

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.