

YEAR BOOK

2024-25



**Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Religious Affairs
and Interfaith Harmony
Islamabad**

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MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to present the Year Book 2024-25 of this Ministry. The book presents the continuous and dedicated effort of this Ministry to promote true spirit of Islam, Interfaith Harmony and to facilitate Hujjaj and Zaireen.

The Ministry has made all-out efforts to achieve Islamic ideals as laid down in the Constitution of Pakistan. The services of religious scholars (Ulema & Mashaik) were used to sensitize and mobilize the community to maintain sectarian and inter-faith harmony. Cooperation and coordination with Islamic and other countries were strengthened to project the true and soft image of Islam and wean away the Muslim Youth from the extremist groups. The crux of our untiring efforts was to pay undivided attention to:

1. Facilitate the pilgrims for Hajj, Umrah & Ziarat
2. Root out sectarianism/extremism and promote sectarian & interfaith harmony.
3. Take concrete steps for the welfare of minorities.

Ulema & Mashaik conferences at national level were held for promoting inter and intra faith harmony as well as concrete steps were taken to bring various segments of society in mainstream and create an environment of peace and harmony. National Seerat Conference is regular feature, wherein people from different schools of thought participating and highlighting different aspects of the Seerah of Muhammad ﷺ. The policy and plan for Hajj 2025 has been carried out successfully with fully satisfaction of Hujjaj even Government of KSA has granted an award on best arrangements of Hajj.

This publication features achievements and activities of Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony for the FY 2024-25.

(Sardar Muhammad Yousaf Zaman)
Minister for Religious Affairs
and Interfaith Harmony



PREFACE

Year Book 2024-25 of Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony for the financial years 2024-2025 has been prepared and uploaded for information of the Cabinet and general public in pursuance of Sub Rule (2) of Rule 25 of the Rules of Business, 1973.

It elaborates functions, organizational and overall overview of the Ministry. The Ministry facilitates Hajj Pilgrims and Zaireen. The Ministry spearheads/leads policy initiatives including legislation for interfaith harmony, international agreements and commitments in respect of all religious communities and implementation thereof. The Ministry holds National Seerat Conference, Qiyamul Lail and Hifz-o-Qirat Competition, meetings of National Commission for Minorities and celebrates different religious festivals/events of Non-Muslims with great zeal. Ministry launches small development schemes for uplift of Minorities, provides financial assistance and scholarships to deserving non-Muslim students. The contribution of following officers is acknowledged for their input and valuable advice in the preparation of the Year Book:

-

1. Mr. Nadeem Ahmad Malik, Senior Joint Secretary (Development and Coordination)
2. Dr. Mirza Ali Mashud, Senior Joint Secretary (Interfaith Harmony)
3. Mr. Assadullah Faiz, Joint Secretary (Admin/Finance)
4. Mr. Sajjad Haider Yaldram, Joint Secretary (Hajj)
5. Mr. Ahmed Nadeem Khan, Joint Secretary (Dawah and Ziarat)
6. Hafiz Abdul Qudoos, Director General (Research and Reference)

The “Year Book” will serve as a reference to evaluate our performance in terms of achievements of targeted goals and objectives.

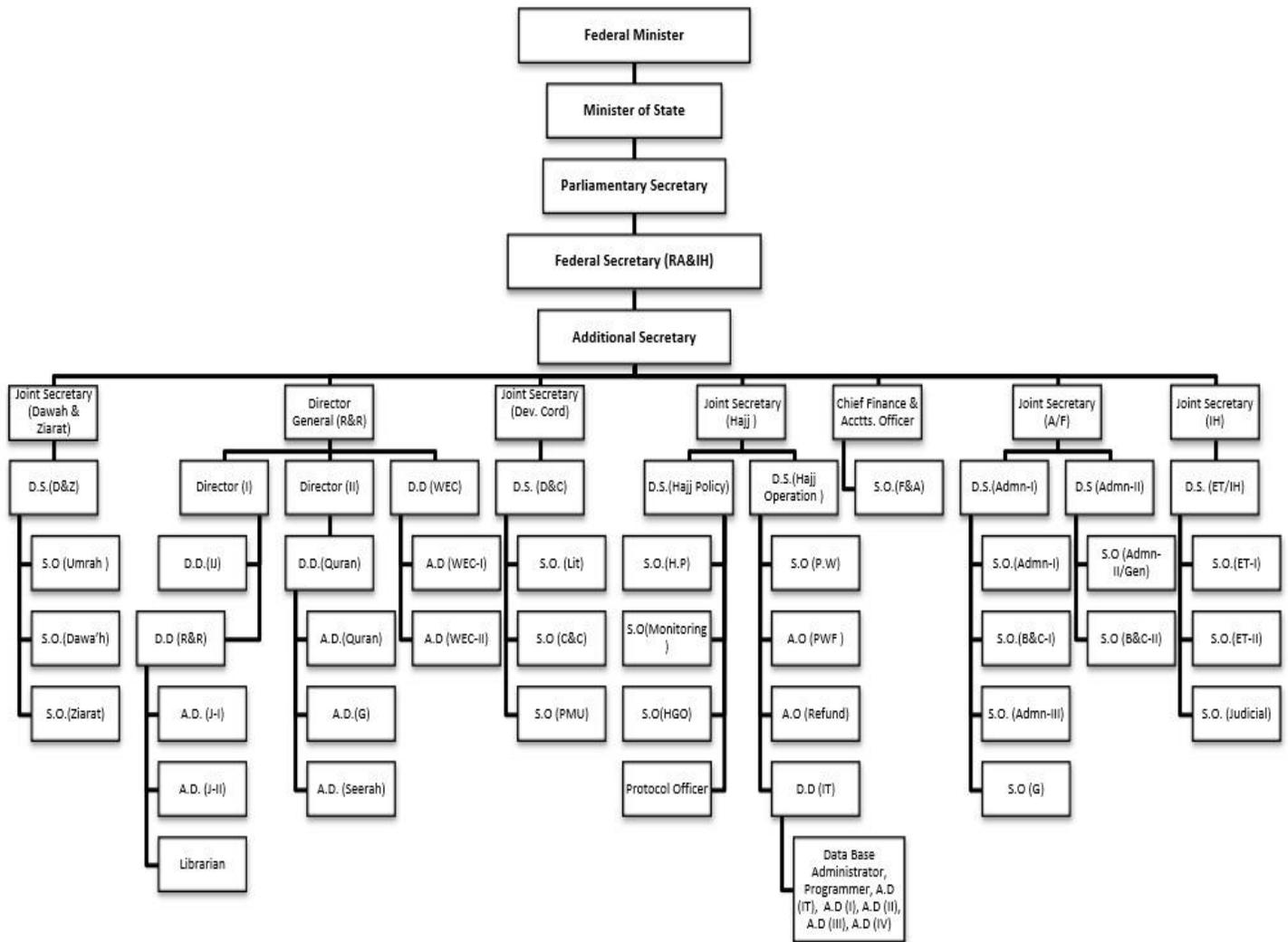
(Dr. Syed Ata Ur Rehman)
Secretary
Religious Affairs and Interfaith
Harmony

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Religious Affairs was created in October 1974. Prior to 1974 various Ministries had been dealing with Hajj operation. In 1976, the subjects of Minorities Affairs and Overseas Pakistanis were merged with this Ministry and the Ministry was renamed as “Ministry of Religious Affairs, Minorities Affairs and Overseas Pakistanis” however, these were transferred from the Ministry in 1977 and 1992, respectively. The subjects of Minorities Affairs and Zakat & Ushr were again transferred to this Ministry in 1996. The Zakat & Ushr was again separated from this Ministry in 2008. Hence, the Ministry was renamed as Ministry of Religious Affairs. After devolution of subject of Zakat & Ushr, a Zakat Cell was created in this Ministry. In 2019 Zakat was transferred to Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety. In June 2013, erstwhile Ministry of National Harmony was merged with Ministry of Religious Affairs emerging as Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony. The Ministry has the following Wings:

- **Admin and Finance Wing**
- **Dawah and Ziarat Wing**
- **Development and Coordination Wing**
- **Hajj Wing**
- **Interfaith Harmony Wing**
- **Research and Reference Wing**

ORGANOGRAM OF M/O RA&IH



FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTER-FAITH HARMONY

As per Rules of Business, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony perform the following functions: -

1. Pilgrimage beyond Pakistan; Muslim pilgrims visits to India
2. Ziarat and Umrah.
3. Welfare and safety of pilgrims and Zaireen
4. Administrative control of the Hajj Directorate at Jeddah and dispensaries in Makkah and Medina.
5. Islamic studies and research including holding of seminars, conferences, etc., on related subjects
6. Training and education of Ulemas and Khatibs etc.
7. Error-free and exact printing and publishing of the Holy Quran
8. Exchange of visits of scholars of Islamic learning and Education, international conferences/seminars on Islamic subject and liaison with foreign and international bodies and institutions.
9. Ruet-e-Hilal.
10. Tabligh
11. Observance of Islamic Moral Standards.
12. Donations for religious purposes and propagation of Islamic Ideology abroad.
13. Marriage and divorce, infants and minor's adoption.
14. Policy and legislation with regard to interfaith harmony.
15. International agreements and commitments in respect of all religious communities and implementation thereof.
16. Representation of Pakistan at UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination to Minorities.
17. Minorities' Welfare Fund
18. National Commission for Minorities.
19. Evacuee Trust Property Board.

