

Ministry of External Affairs
[CPV Division]

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Haj 2013: Advisory for Passport Applicants

As decided by the Haj Committee of India (constituted under Act of Parliament No.35 of 2002), only valid passport holders (with validity at least up to 31.3.2014) can apply for Haj 2013. Therefore, all prospective Haj applicants are advised to get their passport issued before the Haj announcement 2013. The Haj announcement is likely to be made in February 2013 and **Haj applicants may be required to submit their applications with proof of their valid passports by 15 March 2013.**

2. The passport holders (including children and infants) are also advised to check the validity of their passports and if need be, get them renewed in time. The intending applicants for Haj 2013 should also ensure that their passports contain at least two empty visa pages adjacent to each other. Otherwise, they are also advised to apply for renewal of their passports.

3. Before 2012, the general tendency among Haj aspirants was to apply for passports once the Haj announcement was made. Hence, Passport Offices were faced with huge rush for issuance of passports after the Haj announcement was made. This allowed insufficient time to Passport Offices and police authorities to complete requisite formalities in time and may have resulted in last minute disappointment in some cases.

4. In view of the above, all concerned citizens and prospective Haj applicants are advised to apply well in time for issuance of passports so that they have their passports ready by February 2013 well before the Haj announcement 2013 is made by the Haj Committee of India. All Passport Offices across India are being advised to provide requisite assistance for expeditious issuance of passports to prospective Haj applicants.

5. More details on how to apply for a Passport is available on www.passportindia.gov.in . For more information on Haj matters, please log on to www.hajcommittee.com .

New Delhi
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