

A

BILL

to provide for the promotion of the thought, philosophy and poetry of Allama Muhammad Iqbal in educational institutions and to commemorate his 150th Birth Anniversary

WHEREAS the year 2027 marks the 150th Birth Anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the National Poet of Pakistan and one of the principal intellectual architects of the idea of Pakistan, providing a historic opportunity to renew the nation's commitment to his philosophy, poetry and vision; and

WHEREAS it is expedient to preserve, promote and transmit to future generations the enduring values of *Khudi* (selfhood), knowledge, moral character, spiritual development, tolerance, service, creativity, responsible citizenship and national unity embodied in the works of Allama Muhammad Iqbal; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to ensure that students studying under all recognised educational systems in Pakistan are provided with an age-appropriate understanding of the life, thought and contributions of Allama Muhammad Iqbal;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. **Short title, extent and commencement.** - (1) This Act may be called the Iqbaliyat (Promotion in Educational Institutions) Act, 2026.

(2) It extends to the Islamabad Capital Territory.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Definitions.**- In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,

(a) "Educational Institution" means every public or private school, including institutions following the Federal, Provincial, Cambridge, International Baccalaureate (IB), American or any other recognized curriculum, within the Islamabad Capital Territory;

(b) "Government" means the Federal Government;

(c) "Iqbaliyat" means the life, philosophy, poetry, intellectual contributions and national thought of Allama Muhammad Iqbal; and

(d) "Iqbal Academy Pakistan" means the institution established by the Government for the promotion, preservation and research of the works and philosophy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

3. **Inclusion of Iqbaliyat in curriculum.** - (1) Every recognized educational institution shall provide age-appropriate instruction in Iqbaliyat from Grade I to Grade VIII.

(2) The curriculum shall include, appropriate to each grade—

(a) selected poetry and prose of Allama Muhammad Iqbal;

(b) the concepts of *Khudi*, moral character, education, service, creativity, self-reliance, tolerance and national responsibility;

- (c) Iqbal's intellectual influences, including the teachings of Jalaluddin Rumi and other major philosophical traditions, presented in an academically balanced and age appropriate manner;
- (d) Iqbal's contribution to the intellectual foundations of the Pakistan Movement.

(3) The curriculum shall, to the maximum practicable extent, be based upon or adapted from the curriculum, educational material and scholarly work developed by Iqbal Academy Pakistan, in consultation with the National Curriculum Council and relevant examination boards.

4. **Role of Iqbal Academy Pakistan.** - The Iqbal Academy Pakistan shall serve as the principal national resource institution for the implementation of this Act and shall assist the Government in—

- (a) curriculum development and review;
- (b) preparation of textbooks and teaching material;
- (c) teacher training programmes;
- (d) digital educational resources;
- (e) translations and scholarly publications; and
- (f) research and academic guidance relating to Iqbaliyat.

5. **Morning assembly.** - Every educational institution shall include the recitation or singing of "Lab Pe Aati Hai Dua" during the morning assembly alongside the National Anthem and such other activities as may be prescribed by the relevant education authority.

6. **Annual Iqbal Week.** - Every educational institution shall observe an annual Iqbal Week, including debates, declamation contests, poetry recitation, essay competitions, book discussions, art exhibitions, innovation projects and community service activities inspired by the teachings of Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

7. **Teacher training.** - The Government shall facilitate teacher training and provide appropriate educational material for the effective teaching of Iqbaliyat.

8. **Implementation.** - The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training shall, in consultation with curriculum authorities, examination boards and Iqbal Academy Pakistan, frame rules and implementation guidelines within six months of the commencement of this Act.

9. **Commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary.** - The Government shall, in collaboration with the Provincial Governments and Iqbal Academy Pakistan, organize nationwide educational, literary, cultural and research activities during the year 2027 to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

10. **Power to make rules.** - The Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill is introduced in anticipation of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal in 2027.

2. Allama Muhammad Iqbal is the National Poet of Pakistan and one of the foremost philosophers, thinkers and visionaries of the Muslim world. His message of Khudi, knowledge, moral courage, intellectual inquiry, service, unity and spiritual development continues to inspire generations and remains central to Pakistan's intellectual and ideological heritage.

3. The Bill seeks to institutionalise the study of Iqbaliyat in schools from Grades I to VIII across all recognised educational systems in Islamabad Capital Territory; to utilize the curriculum and scholarly resources developed by Iqbal Academy Pakistan; to revive the tradition of the recitation of *Lab Pe Aati Hai Dua* in school morning assemblies; and to encourage educational and literary activities that foster character, civic responsibility and national cohesion. The legislation aims to ensure that every child in Pakistan develops an appreciation of the enduring legacy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and the ideals that contributed to the intellectual foundations of the creation of Pakistan.

SENATOR DR. ZARQA SUHARWARDY TAIMUR
Member-in-Charge