ADMIN/FINANCE (A/F) WING

Administration Wing of the Ministry Consists of the following sections: -

- Admin-I Section.
- Admin-II Section
- Admin-III Section.
- Budget and Cash Branch-I
- Budget and Cash Branch-II
- General Section.

ADMIN-I SECTION:

The Admin-I section is mandated to deal with the human resource management and allied matters as per detail given below:

- Personnel Administration of Officers of this Ministry.
- Personnel Administration of Officials of this Ministry.
- Maintaining of Personal Record of officials.
- Maintenance of CR Dossiers of officers/officials of the Ministry.
- Hiring of residential accommodations for the officers/officials of the Ministry
- Medical Reimbursement to the serving & retired officers/officials of this Ministry.
- Pension cases of all the Officers and Officials of the Ministry.
- Miscellaneous administrative matters not otherwise specified.

2. The detail of activities of the Admn-I Section during 2024-25 is given below:

Sr. No.	Detail of cases Processed	Number
1	Promotion Cases	06
2	Medical reimbursement cases of serving officers/officials	103
3	Medical reimbursement cases of retired officers/officials	42
4	Hiring of Accommodations for officers/officials	270
5	Pension cases	15
6	House Building Advance	32
7	Motor Car Advance	30
8	General Provident Fund Advance	48
9	Posting/ transfer/ provision of human resource to various Officers/section.	93

ADMN-II SECTION

Admin-II Section deals with Administrative and General matters of Interfaith Harmony Wing of this Ministry.

ADMN-III SECTION

Admn-III Section is dealing with the matters relating to human resource management of the Directorates of Hajj in Pakistan and Directorate General of Hajj, Jeddah, KSA, Activities of Admn-III Section during 2024-25 are as under:

S.No	Detail of cases
I.	Recruitment of Daily Wages Staff for 45 days in Directorates of Hajj in Pakistan (Hajj-2025).
II.	Deployment of Scouts in Directorates of Hajj in Pakistan for Hajj Operation-2025
III.	Award of contracts for transportation, canteen Photocopy shops and Topy Tasbih in all Directorates of Hajj in Pakistan for welfare of Hujjaj for Hajj Operation-2025.
IV.	Allocation/ sanction of Pilgrim Fund to Directorates of Hajj in Pakistan & Directorate General of Hajj, Jeddah for Hajj-2025.
V.	Liaison with other Ministry/ Division/ Department for resolution of issues of Hajj Directorates.
VI.	Appointment of 03 officers through FPSC: (1) Assistant Directorate, (1) Deputy Director, (1) Liaison Officer in Hajj Directorate
VII.	One Pension case was processed
VIII.	Two cases of Disciplinary proceeding were delt
IX.	Eight medical re-imbusement cases of serving employees were processed
X.	Selection of the posts of Director (BS-19) and Assistant Accounts Officer (BS-17) initiated/ processed
XI.	Five cases of Posting/ transfer/ provision of replacement were processed
XII.	Arrangement of temporary Haji Camps at Sialkot, Faisalabad and Hyderabad.
XIII.	Two cases of advances were processed/ sanctioned in respect of employees of Directorate during Year 2025

BUDGET AND CASH BRANCH-I

The main functions of budget & cash Branch-I are as follows:

- Preparation, compilation and submission of budgetary estimates of the Ministry, Directorates of Hajj in Pakistan and Directorate of Hajj, Jeddah to Finance Division.
- Processing cases for-re-appropriation in respect of the Ministry, Directorates of Hajj in Pakistan and Directorate of Hajj, Jeddah.
- Dealing with cases of supplementary grants, saving and surrender of funds.
- Submission of contingency bills and collection of cheques to and from AGPR, Islamabad and Chief Accounts Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Preparation of Medium-Term Budgetary Framework estimates (Green Book) and its submission to the Finance Division.
- Reconciliation of monthly expenditures with the AGPR in respect of Main Ministry on monthly basis.
- Submission and collection of services books from AGPR, Islamabad after verification.
- Issuances of LPCs to non-Gazetted staff.
- Submission of cases of long-term advances to AGPR, Islamabad.
- Processing monthly computer change (modification in pay and allowances), issuances of LPCs and Pay Slips to officers from AGPR, Islamabad.
- Handling of cash and dealing with matters related to State Bank of Pakistan.
- Dealing with matters of Foreign Exchange Budget with Ministry of Finance and Chief Accounts Officer Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

PERFORMANCE DURING FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25

Rs. In Million

Total Allocation 2024-25	1,956.096
Re-appropriation (+)	408.046
Supplementary Grants (+)	0
Re-appropriation (-)	408.406
Surrender (-)	160.325
Final Grant 2024-25	1,795.771
Total Expenditure	1,779.956
Final Grant Balance	15.815

SUBMISSION OF CONTINGENCY BILLS:

1,903 bills submitted to AGPR, Islamabad during financial year 2024-25.

BUDGET AND CASH BRANCH-II

Budget and Cash Section-II deals with Financial matters of Interfaith Harmony Wing of this Ministry

GENERAL SECTION

The General Section is responsible for the following:

1. Look after the Security of Office building and watching of incoming/ outgoing of visitors as well as Vehicles parked in front of Office building.
 2. Purchase of Transport
 3. Purchase/ Repair of furniture and fixture, Machinery & Equipment, Computers and other Assets.
 4. Purchase of Stationary items.
 5. Purchase of Miscellaneous items.
 6. Purchase of POL for vehicles.
 7. Payment of utilities bills i.e. Telephone/ DSL Electricity/ Sui Gas.
 8. Repair of Transport (VIP vehicles) Minister/ Minister of State/ Parliamentary Secretary's Vehicle.
 9. Repair of Transport (General Vehicles of the Ministry).
 10. Repair of Telephone
 11. Repair and maintenance of office building.
 12. Repair of (Machinery & equipment computer/ printer/ ACs/ Electricity) etc.
 13. Repair of electricity, Photocopiers & Fax Machine.
 14. Arrangements of printing of office material i.e file covers, Federal Minister's, Minister of State and Secretary's office material, Summary file covers and all other printings of the Ministry.
 15. Arrangements of official meetings
 16. Reservation of accommodation in hotels, meal arrangements of officials guests
 17. Dispatch of outdoor Dak i.e. Immediate/ routine Dak through courier and general post office
 18. Distribution of indoor mail received from Couriers and General Post Office in the Ministry
2. The General Section during year 2024-25 made efficient arrangements to ensure security measures of the office building and facilitate Hajj Wing and R&R Wing to convene meetings regarding hajj arrangement and international Seerat Conference which is evident from their success. The section provided logistic support to the Ministry by providing transport to the Officers to attend meetings/ Court hearing/ dispatch of passports to airports and drop facility to the Hajj staff during Hajj operation who sat late and attended office during public holidays for smooth execution of Ministry's work. Moreover, this section makes arrangements of printing of Office material i.e. File Covers, Federal Minister's, Minister of State and Secretary's Offices material, Summary file covers and all other printing of the Ministry.

DAWAH & ZIARAT WING

Dawah & Ziarat Section comprises the following Sections: -

1. Ziarat Section
2. Dawah Section
3. Umrah Section

ZIARAT SECTION

VISIT OF PAKISTAN ZAIREEN FOR URS IN INDIA

As per the protocol signed with India in 1974, the Ministry is mandated to arrange the visits of Pakistani Zaireen to India on the occasion of the Scheduled Urs of prominent Muslim saints, as per the following details: -

S/No.	Name of Urs	Pre-determined No. of Zaireen
1	Hazrat Mujadid Alf Sani (RA), Sarhand Sharif	200
2	Hazrat Khawaja Allauddin Ali Ahmad Sabir (RA), Kalyar Sharif	200
3	Hafiz Abdullah Shah (RA), Agra	150
4	Hazrat Khawaja Nizamuddin Aulia (RA), Delhi	250
5	Hazrat Khawaja Moinuddin Chisti (RA), Ajmair Sharif	500
6	Hazrat Amir Khusro (RA), Delhi	200

VISIT OF PAKISTANI ZAIREEN TO IRAN, IRAQ, SAYRIA

To regulate, streamline and facilitate the movement of Pakistani Zaireen, the Government of Pakistan has formulated the first-ever comprehensive Zaireen Management Policy in consultation with all stakeholders. The Policy was approved by the Federal Cabinet on 13.04.2021. The Policy aims to replace the informal **Salaars System** with a structured mechanism that requires registration of Zaireen Group Organizers (ZGOs), managed by the Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony (MORA&IH). The silent features of the Policy are as under: -

- **Diversification of transportation modes** through road, and ferry services.
- **Construction of Service areas** at Padak, Nukandi, and Dalbandin along the Quetta-Taftan Road.
- **Upgradation and capacity enhancement** of facilities at Pakistan House (Taftan) and Haji Camp (Quetta).
- **Exploration of alternate crossing points** such as Mand and Gabd (Balochistan).
- **Registration of Zaireen Group Organizers (ZGOs)** and signing of MoUs with host countries.
- **Regulation of group and individual visas** for Zaireen through MoUs with host countries.
- **Launching awareness campaigns** to provide information, education, and guidance to intending Zaireen.
- **Provision of mandatory health insurance** for Zaireen by ZGOs.

