

PRESS RELEASE

The Haj Committee of India, Mumbai in its circular No.12, dated 09.04.2022 informed as follows :-

The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has now announced that this year's Hajj will be conducted according to the following regulations:-

- (1) This year's Hajjis open to those who are under 65 years old and have received the main Covid-19 vaccinations approved by the Saudi Ministry of Health.
- (2) Pilgrims coming from outside the Kingdom are required to submit a negative Covid-19 PCR test result from a test performed within 72 hours of the time of departure to the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has also instructed that all pilgrims must follow the health instructions and comply with all precautionary measures to preserve their health and safety while performing Haj rituals.

In view of the position explained above,

- (A) All Haj applicants above the age of 65 years (as on 30th April,2022) shall stand **INELIGIBLE** for Haj 2022. This would result into cancellation of Haj Seat of those lady pilgrim(s), whose Mehram will be above the age of 65 years on 30th April, 2022. This would also affect the "Companion" of 70+ years of age.
- (B) Fresh Haj Applications can be made online by the intending pilgrims with effect from **9th April, 2022** till **22nd April, 2022** on the following conditions:-
 - (i) Possess machine readable valid Indian International Passport issued on or before **22nd April, 2022** and valid upto **31st December, 2022**.
 - (ii) The applicant is not exceeding the prescribed age limit of 65 years (as on 30.04.2022 or earlier) and have received the main Covid-19 vaccinations approved by the Saudi Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
 - (iii) As new Mehram Companion of those lady pilgrims who have already applied for Haj but Haj Seat(s) of their present Mehram stand "INELIGIBLE" due to overage, as prescribed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

- (iv) Who are ready to comply with all precautionary measures to preserve their health and safety while performing Haj rituals.

The Haj applicants are also allowed to withdraw their applications for Haj 2022 in case they are not willing to go due to the new Guidelines.

It is likely that the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will further stipulate more health and administrative guidelines, particularly, in view of their ongoing experience with managing Umrah pilgrims during the pious month of Ramzan. The same shall be notified in due course of time.

**Principal Secretary to Government,
Backward Classes, Most Backward
Classes and Minorities Welfare
Department**

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