



YEAR BOOK 2021-22



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



YEAR BOOK

2021-22

Published by
Ministry of Religious Affairs
and Interfaith Harmony
Government of Pakistan
Islamabad

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MESSAGE

Islam is the religion of peace, tolerance, brotherhood, peaceful co-existence of mankind and its social system is based on justice, equality and negation of all types of discrimination.

The Ministry has made all-out efforts to achieve Islamic ideals as laid down in the Constitution of Pakistan. The religious scholars' services were used to sensitize and mobilize the community to maintain sectarian and inter-faith harmony. Cooperation and coordination with Islamic and other countries was 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:

- i) Facilitate the pilgrims for Hajj and Umrah.
- ii) Root out sectarianism/extremism and promote sectarian and interfaith harmony.
- iii) Take concrete steps for the welfare of minorities.

National and provincial level conferences were held for promoting inter and intra faith harmony. Concrete steps were taken to mainstream various segments of society and create an environment of peace and harmony. People from different schools of thought participated in National Seerat Conference where different aspects of the Seerah of Muhammad ﷺ were highlighted. In this context, further utmost efforts will be made to project the true image of Islam. The policy and plan for Hajj 2021 has been carried out successfully and to the full satisfaction of Hujjaj.

In the end, I would like to appreciate the valuable services of all functionaries of the Ministry who remained instrumental in achieving all targets/tasks of Hajj operation, inter and intra faith harmony and spreading the true spirit of Islam.

(Mufti Abdul Shakoor)
Minister for Religious Affairs
and Interfaith Harmony



PREFACE

In pursuance of Sub Rule (2) of Rule 25 of the Rules of Business, 1973, Year Book 2021-22 of this Ministry is being uploaded for information of the Cabinet and general public.

The Ministry facilitates Hajj Pilgrims and Zaireen. It helps Muslims to order their lives in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunnah. 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. For the uplift of minorities, the Ministry launches small development schemes, 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: -

- i) Mr. Alamgir Ahmad Khan
Senior Joint Secretary (Development and Coordination)
- ii) Mr. Amjad Ahmad
Senior Joint Secretary (Admin/Finance)
- iii) Mr. Arshad Farid Khan
Joint Secretary (Interfaith Harmony)
- iv) Mirza Ali Mahsud
Joint Secretary (Dawah and Ziarat)
- v) Syed Mushahid Hussain Khalid
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. Aftab Akbar Durrani)
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”; these were transferred from the Ministry in 1977 and 1992, respectively. However, the subjects of Minorities Affairs and Zakat & Ushr were again transferred to this Ministry in 1996. The Zakat & Ushr Division was again separated from this Ministry in October/November 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 and 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

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

1. Formulation of Hajj Policy
2. Arranging the Muslim pilgrim's visits to India.
3. Ziarat and Umrah.
4. Welfare and safety of pilgrims and zaireen.
5. Administration of Hajj Affairs and control of the Hajj Directorates within the country and Office of Pilgrims Affairs at Jeddah
6. Islamic studies and research including holding of seminars, conferences, etc. on related subjects to the extent of Federal Areas.
7. Training and education of Ulema and Khatib etc.
8. Error-free and exact printing and publishing of the Holy Quran in the ICT.
9. Exchange of visits of scholars of Islamic learning and education, international conferences/seminars on Islamic subjects and liaison with foreign and international bodies and institutions.
10. Ruet-e-Hilal.
11. Tabligh.
12. Observance of Islamic Moral Standards
13. Donations for religious purposes and propagation of Islamic Ideology abroad.
14. Marriage and divorce, infants and minor's adoption to the extent of ICT.
15. Auqaf in ICT.
16. Policy and legislation with regard to inter-faith Harmony.
17. International agreements and commitments in respect of all religious communities and implementation thereof.
18. Representation of Pakistan at UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination to Minorities.
19. Minorities Welfare Fund.
20. National Commission for Minorities.
21. Evacuee Trust Property Board.

ADMINISTRATION WING

1. Administration Wing of the Ministry comprises of the following sections:-

- ♦ Administration Section.
- ♦ Budget and Cash Section.
- ♦ Council and Coordination Section.
- ♦ General Administration Section.

ADMINISTRATION SECTION:

2. The Administration section is looking after matters relating to human resource management. Activities of Administration Section during 2021-22 are as under:-

- ♦ Requisition for 02 posts of Deputy Directors, 01 post of Librarian (BS-17) and 01 post of Data Base Administrator (BS-17) was sent to Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) for recruitments.
- ♦ Recruitment process finalized for 31 Ministerial posts (BS 01- to 15) of Main Ministry and 06 posts of various Directorates of Hajj in Pakistan.
- ♦ One child of the permanently disabled employee was appointed as Naib Qasid (BS-01) with approval of the Prime Minister.
- ♦ Twenty Four cases of Educational Stipend/Fee re-imburement and 03 cases of marriage grants were finalized and forwarded to the concerned department.
- ♦ One hundred eighty cases regarding hiring of residential accommodation for officers/officials of the Ministry and Haji Camps were processed.
- ♦ Twelve (12) pension cases were processed.
- ♦ One hundred and Twelve (112) medical reimbursement cases of serving employees and 40 medical reimbursement cases of retired officers/officials were processed.
- ♦ One hundred and eighty two (182) cases of posting/transfer/provision of staff/replacement were processed.
- ♦ Twenty Six (26) litigation cases were defended in FST, Islamabad on behalf of the Ministry.
- ♦ Six (06) cases on the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat were defended.

3. The following advances were sanctioned for employees of this Ministry during financial year 2021-22:-

S.#	Name of cases	Number
01.	House Building Advance (HBA)	14
02.	Motor Care Advance (MCA)	14
03.	General Provident Fund (GPF) advance granted to employees	41



BUDGET AND CASH SECTION:

4. The main functions of Budget and Cash Section are as follows:-

- ◆ Preparation, compilation and submission of budgetary estimates to the Finance Division.
- ◆ Processing cases for re-appropriation of funds.
- ◆ Dealing with cases for supplementary grants, savings and surrender of funds.
- ◆ Submission of contingency bills to the AGPR and collection of cheques.
- ◆ Monthly reconciliation of expenditures with the AGPR,

MAJOR ACTIVITIES DURING 2021-22(IN MILLIONS)

Total Allocation	Re Appropriation (+)	Supplementary (+)	Re Appropriation (-)	Surrender (-)	Revised Budget	Total Expenditure
1231.000	164.363	2440.000	155.282	97.101	3582.980	3501.511

SUBMISSION OF CONTINGENCY BILLS:

2249 bills submitted to AGPR, Islamabad during financial Year 2021-22.

COUNCIL AND COORDINATION SECTION

5. The Council and Coordination Section deals with following:

- ◆ Prepare 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 Committee.
- ◆ Coordination with other Ministries/Divisions and Departments in the official matters.
- ◆ Preparation of Year Book of the Ministry.

- ♦ Provision of the report regarding implementation of the Cabinet Decisions.
- ♦ Preparation of report on Principles of Policy in compliance with Article 9 of the Constitution of Pakistan.



GENERAL SECTION

6. The General Section is responsible for following:
 - i. Look after the Security of Office building and watching incoming/outgoing visitors as well as vehicles parked in front of Office building.
 - ii. Purchase of Transport
 - iii. Purchase of furniture and fixture, Machinery & Equipment, Computers and other Assets
 - iv. Purchase of Stationery.
 - v. Purchase of Miscellaneous items
 - vi. Purchase of POL.
 - vii. Payment of utilities bills i.e. Telephone/DSL Electricity/Sui Gas.
 - viii. Repair of Transport (VIP vehicles) Minister/Minister of State/Parliamentary Secretary's vehicles.
 - ix. Repair of Transport (General vehicles of the Ministry).
 - x. Repair of Telephones
 - xi. Repair of Machinery & Equipment Computers/Printers/ACs/Electricity etc)
 - xii. Photocopiers & Fax Machine.
 - xiii. Arrangements of Printing of Office material i.e. File Covers, Minister's, Minister of State and Secretary's Offices material, Summary file covers and all other printings of the Ministry
 - xiv. Arrangements of official meetings.
 - xv. Reservation of accommodation in hotels, meal arrangements of official guests

- xvi. Dispatch of outdoor Dak i.e. Immediate / routine Dak through Courier and General Post Office.
- xvii. Distribution of indoor mail received from Couriers and General Post Office in the Ministry.