The implementation of the policy is under process. Registration of ZGOs is underway wherein out of 1413 applicants, 585 applicants have been cleared by Ministry of Interior for registration. MORA will develop a comprehensive monitoring system to oversee all Zaireen and ZGOs activities.

To facilitate Zaireen deployment of Welfare staff and Android applications (Pak Zair App) along with Mobile SMS services will be deployed for real-time assistance during their travels.

Approximately 500,000 to 700,000 Pakistani Zaireen visiting Iran, Iraq, and Syria are expected to benefit from the Policy on an annual basis.

DAWAH SECTION

SELECTION OF HUFFAZ FOR QIYAMUL LAIL / MEHFIL-E-SHABINA

A competition for selection of Huffaz for recitation of Holy Quran in Qiyamul Lail was held at Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony through video conferencing wherein Huffaz from all over the country participated. For the said competition, 14 Huffaz were selected by the Judges committee for Qiyamul Lail/ Mehfil-e-Shabina, 2025, which was held at Faisal Masjid Islamabad from 21st to 27th of Ramadhan-ul-Mubarak 2025. The event was covered live by Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV).

NATIONAL HIFZ-O-QIRAT COMPETITION

National Hifz-o-Qirat Competition was held on 8-9 May, in Hotel Heaven Heights Islamabad wherein Huffaz/ Qura as nominated / selected by the provinces, Gilgit Baltistan, AJK and ICT as well as the Armed Forces participated in 10 difference categories of Hifz-o-Qirat. Cash prizes worth Rs. 80,000, Rs. 60,000, Rs. 40,000 were distributed among the top 3 winners of each category respectively.

INTERNATIONAL QURAN COMPETITIONS

On receipt of invitations from different Muslim countries i.e. Dubai, Russia, Turkey, KSA, Kuwait, and Morocco, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony recommends nominees from the position holders of the most recent National Hifz-o-Qirat Competitions and forwarded the same through Ministry of Foreign Affairs for participation in the International Quran Competitions.

RECEPTION OF FOREIGN DELEGATIONS

This Ministry also deals with the foreign delegation's / coordination meetings/ arrangement of visit of Minister and Religious Scholars / dignitaries to / from foreign countries regarding religious affairs, Dr. Salah Mohammad M Albdeer, Imam Masjid Al-Nabvi visited Pakistan from Saudi Arabia, from 08 to 14 August 2024, Dr. Zakir Abdul Karim Naik visited Pakistan from 30.09.2024 to 28.10.2024

MoU WITH DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

MoUs on religious affairs signed with different Muslim countries. An MoU has been signed with the kingdom of Saudi Arabia for cooperation in the field of Dawah and Guidance on 27.12.2024

in Jeddah and MoU with Turkey in the field of Religious Services and Religious Education on 13.02.2025 at Islamabad.

UMRAH SECTION

The Ministry has also performed following work in connection with Umrah: -

Attested 90 contract agreements of Umrah Tour Operators for Umrah season 1446 AH.

1. Processed 36 complaints against Umrah Tour Operators
2. Formulated draft Umrah Rules and Umrah Fund Rules under Hajj & Umrah (Regulation) Act 2024 which are in the process of approval.

DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION WING:

Development & Coordination Wing consist of following section: -

- **PMU Section**
- **Council and Coordination Section**
- **Litigation Section**

PMU SECTION

PMU Section perform the following functions:

- Examining PC-I / PC-II / PC-III / PC-IV of all development schemes prepared by respective Sections / Wings of the Ministry and other stakeholders.
- Convening DDWP meetings for consideration of development schemes within power of PAO.
- Preparation of minutes of DDWP meetings and subsequent circulation to all stakeholders and implementing & executing agencies.
- Coordinate and liaison with Planning Commission through Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives for authorization of funds for approved development schemes.
- Release of funds from Finance Division after getting authorization from Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives for approved development schemes of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.
- Processing of development schemes for approval of CDWP/ECNEC/ NEC as per competency of the said Fora.
- Coordination for development schemes with all sponsoring wings of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.

18. The detail of PSDP of this Ministry during financial year 2024-25 is as under: -

Sr. #	Name of Project	Approved Cost	Approval date	Date of commencement	Project duration / Completion date as per PC-I
1.	Construction of Hajj Complex at Lahore	Rs.1971.787 Million	11.05.2022	07.10.2022	03 Year 2022-23 to 30 June 2025
2.	Establishment of Recycling Plant for Shaheed Quran Papers in Islamabad.	Rs. 330.773 Million	28.03.22	01.07.22	02 Years 2022-23 to 30 June 2024

COUNCIL AND COORDINATION SECTION

The Council and Coordination Section perform the following functions:

- Prepare replies and brief the Minister, Minister of State and Parliamentary Secretary regarding Parliamentary business of the Ministry.
- Arrangements and assistance relating to meetings of the Standing Committees.
- Coordination with other Ministries/Divisions and Departments in the official matters.
- Preparation of Year Book of the Ministry.
- Provision of reports regarding implementation of the Cabinet Decisions.

This Ministry has timely submitted replies of the Questions and other Parliamentary Business to Senate and National Assembly Secretariat. Further briefs/ presentation on agenda items of the Meeting of the Senate and National Assembly Standing Committees during Financial Year 2024-25, has been timely submitted to the respective Secretariat.

LITIGATION SECTION

Litigation Section deals with Court Cases of this Ministry. The detail of the cases is as under: -

S#	Name of Court	No. of Cases Pending	Disposed off
Supreme Court of Pakistan	01	00	
Islamabad High Court	09	07	
Lahore High Court	16	03	
Sindh High Court/ Civil Court	16	02	
Peshawar High Court	11	08	
Balochistan High Court	02	01	
Total		55	21

HAJJ WING

Hajj Wing consists of the following Sections: -

- HP Section
- PW Section
- Monitoring Section
- HGO Section
- AO (PWF) Section
- AO Refund
- Protocol Officer
- DD IT

Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmon has been mandated for arrangements of Hajj under Rules of Business 1973. Hajj is one of the five basic pillars of Islam. The Ministry of Religious Affairs takes necessary steps for bringing improvements in the facilities for Hajj.

HAJJ POLICY & PLAN: -

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony took necessary steps for bringing improvements in the facilities for Hajj-2025. In this regard, Hajj Wing played an important role in conducting the Hajj operation after debriefing meetings, consultative workshops in consultation with all the stakeholders including various Ministries/ Organizations of Saudi and Pakistani Government Banks, Airline, Hajj Group Organizers. The salient features of Hajj Policy 2025 were as under: -

1. The Hajj Quota allocated to Pakistan for Hajj-2025 was 179,210. This was distributed between Government and Private Hajj Scheme at a ratio of 50:50 i.e. 89,605 each.
2. Out of the Government Hajj Scheme 5,000 seats were reserved for sponsorship Scheme, under which applicants were required to deposit their Hajj dues in foreign exchange remitted from abroad through banking channel.
3. A quota of 30,000 of Private Hajj Scheme was reserved for sponsorship Scheme.
4. Foreign exchange secured through the sponsorship Scheme was utilized for payment of the Hajj related dues to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
5. For Government Hajj Scheme, there was traditional long package of 38-42 days and a short package of 20-25.
6. The Hajj package of Government Hajj Scheme for Hajj 2025 was Rs. 1,05,0000/- for long package and Rs. 11,00,000/- for short package.
7. Children below 12 years of age was not allowed to proceed for Hajj as per the Saudi directions.
8. As per the decision of the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) taken in its session No. 232 held on 6th – 7th June, 2023, female pilgrim (without mehram) were allowed for Hajj subject to the certain conditions.
9. 1,000 seats were reserved for hardship cases.
10. 300 seats were reserved for labour/ low paid employees of companies registered with EOBI and Workers Welfare Fund.
11. Immunizations of KSA approved vaccines was mandatory.
12. “Route to Makkah” facility was continued at Islamabad and Karachi airports.

