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## GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
## LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

## NOTIFICATION

**06 October 2026**

**No. Legis: 13-14/2025**.- The following Ordinance promulgated by Governor of the Punjab is hereby published for general information:

### THE PUNJAB ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION ORDINANCE 2026

**(XII OF 2026)**

**An**

**Ordinance**

*to provide for a system of alternative dispute resolution of civil and criminal disputes in Punjab.*

It is necessary to provide for a system of alternative dispute resolution of civil and criminal disputes in Punjab to ensure inexpensive and expeditious justice and the matters connected therewith and ancillary thereto.

Provincial Assembly of the Punjab is not in session and Governor of the Punjab is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action.

In exercise of the powers conferred under clause (1) of Article 128 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Governor of the Punjab is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:



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1. **Short title, extent and commencement.**- (1) This Ordinance shall be called the Punjab Alternative Dispute Resolution Ordinance 2026.

(2) It shall extend to whole of the Punjab.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Definitions.**- In the Ordinance:

(a) "accreditation" means the formal recognition, approval, or authorization granted by the Authority to an ADR service provider, ADR centre or ADR training institute, under the Ordinance;

(b) "Administrative Department" means the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department of the Government;

(c) "ADR" denotes Alternative Dispute Resolution which means a process of alternative dispute resolution in which parties, resort to resolving a dispute, other than through adjudication by courts, and includes, but is not limited to mediation, conciliation and negotiation;

(d) "Authority" means the Punjab Alternative Dispute Resolution Authority established under the Ordinance;

(e) "ADR centre" means a legal entity accredited as ADR centre under the Ordinance;

(f) "ADR service provider" means a person accredited as ADR service provider under the Ordinance;

(g) "ADR training institute" means a public or private institute offering training, granting certification, and building the capacity for ADR;

(h) "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Authority;

(i) "Court" means a criminal court or civil court or family court or tribunal or quasi-judicial fora having original jurisdiction under any law for the time being in force;

(j) "Director General" means the Director General of the Authority;

(k) "expert" means the expert to be appointed by the Authority under the Ordinance;

(l) "Government" means Government of the Punjab;

(m) "Member" means a Member of the Authority;

(n) "Overseas Pakistanis" means the Overseas Pakistanis as defined in the Punjab Overseas Pakistanis Commission Act 2021 (XVI of 2021);

(o) "Ordinance" means the Punjab Alternative Dispute Resolution Ordinance 2026;

(p) "prescribed" means prescribed by the rules or regulations;

(q) "regulations" means the regulations framed under the Ordinance;

(r) "repealed law" means the law repealed under section 49 of the Ordinance;

(s) "rules" means the rules made under the Ordinance;

(t) "Schedule" means the Schedule appended to the Ordinance;

(u) "Secretary" means Secretary of the Authority; and

(v) "settlement" means the agreement reached between the parties as a result of successful ADR.

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**3. Establishment of the Authority**.- (1) There shall be the Authority to be known as the Punjab Alternative Dispute Resolution Authority for the purposes of the Ordinance.

(2) The Authority shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal with power to enter into agreements, contracts and memorandum of understanding; to acquire and hold movable and immovable property; and by its name sue or be sued.

(3) The head office of the Authority shall be at Lahore; however, the Authority may, with prior approval of the Government, by a notification in the official Gazette, establish its offices at such other places in the Punjab as it may consider appropriate.

**4. Composition of the Authority**.- (1) The Authority shall consist of:

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| (a) | a retired judge of the Lahore High Court. | Chairperson |
| (b) | Secretary of the Administrative Department or his nominee not below the rank of Additional Secretary. | Member |
| (c) | Secretary to the Government, Finance Department or his nominee not below the rank of Additional Secretary. | Member |
| (d) | Secretary to the Government, Public Prosecution Department or his nominee not below the rank of Additional Secretary. | Member |
| (e) | five persons from the fields of audit and accounts, finance and banking, communication, information technology and engineering. | Members |
| (f) | one person from the field of law. | Member |
| (g) | Director General. | Member/ Secretary |

(2) The Chairperson and Members at clauses (e) and (f) of sub-section (1) shall be appointed by the Chief Minister for a period of four years and they shall continue to perform their functions even after the expiry of their term for a period of two months or till their successors are appointed, whichever is earlier:

Provided that the Chairperson and Member at clause (f) of sub-section (1) shall be appointed in consultation with the Chief Justice, Lahore High Court:

Provided further that the Chairperson and Members at clauses (e) and (f) of sub-section (1) shall be eligible for reappointment but they shall not be appointed for more than two consecutive terms.

