



सत्यमेव जयते

हज कमेटी ऑफ इंडिया
HAJ COMMITTEE OF INDIA
अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय के अधीन
Under Ministry of Minority Affairs
भारत सरकार
Government of India.



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No.HC-20/155/2022/57.

6th April, 2023.

The Executive Officer,
State / UT Haj Committees.

Sub.- Arrangements for providing Foreign Exchange and Insurance
to the pilgrims.

Sir,

As per directions received from the Ministry of Minority Affairs, State Bank of India (SBI) has been selected for facilitating availability of foreign exchange to the pilgrims in the form of Saudi Riyal (SAR) and also for providing insurance coverage to the Haj Pilgrims against accidental disability/accidental death. The SAR can be purchased by the Haj pilgrims from SBI.

2. SBI will arrange distribution of SAR in Haj Training Camps and at the Embarkation Points also, taking into consideration the requirements and geographical locations in each State/UT. SBI will provide a helpline number and communicate with the pilgrims through SMS regarding the arrangements made for distribution of Saudi Riyal. A Nodal Officer would be appointed by SBI in each State/UT to ensure that the entire process is carried out smoothly and without any hiccups. The information regarding distribution of SAR by SBI will also be disseminated through all concerned State Haj Committees to the pilgrims.

3. From each State/UT, the Nodal Officer for SBI would be the concerned Executive Officer/Secretary of State Haj Committee for any support required by SBI on the matter of distribution of SAR/Forex and to disseminate information to the Haj pilgrims

4. It is to be ensured by each Haj pilgrim that he /she carries sufficient Saudi Riyals. SBI would also provide a Foreign Travel Card, which can be used in Saudi Arabia and would require to be loaded with a minimum of 750 SAR. The Haj pilgrims can purchase Saudi Riyals in cash and load amount in SAR in the Travel Card, as per the RBI guidelines on the matter.

5. To purchase SAR in cash and card, the Haj pilgrim is to pay SBI on the spot at the exchange rates prescribed by SBI. The details of the branches in every States where SAR is made available shall be intimated to you in due course.

6. It is hoped that you shall avail of the facility being made available by the Government to provide SAR, at competitive rates, which would be required by the pilgrims in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through State Bank of India and its branches. It is strongly suggested that the pilgrims be advised not to approach agents or unauthorized persons for getting the forex and their requirement are met only through SBI, to avoid any possibility of fraud or overcharging the pilgrims, more so since many of them may be travelling abroad for the first time.

(Mohd. Yakoob Shekha)
Chief Executive Officer

6/4/23

To:

1. Joint Secretary (Haj), Ministry of Minority Affairs, GoI, New Delhi;
2. Chairperson & All Members, Haj Committee of India;
3. Under Secretary (Haj), Ministry of Minority Affairs, GoI, New Delhi.