

A

Bill

to provide for establishment of an authority for promotion and protection of Gandhara culture

Whereas it is expedient to establish the Promotion and Protection of Gandhara Culture Authority for the conservation, protection and promotion of the rich cultural heritage of the Gandhara region, encompassing Pakistan. This Act aims to transform the unique artistic traditions, archaeological sites, and cultural practices of Gandhara into tourist friendly destinations by establishing an authority dedicated to their preservation and promotion.

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, application and commencement. - (1) This Act shall be called Promotion and Protection of Gandhara Culture Authority Act, 2023.

(2) It shall extend to such areas of the Federation and are not included in any province.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Establishment.- The Preservation and Promotion of Gandhara Culture Authority (hereinafter referred to as "the Authority") is hereby established as a statutory body.

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

3. Powers.- (1) The Authority shall have the following powers necessary to fulfill its objectives:

- (a) Acquire, hold, and manage movable and immovable property.
- (b) Conduct surveys, excavations, and research related to Gandhara artifacts and archaeological sites.
- (c) Develop and implement conservation plans and guidelines for the protection of Gandhara cultural heritage.
- (d) Regulate and issue permits for activities related to the excavation, export, or import of Gandhara artifacts.
- (e) Establish partnerships and collaborations with national and international organizations for the preservation and promotion of Gandhara culture.
- (f) Facilitate tourists, both domestic and international, interested to visit Gandhara heritage sites

- (f) Raise funds through donations, grants, and other means to support its activities.

(2) **Functions.** - The Authority shall perform the following functions, namely:-

- (a) Identify, document, and inventory Gandhara sites, artifacts, and cultural practices.
- (b) Develop and implement strategies for the sustainable management and conservation of Gandhara cultural heritage.
- (c) Conduct research, studies, and publications on Gandhara culture and history.
- (d) Organize exhibitions, cultural events, and educational programs to promote Gandhara culture.
- (e) Facilitate capacity building programs for professionals engaged in the conservation and management of Gandhara cultural heritage.
- (f) Establish networks and collaborations with educational institutions, museums, and cultural organizations for research and cultural exchange programs.
- (g) Provide technical assistance and guidance to local communities and stakeholders for the preservation and promotion of their cultural heritage.

COMPOSITION AND ADMINISTRATION

4. **Composition.**- (1) The Authority shall consist of a board including Chairman to be appointed, for a period of five years, by the Prime Minister having good vision / understanding in the fields of archaeology, art history, cultural heritage management, tourism, finance and other relevant disciplines and ten official members and the Secretary of the authority as detailed below:

S. #	DESIGNATION	STATUS
1.	Chairman	Chairman
2.	Secretary, National Heritage and Culture Division	Member
3.	Managing Director, PTDC	Member
4.	Secretary, Tourism, Archaeology and Museums Department, Government of the Punjab	Member
5.	Secretary, Culture, Tourism & Antiquities Department, Government of Sindh	Member
6.	Secretary, Culture & Tourism Department, Government of Balochistan	Member
7.	Secretary, Sports, Culture, Tourism, Archaeology & Youth Affairs Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Member
8.	Secretary, Tourism, Information & Information Technology, Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir	Member
9.	Secretary, Tourism & Culture Department, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan	Member
10.	Director General (representative of MOFA)	Member
11.	Director General, Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad	Member
12.	Secretary to the authority	Ex-Officio Member Secretary

(2) The Chairman shall be responsible for the overall functioning and administration of the Authority on pro bono basis with the status of Federal Minister.

(3) **Advisory Council:** The Chairman shall appoint an Advisory Council to advise the board to achieve its objectives.

Provided that the Advisory Council shall not be more than five members and not be less than two members.

Further provided that the Advisory Council shall work on honorary basis.

However, it shall be entitled for TA/DA and other allowances as approved by the board.

(4) There shall be Secretary of the authority who shall be appointed by the Chairman under the rules.

Provided that the senior most officer of the authority shall act as a Secretary if a Secretary is not appointed.

Provided further that the Secretary shall be Principal Accounting Officer (PAO) of the authority.

FUNDING AND RESOURCES

5. **Funding.** - (1) The Authority shall focus to be self-sustainable.

(2) The Authority shall receive no funding from the federal / provincial governments except fees, fines, grants, donations, revenue generated from the tourism/services, fund-raising activities and any other lawful sources as approved by the board.

(3) **Resources:** The Authority may utilize the services of experts, professionals and consultants and may enter into agreements or contracts for the procurement of goods and services necessary for the fulfillment of its objectives.