7. General Section during year 2021-22 made efficient arrangements to ensure security measures of the office building and facilitate Hajj and Research and Reference wings to convene meetings regarding Hajj arrangements 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 hearings/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. Detail is as under:-

S.#	Arrangement Detail	Total Participants
1	Providing logistic support to the all committees constituted for arrangements of National Seerat Conference, 2021	PNCA Hall = 500 Person Serena Hotel= 750 Persons
2	Arrangements of moon sighting committee	12 Nos
3	Dak Received/Diary	2061 Nos
4	UMS (dispatch)	9211 Nos
5	Letter Dispatched/delivered through D.Rs	7962 Nos
6	E-Office Internal	1888 Nos

PRIME MINISTER DELIVERY UNIT (PMDU)

8. As per the direction of Prime Minister's office, this Ministry has operationalized Prime Minister Delivery Unit (PMDU) to redress nation-wide complaints and grievances of the citizens pertaining to Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony. The primary objective of this unit is to provide citizens an opportunity to seamlessly communicate with this Ministry and have their issues resolved on priority, in accordance with the vision of the Government.

9. This unit strives to ensure that the registered citizens/members on Pakistan Citizen's Portal (PCP) get every possible relief. The citizens/members can make suggestions to Ministry, or put forward personal complaints, grievances, report violations of laws or to seek guidance. This Unit takes it as a prime responsibility to ensure that all complaints and suggestions are handled fairly and efficiently through concerned organizations.

DAWAH & ZIARAT WING:

Selection of Huffaz for QIYAMUL LAIL/MEHFIL-E-SHABINA,2022

10. A competition for selection of Huffaz for recitation of Holy Quran in Qiyamul Lail 2022 was held at Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad on 31-03-2022 wherein Huffaz from all over the country participated. In the said competition, 14 Huffaz were selected by the judges for Qiyamul Lail/Mehfil-e-Shabina, 2022.

11. The Qiyamul Lail was organized during the last three nights of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, 1443 AH at Badshahi Mosque, Lahore wherein the selected Huffaz participated and recited the Holy Quran. The event was covered live by Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV).



National HIFZ-O-QIRAT COMPETITION 2022:

12. Everywhere Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony organized National Hifz-o-Qirat Competition, wherein Huffaz/Qari participated throughout the country nominated/selected by provinces including Armed Forces, Gilgit Baltistan, AJK and ICT in the competition.



INTERNATIONAL QURAN COMPETITION 2022:

13. Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony recommended nominee from position holders of the National Hifz-o-Qirat Competition 2019 and 2021 to send through Ministry of Foreign Affairs for participating in the International Quran Competition organized in different countries i.e. Dubai, Russia, Turkey, KSA, Kuwait and Morocco.



VISIT OF PAKISTANI ZAIREEN FORURS IN INDIA 2021-22

14. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with India in 1974. This Ministry is mandated to arrange visits of Pakistani *Zaireen* to India on the eve of scheduled Urs of prominent Muslim Saints as per following details:-



Sr. #	Name of Urs	Pre-determined No. of Zaireen	Date 2021-22	No. of Zaireen
1.	Hazrat Mujadid Alf Sani (RA), Sarhand Sharif	200	----	Cancelled due to COVID-19 Restriction
2.	Hazrat Khawaja Allauddin Ali Ahmad Sabir (RA), Kalyar Sharif	200	----	-do-
3.	Hafiz Abdullah Shah (RA), Agra	150	----	-do-
4.	Hazrat Khawaja Nizamuddin Aulia (RA), Delhi	250	18-25 November, 2021	60
5.	Hazrat Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti (RA), Ajmair Sharif	500	----	Cancelled due to non issuance of visas
6.	Hazrat Amir Khusro (RA), Delhi	200	16-23 May, 2022	114

VISIT OF PAKISTANI ZAIREEN TO IRAN, IRAQ, SYRIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES:-



15. To regulate, streamline and facilitate Pakistani *Zaireen*, present Government has taken an initiative to formulate first ever comprehensive “*Zaireen Management Policy*” in consultation with all stakeholders. The Policy has been approved by the Federal Cabinet on 13-04-2021. Salient features of the Policy are as under:-

- ♦ Diversification of Means of Transportation, i.e. by Road, Air and Ferry Services should be explored.
 - ♦ Construction of 03 service areas (*Padak, Nukandi & Dalbadin*) on Quetta-Taftan Road.
 - ♦ Development, enhancing capacity and provision of better facilities at Pakistan House, Taftan and Haji Camp Quetta.
 - ♦ Exploration and Consideration of alternate crossing points i.e. *Mand* and *Gabd* (Balochistan).
 - ♦ Registration of *Zaireen* Group Organizers (ZGOs) and signing of Service Provider Agreement (SPA) with them.
 - ♦ Group/Individual visa for *Zaireen* to be regulated by signing a MoU with host countries.
 - ♦ To ensure provision of better transport facilities to the *Zaireen*.
 - ♦ Launching of appropriate awareness campaign to provide information, education and awareness to the intending *Zaireen*.
 - ♦ Provision of mandatory health insurance to the *Zaireen* by ZGOs.
16. The implementation of the policy is in process and about 5-7 lac Pakistani *Zaireen* will be benefitted annually visiting Iran, Iraq and Syria.
17. The Ministry has also performed following work in connection with Umrah:-
- ♦ Attested 234 contract agreements of Umrah Tour Operators
 - ♦ Deposited 177 bank drafts in the relevant account.
 - ♦ Fee paid online by the companies 50
 - ♦ Processed 20 complaints against Umrah Tour Operators
 - ♦ Fee deposited in Treasury Account 8.
 - ♦ Processed case of yearly visit of official delegation to pay homage to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on behalf of people of Pakistan.



DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION WING:

18. The objective of Development & Coordination Wing is to ensure timely completion of development schemes of this Ministry through PSDP. The Wing has been mandated to discharge following functions:-and to facilitate Hajj Wing in litigation cases exclusively pertaining to HGOs. Development & Coordination Wing has been mandated to discharge following functions:-

PMU Section:

- i. Examining PC-I / PC-II / PC-III / PC-IV of all development schemes prepared by respective Sections / Wings of the Ministry.
- ii. Convening DDWP meetings for consideration of development schemes costing up to Rs. 2,000 million.
- iii. Coordinate and liaison with Planning Commission through Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives for authorization of funds for approved development schemes.
- iv. 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.
- v. Processing of development schemes for approval of CDWP/ECNEC/ NEC as per competency of the said fora.
- vi. Preparation of minutes of DDWP meetings and subsequent circulation to all stakeholders and Implementing and Executing agencies.
- vii. Coordination for development schemes with all sponsoring wings of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.

19. Development and Coordination Wing since its inception on 31.08.2020 has successfully achieved all targets whatever assigned. The key achievements include following:

“Construction of Boundary Wall along with Rising of Existing Boundary Wall at Hajj Complex, Quetta”

- ♦ Hajj Directorate serves Hujjaj travelling from across Balochistan. The project ensures safe surroundings of Hajj Complex upraising of existing boundary wall to avoid Law & Order problem. DDWP of this Ministry on 30-03-2021 approved the project at a total cost of Rs. 25.574 million with completion period of one year. The project has been accomplished.

“PC-II of the Construction of Hajj Complex, Lahore

- ♦ The existing Hajj Complex is operational in a rental building. It facilitates pilgrim during hajj season. An amount of Rs. 758,092/- is being paid monthly as rent from the National exchequer for a limited space. The hired premises do not have IT equipment network, video conference and Intra-net facilities. There is a security hazard for the pilgrims as well as for the officers/officials as the present building is not purposely built. Feasibility Study of the project was accomplished for further execution of the project.

Construction of Bridge at Zero Point – Darbar Sahib Kartarpur Project

- ♦ It is iconic development scheme to provide hassle free access to Sikh Yatrees by constructing a bridge at Zero Line (245.725m long) along with its approach embankments, and lighting works. The PC-I of the project has been approved by DDWP on dated 06.05.2021. The project is to be accomplished in FY 2022-23.

20. Following proposed projects of this Ministry are forthcoming:-

PC-I of the Construction of permanent Hajj Complex, Lahore

- ♦ Ministry has 57 Kanals of Land situated in Harbans Pura, Lahore meant for new building of Hajj Complex, Lahore to be utilized for lodging/boarding of pilgrims prior to proceed to Holy Land during hajj season. PC-II of the project was approved in PSDP 2021-22, consequently, feasibility study has been conducted by Pak-PWD. PC-I of the project has been approved by DDWP. The project is due to be completed in 2025 subject to timely provision of funds.



Recycling Plant for Shaheed Quran Papers in Islamabad.

- ♦ The Holy Quran is the last divine scripture and sacred book of Almighty Allah. Sanctity/reverence of the Holy Quran is the core part of all Muslims' faith. It has generally been observed that shaheed pages of Holy Quran and other sacred books are not being archived which leads to disrespect; therefore, required to be disposed of in an appropriate and respectful manner. Establishment of a recycling plant for disposal of shaheed pages/papers of the Holy Quran in Islamabad is being considered by this Ministry. The project will generate employment as it will require manpower to operate the plant. Draft PC-I of the project has been approved by DDWO and due to be completed by 2023 subject to timely provision of funds.