(3) The Chairperson and Members at clauses (e) and (f) of sub-section (1) may, at any time, resign from their offices by serving one month notice, in writing, to the Chief Minister through the Administrative Department.

(4) The Chairperson and Members at clauses (e) and (f) of sub-section (1) shall serve during the pleasure of the Chief Minister:

Provided that the Chairperson and Member at clause (f) of sub-section (1) shall be removed in consultation with the Chief Justice, Lahore High Court.

(5) If any vacancy occurs in the office of the Chairperson or the Members at clauses (e) and (f) of sub-section (1) due to resignation, removal or any other reason, the vacancy shall be filled as provided in this section.

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**5. Meetings of the Authority.**- (1) The Chairperson and, in his absence, the Secretary of the Administrative Department shall preside over a meeting of the Authority and in absence of both, the meeting shall be presided over by a Member nominated by the Chairperson.

(2) The Authority shall meet, at least once, in every three months; however, the Authority may meet as and when needed for the purposes of the Ordinance.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Authority shall be five Members including the person presiding over the meeting.

(4) The Authority may co-opt any person as an expert in the relevant field for its assistance but such co-opted person shall not have any right to vote.

(5) A meeting of the Authority may be called, if:

(a) required by the Chairperson; or

(b) approved by the Chairperson upon the request of the Secretary; or

(c) requisitioned by the majority of the Members.

(6) The agenda of a meeting shall be approved by the Chairperson and, in his absence, by the Secretary of the Administrative Department.

(7) The business of the Authority shall be conducted in such manner as may be prescribed by the regulations.

(8) In case a Member, at clause (e) or (f) of sub-section (1) of section 4, absents himself from three consecutive meetings of the Authority without prior permission of the person presiding over the meeting of the Authority, he shall stand disqualified as Member and such disqualification shall be reported to Chief Minister by the Secretary through the Administrative Department.

(9) The Administrative Department, after approval of the Chief Minister, shall issue notification of removal of such Member.

(10) No act or proceedings of the Authority shall be invalid merely by reason of any vacancy or defect in the constitution of the Authority.

**6. Powers and functions of the Authority.**- (1) Subject to the Ordinance, the Authority may take such measures, exercise such powers and perform such functions as may be necessary for the purposes of the Ordinance.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the powers conferred under sub-section (1) and in addition to the powers and functions provided in the Ordinance, the Authority may:

(a) advise the Government on policy matters pertaining to ADR to create an enabling environment;

(b) design and establish an effective mechanism for accreditation of ADR service providers, ADR centres and ADR training institutes;

(c) design curriculum and conduct ADR trainings for the purposes of the Ordinance;

(d) prepare and maintain a database of ADR service providers, ADR centres and ADR training institutes and make such data publicly accessible through its official website and share it with all relevant stakeholders through all available means, including digital platforms;

(e) provide lists of accredited ADR service providers and ADR centres to the Registrar, Lahore High Court for distribution to the concerned District and Sessions Judges;

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(f) prepare and approve its annual budget;

(g) arrange trainings and capacity building programs for its officers, Government functionaries and such other persons in such manner as may be prescribed by the rules;

(h) collect or cause to be collected fee;

(i) make payments out of its fund in such manner as may be prescribed;

(j) invest amounts out of its fund as per the policy of the Government;

(k) enter into and perform such agreements, contracts or memorandum of understanding or joint ventures with local and international organizations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Ordinance;

(l) procure equipment, machinery, instruments, materials and data required for the purposes of the Ordinance;

(m) hire services of the experts and consultants in such manner as may be prescribed by the regulations;

(n) constitute committees and delegate them such functions and powers as are necessary to achieve the objectives of the Ordinance;

(o) disseminate and create awareness about the services offered by it through organizing conferences, seminars and webinars;

(p) develop digital tools and platforms to promote ADR;

(q) advocate and promote ADR for transition from adversarial litigation to consensual dispute resolution mechanisms;

(r) prepare annual report and submit it, through the Administrative Department, to the Government for its approval;

(s) approve regulations and issue guidelines for carrying out the purposes of the Ordinance; and

(t) perform such other functions as may be conferred on it under the Ordinance or assigned by the Government.