13. Monitoring Team from MoRA&IH monitored the overall performance of Hajj operations to improve the quality of service.
14. Munazzams signed Service Providers Agreement (SPA) with the Ministry and the same were monitored by the trained staff of the Ministry to ensure facilitation of Hujjaj.
15. Staff was deployed for provision of welfare Service to Hujjaj.
16. Comprehensive training to Hujjaj was imparted, including logistics, Hajj procedures and practices, clothing and dealing with emergency situations.
17. Hujjaj Muhafiz Scheme was continued under which Hujjaj were compensated on their losses.
18. Electronic Monitoring System including Hajj help line and Pak Hajj App, for information dissemination, complaint registration and Hajj Monitoring was operational.
19. Emergency Response Teams were constituted.
20. Hajj Nazim scheme was introduced.
21. Mandatory Insurance of Hajj dues under which each Munazzam/HGO required to purchase insurances for Hajj dues for each Haji covering the Hajj period.
22. Tracking SIMs were provided to Hujjaj, to locate them in event, if, they get lost.
23. Comprehensive Complaint Redressal Mechanism was in place to dispose of complaints in transparent and expeditious manner.

Contract with Airlines:

For year 2025, five airlines i.e Pakistan International Airline, Saudi Airlines, Serene Air, Airblue, and Airsial, participated in the Hajj operation, facilitating the transportation of Hujjaj from Pakistan to Saudi Arabia and vice versa. The Ministry has signed contract with each of the designated airline, ensuring the provision of the best possible facilities and services to the Hujjaj.

Hiring and procurement

Annual Hajj agreement was signed between Federal Minister, MoRA & IH and Minister for Hajj and Umrah, Kingdom and Saudi Arabia for Hajj 2025. The hiring/ procurement committee was notified for formulation of procurement / hiring plan for Hajj-2025 and hiring of buildings, transport, food arrangement and related procurement/ hiring of services at KSA in the light of PPRA rules and instructions/guidelines of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

Hardship/ substitutional labour Quota

Hardship/ substitutional cases as well as labour/ low paid employees quota. 1,000 seats for hardship and 300 for labour/ low paid employee were reserved for Hajj 2025 and the same were utilized. Substitution cases were also entertained as per prescribed criteria.

INTERFAITH HARMONY WING

Interfaith Harmony Wing consists of the Following Section: -

- ET-I Section
- ET-II Section
- IH Section
- Judicial Section

INTERFAITH HARMONY IN PAKISTAN

Interfaith harmony is an important aspect of Pakistani society, given its diverse religious landscape. The country is home to people from various religious backgrounds, including Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and others. The theme of interfaith harmony therefore focuses on promoting mutual understanding, respect and peaceful coexistence among people of different faiths. This includes recognizing and celebrating the diversity of religious beliefs and practices, as well as promoting dialogue and cooperation between different religious communities. It also involves addressing issues such as discrimination, marginalization and violence against religious minorities as well as promoting their rights and protection under the law.

To promote and preserve interfaith harmony, the government has developed several laws, policies and institutions that work towards creating an environment of tolerance, respect and peaceful coexistence among different faiths.

The Constitution of Pakistan recognizes and protects the rights of individuals of all religions. Article 20 of the Constitution states that "every citizen shall have the right to profess, practice and propagate his religion subject to law, public order, and morality." Similarly, Article 36 of the Constitution provides for the protection of minorities' the state shall safeguard the legitimate rights and interests.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

DURING FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE MINORITIES THROUGH MINORITIES WELFARE FUND

Minorities welfare fund (MWF), operative in the Interfaith Harmony Wing of Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony since 1985, is used for the execution of small Development Schemes for repair/maintenance of the worship places of minorities, grant of Financial Assistance to the poor and needy members of the minority communities as well as grant of Scholarship on merit. This Fund is used as per provision of the Accounting Procedure approved by the Finance Division and Auditor General of Pakistan. This allocation of MWF during the financial year 2024-25 was Rs. 100 million with the following funds allocation ratio for the various categories of minorities' welfare:

HEADS OF DISTRIBUTION	UTILIZATION	FUNDS ALLOCATION
Small Development Schemes	For repair/ renovation of religious places of minorities	Rs. 28 M*
Financial Assistance	Financial assistance of Rs. 10,000/- to each of the needy minorities and Marriage Grant of Rs. 50,000/- of daughter of a widow on recommendations of the Minister, minority Senators and minority MNAs	Rs. 12 M
Scholarship	To minority students	Rs. 60 M

**Additionally, profit on a Special Grant of the Federal Government for minorities' welfare was also used this year for small Development Schemes worth a total of Rs 45.56 million.*

i. **SMALL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES**

Small Development Schemes are recommended by Minister for RA&IH, Minority Parliamentarians, Ex-MNAs, Ex-MPA and prominent leaders of minorities. The schemes pertain to repair of worship places and graveyards of the minorities and provision of solar systems, generators and fixtures for worship places and for education and health schemes for the minorities. The schemes are approved by the Development Committee with the following composition: -

1	Minister, Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony	Chairman
2	Secretary, Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony	Member
3	Joint Secretary Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony	Member
4	Deputy Chief, Planning and Dev & Special Initiatives	Members
5	Deputy Secretary (Exp) Finance Division	Member
6	Secretary, Evacuee Trust Property Board	Member
7	Deputy Secretary (Admn), Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony	Member

For the financial year 2024-25 the Development Committee approved 32 small Development Schemes (05 cases of repair/ renovation of religious places of the minorities and 27 cases for the supply of equipment) at total cost of Rs. 45.569 million.

ii. **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:**

Financial Assistance worth Rs. 8.66 million was provided on the recommendations of the Federal Minister for RA&IH and Minority Parliamentarians to 1170 needy individuals belonging to the minorities. The allocation for financial assistance to the needy individuals is disbursed as under: -

1. Prime Minister & Minister for RA&IH' discretion.
2. Minorities MNAs/ Minority Senators.

iii. **SCHOLARSHIP: -**

Minorities Students Educational Scholarships are granted to the students of minority communities from the Primary to the professional level. The applications for the grant of scholarships to minority students is advertised through the Press and website of this Ministry with following criteria: -

1. The Candidate must apply online and submit printed copy with computer generated number duly approved by the head of institution along with documentary evidence.
2. The candidate must belong to a minority community and must be a regular student of a Government Institute.
3. The candidate's parent's income must not exceed the amount double of minimum wage notified by Federal Government in the ongoing fiscal year.
4. The students must have obtained at least 50% marks in the last year examination.

Rates of Scholarships (as per Accounting Procedure approved by Finance Division)

SL	CATEGORY	PER MONTH	PER ANNUM
1	Primary level (Class (I-V)	Rs. 400/-	Rs. 4,800/-
2	Secondary level (Class (VI-X)	Rs. 600/-	Rs. 7,200/-
3	Intermediate level (FA, FSC, Technical Schools)	Rs. 1,400/-	Rs. 16,800/-
4	Degree level (BA, B.Com & B.ED. etc)	Rs. 2,000/-	Rs. 24,000/-
5	Post Graduate level (M.A, M.sc, M.Com, etc)	Rs. 2,000/-	Rs. 24,000/-
6	Professional Medical/ Engineering Colleges	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 60,000/-

The province wise disbursement of funds for scholarships during the financial years 2024-25 are tabulated as under: -

Sr	Province	Applications received	Eligible	Amount (Rs) Involved
1	Punjab	1198	433	8,431,200
2	Sindh	6091	1527	42,326,400
3	KPK	317	126	3,544,800
4	Balochistan	242	108	4,706,400
5	Islamabad	117	42	991,200
TOTAL		7965	2236	60,000,000

CELEBRATION OF RELIGIOUS FUNCTIONS OF MINORITIES

In order to promote understanding and harmony among all segments of society, this ministry celebrates important religious festivals of Minority Communities, officially. These festivals include Christmas and Easter for Christians, Holi and Diwali for Hindus, Eid-e-Ridvan for Baha'is, and Chelum Jusht for the Kalash people. This effort of the Ministry is aimed at presenting a soft image of Pakistan as minorities-friendly country on the national and international levels. Celebration of these events brings all segments of society closer to each other for peaceful co-existence.

During the financial year 2024-25, the following religious functions of the minorities were celebrated at the official level to promote interfaith culture: -

1. Minorities' Day celebration was arranged on 12th August, 2024 at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.
2. Diwali celebration was arranged on 30th October, 2024 at PNCA, Islamabad.
3. Christmas celebration of Christian community was arranged on 24th December, 2024 at Prime Minister's Office Islamabad.
4. Holi celebration of Hindu Community was arranged on 22nd April, 2025 at National Library of Pakistan, Islamabad.
5. Easter celebration of Christian Community was arranged on 25th April, 2025 at National Library of Pakistan.
6. Eid-e-Ridvan celebration of Baha'i community was arranged on 30th April, 2025 at National Library of Pakistan.