Installation of Tube well at Hajj Complex. Quetta

- ◆ This project includes boring of Tube Well and installation of Solar System at Hajj Complex, Quetta. The project is due to be completed by June, 2023 subject to provision of funds.

Litigation Section:

- ◆ Looks after all legal matters in consultation with Law and Justice Division for legal opinion / directions, vetting of legal documents / replies and submission of Para-wise comments / reports in different Courts.
- ◆ Monitors the litigation cases pending in various Courts and make all-out efforts for speedy disposal.
- ◆ Strategizes the overall working of the Litigation Section and represents the Ministry in Courts of law and any other task assigned by the seniors.
- ◆ Provides legal opinion on all cases referred to this Section and vetting all documents, petitions and reports and prepare para-wise comments for courts and speaking orders, issued by the competent authority in compliance with Court Orders.

21. During FY 2020-21, sixteen court cases were decided in the favor of this Ministry by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, High Courts and Civil Courts/ Lower Courts. The significant milestone was achieved through review petition in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, by getting its verdict in formulation of long-term Hajj Policy instead of annual Hajj Policy. It will ensure cost effective Hajj package to facilitate low income Pakistani Muslims to perform Hajj.

HAJJ WING

The Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony 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. The Hajj Wing of the Ministry plays an important role for preparation and conduct of Hajj Operation in consultation with various Ministries/Organizations of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan Governments, Banks, Airlines, Hajj Group Organizers, Scholars, prominent figures and Members of the Parliament.



HAJJ POLICY & PLAN-2022:

22. The salient features of Hajj-2022 were as under:-

- ♦ The quota for Pakistan was 81,132 which was distributed between Government Hajj Scheme and Hajj Group Organizers as 32,453 (40%) and 48,679 (60%) respectively. Further, an additional quota of 2000 was also included in government Hajj Scheme i.e. Hardship cases after accommodate 1414 overbooked applicants
- ♦ 63,604 applications were received under Government Hajj Scheme against the Government quota of 32,543 Hujjaj. The open balloting was conducted by third party i.e. Punjab Information Technology board (PITB) in order to bring transparency.
- ♦ 1000 seats of the total seats under Government scheme were reserved for hardship cases whereas, 200 seats were reserved for labor/low paid employees of companies registered with EOBI and Workers Welfare Fund.
- ♦ Hajj Package for Hajj 2022 with Qurbani was as under:-

North Region	South region
Rs. 8,60,177/-	Rs. 8,51,127/-

- ◆ Support money of Rs. 4.88 billion was approved by the Federal Government for uniform distribution amongst Hujjaj of Government Hajj Scheme which was borne by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony and Federal Government on equal sharing basis and has been distributed among 34,049 pilgrims @ Rs. 150,000/- per pilgrim.
- ◆ Ministry approved Hajj package for Private Hajj Organizers ranging from Rs. 940,000 to Rs. 31,13,000
- ◆ 810 Hajj Medical Mission, Moavineen-e-Hujjaj, Seasonal Staff of the Ministry and KSA based Moavineen-e-Hujjaj were deployed for facilitation/assistance of Hujjaj as per requirements and laid down procedure.
- ◆ Implementation of KSA Taleemat/instructions (like age limit, vaccination, PCR Test, etc.) were ensured in Hajj Ops.
- ◆ **“Road to Makkah”** project facility was continued at Islamabad Airport and more than 15000 Government Hujjaj availed “Road to Makkah” facility from Islamabad Airport.
- ◆ To ensure successful implementation of Road to Makkah Project and to provide benefit to Hujjaj in meaningful way, places of Departure (POD) with less load of Hujjaj (Peshawar, Sialkot and Faisalabad) were diverted to Islamabad.
- ◆ Monitoring mechanism for HGOs was in placed in KSA for utmost facilitation of Hujjaj.
- ◆ Complaint Resolution Committee (CRC) for early resolution of complaints was also constituted which resolved and decried various cases on the spot.
- ◆ The unresolved complaints of CRC were referred to CDC.
- ◆ The Prime Minister of Pakistan, during the Cabinet meeting held on 04-08-2022, also appreciated the excellent arrangements for Hajj, 2022.



INTERFAITH HARMONY WING:

INTERFAITH HARMONY POLICY:

23. Following steps have been taken by the Ministry for the Welfare of non-Muslims during the last three year.

- a) Financial Assistance to the poor/needy minority individual is granted on the recommendations of Minister, State Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith harmony, four minority Senators and ten minority MNAs.
- b) The total number of minority individuals who have been provided financial assistance during last three years is, as under:-

CASH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Year	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount (in Million)
2021-22	3044	13.730

SCHOLARSHIP

Year	No. students Beneficiaries	Amount (Rs.)
2021-22	3636	Rs.49.17 M

DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES APPROVED FOR Minorities

Year	No. of Christian Students	Amount (Rs.)
2021-22	28	Rs.73.093/-

HOLDING OF INTERFAITH HARMONY CONFERENCES: -

24. In order to promote, Interfaith Culture in the country, this Ministry arranges "Interfaith Harmony Conferences on various topics every year. During the preceding year conferences on the topic of "Respect for Humanity and Interfaith Harmony" were arranged at Provincial Headquarters on following dates: -

S.NO	Place	Date of holding the IH Conference	Venue
1.	Peshawar, KPK	26.09.2021	Peral Continental Hotel Peshawar
2.	Islamabad	13.10.2021 on the topic of Minorities and Women in the Light of Teachings of Holy Prophet ﷺ Seerat -e-Taiba for Education	Ramada Hotel, Islamabad
3.	Lahore, Punjab	28.10.2021	Peral Continental Hotel Lahore
4.	Quetta, Balochistan	24.02.2022	Serena Hotel Quetta
5.	Karachi, Sindh	10.05.2022	Beach Luxury Hotel Karachi
6.	Azad Jammu & Kashmir	05.06.2022	Peral Continental Hotel AKJ
7.	Gilgit	12.06.2022	Serena Hotel Gilgit



CELEBRATION OF RELIGIOUS FUNCTIONS OF MINORITIES.

25. In order to promote understanding and harmony among all segments of society this ministry celebrates ten important religious festivals of Minority Communities officially. These festivals include Christmas and Easter for Christians, Holi and Diwali for Hindus, Baisakhi and Birthday of Guru Nanak for Sikhs, Nauroze for Zoroastrian, Eid-e-Ridvan for Baha'is, Festival of Lights for Buddhist Community and Chelum Jusht for Kalash people. This effort of the Ministry is to present a soft image of a minority friendly

country at national and international levels as well. Celebrations of these events bring all segments of society closer to each other for peaceful co-existence.

26. During financial year 2021-22, following religious functions of the minorities have been celebrated at the official level to **promote interfaith culture**:-

The date wise detail of celebration of these festivals during the 2021-22 is as under:-

- ◆ Minority Day-2021 celebrations were arranged on 25th August, 2021, (as the 11th of August was falling during *Ashura-e-Moharram*) at *Aiwan-e-Sadr*, Islamabad.
- ◆ *Dewali*-2021, celebration of Hindu community was arranged on 10th November, 2021 at National Sailing Centre, Karachi.
- ◆ Christmas-2021, celebration of Christian community was arranged on 21st December, 2021 at *Aiwan-e-Sadr*, Islamabad.
- ◆ Holi-2022, celebration of Hindu community was arranged on 18th March, 2022 at Sukkur.
- ◆ *Chelum Jusht*-2022, celebration of *Kalash* community was arranged on 17th May, 2022 at Birir Valley, District *Chitral*.
- ◆ *Eid-e-Ridvan*-2022, celebration of *Bahai's* community was arranged on 19th May, 2022 at Auditorium of National Library of Pakistan, Islamabad.



ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES

27. National Commission for Minorities (NCM) was established through Resolution as a result of Federal Cabinet decisions vide case No. 194/15/90 dated 02.07.1990. The Commission gives recommendations to this Ministry in Policy matters and recommendations regarding NOCs for sale/purchase/transfer/gift of communal properties of minority communities. After approval of the Federal Cabinet, the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has been reconstituted and notified on 11.05.2020 with following TORs.

- ♦ To develop a National Policy on Inter-faith Harmony, to explore the avenues for peace and security.
- ♦ To consider such laws, executive instructions, orders of procedural practices of the Government or Government Agencies, Autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies; and agencies which are reported to be discriminatory towards the Minorities.
- ♦ Recommend to the Government such steps as shall ensure fuller and effective participant by the members of Minority communities in all aspects of national life.
- ♦ To ensure their full and effective participation and association with their religious and cultural festival and celebrations.
- ♦ To look into the grievances and representations made by the members of any Minority community to the Government of Pakistan and, after examination such grievances, to make suitable recommendations to the Government of Pakistan.
- ♦ To ensure that the churches, shrines, temples, gurdwaras and other places of worships of the Minority communities are preserved and well-kept in a functional condition.
- ♦ The Commission with consensus may set additional objectives for itself and if required may consult legal and constitutional experts.
- ♦ To consider the cases of NOCs for the sale/purchase/transfer of communal properties of minorities as provided under the Protection of Communal Properties of Minorities Ordinance, 2001, notified vide No. F.2 (1)/2002-Pub dated 22nd January, 2002.