**7. Director General.**- (1) There shall be a Director General of the Authority to be appointed by the Chief Minister from amongst the officers of the Pakistan Administrative Service, retired in BS-21 or above, or from amongst the retired District and Sessions Judges, for an extendable period of four years on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the rules or until so prescribed, as may be determined by the Chief Minister.

(2) The Director General shall be eligible for reappointment but he shall not be appointed for more than two consecutive terms.

(3) The Director General shall:

(a) be the head of the management and office of the Authority;

(b) be responsible for implementation of the decisions of the Authority;

(c) be responsible for operations and administration of the Authority;

(d) coordinate with the public and private institutions and autonomous bodies on behalf of the Authority;

(e) has such powers pertaining to matters of appointment, transfer, removal of staff, budget preparation, finances,

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development, technical and other matters affecting the business of the Authority as may be prescribed or delegated to him by the Authority;

(f) continue to perform his functions even after the expiry of his term for a period of two months or till his successor is appointed, whichever is earlier; and

(g) exercise such other powers and perform such other functions as the Authority may assign or delegate to him.

**8. Authentication of instruments.**- All orders, decisions and other instruments of the Authority shall be authenticated with the signature of the Director General or any other officer or employee so authorized by the Authority.

**9. Appointment of officers and staff of the Authority.**- (1) The Authority may appoint, engage or hire such officers, experts and other employees as it may consider necessary, on such terms and conditions and in such manner as may be prescribed by the regulations.

(2) No such appointment shall be made by the Authority unless the posts are duly sanctioned by the Finance Department of the Government, and budget for such posts exists.

**10. Appointment by transfer and posting.**- (1) The Government may, on the request of the Authority, transfer and post a civil servant to the Authority on such terms and conditions as approved by the Authority which shall not be less favorable than those admissible to such civil servant immediately before his transfer and posting to the Authority.

(2) The civil servant transferred and posted under sub-section (1), shall continue to be the employee of the Government and liable to be transferred back as and when required by the Government.

(3) The Authority may, if circumstances warrant, surrender the services of the transferred and posted civil servant.

**11. Accreditation.**- (1) No person or entity shall operate as an ADR service provider, ADR centre and ADR training institute unless accredited under the Ordinance.

(2) An application for accreditation as the ADR service provider, ADR centre and ADR training institute shall be submitted to the Director General in such form, in such manner, on such terms and conditions and on payment of such fee as may be prescribed by the rules.

(3) The Authority may, in the prescribed manner:

(a) grant accreditation, renew accreditation and issue accreditation certificate in such manner, on such terms and conditions and for such period as may be prescribed by the rules; or

(b) reject the application, for reasons to be recorded in writing; or

(c) revoke the accreditation:

provided that no order of revocation shall be made without giving the ADR service provider, ADR centre or ADR training institute, a reasonable opportunity of being heard and reasons to be recorded in writing.

(4) No person shall be accredited as ADR service provider, unless he has such qualification and experience as may be prescribed by the rules.

(5) No ADR centre and ADR training institute shall be accredited unless it is registered under the relevant law for the time being in force.

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**12. Compliance and monitoring.**- (1) Every accredited ADR service provider, ADR centre and ADR training institute shall comply with the provisions of the Ordinance, rules and regulations.

(2) The Authority shall conduct inspections or require submission of reports by the ADR service provider, ADR centre and ADR training institute in such manner as may be prescribed and pass such direction as it may deem necessary for the purposes of the Ordinance and the ADR service provider, ADR centre or ADR training institute, as the case may be, shall be bound to comply with such direction.

**13. Code of conduct.**- (1) The code of conduct for the ADR service provider, ADR centre and ADR training institute shall be such as may be prescribed by the rules.

(2) The ADR service provider, ADR centre and ADR training institute shall comply with and act in accordance with the provisions of the code of conduct in addition to the provisions of the Ordinance.

(3) In case of violation of any provision of the Ordinance or code of conduct by the ADR service provider, ADR centre or ADR training institute, the Authority may, after providing an opportunity of hearing and after recording reasons, in writing, revoke its accreditation.