HOLDING OF INTERFAITH HARMONY CONFERENCE AND SEMINARS

In order to promote interfaith harmony and a culture of tolerance in society, the Ministry arranges "Interfaith Harmony Conferences and Seminars" on various topics every year. During the year, Interfaith Harmony Conferences and Seminars on different Interfaith Harmony-related topics were arranged at Islamabad, Provincial Headquarters and renowned Universities at Islamabad & Karachi as per the following details: -

1. IH Conference was arranged at Governor's House, Peshawar on 11.12.2024.
2. IH Conference was arranged at Faletti's Hotel, Lahore on 13.04.2025.
3. IH Conference was arranged at Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi on 17.04.2025.
4. IH Conference was arranged at Governor's House, Quetta on 20.05.2025.

APPROVAL OF POLICY ON INTERFAITH HARMONY

Cognizant of the religious-culture diversity in the country and its related issues, promotion of interfaith harmony is one of the most inevitable priorities for realization of a peaceful and tolerant Pakistan. "Interfaith Harmony Policy" has been mandated to MoRA&IH under the Rules of Business, 1973. Therefore, a policy on Interfaith Harmony was drafted in consultation with the concerned departments. After consultation with all stakeholders, the IH policy was approved by the Federal Cabinet on 12.02.2025. The Policy on Interfaith Harmony will help to address the issues of promotion of Interfaith Harmony among different faiths living in Pakistan and will project the soft image of Pakistan as a tolerant, moderate and peaceful society. The crux of the draft IH Policy is as under: -

1. The Policy defines the vision, objectives and direction towards realization of ideological, social, cultural and religious cohesion amongst various segments of the nation.
2. The Policy is specifically aimed at devising a strategy to promote interfaith harmony; increasing awareness about the rights of minorities and respect of religious freedom; combating intolerance in the society through interfaith dialogues; curbing hate material/speeches to avoid rift amongst the religious communities; addressing the major concerns of minorities (e.g issues related to mob violence, discrimination and hate content / speeches etc); mainstreaming of minorities through enabling legislative / administrative initiatives; and dispelling adverse propaganda against Pakistan regarding the alleged persecution of minorities.
3. It also includes a Plan of Action to achieve these objectives through feasible measures at all levels. The Policy assigns responsibilities to the concerned federal and provincial agencies / stakeholders to carry out their specific tasks in their assigned domains.

IMPLEMENTATION OF IH POLICY

1. As approved by the Cabinet on 12.02.2025, the “Policy for Interfaith Harmony” were circulated to all the Federal Secretaries as well as provincial Chief Secretaries for implementation. In response 14 Ministries / Departments have nominated the focal persons for the implementation mechanism of IH policy till date.
2. IH Policy has been uploaded on the Ministry’s website for information of the public. It has also been shared with the social activists in terms of “resources reservoirs” mentioned in the Policy’s Action Plan for information and feedback.
3. The Ministry of Religious Affairs has launched an E-Portal under its Web Evaluation cell to enable the general public to report objectionable, contentious, and hateful content on social media for blockage. The web links with potential to hurt the religious sentiments of minority communities are reported to the PTA for necessary action.

TASKFORCE TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY ON RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

In pursuance of Para 37(i) of judgment of the Supreme Court of Pakistan dated 19.06.2014, a Task Force, under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary MoRA&IH was notified on 11.06.2022 by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony with the aim to develop a strategy for the promotion of religious tolerance amongst all segments of the country. Consequently, this Ministry devised a draft strategy plan for eliminating religious intolerance and hate speech in the society, which was approved by the Federal Cabinet along with the IH Policy on 12.02.2025. The strategy for Religious Tolerance incorporates a strong element of interfaith or sectarian harmony and details of the response mechanism and action plan to achieve the purpose of religious tolerance in the society.

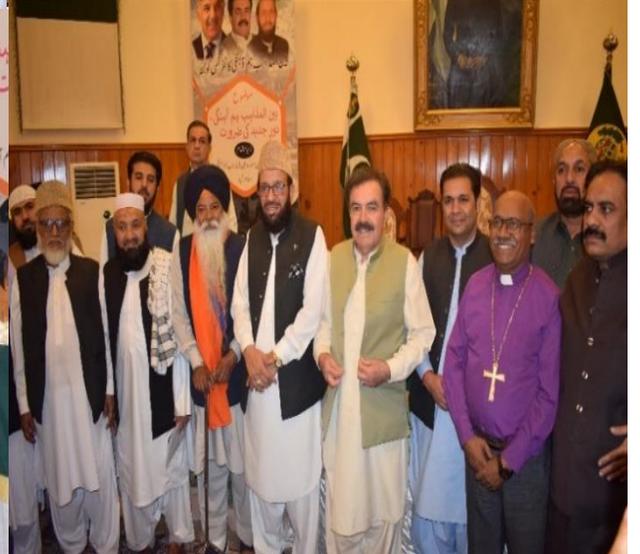
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES (NCM) ACT 2024

The NCM was initially established with the approval of the Federal Cabinet on 02.07.1990 and has been reconstituted on a triennial basis since its inception. The existing ToRs of the Commission do not provide for its administrative, financial and operational powers. In order to enable the Commission to perform its functions independently as a statutory body and to give statutory cover to ensure its administrative, financial and functional independent, this Ministry, in consultation with all concerned stakeholders at the Federal and Provincial level including NCM members and One-Man Commission, drafted the bill entitled “National Commission for Minorities Act, 2024” and submitted it for approval of the Parliament. In Meanwhile the National Commission for Minorities has been transferred from M/o RA&IH to Ministry of Human Rights on 23.04.2025. After transfer of the subject of National Commission for Minorities to the Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR), the same bill was re-introduced by the MoHR in the Parliament.

PICTURES OF IH CONFERENCES DURING 2024-25





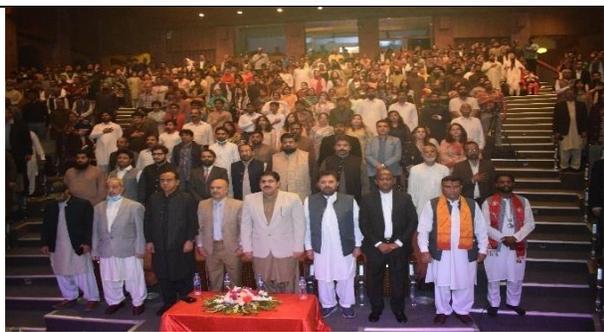




PICTURES OF MINORITIES FESTIVALS DURING 2024-25



CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS AT AIWAN-E-SADR, ISLAMABAD on 12.08.2024

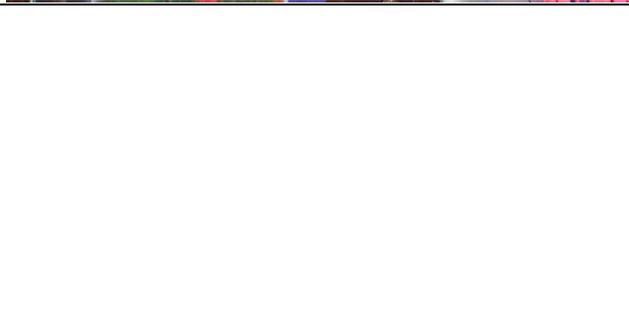




CELEBRATION OF DIWALI AT PNCA, ISLAMABAD ON 30.10.2024



CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS AT PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ISLAMABAD ON 24.12.2024







Development projects during 2024-2025

Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) Achievements Report – 2024 regarding development projects

The Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) continued its dedicated efforts throughout the year 2024, demonstrating remarkable progress in the execution of development and preservation projects. These initiatives not only contribute to the preservation of heritage sites but also enhance the facilities available to the public and Yatrees visiting from different countries including India under bilateral protocols. Below is an overview of ETPB’s key achievements on account of development projects.

1. Construction of 7-Storey Residential Block at Gurdwara Janamasthan, Nankana Sahib.
2. Conservation and Preservation of Agrwal Asharam, Lahore.
3. Revamping of Public Washrooms at Evacuee Trust Complex, Islamabad.
4. Reconstruction of Valmik Mandir, Neela Gumbad, Lahore.
5. Construction of Dining Hall and Completion of Residential Complex at Katas Raj Complex, Chakwal.
6. Construction of Zonal/District Office cum Residence at Nankana Sahib.
7. Conservation/Restoration of Gurdwara Bhai Karam Singh, Jhelum.
8. Conservation/Restoration of Haveli Maharaja Ranjeet Singh, Gujranwala.
9. Construction of 1st Floor Including Up gradation of Ground Floor of District/Zonal Office at 7th Road, Rawalpindi.
10. Revamping of Internal Electrical Distribution System of Gurdwara Dera Sahib, Lahore.
11. Restoration of Premises of Jain Mandir, Gujranwala.
12. Reconstruction of Boundary Wall at Sikh and Hindu Shamshan Ghat, Lahore.
13. Installation of Solar System (On-Grid) at ETP Board, Lahore.

