters will be allowed on payment of additional charges as applicable from time to time.</p> <p>A lady pilgrim and 70+ pilgrims utilizing the service of a Repeater as “Mehram” must give a solemn declaration and undertaking to the effect that no first time “Mehram” is available in the family. The 70+ pilgrim also must give a similar solemn declaration and undertaking in support of his/her accompanying pilgrim.</p>
III. Availability of Haj Application Forms (HAFs)	The Haj Application Forms (HAFs) can be obtained from the State/Union Territory Haj Committee free of cost or can be downloaded from the website of Haj Committee of India at hajcommittee.gov.in or through Android Mobile App “HAJ COMMITTEE OF INDIA” available on play store. Photo copies can also be used.

IV. Eligibility for Haj.

Any Muslim citizen of India can apply for Haj pilgrimage except:

- a) Person not in possession of Machine readable valid Indian International Passports as per HCOI Guidelines.
- b) Ban on Repeaters: A person who has performed Haj earlier in his life through HCOI except permitted categories of Mehrams and those accompanying a 70+ pilgrim on the basis of appropriate solemn declaration and undertaking.
- c) Any person found to have furnished false information and concealed the fact of having performed Haj earlier shall not be allowed to proceed for Haj. In such cases, he/she will be disqualified at any stage and off-loaded even at the Embarkation Point. The entire amount deposited by him/her shall also be forfeited. Besides, he/she may be prosecuted for making incorrect/false declaration. This restriction will apply also for Haj-e-Badal pilgrims.
- d) Persons suffering from Polio, tuberculosis, congestive cardiac & respiratory ailment, acute coronary insufficiency, coronary thrombosis, mental disorder, infectious leprosy, AIDS or any other communicable disability or handicapped.
- e) Ladies not accompanied by Sharia Mehram except ladies covered at Sr. No. V.
- f) Ladies in the advanced stage of pregnancy.
- g) Persons who are crippled, handicapped, lunatic or otherwise physically incapacitated or suffering from amputation of legs.
- h) Those who do not have the mental and physical health to perform the pilgrimage.
- i) Those suffering from any disease communicable or Otherwise or disability or mental disorder whatsoever, which might impede or jeopardize Haj program.
- j) Those person against whom any Court order prohibiting travel abroad exists.

V. Ladies to be accompanied with their Mehrams	Ladies above 45 years of age, who wish to go for Haj but who do not have a male Mehram and their school of thought (Maslak) permits are allowed to travel in groups of 4 or more ladies.
VI. Cover Size	<p>The size of the Cover shall be minimum 1 (one) and Maximum 4 (four) Adults + 2 (two) Infants. (If the number of family members exceeds four, applications should be made in more than one cover).</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>(i) Infants are those applicants who would complete 2 years of age by the date of arrival of the last inward Haj Charter Flight which will be specified by HCOI. Infant travel is not free of cost and they will be charged 10% of full airfare (decided by Ministry of Civil Aviation) which will be communicated in due course.</p> <p>(ii) An Applicant above 2 years of age will be charged as an adult pilgrim and full amount of airfare and Haj Amount has to be paid by them accordingly.</p>
VII. Composition of Cover –only Family Members & Near relatives	<p>A maximum number of Four (4) applicants comprising the family members or near relatives can apply in a single cover. The head of the cover shall be responsible for payment for the persons included in the cover. Under no circumstances, persons other than family and near relatives should be included in the cover. It is in the interest of pilgrims to ensure that only family members having blood relation or near relatives are included in the cover. The accommodation status in respect of all pilgrims under one cover should be the same. In no case a cover shall be split. In case a few pilgrims under one cover intend to pre pone/postpone the date of flight it would not be permitted. The pilgrims of the Cover will travel together and stay together. If the head of cover himself cancels his application for Haj pilgrimage, he should indicate the name of another person from among Male Members of such cover, as the head of the particular cover. If a Male applicant, who is Mehram of the Female applicant of cover, cancels his application for Haj pilgrimage, he must indicate the name of the other applicant from among the Male Members of the cover as</p>