**14. Representations.**- (1) Any person aggrieved by the order or decision of the Director General, may, within thirty days of such order or decision, file a representation before the Authority which shall be decided within sixty days of its receipt, in such manner as may be prescribed by the regulations.

(2) Any person aggrieved by the direction or decision of the Authority may, within thirty days of the passing of such direction or decision, as the case may be, file a representation to the Chief Secretary, Punjab in such manner as may be prescribed by the regulations.

**15. Who may undertake ADR.**- (1) The ADR may be undertaken by the:

(a) parties directly; or
(b) counsels of parties; or
(c) mediator judges to be nominated by the Lahore High Court; or
(d) ADR service provider; or
(e) ADR centre.

(2) Where in a case, either of the party or both parties are female, the ADR may, preferably, be undertaken by the female ADR service provider.

**16. ADR by the mediator judges.**- The Court may, with the consent of the parties, refer a case to the mediator judge provided under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 15 of the Ordinance for ADR in accordance with the procedure and time provided in the Ordinance for its completion.

**17. Referal in civil disputes.**- (1) A court shall refer a case mentioned in Schedule I to ADR service provider or ADR centre within fifteen days from the date of filing of written statement by the defendant.

(2) A court may refer a case mentioned in Schedule II to ADR service provider or ADR centre at any time or stage where it is of the view that the case may likely to be resolved through ADR:

Provided that the court, prior to referring the case given in Schedule II to ADR service provider or ADR center, shall ask the parties their opinion as to the referral and where a reference is made to ADR service provider or ADR center with the consent of the parties, the Court may formulate the points in issue.

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(3) In every case where a reference is made for ADR under this section, the Court shall provide a time for completion of ADR within a period not exceeding thirty days:

Provided that the Court, on the application mutually submitted by the parties, may extend the time which shall not exceed sixty days in total.

(4) The trial of a case referred to ADR service provider or ADR centre shall be postponed till the expiry of the time provided for ADR under sub-section (3).

**18. Referal in criminal disputes.**- (1) A Court shall refer a case falling under sub-section (1) of section 345 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898) to ADR service provider or ADR centre as follows:

(a) in a case arising out of a police report:

(i) on the application by the concerned public prosecutor with the consent of the complainant at any time before framing of the charge; or

(ii) on its own within seven days of the framing of the charge; and

(b) in a case arising out of a complaint, on its own or on the application of the complainant, within seven days of the summoning of the accused.

(2) A Court may refer a case falling under sub-section (2) of section 345 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898) to ADR service provider or ADR centre as follows:

(a) in a case arising out of a police report, with the agreement of the public prosecutor concerned, at any time after framing of the charge; and

(b) in a case arising out of a complaint, with the consent of the parties to the case, at any time after framing of the charge.

(3) In every case where a reference is made for ADR under this section, the Court shall provide a time for completion of ADR within a period not exceeding thirty days:

Provided that the Court may, on an application mutually submitted by the parties to the case, extend the said time for a further period which may extend to thirty days and total time shall not exceed sixty days.

(4) The Court which makes a referral to ADR service provider or ADR centre under sub-section (1) shall postpone the trial of the case till the completion of the time granted for ADR under sub-section (3) unless there are compelling reasons to proceed with the trial.

**19. Selection of ADR service provider or ADR centre.**- (1) The parties to the case may, with their mutual consent, select the ADR service provider or ADR centre from the list provided to them by the concerned Court for ADR.

(2) In case of disagreement between the parties regarding mutual selection of ADR service provider or ADR centre, the concerned Court shall select the ADR service provider or ADR centre from the list, provided to it by the Authority, in such manner as may be prescribed by the rules.

**20. Costs and fee.**- (1) The costs and fee for the process of ADR proceeding by the ADR service provider or ADR centre shall be born by the parties in such proportion as may be mutually agreed upon by them and in case of disagreement in such manner as may be prescribed by the rules.

**21. ADR in pending case.**- Notwithstanding anything contained in the Ordinance, the Court may, with the consent of the parties or on its own where it considers appropriate, refer a pending case for ADR under the

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Ordinance at any stage of such pending case before pronouncement of the judgement.