REASSESSMENT OF URBAN PROPERTIES AFTER 19-YEARS

Clause 10 and 11 of the Urbane Scheme of 1977 makes it binding on ETPB to conduct reassessment of properties after every eight years. Last reassessment drive was conducted in the year 2006 but thereafter the process of reassessment could not be conducted due to long litigation before different legal fora and eventually in the wake of Supreme Court Judgment in case titled Chairman ETPB & others Vs. Sufi Nazir Ahmed & Others, assessment/ re-assessment

inventiveness was initiated w.e.f 01.07.2024 after eighteen years. Fresh market survey through android application has been conducted to bring the rent of the properties as per market rate. 27638 numbers of properties have so far been surveyed. Annual rent of Rs.5054 million has been assessed against the existing rent of Rs.897 million which may ultimately enhance the revenue by Rs. 4156 million.

Retrieval of Lands-A mile stone achieved

An area of 6367 Acres land has been get retrieved by ETPB from illegal encroachers/grabbers upto December 2024.

Recovery of outstanding dues

ETP Board has got recovered outstanding dues of Land / Properties amounting to Rs. 950.214 Million approximately during this period

Digitization of Property / Land Record

ETPB has become the top user of E-office among Federal Government departments of Government of Pakistan by digitizing the record of lands and properties land property record. E-Office has been implemented for swift processing of files. E-Office eliminates the need for manual handling of files and documents, streamlining workflows and reducing processing times.8360 files have been added to E-Office. ETPB has completed the following digitization procedures: -

- Geo tagging of all traced ET Properties/ Land has been completed.
- ETPB has successfully digitized Property / Land record of more than 50,000 properties and 18000 agricultural lots have been saved through Management Information System. Now, this record is archived in data center established in ETPB.
- File indexing software has been developed to save the record of ET Properties/ Land in digital form.
- E-Billing System for the payment of lease bills has been introduced to ease the lessees. After E-Billing System, tenants / lessees may deposit their bills through Jazz Cash, HBL App and One Bill sources.
- In order to enhance the recovery procedure, rent bills have been placed on ETPB website for easy access.

ETPB with the collaboration of SUPARCO is able to monitor the encroachment on ET Land. SUPARCO has developed Portal reflecting quarterly basis encroachment report. Any encroachment on ETP Land is highlighted in digital manners which helps ETPB to remove it promptly. ETPB does not have to depend upon field staff for such monitoring.

Remarkable achievement of amendments in ETPB Urban and agriculture Schemes in 2024, after five decades

The schemes of ETPB for the lease of Evacuee Trust Agricultural Land, 1975 and for the management and disposal of urban Evacuee Trust Properties, 1977, made under the ETPB Act, 1975 have been amended in the year 2024 after five decades.

Amendment in these scheme will make ETPB able to fetch more benefits not only for the department but will also facilitate lessee/ tenants of the departments. Salient feature has been described hereunder: -

The process of the leasing of agriculture lands and properties have been made more fair and transparent by introducing auction committees in the amended schemes. All lands of ETPB which are situated within the urban/municipal limits will be available for development both by the Department itself and by the developer as the case may be. In either case the ETPB will earn substantial amount on account of nonrefundable Security (NRS) and through monthly rents. The per square feet rent of urban properties has been enhanced which will enhance the revenue of the department. The period of lease for auction lots has been increased from 03 years to 08 years. This provision will attract attention of public to get the lease of land through open auction. Another provision has been introduced to make the barren lands useful for industry, fish and goat farming whereby the lease period has been enhanced from 15 years to 30 years.

Public Engagement Initiatives

- ❖ Evacuee Trust Property Board has implemented various public engagement initiatives at different Hindu and Sikh temples/ shrines. These efforts aim to foster community involvement and enhance the overall experience for pilgrims/ visitors.
- ❖ To enhance religious tourism in the country, Evacuee Trust Property Board offers comprehensive facilities for pilgrims/ yatrees, including:
 - Reception at Wagah Border/ Lahore Airport by ETPB officers/ PSGPC members.
 - Facilitation in Immigration and Customs clearance.
 - Free of cost Langer / food during stay and enroute.
 - Luxury transport.
 - Free Medical facility.
 - Security.
 - Currency Exchange.
 - Telephone calls facility.
 - Accommodation.
 - Worship.
- ❖ **Detail of events held during each calendar year and number of Sikh / Hindu Yatrees attending different festivals/ events are as under: -**

S.No	Event	Month	Yatrees attended the event		
Sikh Events					
			Indian	Local	Diaspora
a.	Vaisakhi Festival	April	3000	30,000	8,000
b.	Martyrdom Day of Guru Arjun Dev Ji	June	1000	10,000	500
c.	Death Anniversary of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh	June	500	3000	300
d.	Birthday celebration of Guru Nanak Dev Ji	November	3000	50,000	10,000
		Total	7,500	93,000	18,800
		Grand Total	1,19,300		
Hindu Events					
			Indian	Local	Diaspora
e.	Annual event at Katas Raj Temples, Chakwal	Feb / Mar	200	500	Nil

f.	Annual event at Katas Raj Temples, Chakwal	Nov / Dec	200	500		
g.	Annual festival at Hayat Pitafi at Sadhu Bela Mandir (Sindh)	Nov / Dec	400	10,000		
	Total		800	11,000		
	Grand Total					

TARGET FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

Project to be Completed	
1	Construction of 07 th Storey Residential Block (100 Rooms) at Gurdwara Janamasthan Nankana Sahib.
2	Construction of Zonal/ District Office cum Residence at Nankana Sahib
3	Conservation / Restoration of Gurdwara Bhai Karam Singh, Jhelum
4	Conservation / Restoration of Havali Maharaja Ranjeet Singh, Gujranwala
5	Construction of 1 st floor i/c upgradation of Ground Floor of District and Zonal Office at 7 th Road Rawalpindi
6	Revamping of Internal Electrical Distribution System of Gurdwara Dera Sahib Lahore
7	Reconstruction of Boundary Wall at Sikh and Hindu Shamshan Ghat Lahore
Project to be Initiated	
1	Solarization of ETPB Building, Islamabad
2	Upgradation and Renovation Works of Green Trust Tower Islamabad
3	Additional / Alteration of Multi Storey Executive Block at ETPB Board, Lahore
4	Construction of Office Building cum Residence of Deputy Administrative Evacuee Trust Property No. 315/E at Bannu

The Budget allocation for the fiscal year 2024-25

- Budget allocation for the fiscal year, 2024-25 amounts to Rs. 7,062.991 Million
- Total expenditure incurred against this allocation stands at Rs. 5,931.560 Million
- This represents 83.98% utilization of the allocated budget for the fiscal year, 2024-25
- The revenue generated during the same period totals Rs. 5,650.068 Million

EVACUEE TRUST PROPERTY BOARD

1. Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) is a corporate body, established through (Management and Disposal) Act, 1975 (Act No. XIII of 1975) under the administrative control of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony (Interfaith Harmony Wing). The Board is self-finance generating corporate body and is responsible for: -

1. Management of evacuee trust properties on behalf of Federal Government.
2. Buy out surplus income, if any with the approval of Federal Government for augmenting the resources of ETP Board.
3. Disposal / transfer of trust properties with Federal Government's approval.
4. Leasing and renting of ET Properties.
5. Maintenance of Hindu and Sikh Trust Shrines.
6. Facilities for Yatrees (Pilgrims).
7. Grants-in-Aid for Social Welfare, Educational and Health Purposes Development Projects on trust properties.
8. Development Projects on Evacuee Trust Properties / Lands
9. To manage religious places belonging to Sikh and Hindus who migrated to India at the time of independence.

2. CONSTITUTION OF EVACUEE TRUST PROPERTY BOARD

The Board is constituted for a period of three years on such terms and conditions, as the Federal Government may determine, under Section-3 of Evacuee Trust Properties (Management & Disposal) Act No. XIII of 1975).

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Chairman shall be appointed, under Section-3(4) of Evacuee Trust Properties (Management & Disposal) Act No. XIII of 1975, by the Federal Government on such terms and conditions as it may determine, shall hold office during the pleasure of the Federal Government and shall be the administrative and executive head of the Board.