28. The important feature of the newly constituted NCM is that the composition of previous NCM was five (05) official and Eleven (11) Non-Official members (07 Non-Muslim members) with Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony as Chairman. Whereas the new NCM consists of six (06) official and Twelve (12) Non-official members (10 Non-Muslim members), with Mr. Chela Ram Kewlani as its Chairman. Thus the newly constituted NCM not only consists of Majority of its membership from Minority communities but its Chairman has also been appointed from minority community.

29. The first meeting of the NCM was held on 14.05.2020 and fifteen (15) meetings held so far in which all members urged to make NCM active and effective through legislation. The TORs of the NCM empower it to play an effective role for realization of minorities' rights. During the financial year 2021-22 the NCM has taken following decision steps: -

30. The Chairman NCM briefed the participant about the attack on the Ganesh Temple, Bhong Sharif, district Rahim Yar Khan. He informed that it was an incident of personal conflict rather than religious issue. He also appreciated the concern/action taken by the district government and other institutions in the matter. The Members of the NCM were of the view that due to such incidents the image of the country is badly affected in the international media/ world. Therefore, it is imperative to make such efforts so that such incident may not occur in future. It was desired that letter may be written from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to all Chief Secretaries/Inspector General of Police to provide security for worship places of the minorities as well as for the religious festivals in the country.

31. The Members of the NCM emphasized that recommendation made by them in their earlier report on Terri Mandar, District Karak incident may be implemented.

32. Dr. Mimpal Singh, mentioned that statue of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh had been damaged by some religious activist which was not the first time. He requested to direct provincial government of Punjab to make necessary arrangements for the protection of the statue.

33. Mr. Dawood Shah, Member NCM representing Kalash community said that their religion has not been mentioned in the CNIC as well as in the passport due to which the students of Kalash community are facing problems in getting admission in the international institutions as well as in Pakistan. The possession of Kirpan was also demanded by Mr. Mimpal Singh in the meeting. It was informed that the Kirpan was the part and parcel of Sikh religion. Therefore, concerned authorities may be requested to allow the members of Sikh community to carry kirpan everywhere, except places of high security. Chairman NCM proposed to hold meetings with Governors, Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries and IGs of Police of the provinces to discuss issues related to minorities and raising awareness about the functions of NCM at provincial level. Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology proposed to hold NCM's meetings at provinces. The Secretary RA&IH proposed to hold meetings of NCM at provinces and concurrently call-on requests be made with concerned Governor / Chief Minister / Chief Secretary along with issues related to minorities.

Decision:- Meetings of NCM will be held at Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta and Gilgit Baltistan. A committee, comprising of the following members of NCM was constituted to prepare and submit details of issues pertaining to minority communities in their respective areas for further processing and onward transmission to respective Governor / Chief Minister / Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police:

S#	Names	Province/Area
1.	Dr. Mimpal Singh	Punjab
2.	Mr. Albert David	-do-
3.	Mr. Vishno Raja	Sindh
4.	Dr. Jaipal Chhabria	-do-
5.	Mr. Saroop Singh	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
6.	Dr. Sarah Safdar	-do-
7.	Mst. Roshan Khursheed Barucha,	Balochistan
8.	Mr. Dawood Shah	Gilgit Baltistan



Murder of Hakeem Sardar Satnam Singh at Peshawar on 30.09.2021

34. During the discussion on the report received from Inspector General of Police, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Saroop Singh, Member NCM informed that ten persons from Sikh Community have been killed during last three (03) years. FIRs were lodged against unknown persons. Neither the culprits have been arrested nor grievances of Sikh community redressed, so far.

Decision :- The Chairman NCM requested the member(s) of NCM from Peshawar to pursue the matter personally and Mr. Saroop Singh, Member NCM was requested to ascertain the details of the murders and current status of their cases for discussion in the next meetings of NCM for future course of action.

Amendment(s) in Christian Marriage Act

35. Mr. Albert David raised his concern regarding the proposed amendment in Christian Marriage Act which is being discussed / deliberated upon at M./o Human Rights. He was of the view that proposed amendments in the Act are against their faith. The proposed amendment(s) will have a great impact on the Christian family system in Pakistan hence an overall detrimental impact will be on the social, religious and cultural values of Christian community of Pakistan. National Commission for Minorities must be taken into confidence and a copy of the proposed bill is shared with the Commission for its views and comments, before its presentation to the Parliament. The dialogues/consultation with Christian Scholars and religious leaders should be broadened and not just with some NGOs, to have a consensus on the issue and proposed legislation.

Mr. Shahzad Ahmed, Director M/o Human Rights informed that amendment(s) in Christian Marriage Act are under process in Law Division for vetting.

Decision:- Chairman, NCM desired to obtain draft amendment(s) from M/o Human Rights, Islamabad for consideration in NCM meeting.

- (a) Jobs vacant under minority quota and the plan to fill vacancies

36. Chairman NCM observed that job quota for minority communities is not being implemented in letter and spirit and jobs of sanitary workers are given to minority communities. Mr. Albert David, MBE was of the view that reportedly more than 19000 jobs for minority communities are vacant. Secretary Human Rights, Punjab Government gave a detailed briefing on the issue. He apprised that on the advice of Finance Deptt, the data regarding vacant posts against 5% minority job quota along with financial implications was collected and placed before the Standing Committee on Finance and Developments in its meeting held on 12-10-2021 which asked to clarify whether vacancies

were advertised and remained vacant or they were never advertised before. The advice was sought from Law Department in the context of notification of Regulations Wing S&GAD dated 2010 and 2015. The advice of the Law Department has been received and Administrative Departments have been directed accordingly. Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights, Mr. Mahindar Pall Singh, however, was not satisfied and raised observations with regard to implementation of minority quota.

Decision:- Punjab Government will share updated status on implementation of 5% job quota and filling of all vacant posts. Details will be shared with National Commission for Minorities.

(b) Process of disbursement of Financial Assistance to deserving persons for minority communities especially over religious festivals.

37. The Secretary HR, Punjab briefed the NCM about the criteria, procedure and details of disbursement of financial assistance to minority communities. The forum was apprised that beneficiaries are identified in consultation with local minorities, elders, and minority MNAs/MPAs and the mode of payments are in form of cross cheques @ Rs 10,000/- per beneficiary. Mr. Mahindar Pall Singh, Parliamentary Secretary HR, Punjab was not satisfied over disbursement of financial assistance and showed his concerns with regard to its transparency. Chairman NCM suggested that Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights Punjab may sit with HR Department to resolve the issue. The Federal Secretary MoRA&IH while appreciating the efforts of HR Department, advised to be more vigilant and if there is any violation a stern action may be taken.

Decision: - Secretary HR, Punjab Government will coordinate with Parliamentary Secretary Punjab to resolve the issue.

Minority Complaint Cell in the office of Inspector General of Police. Request for briefing of the functions and data regarding cases dealt.

38. AIG (Ops), Punjab Police gave a detailed briefing on the operationalization of complaint cell. The forum was apprised that complaint cell and focal persons are nominated at Regional and Tehsil level to address the issues of minorities quickly. It was informed to the forum that in some cases, Police have recovered minor girls of minority community; however, he pointed out that no case of forced conversion has been reported to the Police as of now. Bhong incidence was, however, regretted by the authorities of local administration. Mr. Mahinder Pall Singh, Parliamentary Secretary Human Rights, Punjab appreciated the efforts of Police.

Decision:- NCM appreciated the efforts of police in general and advised to be more vigilant in future to tackle untoward situations like Bhong and Sialkot incidents.

Status of the introduction of Religious syllabus and Remissions for non-Muslim prisoners.

39. The forum was apprised by rep of Punjab Government that pursuant to directions of Chief Minister, a committee in office of Inspector General of Prisons was constituted which devised the syllabus / course content and proposed corresponding remissions viz-z-viz minority prisoners. A Summary for Chief Minister is being initiated by Home Department for approval of the Cabinet.

Decision:- Home Department will share the proposed syllabus with NCM and keep NCM updated of the outcome of the Summary.

Facilities to practice religion and celebrate religious festivals inside prisons.

40. The forum was appraised that total 1301 minority prisoners confined in Punjab jails and all non-muslim prisoners are given facilities to practice their religion and celebrate religious festival for which designated places are available for minority prisoners.

Decision: NCM appreciated the efforts of Home Department. Details of such religious festivals to be shared with NCM.

Renovation & Restoration of Churches under the Lahore Walled City Authority.