	<p>“Mehram” along with his relation with the female applicant(s) of that cover. Otherwise application(s) of the female applicant(s) shall also be treated as cancelled. Change of Mehram is allowed only in specific cases on account of death/medical grounds.</p>
<p>VIII. Solemn declaration and undertaking for Reserved Category</p>	<p>Applicants opting for Reserved Category shall submit a solemn declaration and undertaking in the prescribed format. If the solemn declaration and undertaking is not enclosed or found incomplete or not in the format given, the Haj application shall be summarily rejected.</p>
<p>IX. Solemn declaration and undertaking for General Category</p>	<p>In view of the “once in a life time Haj through HCOI” policy, all general category pilgrims shall submit a solemn declaration and undertaking in the given format. Solemn declaration and undertaking should be in English only. If the solemn declaration and undertaking is not enclosed or found incomplete or not in the format given, Haj Application shall be summarily rejected.</p>
<p>X. Order of Priority</p>	<p>While allotting seats of each state, the order of priority will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Reserved Category (Age 70+ applicants alongwith companion) 2) General Category;
<p>XI. Reserved Category</p>	<p>Keeping in view the continuously increasing number of Haj Applications every year in general and particularly under Reserved Category, Reserved Category status shall be given only to applicants (including companions) who have not performed Haj in their entire life time either through HCOI or a private tour operator (PTO) or any other means (but excluding official Haj duty). In case more Haj application are received in any Reserved Category than the allotted quota of their State/UT, a Qurrah (draw of lots) will be conducted among the Reserved Category as per the principles laid down under the Qurrah section. In such a situation, an applicant cannot claim Reserved Category status as a matter of right. The Reserved Category applicants shall submit a solemn declaration and undertaking in the given format (in English only) Reserved Category will be registered finally for Haj only after verification by SHC/UTHC and HCOI of the details and documents etc furnished by the applicant.</p>

<p>XII. Reserved Category 70+ Applicants</p>	<p>In view of the hardships faced by the single 70+ pilgrims in KSA during Haj, HCOI has decided that companion is a must for 70+ pilgrims and no 70+ pilgrim will be registered as alone member under reserved category. The pilgrims of 70 years and above will be registered under Reserved Category, subject to the following conditions:-</p> <p>(a) Applicant who completes 70 years or more as on the specified date.</p> <p>(b) One companion is a must for 70+ pilgrims and no 70+ pilgrim alone will be registered under reserved category.</p> <p>(c) Only one companion is allowed who should be immediate relative namely Husband / Wife / Brother / Sister / Son/ Daughter / Son-in-law / Daughter-in-law, Grandson / Grand Daughter and Nephew / Niece. No other relation will be allowed to travel as companion. Neither the 70+ pilgrim nor the companion will be allowed to travel alone.</p> <p>(d) If husband and wife are travelling in a cover under reserved category, and both are above 70 years of age, they will be allowed one companion, who will be blood relation of the pilgrims.</p>
<p>XIII. Distribution of Quota</p>	<p>The pilgrim quota for HCOI should be 70% of the total Haj Quota of India. The following procedure for allocations will be followed by HCOI :-</p> <p><u>Stage - I.</u></p> <p>Out of the total number of quota allocated to India in the agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Government of India, 70% must be allocated to the HCOI and the remaining 30% should be allocated to PTOs.</p> <p><u>Stage - II.</u></p> <p>Out of total seats allocated to HCOI under Stage - I, the seats specified for KhadimulHujjaj (625) and Government Quota (500) shall be subtracted. The remaining seats shall be distributed across all the States and Union Territories proportion to their Muslim population.</p> <p><u>State - III</u></p> <p>The distribution of the different States and Union Territories Quota shall</p>

	<p>proceed as in the current policy through Qurrah or draw of lots. In case there are surplus seats generated by under-utilized quota of States, the seats shall be distributed as provided in Stages IV and V.</p> <p><u>Stage IV</u> The surplus seats shall first be utilized for providing upto 500 seats for Mehram. In case seats still remain after this, upto 2000 seats will be allocated to the State of Jammu & Kashmir as per special measure. The remainder of the surplus seats shall be distributed among those States and Union Territories that have received 500 or less Haj Application Forms (HAF) but have not been able to satisfy all the applicants, in ascending order of the number of applicants.</p> <p><u>Stage - V</u> The remainder of the surplus seats after Stage IV (if any) shall be allocated to the States and Union Territories in proportion to the number of applications received.</p>
<p>XIV. Qurrah</p>	<p>Qurrah refers to computerized draw of lots. In the States/Union Territories where the number of Haj Applications received exceeds their quota, pilgrims shall be selected provisionally by Qurrah conducted on the Covers. The Qurrah shall be conducted by the respective SHC on the IHPMS software which is maintained on the server of HCoI. The date and other details of Qurrah shall be publicized through media by the SHC concerned. Immediately after Qurrah, the SHC concerned shall widely publicise the list of selected pilgrims in local media and shall also intimate the provisionally selected pilgrims of their selection.</p>
<p>XV. Principles of Qurrah (Draw of Lots)</p>	<p>The order of priority for confirming the seats in a state is as under:</p> <p>1) 70+ Category, 2) General Category.</p> <p>(a) If the applications under the Reserved Category are more than the quota of the State, then the qurrah will be held within the Reserved category as per the condition below.</p> <p>(i) First preference among the Reserved Category will be given to the pilgrims of 70+ Category. After exhaustion of 70+ Category the qurrah</p>