4. CONSTITUTION OF PAKISTAN SIKH GURDWARA PARBANDHAK COMMITTEE (PSGPC)

Minorities affairs are being run through their respective committees. Up till 1998, all functions in Pakistani Gurdwaras were managed by Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), India. A large number of foreign Sikhs also used to participate from Europe, USA, Canada, Australia and some South Asian countries. SGPC used to take all the donations to India made by the Yatrees during the festivals. As per Sikh religion, donations made at a particular Gurdwara could neither be spent on any other Gurdwara nor taken away. In addition to this, during all these years, SGPC followed a policy of neglect towards the Pakistani Gurdwaras and never spent a penny on any Gurdwara. This state of Gurdwaras in Pakistan was very much resented by the Sikh Yatrees from India/ all over the world and on every occasion they requested the Pakistani Government to hand over the control and management of Gurdwaras to Sikhs of Pakistan. In response to these repeated requests by the Sikhs from all over the world, the Government of Pakistan decided to establish Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC) in 1999.

5. THE TRUST PROPERTIES HAVE BEEN CATEGORIZED AS UNDER:

- Shrines/ worship places.
- Agriculture trust lands.
- Urban trust properties.

- Properties purchased/ acquired with trust money.
- Sale proceeds of trust properties.
- Profit/ income from trust properties (Cash invested).
- Lease/ rent money from trust properties.
- Evacuee trust property exchanged with any other properties /land.

6. **SUBSIDIARIES OF ETPB.** ETPB runs the following welfare institutions to contribute in education and health sectors:

- Dyal Singh Trust Library, Lahore.
- Five Health Centers:
 - Gurdwara Dera Sahib
 - Agarwal Ashram
 - Staff Colony
 - Gurdwara Janamasthan, Nankana Sahib
 - Gurdwara Punja Sahib, Hassanabdal
- Nawaz Sharif Girls High School, Lahore
- Trust Model Public School for Boys, Lahore
- Hazrat Ayesha Siddiqa Degree College for Women, Lahore
- Dr. Mateen Fatima Trust Model School
- Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Trust Model Girls Higher Secondary School

7. **MINORITIES SHRINES.**

ETPB is the custodian of minorities' shrines and conducts its rituals in the country. ETPB looks after religious places of Sikhs and Hindus (who migrated to India at the time of partition) and provides facilities to the yatrees, who visit Pakistan to perform their religious rituals. Most of the important and historical shrines particularly of Sikh community are located in Pakistan. Due to some untiring efforts, remarkable success has been achieved in uplifting the image of Pakistan as minority friendly country. All major Gurdwaras and Mandirs have been renovated including the provision of modern facilities for the pilgrims. Role of ETPB in the uplift of Hindu and Sikh communities, especially the restoration/ preservation of Gurdwaras and Mandirs has been acknowledged by local and international Sikh community.

8. **FACILITIES PROVIDED TO THE YATREES.**

To promote religious tourism in the country, Evacuee Trust Property Board provides best available facilities to the yatrees, in coordination with other government departments for their comfortable stay in Pakistan. Coordination meetings are held with around 40 Provincial and Federal Govt departments for smooth and safe stay of yatrees in Pakistan. Emphasis is made to ensure provision of best facilities to the yatrees in order to project Pakistan's image as a minorities' friendly country. Facilities include followings: -

- Reception.** All the Sikh and Hindu yatrees are received at Joint Check Post (JCP) and Railway station, Wahga by officers/ officials of shrines branch and members of Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC). In addition, special help desks are established at Wahga for facilitation of yatrees.
- Langar.** Provision of langar on arrival / departure and throughout the stay of Sikh and Hindu yatrees in Pakistan is ensured by ETPB and PSGPC/ PHMMC.
- Travel Arrangements.** Shrine Branch makes all arrangements for the travel of Indian Sikh and Hindu yatrees throughout their stay and visit in Pakistan. It includes coordination and

arrangements of special trains and buses for Sikh / Hindu yatrees to make sure their comfortable visit to all major Gurdwaras / Mandirs.

d. **Customs and Immigration.** Liaison with Customs and Immigration departments and Rangers authorities for speedy immigration process is also made by ETPB for the facilitation of yatrees.

e. **Security.** Adequate security arrangements are made in coordination with concerned Government departments for the protection of yatrees and Gurdwaras/ Mandirs. Security Staff of ETP Board is also deployed for protection of yatrees throughout their inland traveling.

f. **Facilitation Desks.** ETPB establishes facilitation desks to help yatrees by issuing them cards and collecting their bio data.

g. **Accommodation.** ETPB ensures free of cost comfortable boarding and lodging arrangements for yatrees within the premises of major Gurdwaras/ Mandirs throughout the year. In this regard, temporary tent/ marquees are established in all the Gurdwaras for local/ Indian yatrees.

h. **Rituals.** ETPB has employed Sikh and Hindu Sewadars, Granthis and Pujaris in Gurdwaras and Mandirs respectively to ensure holding of religious ceremonies in Gurdwaras/ Mandirs as per traditions of Sikh & Hindu religions.

i. **Currency Exchange.** ETPB ensures arrangements for money exchange according to market rate by establishing counters of National Bank of Pakistan/ Habib Bank Limited at Wahga Railway station and in all major Gurdwaras.

j. **Telephone Facilities.** In order to facilitate yatrees to keep them in touch with their families back home, PTCL telephone booths are arranged in all main Gurdwaras.

k. **Health Cover.** ETPB provides complete health cover round the clock with availability of Doctors / Para Medical Staff for yatrees during their travel and stay in Pakistan. In case of death of any yatrees all arrangements for returning of dead bodies are also made by ETPB.

09. FACILITATION TO SIKH COMMUNITY

Excellent level of communication has been maintained with Sikh and Hindu Communities. They are being facilitated financially and administratively in all their local events i.e. Samagam etc which has further increased their confidence in ETPB. Details of the major events are as under: -

International Sikh Event

555th Birthday Celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev Ji

(14 to 23 Nov 2024)

Sikh community celebrated 555th Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, founder of Sikhism from 14 to 23 Nov 2024 in different Gurdwaras of Pakistan with religious zeal. Main ceremony was held at Gurdwara Janam Asthan, Nankana Sahib, the birth place of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. About 5,000 Sikh Diaspora, 30,000 local Sikh/ Nanak Namlewa Hindus attended the event. 2552 Indian Sikh Yatrees also arrived Pakistan on 14 Nov 2024 and returned to India on 23 Nov 2024 after attending the rituals. Significant features of the event were Paath Sahib, Concluding Ceremony, Nagar Kirthan procession and night celebrations at Gurdwara Janam Asthan, in addition to visits to all prominent Gurdwaras including Gurdwara Sacha Soda Farooq Abad, Gurdwara Panja Sahib

Hassan Abdal, Gurdwara Dera Sahib Lahore, Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kirtarpur and Gurdwara Rori Sahib Eminabad. Main function of the event was held on 15 Nov 2024 at Gurdwara Janam Asthan Nankana Sahib, graced by Ch. Salik Hussain, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony.



326th Vaisakhi Festival

(10 to 19 April 2025)

Sikh community celebrated 326th Vaisakhi Festival from 10 to 19 April 2025 in different Gurdwaras of Pakistan with religious zeal. Main ceremony was held at Gurdwara Janam Asthan, Nankana Sahib, the birth place of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. About 2,000 Sikh Diaspora, 10,000 local Sikh/ Nanak Namlewa Hindus attended the event. 5801 Indian Sikh Yatrees also arrived Pakistan on 10 April 2025 and returned to India on 19 April 2025 after attending the ceremony. Significant features of the event were Paath Sahib, Concluding Ceremony, Nagar Kirtan procession etc, in addition to visits to all prominent Gurdwaras including Gurdwara Sacha Soda Farooq Abad, Gurdwara Panja Sahib Hassan Abdal, Gurdwara Dera Sahib Lahore, Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kirtarpur and Gurdwara Rori Sahib Eminabad. Main function of the event was held on 14 April 2025 at Gurdwara Janam Asthan Nankana Sahib, graced by Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Hon'ble



Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony.

b. Local Major Sikh Event

S. No	Name of Event	Place	Month of Festival
1	Birthday of Guru Gobing Singh Maharaj	Gurdwara Janam Asthan, Nankana Sahib	January
2	Saka Nankana Sahib	Gurdwara Janam Asthan, Nankana Sahib	February
3	Martyrdom Day of Guru Arjun Dev Ji	Gurdwara Dera Sahib, Lahore	June
4	Death Anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh	Gurdwara Dera Sahib, Lahore	June
5	Phela Parkash Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji	In all major Gurdwaras	September
6	Death Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji	Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Narowal	September
7	Birthday of Guru Ram Das Ji	Gurdwara Guru Ram Das Ji, Lahore	October

10. Visa Facilitation for Sikh Diaspora

To attract Sikh Diaspora to come in maximum number to visit Gurdwaras in Pakistan ETPB is launched web based facility “Visa Automation System” for the facilitation of Sikh Diaspora to get PSGPC sponsorship letter for issuance of Yatra Visa to visit Pakistan.