41. Director Conservation & Planning, Walled City Lahore Authority briefed the forum about ongoing activities on account of renovation and restoration of nine Churches. With regards to renovation / restoration of Sahowala Church, Sialkot, it was observed that there is no need to incur expenditure on such Churches which are already abandoned and not in use for worship since long.

Decision:- Consultation with local minority community may be carried out to identify only those Churches which need renovation and restoration to save national exchequer from wastage.

Mechanism for co-operation of District Interfaith harmony Committee with NCM.

42. Chairman NCM urged on the necessity of mechanism for cooperation of District Interfaith Harmony Committee with NCM. A need was felt to have strong bond and relationship between District Interfaith Harmony Committees and National Commission for Minorities. The forum was appraised of the mechanism for cooperation at Federal and Provincial level.

Decision:- Details of District Interfaith Harmony Committees and their focal persons may be shared with NCM.

Arrangement of security for worship places of Minorities.

43. The forum was appraised that 224 posts from the rank of Head Constables to Inspectors have been created. The Police Department has deployed 12885 security personnel including SPU and Elite temporarily and 295 personnel on permanent basis.

Decision :- Details of such deployment will be shared with NCM.

- ♦ Update on the National Commission for Minorities Act, 2022 and National Interfaith Harmony policy from Ministry of RA&IH:
- ♦ NCM Bill, 2022:

44. Dr. Sara Safdar, Member, NCM informed that draft NCM, Bill was prepared in 2020. After consultation with all stakeholders it was sent to Ministry for further appropriate action. The Commission desired to be updated on its status.

45. Mr. Arshad Farid Khan, Joint Secretary (IH) informed that draft NCM Bill was forwarded to Prime Minister's office and Federal Cabinet for its in-principle approval. Prime Minister's office directed for further consultation with certain Ministries viz M/o of Human Rights, M/o Federal Education and Law & Justice Division. The same was done and the Bill was sent to Law & Justice Division on 11.02.2022 for vetting. After legal vetting, the bill was received in the Ministry on 30.03.2022. However, few observations were noticed and the bill was reverted to Law & Justice Division on 19.04.2022. After doing the needful, Law & Justice Division furnished the Bill to this Ministry on 27.04.2022. However, due to certain observations made by the Hon'ble Minister for RA&IH, the bill

was again sent to Law Division, which has now been received in this Ministry after addressing the same. In the meanwhile, the Govt. changed and Cabinet Committee for disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC) has yet to be constituted. As soon as the same was done the Ministry would send the Bill to the committee for its approval / ratification from the Federal Cabinet. After approval of the Federal Cabinet / CCLC, the Bill will be laid before the Parliament for enactment.

Interfaith Harmony Policy:

46. The NCM was also informed that draft Interfaith Harmony Policy was shared with all stakeholders and their recommendations were included in the final draft. Approval of Prime Minister was taken for placement of IH Policy before Cabinet. IH Policy was considered by Cabinet on 25.01.2022 and referred to National Security Advisor (NSA) to synergize it with National Security Policy within 04 weeks. Office of NSA reviewed and endorsed the Policy for consideration of the Cabinet. Policy has been submitted by the office of NSA before the Federal Cabinet on 11.03.2022 for consideration and presently parked with the Cabinet Division / Federal Cabinet.

Decision:-The Commission showed satisfaction on the progress and decided to wait for approval of the concerned fora.

- ◆ Murder of two Sikh traders on 15.5.2022 at Peshawar:

47. The Commission took note of an incident of murder of two Sikh Traders namely Kuljit Singh (36 years old) and Ranjit Singh (41 years old) in Peshawar which appeared on electronic media as well as on social media on 15.05.22 (Sunday). Reportedly both Sikh Traders were shot dead in the Bara Market of Sarband Town of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday.

48. On the direction of M/o RA&IH, National Commission for Minorities (NCM) had already constituted a Committee on 17.05.2022, headed by Prof. Dr. Sarah Safdar, Member NCM to immediately visit the bereaved families, contact the concerned agencies and coordinate with the District Interfaith Harmony Committee to ascertain the motives/ facts of the case, action taken so far, and efforts made to ameliorate the intensity and fall out of the incident.

49. Dr. Mimpal Singh, Member, NCM presented his reservations, that since, 2010, ten (10) people from Sikh community had been killed. NCM, Interior Minister and CM, KPK took notice of it, but nobody came to the Sikh community for condolence. Some 30 to 40 Sikh families reported to have shifted to Lahore and 100 more Sikh families were going to shift to Faisalabad and Nankana Sahib. Many were trying to migrate from the country. Police has advised Sikh Community to go outside on alternate days instead of daily and to return by 5' o'clock, which is highly objectionable.

Decision:-The Commission decided that Dr. Mimpal Singh will submit a detailed report on this incident and also convey 4-5 names from Sikh community of Peshawar to Chairman, NCM, who along with them will meet the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary, KPK to convey their concerns and demand for taking effective steps for their safety.

- ◆ Electoral Reforms-Issues of Minorities and Role of National Commission for Minorities:
- ◆ 50. Mr. Albert David, MBE suggested that the case may be taken up with Speaker, National Assembly and Chairman, Election Commission of Pakistan to remove disparity and to ensure fair representation of the minority community in the legislative bodies of the country.

Decision: - The Commission constituted the following sub-committee that will study the electoral reforms of Pakistan and after making consultations with all communities, will give comprehensive recommendations to the NCM for onward submission to the National Assembly and Election Commission of Pakistan:-



- ♦ Mr. Albert David, MBE Chairman
- ♦ Dr Jaipal Chabria Member
- ♦ Dr. Mimpal Singh Member
- ♦ Mufti Gulzar Naeemi Member

Report on Sialkot incident- Action Plan for follow-up on recommendations:

50. Mr. Chela Ram Kewlani, Chairman, NCM appreciated the speedy decision of the Judicial Courts and award of punishments to the murderers of Srilankan citizen in Sialkot. He also appreciated Mr. Albert David, MBE’s report on this incident and his recommendations to avoid its recurrence in future.

Decision: The Commission decided that Mr. Albert David, MBE will share his report with the members of the Commission, who would follow up the action by the provincial authorities on its recommendations.

EVACUEE TRUST PROPOERTY BOARD:

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

- ♦ Management of evacuee trust properties on behalf of Federal Government.
- ♦ Buy out surplus income, if any with the approval of Federal Government for augmenting the resources of ETP Board.
- ♦ Disposal / transfer of trust properties with Federal Government’s approval.
- ♦ Leasing and renting of ET Properties.
- ♦ Maintenance of Hindu and Sikh Trust Shrines.
- ♦ Facilities for Yatrees (Pilgrims).
- ♦ Grants-in-Aid for Social Welfare, Educational and Health purposes Development Projects on trust properties.

- ♦ Development Projects on Evacuee Trust Property.
- ♦ To manage religious places belonging to Sikh and Hindus who migrated to India at the time of independence and facilitate organization of various religious functions / rites.

CONSTITUTION OF EVACUEE TRUST PROPERTY BOARD

52. The Board is constituted for a period of three years on such terms and conditions, as the Federal Government may determine (Section 3 (5) of Evacuee Trust Properties (Management & Disposal) Act No. XIII of 1975). The Board has been constituted / Notified on 19-04-2019 for a term of three years.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

53. Regular Chairman has been appointed purely on merit and in a transparent way in April, 2019

CONSTITUTION OF PAKISTAN SIKH GURDWARA PARBANDHAK COMMITTEE (PSGPC)

54. Minorities affairs are being run through their respective committees. New PSGPC has been constituted in June, 2019 after lapse of 1 & half year as the previous PSGPC completed its tenure on 31st October, 2017. Uptill 1998, all functions in Pakistani Gurdwaras were managed by Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), India. A large number of expatriate Sikhs also used to participate from Europe, North America 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.



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.

DISCIPLINARY CASES

Category	Total
Cases Initiated	523
Cases disposed off / decided	403
Major Penalty Imposed	47
Minor Penalty Imposed	194
Warning Issued	162
Financial Penalty Imposed	Rs.551.612 (Million)

SUBSIDIARIES OF ETPB

55. 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 Siddiqi Degree College for Women, Lahore
- ◆ Janki Devi Hospital, Lahore

MINORITIES SHRINES.

56. 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.

FACILITIES PROVIDED TO THE YATREES.

57. 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:-

- a. **Reception**. All the Sikh and Hindu yatrees are received at Joint Check Post (JCP) and Railway station, Wahga by the PSGPC members and Shrine Branch officers/staff. Special arrangements are made for the yatrees to facilitate them which includes helping and facilitating desks.
- b. **Langar**. Provision of langar on arrival / departure and throughout the stay of Sikh and Hindu yatrees in Pakistan is ensured by ETPB and PSGPC.
- c. **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 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 yatrees and Gurdwaras/ Mandirs. Security Staff of ETP Board is also deployed for the protection of yatrees throughout their inland traveling in Pakistan.
- f. **Facilitation Desks**. ETPB establish 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 arrangements are made 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 in touch with their families back home PTCL telephone booths facilities 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 yatrees making all arrangements for returning of dead bodies is also made by ETPB.

