

Haj pilgrimage

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in news?

A major milestone for Haj pilgrims: A new Haj house coming up in Navi Mumbai.

- **Haj** - A sacred pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, a spiritual, emotional, and physical test of devotion to God.
- It is one of the 5 Pillars of Islam, which every adult Muslim must make **at least once in his or her lifetime**.
- **5 Pillars of Islam** -
 - Shahada (profession of faith),
 - Salah (prayer five times a day),
 - Zakat (almsgiving),
 - Sawm (fasting during Ramadan), and
 - Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca)
- The pattern of pilgrimage rites was established by the **Prophet Muhammad**.

Key aspects, 2025

- **Timing** -Hajj was taking place between 4th to 9th June 2025 in the Gregorian Calendar, depending on the sighting of the moon.
- It takes place during the same time each year, in the sacred month of **Dhul Hijjah** (12th month in the Islamic Calendar).
- **Duration** -Hajj begins on the 8th of Dhul Hijjah and lasts approximately 5-6 days depending on the sighting of the moon.
- **Eligibility** - It is **obligatory** for those who are physically and financially able to perform it.
- **Logistics** - The **Ministry of Minority Affairs** helps facilitate the pilgrimage for Indian citizens, including those who are low-income.

Initiatives for Hassle-Free Haj Travel

- **Haj Committee of India** - It is the ***statutory body*** under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- It is known as Central Haj Committee (CHC) established under the ***Haj Committee Act 2002***, for making all arrangements for the pilgrimage of Muslims for Haj.
- **Abolition of haj subsidy** - The Haj subsidy aimed to *offset travel costs* for pilgrims from India to Saudi Arabia, however, the subsidy was gradually reduced and completely abolished for Haj 2018.
- **Digitization of haj process** - In previous years, Haj management processes relied heavily on manual and offline methods, resulting in a cumbersome and opaque system involving multiple agencies.

References

1. [PIB | New Haj house coming up in Navi Mumbai](#)
2. [PIB | Enhancing Inclusivity and Equality in the Haj Pilgrimage](#)

