



Government of Karnataka
O/o Relief Commissioner, Revenue Department (Disaster Management)

Press Release

Date: 23-10-2026

In view of the evolving situation in Saudi Arabia, flight operations have been disrupted, affecting the return of Indian nationals, including pilgrims from Karnataka. The Minority Welfare, Haj and Waqf Department, Government of Karnataka, has informed that nearly 600 Umrah pilgrims from the State are currently stranded in Saudi Arabia.

The Embassy of India in Riyadh and the Consulate General of India in Jeddah are actively coordinating with the concerned airlines and tour operators to facilitate the early return of the affected pilgrims. Both missions have established 24×7 control rooms to provide assistance to Indian nationals and are issuing regular advisories regarding the evolving situation.

Control Room Contact Details – Government of India Missions in Saudi Arabia:

Embassy of India, Riyadh:	Consulate General of India, Jeddah:
Telephone: +966-554412016; +966-542126784 Toll-free: 8002471234 (Calls from within KSA only) WhatsApp: +966-536216082 (Messages only)	Telephone: +966-12-2614093; +966-556122301 WhatsApp: +966-536209704 (Messages only)

The Government of Karnataka is closely monitoring the situation has also activated helpline facilities through the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) and Haj Department to coordinate assistance to the stranded pilgrims from Karnataka in coordination with the Minority Welfare, Haj and Waqf Department and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Haj Department Helpline Nos: 9483503132, 7899707775

State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC): 1070 / 080-22253707

As the situation remains dynamic, pilgrims and their families are advised to follow the instructions and advisories issued by the local authorities, the Embassy of India in Riyadh and the Consulate General of India in Jeddah. Pilgrims are also advised to remain in contact with their respective tour operators.

Manoj Kumar Meena, IAS
Relief Commissioner,
Revenue Department (DM)



**Consulate General of India
Jeddah**

ADVISORY

In view of the ongoing disruptions to flight operations between India and Saudi Arabia, the Consulate General of India, Jeddah, advises Indian nationals, particularly Umrah pilgrims travelling to and from Jeddah and Madinah, to remain in regular contact with their respective airlines and verify the latest status of their flights.

2. Passengers are advised to check with their airlines before proceeding to the airport and remain in close contact with their travel agents, tour operators and Umrah service providers regarding flight cancellations, rescheduling, alternative travel arrangements and accommodation, wherever required.

3. The Consulate is in regular contact with the concerned airlines and local authorities to facilitate assistance to affected Indian nationals. Updates received from the airlines regarding flight operations, cancellations and rescheduling will be shared through the Consulate's official social media channels, as and when available.

4. The Consulate has established a 24×7 Control Room to assist Indian nationals affected by the ongoing flight disruptions. Those requiring assistance may contact the **Control Room (24×7)** at the following numbers:

Telephone: +966 12 2614093; +966 556122301

WhatsApp: + 966 536209704

Email: pbskcgj@gmail.com

5. Indian nationals are advised to remain calm, follow updates from official sources and contact the Consulate in case of any difficulty requiring consular assistance.

Date: 13th October 2026

Place: Jeddah

D K SHIVAKUMAR
CHIEF MINISTER



VIDHANA SOUDHA
BENGALURU - 560 001
23/10/2026

Date :

No: CM/HO(K)/2026/

Respected Dr. Jaishankar Avare,

**Subject: Urgent intervention for the safe and early repatriation of over 600
Karnataka Umrah pilgrims stranded in Makkah and Madina,
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Reg.**

I wish to draw your urgent attention to the difficult circumstances faced by over 600 Umrah pilgrims from Karnataka who are stranded in the holy cities of Makkah and Madina in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, following the suspension of return flights to Bengaluru and other parts of India amid the escalating security situation in the Middle East.

The Chairman of the Karnataka State Haj Committee and his team, who recently visited the holy cities, has also reported that several pilgrims are facing severe hardship due to the disruption of air services. Many have exhausted their financial resources and are struggling to meet basic needs, including food and accommodation. Reports indicate that hotels are asking pilgrims to vacate their rooms, leaving many, including elderly persons, women and children, in a particularly vulnerable situation. Temporary assistance being extended by Indian and Karnataka voluntary organisations in the region is insufficient to meet the needs of all those affected.

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D K SHIVAKUMAR
CHIEF MINISTER



VIDHANA SOUDHA
BENGALURU - 560 001

Date :

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In view of the humanitarian urgency of the situation, I request your immediate intervention to ensure that the Indian Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate General of India in Jeddah coordinate with the concerned Saudi Arabian authorities, airlines and other relevant agencies to assess the situation and make urgent arrangements for the safe return of the stranded pilgrims. The Ministry may also kindly facilitate special flights, wherever necessary, in coordination with the concerned authorities, and ensure that adequate interim assistance is extended to the pilgrims until their return.

Given the vulnerability of those stranded and the difficulties they are experiencing, I would be grateful if the Ministry could accord the matter the highest priority and initiate the necessary steps without delay. The Government of Karnataka stands ready to extend all necessary cooperation to facilitate the safe and early return of the affected pilgrims.

I look forward to your urgent personal intervention in this matter.

Thanking You

Yours sincerely,


(D.K. SHIVAKUMAR)

To
Dr. S. Jaishankar
Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs
Government of India
New Delhi.