SIKH COMMUNITY

1. **Developments Projects.** 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 Samagum etc which has further increased their confidence on ETPB. Detail of the major development works carried out for Sikh community during the tenure of incumbent Chairman ETPB is as under:-

a. **Historic Event of 550th Birthday Celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev Ji - November 2019.** Sikh community celebrated 550th Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji from 05th to 14th November 2019 in Pakistan with religious zeal. Sikh yatrees from all over the world, as well as Pakistani Sikh/Hindu devotees and Nanak Nam Lewa participated in the event. Main function of the event was celebrated at Gurdwara Janam Asthan, Nankana Sahib on 12th November 2019, which was graced by Ch. Muhammad Sarwar, Honorable Governor of Punjab, as a Chief Guest. Initially to kick start the celebrations of historic event of 550th Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, a special permission was granted to Nagar Kirtan (religious procession) of Indian Sikh yatrees to visit different Gurdwaras of Pakistan from 31st October to 07th November 2019. 550th Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji has a great religious significance for the Sikh community. Arrival of Sikhs in large numbers to Pakistan has proved that the Sikh community is satisfied with the upkeep of Gurdwaras in Pakistan and provision of other facilities to the Sikh community. The said festival was celebrated with religious zeal and in a very cordial atmosphere as all the events were held in a peaceful manner. The Sikh yatrees departed from Pakistan with good memories about the country and its people. This event has helped in projecting Pakistan's image at international level as a safe country for the foreign nationals where minorities are enjoying complete freedom to perform their religious rituals.

b. **Gurdwara
JanamAsthan,
Nankana Sahib**



- (1) **The construction of Dispensary / Administrative Block.** Construction of dispensary / administrative block at Gurdwara JanamAsthan Nankana Sahib for the facilitation of visiting Sikh yatrees from India and world over.
 - (2) **Renovation/Uplifting of Gurdwara Dera Sahib, Lahore.** Renovation/uplifting work of Gurdwara Dera Sahib, Lahore has been completed.
 - (3) **Installation of State of the Art Laser Fountain at Nankana Sahib.** A state of the art laser fountain has been installed at Gurdwara JanamAsthan Nankana Sahib. Inauguration ceremony was held on 10 Oct 2019.
 - (4) **Up-gradation of Langer Hall of GurdwaraJanam Asthan.** Langer hall of Gurdwara JanamAsthan has been completely upgraded and its capacity has been increased to host the yatrees for langer.
- c. **Renovation/Uplifting of Gurdwara Balila Sahib, Nankana Sahib.** Renovation/uplifting of Gurdwara Balila Sahib have been completed in November 2019.
 - d. **Renovation/Uplifting of Gurdwara Tamboo Sahib at Nankana Sahib.** Renovation/uplifting of Gurdwara Tamboo Sahib at Nankana Sahib is in progress.
 - e. **Renovation/Uplifting of Gurdwara Malji Sahib at Nankana Sahib.** Renovation/uplifting of Gurdwara Malji Sahib has been completed.
 - f. **Scholarships for Deserving Sikh Students.** Scholarship system for the deserving Sikh/Hindu students has been started to encourage the community to get higher education.
 - g. **International Sikh Convention.** ETPB and Governor House Punjab successfully conducted an International Sikh Convention in Lahore which sends a very positive message to the World.
 - h. **Memorial Coin and Postal Stamp.** Rupees 550 Memorial coin and postal stamp were issued on the 550th Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, November 2019 with the efforts and under the patronage of ETPB. This initiative was momentously appreciated by the Sikh Community across the globe.
 - i. **Opening of Kartarpur Corridor.** Kartarpur Corridor was inaugurated on 09 Nov 2019 by Prime Minister Imran Khan and appreciated by the international community especially Sikh Diaspora. It is worth mentioning here that new departments have been raised with man powers and budgetary support since its inauguration i.e Rangers Wing, Global Nobel, Custom department, FIA staff, Anti-Narcotics departments etc. However, ETPB is managing the affairs from its own resources since its inauguration and has not claimed any financial support from the federal Government. ETPB has successfully conducted a number of Sikh events since last two years including Nagar Keertan which helped in shifting the perception in Pakistan's favor as a minorities' friendly country. From Nov 2019 to March 2020, 63000 yatrees from the Indian side and 422000 locals from the Pakistani side have visited Kartarpur Corridor who have been provided all necessary facilities by ETPB from its own budget.
 - j. **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) Report- 2020.** Pakistan has been appreciated in the year 2020 report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) for the opening of Kartarpur Corridor and Shivala Teja Mandir in Sialkot.
 - k. **UN Secretary General Visit to Kartarpur Corridor.** On 18 Feb 2020, Mr. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General visited Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur,

Narowal. He was received by Mr. Noor ul Haq Qadri, Federal Minister Religious Affairs, Dr. Aamer Ahmed Chairman ETPB, Sardar Satwant Singh President PSGPC. UN Secretary General termed the project as a beautiful example of this interfaith Harmony where the Sikhs, Muslims, Hindus and Christians are visiting this great place of worship.

Year 2020-21& 2021-22

Sikh Tourism Trail in Jhelum.

Restoration work on Gurdwara Choa Sahib Jhelum is in progress and likely to complete in November 2021. While repair / renovation of Bhai Karam Singh Haveli/Gurdwara and Mata Sahib Kaur Gurdwara will be started after completion of work of Gurdwara Choa Sahib Jhelum. Dr. Aamer Ahmed, Chairman ETPB has made comprehensive plan for Sikh tourism trail at Jhelum.

Restoration of Gurdwara Singh Sabha, Quetta.

The important Singh Sabah Gurdwara in Quetta was in the possession of APWA School. The matter was take up with Education Department Government of Balochistan (GOB) to hand over its possession for necessary restoration and opening for Parkash of Garanth Sahib after due approval from PSGPC. Now the Gurdwara is fully restored and repair / maintenance works are under process.

Opening of Gurdwara Sach Khand Sahib, Shikarpur and Sindh.

It is first time in the history of ETPB that a historical Gurdwara is being restored and renovated in Sindh for Sikh and Nanak Namlewa Sangat. Repair and renovation of Gurdwara is in progress and work will be completed in November 2021.

Kartarpur Corridor Website.

Website for Kartarpur Corridor has been launched and duly updated with pictures of the events, documentaries/video clips and publications/books relating to functional Sikh Gurdwaras.

Launching Book "Historical Gurdwaras in Pakistan".

ETPB has launched a new book "Historical Gurdwaras in Pakistan" with the active support of Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC) to project the rich heritage of Pakistan, the initiatives of Pakistan's Government for the wellbeing of Sikh Community and their shrines. The book has officially been launched by Dr. Noor ul Haq Qadri, Honorable Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony in the ceremony held at Lahore on 18th September 2020.

Conduct of Birthday of Baba Guru Nanak in November 2020.

In November 2020, ETPB successfully conducted Birthday celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak by allowing the Indian yatrees under COVID-19 environment.

Conduct of Baisakhi Festival in April 2021.

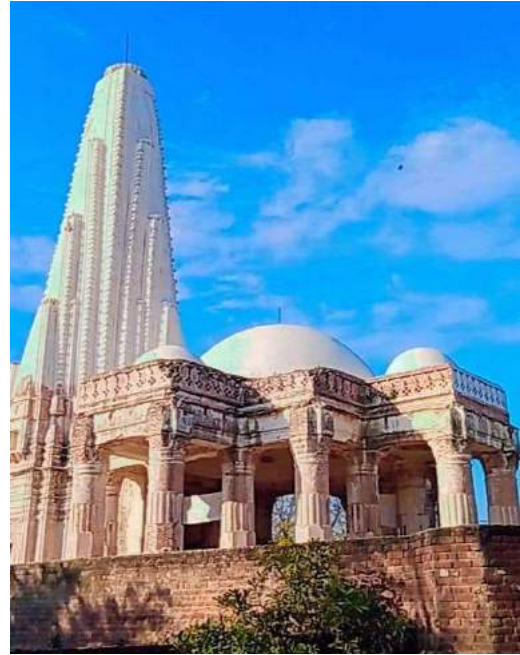
In April 2021, ETPB successfully conducted Baisakhi Festival by allowing the Indian yatrees under COVID-19 environment.



HINDU COMMUNITY

Opening of Shivala Teja Singh Mandir, Sialkot.

Inauguration of Shiwala Teja Singh Mandir, Sialkot on 27th October 2019 for Hindu Community. The initiative was widely appreciated locally and internationally.