will be conducted State wise amongst General Category applicants for the remaining seats.

(ii) The General waiting list (GWL) will be prepared for all the left out General category pilgrims by computerized draw of lots State wise.

(iii) In case there will be two waiting lists viz. RWL and GWL, the applicants from RWL will be given confirmed status first followed by GWL against any future available seats.

(iv) If applications of 70+ category are received more than the quota, then Qurrah will be conducted State wise amongst the 70+ category and remaining applications of 70+ category will be put under RWL. General category applicants will be put under General Waiting-list i.e. GWL. by conducting Qurrah separately.

b) If the applications under Reserved Category are less than the quota, after allotting seats to the Reserved Category, Qurrah will be conducted amongst General Category for the remaining quota and the rest will be put under GWL.

c) If the applications under Reserved Category are equal to the quota of a particular State, the entire quota will be utilized for Reserved categories and all other general category applications will be put under General Waiting-list (GWL).

**XVI.
Government
Quota**

GOI will retain 500 seats under Government discretionary quota comprising:

1) 200 seats for HCOI

2) 300 for GOI :

(a) Hon'ble President 100

(b) Hon'ble Prime Minister 75

(c) Hon'ble Vice-President 75

(d) Hon'ble Minister of Minority Affairs 50

Government Quota can be released only to those pilgrims who have participated in the "Qurrah" but have not been successful and possess a cover number as proof of participation in the Qurrah.

<p>XVII. General Wait List</p>	<p>A separate Qurrah (draw of lost) of non-selected covers shall be held State-wise/UT-wise in the State/UT which receives Haj applications in excess of their quota to allocate wait list number to all such covers. The confirmation of seats in respect of wait listed pilgrims shall be communicated by the respective State/UT Haj Committee as and when vacancy arises due to cancellation of journey by the selected pilgrims. If the selected pilgrim wants to cancel the journey on any ground he should submit a cancellation letter to concerned State/UT Haj Committee. The State/UT Haj Committee should mark the cancellation and select the wait listed pilgrim as per serial number on the basis of first cancelled seat to the first wait list applicant. No jumping of the wait list shall be allowed. <u>Once cancellation is marked, it will not be revoked on any ground.</u> The wait-listed pilgrims should remain in touch with HCOI, State/UT Haj Committee about factual position of their seats.</p>
<p>XVIII. Rules of Cancellations and Refunds</p>	<p>Cancellations only on the ground of death or serious ailment of the person concerned will be allowed. In case of Cancellation on any other ground, specific penalties will be imposed as per guidelines and amendments thereto by HCOI.</p>
<p>XIX. Payments by pilgrims</p>	<p>All provisionally selected pilgrims will be allotted a unique bank reference number which must be quoted compulsorily for depositing advance and balance Haj Amount in the State bank of India through core banking system.</p>
<p>XX. Cancellation</p>	<p>If the selected pilgrim wants to cancel the journey on any ground he should submit a cancellation letter to concerned State/UT Haj Committee. If the applicant fails to submit either passport or payment or both within the due dates, the selection of the pilgrim will be summarily cancelled.</p>
<p>XXI. Accommodation</p>	<p>As per Saudi Regulations, accommodation has to be arranged for the pilgrims in advance through the Consulate General of India, Jeddah. The approach to majority of buildings is through elevated roads due to the topography of Makkah. The space entitlement per pilgrim is 4 sq. meters. There are two Categories of accommodation in Makkah, depending upon</p>