11. HINDU COMMUNITY

a. International Hindu Event

Following International festivals were celebrated in the year 2024-2025 as per Bilateral Protocol, 1974 between India and Pakistan.

Sr. No.	Name of Festival	Month of Festival
1.	Celebration of “Bhanu Saptmi Pooja” at Katas Raj Temples, Chakwal	19 th to 25 th December 2024
2.	Maha Shivratri, Katas Raj Temples, Chakwal	24 th to 02 nd March 2025
3.	Birthday Celebrations of Shadaram Shadani at Hayat Pitafi, Ghotki, Sindh	05 th to 15 January 2025

KATAS RAJ EVENT



HAYAT PITAFI EVENT 2024



b. Following local festivals were celebrated in the year 2024-2025 in functional Mandirs of Pakistan

S. No	Name of local Festival	Place	Month of Festival
1	Krishan Janam Asthami Krishan Janam Asthami	Krishna Mandir Lahore and Rawalpindi	August 2024
2	Durga Asthami (Puja)	Krishna Mandir Lahore	October 2024
3	Dosera	Krishna Mandir Lahore	October 2024
4	Birthday of Guru Balmiki / Shri Valmiki Jayanti	Valmik Mandir Lahore	October 2024
5	Dewali	Krishna Mandir Lahore and Rawalpindi	November 2024
6	Holi	Krishna Mandir Lahore and Rawalpindi	March 2025
7	Ram Noami	Krishna Mandir Lahore	April 2025
8	Annual festival Baba Bhandkhandi Maharaj	Sadhu Bella Mandir, Sukkur	June 2025

12. Scholarships for Deserving Sikh / Hindu Students

Scholarship system for the deserving Sikh/ Hindu students has been started to encourage the community to get higher education and skill development. In 2024-25, Scholarship of Rs. 11,260,000/- was granted to 110 Sikh/ Hindu deserving students.

RESEARCH AND REFERENCE WING:

SEERAT ACTIVITIES:

To pay homage to the Holy Prophet (PBUH), the Ministry organized the following activities:

The Ministry organized one day National Seerat Conference 1446 AH / 2024 on 12th Rabi ul Awal on the following topic:

ریاست کا تعلیمی نظام --- سیرت النبی ﷺ کی روشنی میں “

Persons from all walks of life including diplomats politicians and other prominent personalities attended the conference. The President of Pakistan of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was the chief guest at the conference and conferred the prizes to the position holders of Seerat Books Competition 1446 AH /2024 Ad.

Mehfil-e-Naat was organized at Pakistan National Arts Council on the evening of 11th Rabi ul Awal wherein country renowned Naat khawn both male and female participated and presented their tributes to the Holy Prophet (PBUH)

A comprehensive country-wide Milad ul Nabi Celebration Program was chalked out consisting of various activities/ programs and was distributed to Federal and Provincial ministries/ departments with the instructions to celebrate Milad ul Nabi all over the country in a befitting manner at all levels including the educational institution.

Like every year this year National Seerat Book Competition 1446 AH / 2024 AD was conducted and the Prize winners were given the prizes on the occasion of two days National Seerat Conference as per following.

Sr.	Name of Category	No of Prizes
1	Seerat Books in Urdu	3
2	Seerat Book in Regional Language	6
3	Books for Children	3
4	Seerat Books (Foreign Language)	3
5	Naat Books in Urdu	3
6	Naat Books in Regional Language	6
7	Books by Women	3
8	Mujallat	33
9	Maqalat for Men and Women	33
Total		63

PUBLICATION OF MESSAGES FOR INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL DAYS

The messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the nation were released on the following six specified religious occasions:

1. 10th of Muharram-ul-Haram (Youm-e-Ashur)
2. 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal

PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF MAQALAT-E-SEERAT:

The prize winning Maqalat of the last year were published on the following topic and distributed among the different libraries country-wide

"ملکی معاشی استحکام کے لیے حکمتِ عملی ، سیرت النبی ﷺ کی روشنی میں"

SECTARIAN HARMONY MEETINGS:

A meeting of Ulema from all schools of thought is convened every year before commencement of the month of Muharram in order to ensure peace and harmony in the Holy month. This year to ensure harmony in the holy Muharram, a meeting was convened in the Ministry on 03-07-2024. The Ulema and representative of other relevant departments Security Agencies attended the meeting. In pursuance of the deliberations emerged in the meeting, a "Narrative" was framed with consensus and accordingly distributed among the concerned Federal Departments, Provincial Governments, ulemas for further compliance.

LEGISLATIONS:

Sr#	Name of the Bill	Status
1	The Publication of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) (Amendments) Act, 2024	To ensure error free printing of the Holy Quran, an Official Bill "The Publication of the Holy Quran (Elimination of Printing and Recording Errors) (Amendments) Bill, 2023 was drafted by this Ministry." The said bill passed by Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) and President of Pakistan assent the same.
2	Ruet-e-Hilal Bill, 2023 was drafted by this Ministry	To bring harmony and uniformity on religious festivals in the country, "The Pakistan Ruet-e-Hilal Bill, 2023" was prepared by this Ministry in consultation with all stakeholders. The said bill passed by Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) and presently waiting for assent of the President of Pakistan.

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL ULEMA AND MASHAIK COUNCIL

1. Conference of the National Ulema and Mashaik Council was approved and conducted on 15.05.2025
2. Constitution of Committee to examine National Ulema and Mashaik Council Bill is in process.

WEB EVALUATION CELL

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony (MORA&IH) is committed to taking all possible measures to curb the propagation of objectionable content and to promote the safe and responsible use of social media.

In this connection, the Web Evaluation Cell (WEC) was established in the Ministry in 2015 for monitoring and evaluating anti-Islamic, blasphemous, sectarian/hate speech, pornographic/vulgar/ indecent and religiously objectionable / controversial online content on social media platforms and

websites, and for subsequently reporting such content to Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and other concerned authorities for appropriate action.

During the financial year 2024-25, **Nine thousand (9000)** links containing blasphemous, anti-Islamic, sectarian/ hate speech, and pornographic / vulgar content were evaluated and reported to PTA for blockage. In total, **seventy-two (72) thousand** religiously objectionable links have been evaluated and reported to the concerned authorities up to 30th June, 2025.

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE APEX COMMITTEE FOR EVALUATION OF CONTROVERSIAL RELIGIOUS CONTENT

An Apex Committee has been constituted, comprising religious scholars from all schools of thought, members of the university academia, and representatives from PTA, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) and the Ministry of Law & Justice (MOLAW).

The purpose of this Committee is to:

- Analyze sensitive and controversial online content.
- Formulate policy/SOPs regarding the blockage of religiously controversial web content.
- Provide guidelines of addressing sensitive issues.
- Make unanimous recommendations or decisions for appropriate action.

During the financial year 2024-25 **seven (07) meetings** of the Apex Committee were held, providing expert opinion on 30 agenda items. In total, **twenty-six (26)** meetings of the Apex Committee have been convened up to 30th June, 2025.

E-PORTAL COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

This Ministry has also launched an e-portal to enable the general public to report objectionable links containing blasphemous, sectarian/hate speech, anti-Islamic, or pornographic content. During the financial year 2024-25, **twenty-five hundred and ninety-eight (2598)** complaints were registered by the general public, all of which were evaluated and appropriately disposed of.

COMPAGN FOR POSITIVE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

In light of growing concerns regarding the spread of controversial content on social media and its adverse repercussion on society, this Ministry has launched a dedicated campaign to educate the general public particularly the youth on the safe and responsible use of social media and the internet, The campaign focuses on the following points:

Highlighting users on the responsible use of social media platforms.

Promoting digital literacy and positive online behavior.

Encouraging the reporting of inappropriate content to relevant authorities

During the financial year 2024-25, renowned religious scholars and social media influencers were engaged to record short video clips (30-60 seconds) and long video (1-5 minutes) urging respectful use of social media, with references to both religious teachings and legal obligations. Ten such

video were recorded and disseminated among the general public through the Ministry Official social media accounts.

In addition, public text messages were prepared to encourage the general public to report controversial content on social media to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony and other relevant authorities. These message were shared with PTA for wide dissemination.

COLLABORATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION (NGOS)

In addition to the above, this Ministry has also collaborated with different NGOs like UNICEF, Save the children international, UNAIDS, etc, in organizing different programs/seminars/scholarly debates/ inter religious discussions in the main cities of Pakistan.

REVIEW OF NATIONAL POLICIES

Views on domestic trade, policy for ending violence against women and various relevant government & Private bills are provided continuously.