Year 2020-21& 2021-22

- ♦ **Katas Raj Mandir.** ETPB has taken over Katas Raj Mandirs from Archeology Department Govt of Punjab on 29 April 2021. Efforts are in hand for its repair / renovation by hiring the services of consultant.
- ♦ **Shamshan Ghat, Lahore.** Inauguration of Shamshan Ghat, Lahore for Sikh & Hindu community on 14 Jan 2021. This initiative was taken on the long standing demand of Sikh and Hindu communities who have to travel either Nankana Sahib or Attok previously for the cremation of their deceased members.
- ♦ **Restoration of Samadhi Sir Ganga Ram, Lahore.** In order to pay tribute to the services of Sir Ganga Ram, ETPB has completely restored Samadhi of Sir Ganga Ram. The repair and restoration work has been completed and it will be inaugurated soon. This initiative has been widely appreciated at local and international level.
- ♦ **Ratan Talao Mandir, Karachi.** Efforts are being made for the opening and restoration of the Mandir. ETPB has taken up the matter with the local administration for security clearance.
- ♦ **Punch Tirath Mandir, Peshawar.** As per demand of the local Hindu community efforts are being made for the opening of the Mandir.
- ♦ **Balmiki Mandir, Lahore.** Efforts are in hand for taken over the control and management of the Mandir.
- ♦ **Darya Lal Mandir, Karachi.** Efforts are being made for the opening / restoration of the Mandir.
- ♦ **Parhalad Puri Mandir, Multan.** For the restoration / reconstruction of the Mandir services of consultant are being hired as well. Efforts are in hand for security clearance from the local administration.

Achievements - Shrine Branch 2022

Sikh Community

1. **Increase in the Budget for Maintenance of Shrines** In 2021-22 for development of Shrines (approx.) 28.836 Million Rupees was allocated which was further increased up to (approx.) 53.650 Million Rupees in the year 2022-23.

2. Gurdwaras

a. **Restoration of Gurdwara Nanak Sar, Daska, Sialkot.** Chairman ETPB, Habib ur Rehman Gillani has announced the restoration of Gurdwara Nanak Sar, Daska Sialkot and work has been started to restore the historical Gurdwara.



b. **Gurdwara Dera Sahib Lahore.** Renovation/uplifting work of Gurdwara Dera Sahib, Lahore has been started and construction work is in final stages and it will be completed in few months' time.

b. Gurdwara Janam Asthan, Nankana Sahib.

(1) Construction of accommodation block has been started and it will be in a position to accommodate the 3000 Indian Sikh yatrees during November 2022 through Karsewa.

(2) Approval of 100 rooms block for yatrees at Gurdwara Janam Asthan Nankana Sahib by ETPB.



c. **Renovation/Uplifting of Gurdwara Tamboo Sahib at Nankana Sahib.**

Renovation/uplifting of Gurdwara Tamboo Sahib at Nankana Sahib are in progress.





d. **Scholarships for Deserving Sikh Students.** Scholarship system for the deserving Sikh/ Hindu students has been started to encourage the community to get higher education and skill development. In 2021-22, Scholarship of Rs.4,320,000/- was granted to 48 Sikh/ Hindu deserving students. While, in 2022-23 Scholarship programs will further be increased.

e. **Sikh Tourism Trail in Jhelum.** Restoration work on Gurdwara Choa Sahib Jhelum has been completed, while repair/ renovation of Bhai Karam Singh Haveli/Gurdwara and Mata Sahib Kaur Gurdwara will be started in due course of time.



f. **Opening of Gurdwara Sach Khand Sahib, Shikarpur, Sindh.** It is first time in the history of ETPB that a historical Gurdwara is being restored and renovated in Sindh for Sikh and Nanak Namlewa Sangat. Repair and renovation of Gurdwara is in progress and work will be completed in November 2022.



g. **Opening of Gurdwara Chavien Patshahi, Lahore.** Renovation/uplifting work of Gurdwara Chavien Patshahi, Lahore has been started and 1st phase of the work will be completed in November 2022.



h. **Restoration of Gurdwara Bhai Joga Singh, Peshawar.** Gurdwara Bhai Joga Singh, Peshawar is an old building constructed before 1947. The building comprises of two floors with a basement. It is located in Mohalla Jogan Shah of old city area of Peshawar. The Gurdwara is being looked after by Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB). **On 7th November 2021, the Addl Secy (Shrines) ETPB visited** the Gurdwara and during the visit, it was observed that Gurdwara building is in deteriorating and decaying condition. Keeping in view of severity of the issue, the matter was discussed with Superintendent Engineer (SE) of Technical Branch ETP Board and through proper channel approval from competent authority was sought for hiring of consultant for structural evaluation and investigation of the building. Subsequently, consultant firm namely M/S SEM Engineers (Structural Electrical Mechanical Environmental & Management) was hired for the said purpose and the firm determined multifarious cracks as main issue of the building. Furthermore, construction faults, improper design, and inadequate repair work developed cracks on the building. **The consultant firm submitted its report** and recommended to demolish the complete structure, as existing building is not reliable and has become dangerous for human lives and can collapse at any time, may be due to earthquake, natural calamity or otherwise. Upon the recommendation of Structural Engineer (Consultant) and Superintendent Engineer of Technical Branch ETPB, it was unanimously decided by ETPB, PSGPC, Local Peshawar and Gurdwara Sangat to close the building of “Gurdwara Bahi Joga Singh” for its re-construction to avoid any untoward incident in the best interest of Sikh Community/ safety of human lives. Said decision was

further validated in the 25th meeting of PSGPC held on 03rd February 2022 held in E.T.P Board Secretariat, Lahore.



i. **Proposal for three new Sikh Events in Bilateral Protocol.** 04 annual Sikh events are included in agreed bilateral protocol between Government of Pakistan & India. However, to promote religious tourism in the country 03 new Sikh events are proposed for inclusion in existing bilateral protocol is as under:-

- ♦ Saka Nankana Sahib, February
- ♦ Joti Jot Purb – Death Anniversary of Guru Nanak, September
- ♦ Birthday of Guru Ram Das, October

j. **Possession of Gurdwara Singh Sabha, Mansehra.** After approval of ETP Board in its 212th meeting dated 08th December 1999, Gurdwara Singh Sabha building at Mansehra City was handed over to the District Administration of Mansehra for establishing a public library. However, on the request of PSGPC the matter was placed in 331st ETP Board meeting held on 30th September 2020, the Board unanimously approved the request of PSGPC for restoration of the Gurdwara after retrieval from the present occupants. Now, efforts are in hand for retrieval of Gurdwara Singh Sabha building through ETP Office, Hassanabdal.

h. **Signing of MoUs.** For promotion of religious tourism & preservation of shrines MoU signed between ETPB and NCA, WCLA & Tourism Dept Punjab on 19th June 2022.

Facilities for Yatrees.

58. On the occasion of each festival, Evacuee Trust Property Board provides best available facilities to the yatrees, in coordination with other government departments for their comfortable stay in Pakistan. Detail of free of cost facilities is as under:-

- a. Reception at Wagha
- b. Langar
- c. Travel Arrangements
- d. Customs and Immigration
- e. Security by Punjab Government
- f. Facilitation Desks
- g. Accommodation in Gurdwaras / Mandirs

- h. Conduct of all religious rituals in addition to the bilateral protocol
- i. Currency Exchange
- j. Telephone Facilities
- k. Health Cover by ETPB and Punjab Government.

Successful Conduct of International Sikh Events in 2022.

59. So far in 2022 following Sikh festivals are being held in different Gurdwaras of Pakistan which managed by ETPB/ PSGPC:-

- a. Vaisakhi Festival, April 2022
- b. Martyrdom Day of Guru Arjun Dec Ji, June 2022
- c. Death Anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, June 2022

Inclusion of Sikh Community Members in ETP Board.

60. First time in the history of ETP Board total 06 members from Sikh/ Hindu (04 Sikh & 02 Hindu) has appointed as ETP Board Member to extend goodwill gesture among the Sikh/ Hindu Communities.

Financial Help of Terrorism Affected Sikh Families.

61. In recent past 03 Sikh men (Ranjit Singh, Kuljeet Singh & Satnam Singh) were shot dead in Peshawar city in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in brazen incident of terrorism/ target killing. To support the families of victims PSGPC extend Rs.300,000/- for each effected family as sympathies from the Department in the tough time.

Assistance Provided to Afghan Sikh Community.

62. On 24 June 2022, Shrines Branch of ETPB facilitated Afghan Sikh community to shift their sacred material retrieved from Gurdwara Karte Parwan. Kabul who was attacked by terrorist on 18th June 2022. Sardar Partab Singh, Member Board ETPB received the Afghan delegation led by Surbir Singh Khalsa and shifted all the sacred material in Gurdwara Bhai Joga Singh Peshawar and Gurdwara Panja Sahib.

DEVELOPMENTS WORK IN YEAR 2021-22.