	<p>distance from the outer periphery of Haram Sharief. The pilgrims are required to indicate their option in the Haj Application Form. The option once exercised shall be final and irrevocable. In case of non-availability of accommodation units in specified categories as per demand, alternative category of accommodation shall be allotted.</p> <p>In Madinah, all accommodation will be hired in Markazia subject to availability of sufficient number of accommodation in that area.</p>
XXII. Qurrah for accommodation	The allotment of accommodation will depend upon the Availability of units in a particular category. In case there are more applications for a particular category than the units available, allotment shall be made through Qurrah on the basis of actual availability.
XXIII. Medical Screening and Fitness Certificate for every Applicant	Medical check-up report of the pilgrims is mandatory. In order to ensure that only healthy pilgrims proceed for Haj, a two-step medical screening has been Introduced one at the application stage (on the reverse of the Haj application) and another of the selected pilgrims at the Embarkation stage. Every applicant should fill in the medical history, get examined and obtain Medical Screening and Fitness Certificate from a registered Medical Practitioner preferably allopathic / Government Doctor on the reverse of his/her Haj Application.
XXIV. Health and Training (Hat) Card for Selected Pilgrims only	Every selected pilgrim shall obtain Health and Training (HAT) Card and Haj Guide from the State/Union Territory Haj Committee upon submission of passport and pay-in-slip for advance Haj amount.
XXV. Vaccination Certificate: Inoculation of Meningitis / Quadruple	All selected pilgrims (2 years above pilgrims) are required to possess a certificate of inoculation of single dose of cerebrospinal Meningitis vaccine. Pilgrims, therefore, must get themselves inoculated against Meningitis and obtain vaccination certificate on the Health and Training (HAT) Card before proceeding for the Embarkation Point. The certificate should be signed by District Health Officer. Incomplete and bogus certificates shall not be entertained. Arrangements are made every year at

