

Press Note on Arrangements for Haj 2013

For Haj 2013, a total number of 1,36,020 pilgrims would be arriving from India, out of which 1,21,420 pilgrims would be arriving through the Haj Committee of India (HCOI) and 14,600 pilgrims would come through 265 Private Tour Operators (PTOs). The HCOI pilgrims would be coming from 21 embarkation points in India of which the Saudi Arabian Airlines would be operating from 09 stations carrying 74,090 pilgrims and Air India would be operating from 12 stations carrying 47,330 pilgrims. A total of 222 incoming and outgoing flights would be operated by Saudi Arabian Airlines and 195 incoming and outgoing flights would be operated by Air India.

2. The first flight to Madinah from Goa, India arrived on 07 September, 2013 at 0930 hrs. The Hajis were received by the Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia, Shri Hamid Ali Rao and the Consul General of India, Jeddah, Shri Faiz Ahmad Kidwai. A total of 60,800 pilgrims would be landing at Madinah before Haj and after completion of their 40 prayers would be proceeding to Makkah. The first flight to Jeddah from India would arrive on 16th September, 2013 carrying Hajis from Ranchi. About 61,000 pilgrims would be landing in Jeddah and would proceed to Makkah for performing Haj. The Consulate General of India, Jeddah has already rented 434 buildings in Makkah under Green and Azizia categories to accommodate the incoming pilgrims. Most of these buildings have been completed in all aspects for the pilgrims. The hiring of accommodation in Makkah was done in advance before starting of Ramadan and the emphasis was to complete the work much before the arrival of pilgrims. Special efforts have been made to hire better quality buildings and also to reduce the number of buildings from previous years.

3. In Madinah, 10 Housing Groups have been entrusted in providing accommodation for pilgrims on their arrival. These groups were selected by a Committee consisting of Chairman, Haj Committee of India, Shri Qaiser Shamim and the Consulate General of India in Jeddah. All arrangements to receive the pilgrims at Madinah airport and Jeddah Haj Terminal have been made, and, for the first time, the Consulate General of India would also be setting up an office at Madinah Haj Terminal by renting space for the same to assist the pilgrims during their arrival and departure. The other arrangements like setting up of 13 Branch Offices in Makkah and 5 Branch Offices in Azizia, medical arrangements like, setting up of 2 hospitals in Makkah with 11 branch dispensaries and a main hospital in Madinah with 5 branch dispensaries have been completed.

4. The Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi has deputed 546 deputationists including 6 Coordinators, 145 Doctors and 150 Para medical staff along with Assistant Haj Officers and Haj Assistants to assist the pilgrims during Haj.

Special arrangements: For the first time all pilgrims on their arrival in their accommodation in Makkah and Madinah would be welcomed with the packet of dates. The services provided last year like supply of 100% cotton bed sheets, pillow covers to each pilgrim, and bucket, mugs, wiper, disinfectant, etc. in

toilets would be provided in each building in Makkah. On-line complaint management system which was instituted in Haj 2012 wherein pilgrims can file their complaints in any branch office with the direct access to the Consul General and DCG & Consul (Haj) which had a good response would be continued during this Haj.

Mobile sim cards with a talk time of Saudi Riyals 5/- would be provided to all the Hajis having the important numbers of all Haj officials and the emergency numbers in Saudi Arabia would be provided free of cost to the Hajis at the embarkation points in India. Even the recharge coupons for the sim cards would be available in the branch office in Makkah and Madinah, which can be purchased by the pilgrims.

Qurbani (Adahi) coupons from the Islamic Development Bank would be available in all the branch offices in Makkah and Madinah for the pilgrims to purchase

Gas refueling up to two refills free of cost would be available in Makkah buildings for the pilgrims.

The City check-in of baggage of pilgrims both in Makkah and Madinah during the return phase would be continued and baggage from the pilgrims would be collected in advance from their buildings.

A 10-liter can of Zamzam from the Zamzam factory would be supplied directly to the pilgrims on their return at the respective embarkation point in India.

Transport arrangements:

For transport of pilgrims from Azizia and Share Abudullah Khayyat to the Haram in Makkah have been completed with the transporter identified and other arrangements already made. The transporter has assured to deploy adequate good quality buses.

Due to the positive response from a large number of pilgrims regarding the train arrangement in Mina for transportation in the Mashaer areas, a request has been made to the Haj Ministry to provide train tickets for all the Haj Committee of India pilgrims who would be using the train during Haj.

Moallim/Mina:

For the 2013 Haj, the South Asian Moassassa has selected new Moallims. There are 34 Moallims this time to look after the pilgrims of Haj Committee of India instead of 25 Moallims as was during the last previous years. One Moallim would be responsible for approx. 3500 pilgrims. The Moallim would also provide breakfast and one meal to the pilgrims during their stay in Mina.

Other arrangements like fixing up of sign-boards, building maps in Makkah have already been completed.

Special arrangements for aged pilgrims:

The Consulate General of India has requested the Haj Committee of India and all the State Haj Committees to club all the old aged pilgrims along with their relatives in a common flights so that they can be given better accommodation in terms of proximity and approach to Haram in the Green category and accommodation close to the bus stands in Azizia and Share Abdullah Khayyat.

Details of all the pilgrims, accommodation, their contact numbers, movement, dates, etc., would be available on the website of the Consulate General of India www.cgijeddah.com under heading "Haj/Umrah Wing" with sub-heading "Pilgrims Information Haj-2013".

A special film on Haj, prepared by the Consulate General of India, giving all the details related to Haj from arrival till departure has been given to all State Haj Committees to show to the pilgrims during their training. It is also available on the CGI's website at www.cgijeddah.com under the heading "Movie on how to perform Haj". This film is also available on 'Youtube' at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTxBKIL-gok>. All pilgrims are advised to see it at least once before departure.

A Haj review meeting was also conducted by the Haj Committee of India on 24th August, 2013 in Mumbai in which the Consul General of India, Jeddah also participated and intimated about the preparations and 'dos' and 'don'ts' related to Haj were also circulated to other State Haj Committees for intimation to the pilgrims.

A thorough review of all the Haj arrangements was made by Shri E. Ahamed, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs during his visit to Jeddah on 1-4 August, 2013. He also had a meeting with the Minister of Haj, H.E. Dr. Bandar bin Mohammed bin Hamza Asaad Al-Hajjar, Governemnt of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to discuss the arrangements.

Consulate General of India, Jeddah
September 8, 2013