- ◆ Re-construction of Parlad Puri Mandir, Multan.
- ◆ Construction/ development/ renovation at Katas raj, Chakwal.
- ◆ Construction of room verandah shed at Sikh & Hindu Shamshan Ghat at Babu Sabu, Lahore.
- ◆ An amount of Rs.25 has been spent on shrines, Gurdwaras, Mandirs all over the Pakistan for repair & maintenance and upgradation.
- ◆ Lifts installation in Evacuee Trust Complex and Green Trust Tower, Islamabad has been completed.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Revenue of the department has been enhanced by Rs.68.955 million in this year, which is 2.48% enhancement as compared to last year 2020-21.
- ◆ An amount of Rs.501.204 million has been recovered on account of arrears of revenue from leases / tenant of the department.
- ◆ Savings of Rs.622.099 million by adopting austerity measures for FY: 2021-22.

- ◆ Expenditures have been curtailed and Budget utilization (Revenue vs Expenditure) is 78% of the total revenue income.
- ◆ Investment of ETP Board has been increased from Rs.5741.606 million to Rs.6860.661 million, which is 19.49% higher as compared to last year.
- ◆ Implementation on Internal/External Audit Reports (Years 2009-22).
- ◆ Resolution of important cases with Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony, Islamabad.
- ◆ Vigilant recovery of arrears and removal of illegal occupations/encroachments.
- ◆ Due to anti-encroachment drive by ETP Board, Fisheries department has paid Rs.63.700 million on account of arrears of rent.
- ◆ Almost all directives of PAC / DAC have been complied with true letter and spirit. Consequently huge amount has been recovered and got verified to Audit.
- ◆ Enhancement of rental rates as per market rent at ET Complex & GT Tower Islamabad.
- ◆ ETPB is income tax compliant and is on active tax payer list.
- ◆ The Income Tax consultant has been hired.
- ◆ Pension fund for the employees of ETPB has been established.
- ◆ Geo-tagging of all traced property / land has been completed can be visualized through Geo-Portal MIS and Android application has been launched in the field.
- ◆ Training of field staff completed.
- ◆ E- Billing module for urban Properties has been implemented.
- ◆ To acquire satellite image, SUPARCO has been executed.
- ◆ E- Office Implemented in head office scanning of files under progress in various branches.
- ◆ E-Tenancy module is under development in order to digitalized tenancy cases.
- ◆ Technical bid for seeking consultancy to develop and ERP system has been opened and being evaluated.
- ◆ E-leasing & E-litigation modules are being devolved with the assistance of survey of Pakistan as per directions of PM Office.775 acres, 3 kanal, 8 marla ET land has been retrieved from illegal occupants.
- ◆ The idle ET land of 466 Acres, 3 kanal, 13 Marla has been utilized for welfare purpose.

RESEARCH AND REFERENCE WING:

NATIONAL RAHMATUL LIL AALMEEN CONFERENCE

63. Two days Rahmat ul Aalmeen Conferences was held on 11th and 12th Rabi ul Awwal (2021 AD/1443 AH) to project the life, seerah and teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad Khatim un Nabiyeen ﷺ. Diplomats, politicians and other prominent personalities participated in the conference. On 11th Rabi ul Awwal, Mehfil-e-Naat was held where Speaker National Assembly was chief guest. On 12th Rabi ul Awwal two sessions of the conference were arranged. In the inaugural session, the honourable President of Pakistan was chief guest and it was held in the Aiwan-e-Sadar. The concluding session was held in Jinnah Convention Centre where Prime Minister of Pakistan was the chief guest. However, the honourable President of Pakistan also participated in the session. The topic of the conference was:

اتحاد و اتفاق کیلئے مساجد، مدارس، خانقاہ اور امام بارگاہ کا کردار۔۔۔ سیرت النبی ﷺ کی روشنی میں



SEERAT BOOK COMPETITION

64. Seerat book competition was organized on the above-mentioned topic. Authors of the books/articles who secured top positions in the competition were awarded cash prizes, souvenirs and certificates. Prizes were distributed by the President and the Prime Minister during Rahmatul lil Aalmeen Conference.



PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS

65. Besides festivals of non-Muslim religious groups, the Ministry celebrated Milad ul Nabi ﷺ in the month of Rabi ul Awwal each year. Comprehensive programme was chalked out and shared with all Federal and Provincial Governments/organizations to celebrate Milad ul Nabi ﷺ in a befitting manner.



CELEBRATION OF THE ASHRA RAHMATUL LIL AALAMEEN TO HOMAGE AND HONOR THE HOLY PROPHET KHATIM UN NABIYEEN (ﷺ)

66. On the occasion of Milad-ul-Nabi ﷺ in the month of Rabi-ul-Awal (2021/1443 A.D), the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony in pursuance of the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan announced the country-wide celebrations on "Ashra-e-Rahmatul lil aalameen" for the Holy Prophet Muhammad Rasool Ullah Khatim un Nabiyeen ﷺ from 3rd Rabi-ul-Awal to 12th Rabi-ul-Awal 1443. The inaugural session of Ashra Rehmatul lil Aalameen was held on 3rd Rabi ul Awal in the Prime Minister office. A comprehensive program in respect of the said celebrations was prepared and all Federal and Provincial Ministries/Divisions/Departments were directed to arrange events, conferences, seminars, activities and functions in the organizations/departments under

their administrative control as per the program. Resultantly, around 1 lac programs were held at government level throughout the country. The concluding session organized by MoRA was conducted on 12th Rabi ul Awal at Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad. Both President and Prime Minister of Pakistan participated in the function.



RECOMMENDATIONS OF CIVIL AWARDS

67. Following Naat khuan was awarded Civil Award during the year 2021 on the recommendation of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony:-

Year	Recommendation
2021	Noor Ahmad Jarral

RECONSTITUTION OF CENTRAL RUET-E-HELAL COMMITTEE:

68. Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee was reconstituted. All Zonal RHCs are being reconstituted in consultation with the Provincial Governments.

MEETINGS OF RUET-E- HILAL COMMITTEES

69. Meetings were held on 29th of each lunar month for moon sighting. Harmony on the occasions of Islamic festivals has been observed across the country.



ULEMA & MASHAIKH COUNCIL

70. The Ministry has been actively working for promotion of Intra-faith Harmony and for developing peace and tolerance among different sects. For this purpose, National Ulema and Mashaikh Council was constituted. Recommendations made by the Council played a pivotal role in eliminating the sectarian violence from the society. At present, reconstitution of the Council is under process.

WEB EVALUATION CELL

71. A Web Evaluation Cell is already in function in the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony for evaluation of religiously objectionable online content. Websites/links etc. are evaluated and sent to Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) through e-portal on regular basis. So far 72451 links have been evaluated by the cell and 49185 links have been reported to PTA for appropriate action.



CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEE

72. An Apex Committee comprising of Ulema of all schools of thought, university academia and representatives from PTA, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) and Law & Justice Division has also been constituted to analyze sensitive online contents and prepare recommendations for taking further appropriate action. Procedure/Criteria for evaluation of religiously objectionable online content has also been finalized by the Apex committee



ROLE OF MORA&IH DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

73. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony has been actively working on the religious front against the spread of the disease. Covid-19 SOPs for gatherings in Masajid/Imam-Bargah for prayers, traweeh, Eid ul Fitr, Eid-ul-Azha, animal handling, qurbani management and for Ashura activities etc were finalized in consultation with all stake-holders and respective departments were made responsible for effective implementation of these SOPs. A Booklet titled “کرونا وائرس اور اسلامی تعلیمات” was published highlighting Islamic teachings on pandemics and SOPs finalized by the Government. During the 2nd and 3rd wave of the pandemic, the Ministry engaged ulema on different occasions and sought their insight for policy formulation and decision.

LEGISLATIONS

S.#	Title	Description
1	Muslim Family Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020.	The Bill was approved by Federal Cabinet and has been introduced in the Parliament. At present, it is under consideration of National Assembly Standing Committee on RA&IFH.
2	Guardian and Wards (Amendment) Bill 2021.	The Bill was approved by the Senate Standing Committee on RA&IFH which has recommended to the Chairman Senate for passing of the Bill.
3	The Publication of Holy Quran (Amendment) Bill, 2020.	To ensure error free printing of the Holy Quran, an Official Bill for amendments in the existing Holy Quran Act, 1973 was approved by the Cabinet and introduced in the National Assembly. Which was referred to National Assembly Standing committee on Religious Affairs for its recommendation by the Speaker National Assembly. Further, the Bill has been recommended by National Assembly's Standing Committee on RA&IFH and returned back to National Assembly for its approval.
4	Ruet-e-Hilal Bill 2020	To bring harmony and uniformity on Religious festivals in the country, Ruet-e-Hilal Bill 2020 was prepared in consultation with all stake-holders. After approval by Federal Cabinet the bill has been introduced in the Parliament. At present, it is under consideration of National Assembly's Standing Committee on RA&IFH.