**22. ADR proceedings.**- (1) The parties to the dispute may take part in ADR proceedings in person, through authorized agents or attorneys.

(2) An attorney who has acted for a party in ADR proceedings shall not represent other party in the case with regard to the same matter.

(3) The parties to the litigation including the Overseas Pakistanis may participate in ADR proceedings by using modern devices and techniques such as video link, if the circumstances so warrant.

**23. Failure of ADR.**- Where a dispute has not been resolved or cannot be resolved through ADR on referral, the Court shall proceed to adjudicate the dispute or remaining dispute in accordance with applicable law.

**24. Return to Court.**- (1) A case referred to the ADR service provider or ADR centre shall be returned to the Court on completion of ADR proceedings or on the expiry of the time provided under section 17 or 18 of the Ordinance, whichever is earlier, in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The ADR service provider or ADR centre shall retain a copy of the settlement agreement, notices and any other document or correspondence made in writing during the ADR proceedings.

**25. Judgement and decree.**- (1) When the outcome of the ADR is returned to the Court and the Court finds that the matter has been completely or partially resolved in accordance with applicable law, the Court shall pronounce judgement and in case of a civil dispute pass a judgement and decree in terms of the agreed settlement.

(2) Where the outcome of ADR is not clear, the Court may ask the ADR service provider or ADR centre to provide the requisite clarification and thereafter, the Court shall pass final judgement and decree in accordance with sub-section (1).

(3) Upon pronouncement of judgment and decree by a Court as a result of ADR proceedings, the suit shall automatically stand converted into execution proceedings, if it is executable, without filing a separate application and no fresh notice be issued to the parties to the suit or the proceeding in this regard.

**26. Meaningful offer.**- Where a meaningful offer is made by a party to a civil dispute and is rejected by the other, the party which rejects the offer shall not be entitled to the costs for the suit and the other party shall be entitled to costs.

Explanation: A 'meaningful offer' is an offer which is substantially the same as the decree or order of the Court.

**27. Confidentiality.**- Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the person performing ADR and the parties taking part in the ADR proceedings shall keep all the matters relating to such proceedings as confidential.

**28. Power to record evidence during postponement.**- Nothing in section 17 or 18 shall prohibit or restrain the Court from recording evidence which is likely to become unavailable due to postponement of trial and the Court may order the recording of such evidence on its own or on the application of any party to the case including the public prosecutor.

**29. Cases pending in appeal or revision.**- The provisions of the Ordinance shall, with the consent of the parties, apply *mutatis mutandis* to a dispute pending adjudication in an appeal or revision.

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**30. Appeal or revision barred.**- No appeal or revision shall lie from the judgement and decree or order of the Court passed in consequence of the ADR under the Ordinance.

**31. Allocation of budget.**- (1) The Government shall place, each year, adequate budget, at the disposal of the Authority for performing functions under the Ordinance.

(2) The Authority shall approve its annual budget for a financial year in such manner as may be prescribed by the regulations.

(3) The budget shall be released in a timely manner to ensure effective and independent functioning of the Authority.

(4) The Authority may re-appropriate its budget from one head to the other for the purposes of the Ordinance.

**32. Fund of the Authority.**- (1) There shall be the fund of the Authority to be known as the Punjab Alternative Dispute Resolution Fund which shall be maintained, managed, controlled and administered by the Authority in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The Punjab Alternative Dispute Resolution Fund shall consist of:

(a) funds, loans or grants provided by the Government or the Federal Government;

(b) grants or funds provided by the international agencies subject to prior approval of the Government;

(c) donations from any national or international entities;

(d) income and profit from investment made by the Authority;

(e) fee and other charges collected by the Authority; and

(f) all other sums which may in any manner become payable to or vested in the Authority.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Authority to conserve its fund while performing its functions and exercising its powers.

(4) The Authority may suitably invest surplus amount of its fund in such manner as may be prescribed by the rules.

(5) The Authority shall meet its operational expenses from its fund once it becomes financially stable and viable.

**33. Bank accounts.**- The Authority shall open and maintain its accounts at such scheduled banks as instructed by Finance Department of the Government.

**34. Budget and accounts.**- (1) The Authority shall maintain proper accounts and other records relating to its financial affairs including its income and expenditure, and its assets and liabilities in such manner as may be prescribed by the regulations with the concurrence of the Finance Department of the Government.