(4) The National Heritage & Culture Division shall render secretariat / necessary support / coordination and provide assistance to the Authority in discharge of its functions smoothly.

REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

6. **Annual report.** - (1) The Authority shall prepare an annual report detailing its activities, achievements, financial statements, and future plans, to be submitted to the President of Pakistan and made available to the public.

Provided that copies of the report shall be laid in the Parliament for consideration.

(2) **Accountability:** The Authority shall be accountable to the government and shall comply with any reporting and auditing requirements as stipulated by relevant laws and regulations.

(3) All museums, historical sites, historical buildings and places related to Gandhara culture shall be facilitated by the authority to attract the visitors / tourist.

7. **Gandhara tourism promotion center** (1) There will be a Gandhara Tourism Promotion Centre which shall be responsible to promote the Gandhara tourism, especially, it will attract the international tourist from all over the world.

(2) The activities of the tourism shall be regulated by the rules made under Section 11 of this Act.

(3) The authority shall issue license to the Gandhara tour operators under the rules.

(4) The authority shall give license or affiliation to the hotels and guest houses who shall be allowed to host the Gandhara tourist.

(5) The authority shall register the transporters of good repute for promotion of Gandhara tourism.

(6) The authority shall issue standards for Gandhara tourism from time to time.

(7) The authority shall notify Gandhara zones in the official gazette and make policy for their development.

(8) The authority shall establish tour guides' pools responsible for facilitating tourists.

(9) The authority shall establish Gandhara student clubs and societies in Universities, Colleges and Educational Institutions across the country.

8. **Gandhara research center** (1) There shall be a Gandhara Research Centre. The Centre shall be responsible:

- (i) Coordinate the research publications and liaison with other research centers working on the Gandhara worldwide.
 - (ii) Publication of research magazine of international depute.
 - (iii) Holding of research workshops, seminars, symposium etc.
- (2) Subject to the approval of the authority the Gandhara Research Centre shall be regulated by the rules made under Section 11 of this Act.

(3) Subject to the approval of the authority, for promotion of research on Gandhara, the Research Centre shall issue research standards and instructions for Gandhara culture.

9. **Gandhara media center:** There shall be a Gandhara Media Centre for promotion of activities of the authority in print media, electronic media, social media and international media.

Provided that the Gandhara Media Centre shall be integral part of the authority and shall work under the direction of the Chairman of the authority.

10. **Gandhara heritage and handicraft export center:** There shall be Gandhara Heritage and Handicraft Export Centre which shall be responsible to the following:

- (i) Patronage of local handicrafts, especially, related to Gandhara Art and Culture.
- (ii) Marketing of local handicrafts related to Gandhara art and culture in international market.

Provided that the authority may include or exclude any locally manufactured item in the list of Gandhara handicraft art and culture.

11. **Rules:** The authority with the approval of the board shall make rules and the Secretary of the authority shall publish the same in the official gazette.

Provided that the Chairman may make the rules for a period of six months. However, the rules shall be approved by the board within 180 days.

12. **Establishment of fund:** There shall be established a fund to be known as the "Gandhara Fund". The fund shall be regulated as may be prescribed in the rules.

13. **Service of the employees.-** The Service of the employees shall be regulated by the "Service Employees Rules of the prevention and protection of Gandhara Culture Authority". However, till the rules are not framed the service of the employees shall be regulated by Civil Servants Act, 1973.

OBJECTIVES AND REASONS

14. The objectives of the Authority shall include, but not be limited to:

- a) Promote the Pakistan economy through Gandhara tourism.
- b) Promote Pakistan remittances by exploring Gandhara style handicrafts replica etc.
- c) Promote local industry, business, hoteling, jobs and improve tolerance in the society.
- d) Promote Gandhara diplomacy and promote ties with the countries of for east.
- e) Conservation, preservation, and restoration of Gandhara artifacts, archaeological sites, and cultural landscapes.
- f) Promotion and dissemination of knowledge about Gandhara culture, art, and history.
- g) Facilitating research and academic activities related to Gandhara culture.
- h) Encouraging public engagement, including tourism, to raise awareness and appreciation of Gandhara culture.
- i) Collaborating with relevant domestic and international organizations for the preservation and promotion of Gandhara heritage.
- j) Conducting educational programs, workshops, and exhibitions to enhance public understanding of Gandhara culture.


DR. RAMESH KUMAR VANKWANI
Member, National Assembly