

Hi-tech apps to help pilgrims during Haj

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MAKKAH: Two million Muslims gather in Saudi Arabia this week for Haj as the annual pilgrimage becomes increasingly hi-tech with apps to help the faithful navigate the holy sites.

This year the Haj comes with the ultra-conservative kingdom witnessing an unprecedented pace of change, finally ending a ban on women driving while remaining firm in the face of any dissent.

One of the five pillars of the world's fastest-growing religion, Haj is expected to draw two million people from around the globe this year.

By Thursday, more than 1.6m people had already arrived in Saudi Arabia for the pilgrimage.