(2) The Authority shall, upon the conclusion of a financial year, cause to be prepared, for each financial year, its statements of accounts, which shall include a balance sheet and an account of income and expenditure.

(3) The Authority may delegate its powers to the Director General to administer and incur expenditure in the matters of urgent nature subject to such conditions as it may determine.

**35. Audit.**- (1) The Auditor-General of Pakistan shall annually audit the accounts of the Authority.

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(2) The Authority, in addition to the audit under sub-section (1), shall cause the accounts of the Authority annually audited by a Chartered Accountant or a firm of Chartered Accountants who shall:

(a) be provided such access to the books, accounts and other documents as may be considered necessary for the audit of accounts; and

(b) authenticate balance sheet, income and expenditure statement of the Authority before issuance.

(3) The auditor shall submit annual or any special audit report to the Authority.

(4) The Authority shall, if required, take appropriate remedial measures or other actions in the light of audit reports prepared by the Auditor-General of Pakistan or auditors.

**36. Annual report.**- (1) The Authority shall, within three months of the end of a financial year, prepare an annual report and submit it to the Government especially with reference to ADR service providers, ADR centres and ADR training institutes and steps taken and likely to be taken to achieve the purposes of the Ordinance.

(2) The Annual report prepared under sub-section (1) shall consist of:

(a) statement of accounts and audit reports of the Authority;

(b) comprehensive statement of the work and activities of the Authority during the preceding financial year;

(c) proposed business plan; and

(d) such other matters as may be prescribed by the rules or as the Authority may consider appropriate.

(3) The annual report prepared under sub-section (2) shall be presented, within three months of the end of the financial year, through the Administrative Department, to the Government for its consideration and approval for its laying in the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab.

(4) The Government may, after considering the report, issue such directions to the Authority as may be necessary for achieving the purposes of the Ordinance and the Authority shall implement such directions.

**37. Services by the Authority.**- For the purposes of the Ordinance, the Authority may provide its services in its related fields to such persons, departments of the Government, their attached departments and autonomous bodies, Federal Government or provincial governments and their attached departments and autonomous bodies, institutions or private bodies, on payment of such fee and in such manner as may be prescribed by the rules.

**38. Monitoring and evaluation.**- (1) The Government may, at least once in a year, conduct or cause to be conducted the performance audit of the Authority to assess and evaluate the performance of the Authority in accomplishing the objectives of the Ordinance.

(2) The Government may, after evaluating the performance audit under sub-section (1), issue such directions to the Authority as may be necessary for accomplishing the objectives of the Ordinance and the Authority shall implement such directions.

**39. Delegation of powers and functions.**- (1) The Authority may delegate to the Director General any of its powers and functions except to:

(a) frame or amend regulations;

(b) approve the annual budget;

(c) constitute committee or fill a vacancy in a committee;

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(d) approve policies and issue guidelines; and

(e) approve annual report and audit accounts.

(2) The delegation of such powers and functions shall be in writing and shall specify the conditions, limitations, or restrictions, if any, subject to which the powers and functions are to be exercised or performed.

**40. Privilege to ADR proceedings and other conditions.**- (1) Save as otherwise provided in the Ordinance, the ADR proceedings shall be privileged and shall not be admissible in evidence before any Court without consent of the parties and the person undertaking the ADR shall not be required to appear as a witness or otherwise in any arbitral or judicial proceedings with respect to the dispute that is or has been the subject matter of the ADR but the final settlement, wholly or partly, between the parties shall be admissible in evidence in any subsequent proceedings between them relating to the same subject matter.

(2) The ADR service provider or ADR centre shall not act as an agent or attorney of any party to the ADR, in any subsequent proceedings with respect to a dispute that is or has been the subject matter of the ADR.

(3) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the ADR service provider or ADR centre or any other person connected with the ADR proceedings for anything which is done or intended to be done in good faith under the Ordinance except where the ADR service provider or ADR centre allowed or ordered the commission of an offence.

**41. Application of certain laws.**- (1) Subject to the provisions of the Ordinance, the Oaths Act, 1873 (X of 1873) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings under the Ordinance.