Inoculation (Acyw135)	<p>the Haj House for inoculation and issue of the certificate to individual pilgrims after getting them examined by the Medical Officer. Similarly, the State/UT Haj Committee and District Administration make such arrangements for inoculation of the pilgrims in their respective State/UTs throughout the country.</p>																																																						
XXVI. Oral Polio Vaccination	<p>It is mandatory to give Oral Polio Vaccine to all pilgrims six weeks before start of the Haj journey and obtain the Oral Polio Vaccine certificate from the concerned health authorities on the Health and Training (HAT) Card. They will be given another dose of Oral Polio Vaccine at the time of their disembarkation in the Kingdom.</p>																																																						
XXVII. Embarkation Points	<p>All 21 Embarkation Points (EPs) will be retained for Haj-2018. The pilgrims will be given a choice between the embarkation point of the area and the nearest economical embarkation point as per the difference in air travel cost in the previous year. This arrangement can be suitably modified by HCoI in subsequent years, if the need arise. The details of nearest economical EPs for Haj-2018 is as under:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="420 1133 1219 1928"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="424 1133 498 1216">Sr. No.</th> <th data-bbox="503 1133 890 1216">Embarkation Points</th> <th data-bbox="895 1133 1215 1216">Nearest economical Embarkation Points</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1223 498 1261">1</td> <td data-bbox="503 1223 890 1261">Srinagar</td> <td data-bbox="895 1223 1215 1261">Delhi</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1267 498 1305">2</td> <td data-bbox="503 1267 890 1305">Guwahati</td> <td data-bbox="895 1267 1215 1305">Kolkata</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1312 498 1350">3</td> <td data-bbox="503 1312 890 1350">Ranchi</td> <td data-bbox="895 1312 1215 1350">Kolkata</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1357 498 1395">4</td> <td data-bbox="503 1357 890 1395">Gaya</td> <td data-bbox="895 1357 1215 1395">Kolkata</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1402 498 1440">5</td> <td data-bbox="503 1402 890 1440">Indore</td> <td data-bbox="895 1402 1215 1440">Mumbai</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1447 498 1485">6</td> <td data-bbox="503 1447 890 1485">Bhopal</td> <td data-bbox="895 1447 1215 1485">Mumbai</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1491 498 1529">7</td> <td data-bbox="503 1491 890 1529">Mangalore</td> <td data-bbox="895 1491 1215 1529">Bangalore</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1536 498 1574">8</td> <td data-bbox="503 1536 890 1574">Goa</td> <td data-bbox="895 1536 1215 1574">Mumbai</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1581 498 1619">9</td> <td data-bbox="503 1581 890 1619">Aurangabad</td> <td data-bbox="895 1581 1215 1619">Mumbai</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1626 498 1664">10</td> <td data-bbox="503 1626 890 1664">Varanasi</td> <td data-bbox="895 1626 1215 1664">Lucknow</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1671 498 1709">11</td> <td data-bbox="503 1671 890 1709">Jaipur</td> <td data-bbox="895 1671 1215 1709">Continued</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1715 498 1753">12</td> <td data-bbox="503 1715 890 1753">Nagpur</td> <td data-bbox="895 1715 1215 1753">Continued</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1760 498 1798">13</td> <td data-bbox="503 1760 890 1798">Delhi</td> <td data-bbox="895 1760 1215 1798">Continued</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1805 498 1843">14</td> <td data-bbox="503 1805 890 1843">Mumbai</td> <td data-bbox="895 1805 1215 1843">Continued</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1850 498 1888">15</td> <td data-bbox="503 1850 890 1888">Kolkata</td> <td data-bbox="895 1850 1215 1888">Continued</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1895 498 1933">16</td> <td data-bbox="503 1895 890 1933">Bangalore</td> <td data-bbox="895 1895 1215 1933">Continued</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1939 498 1977">17</td> <td data-bbox="503 1939 890 1977">Hyderabad</td> <td data-bbox="895 1939 1215 1977">Continued</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sr. No.	Embarkation Points	Nearest economical Embarkation Points	1	Srinagar	Delhi	2	Guwahati	Kolkata	3	Ranchi	Kolkata	4	Gaya	Kolkata	5	Indore	Mumbai	6	Bhopal	Mumbai	7	Mangalore	Bangalore	8	Goa	Mumbai	9	Aurangabad	Mumbai	10	Varanasi	Lucknow	11	Jaipur	Continued	12	Nagpur	Continued	13	Delhi	Continued	14	Mumbai	Continued	15	Kolkata	Continued	16	Bangalore	Continued	17	Hyderabad	Continued
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	18	Cochin	Continued
	19	Chennai	Continued
	20	Ahmedabad	Continued
	21	Lucknow	Continued
	<p>In case of number of passengers travelling from an EP goes above or below the economic operation of the air charter services, the HCOI reserves the right to re-allocate the passengers to any other EP in the interest of smooth air charter operations.</p>		
XXVIII. Duration of Stay in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	<p>The duration of stay of pilgrims may be 30 to 40 days and may vary as per schedule provided by the airlines and approved by General Authority of Civil Aviation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Accommodation units in MakkahMukarramah are hired for the entire Haj season. Buildings are not hired on daily rental basis. The rate charged is for the entire Haj season irrespective of the duration of stay. Hence all pilgrims are charged uniformly. Therefore, no pilgrim is entitled for any refund based on the duration of stay.</p>		
XXIX. In Case of Death	<p>In case of death, due to natural causes or accident during the Haj period, burial rituals may be performed as per prevailing practice in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>The original Death Certificate is directly, sent to next of kin of deceased pilgrim by Consulate General of India (CGI), Jeddah, after completion of Haj season.</p>		
XXX. Adahi (Qurbani)	<p>Islamic Development Bank IDB is the only body authorised by the Government of KSA to perform Qurbani for Haj pilgrims. Pilgrims should not fall prey to the fraudsters in the name of Qurbani. Adahi through IDB will be arranged by HCOI for the covers who opt for it (all pilgrims of a cover have to opt together). Option once exercise shall not be revoked. The Adahi (Qurbani) coupons will be optional.</p>		
XXXI. Legal	<p>Haj Committee of India, constituted under the Act of Parliament (No.35 of 2002) renders service to pilgrims without any consideration. HCOI</p>		

Status of the Pilgrim	works on "no profit no loss" basis. It collects from pilgrims the exact amount required for payment of various facilities and services to the concerned agencies. Nothing extra is being charged from the pilgrims except the Miscellaneous dues towards Administrative Expenses including dues of the State/UT Haj Committees as provided in the Guidelines. HCOI, as such, does not come under the purview of Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The pilgrims, therefore, cannot claim any compensation against HCOI under Consumer Protection Act or under any other law for the time being in force for any deficiency in the service rendered and/or any act of commission and/or omission beyond the control of HCOI.
XXXII. Khadim-ul-Hujja	Ministry of Minority Affairs sets apart seats to send Khadim-ul-Hujjaj from all States/ UTs in the ratio of 1:200 pilgrims to help and assist the Consulate General of India in Jeddah in looking after the welfare of Indian Haj pilgrims in an organized manner. The KuH should be Government servants (selected by the SHC/UTHCs as per the norms laid down by the MoMA) approved by the MoMA.
	The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its Judgment dated 16.04.2013 has barred all the Courts / Authorities from interfering with the process of Haj.