(2) Save as otherwise provided in the Ordinance, the Qanun-e-Shahadat, 1984 (10 of 1984) shall not apply to the ADR proceedings under the Ordinance.

**42. Public servant.**- The Chairperson, Members, Director General, officers, employees, experts, members of staff and other persons appointed by the Authority shall, when acting or purporting to act in pursuance of any of the provisions of the Ordinance, be deemed to be the public servants within the meanings of section 21 of the Pakistan Penal Code (XLV of 1860).

**43. Indemnity.**- No suit, prosecution or any other legal proceedings shall lie against the Authority, the Chairperson, Member, Director General, officer and employee of the Authority, in respect of anything caused or done or intended to be caused or done in good faith under the Ordinance.

**44. Power to make rules.**- (1) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Ordinance.

(2) Notwithstanding the generality of sub-section (1), the Government may make rules to provide for:

(a) code of conduct in the provision of ADR services by the ADR service provider and ADR centre;

(b) accreditation of the ADR service provider, ADR centre and ADR training institute;

(c) documentation of proceedings and decisions by the ADR service provider and ADR centre;

(d) procedures to be adopted during ADR proceedings;

(e) curriculum and conduct of the ADR training institute; and

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(f) grant of certificates and cash awards to the ADR service provider and ADR centre on the basis of their performances.

**45. Power to frame regulations.**- The Authority may, by a notification in the official Gazette, frame regulations not inconsistent with the Ordinance and the rules, for carrying out the purposes of the Ordinance.

**46. Power to amend the Schedule.**- The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, amend the Schedule.

**47. Removal of difficulty.**- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to or applying the provision of the Ordinance, the Government may make such order to be published in the official Gazette, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Ordinance, as may be necessary for removal of such difficulty.

**48. Overriding effect.**- In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the provisions of the Ordinance and the provisions of any other law for the time being in force, the provisions of the Ordinance shall prevail to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

**49. Repeal and saving.**- (1) The Punjab Alternate Dispute Resolution Act, 2019 (XVII of 2019) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal under sub-section (1), any notification issued, appointment made, repealing of section 89-A and clause (iii) of rule 1A of Order X of the First Schedule of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (V of 1908) or any other act done under the repealed Act, shall be deemed to be issued, made, repealed or done under the Ordinance unless altered, amended or substituted under the Ordinance.

(3) The Chairperson, Members and Director General appointed under the repealed law shall be deemed to be appointed under the Ordinance for the period provided in the Ordinance for such posts; however, other terms and conditions shall be such as may be prescribed by the rules and until so prescribed as may be determined by the Chief Minister under the Ordinance.

## SCHEDULE-I

[section 17]

1. Dispute involving pre-emption under the Punjab Pre-Emption Act, 1991 (IX of 1991).
2. Dispute relating to ownership and possession of immovable property.
3. Family dispute including guardianship and custody of minor children including the matters provided in Part I of the Schedule appended to the Family Courts Act, 1964 (XXXV of 1964).
4. Dispute arising out of enforcement of commercial contracts except those that fall in Schedule II.
5. Suits for specific performance of contracts except those that fall in Schedule II.
6. Suit arising out of Tort except those that fall in Schedule II.
7. Dispute for recovery of movable property or value thereof.
8. Dispute for separate possession of joint immovable property through partition or otherwise including claims for mesne profits.
9. Dispute for rendition of accounts of joint property.
10. Dispute to remove nuisance.
11. Dispute involving recovery of money.
12. Dispute relating to inheritance including declaration and succession.

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13. Suits relating to declaration under the Specific Relief Act, 1877 (I of 1877).

## SCHEDULE-II

[section 17]

1. Dispute relating to professional negligence under Tort.
2. Dispute under the Punjab Consumer Protection Act, 2005 (II of 2005).
3. Dispute involving copy rights and patents under the Copyright Ordinance, 1962 (XXXIV of 1962) and the Patents Ordinance, 2000 (LXI of 2000) respectively.
4. Suit for redemption of mortgaged property under the Transfer of Property Act, 1882 (IV of 1882).

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Punjab Alternate Dispute Resolution Act 2019 (XVII of 2019) was enacted for providing a system of alternate dispute resolution of civil and criminal disputes to ensure inexpensive and expeditious justice by means of an alternate dispute resolution system.

The Act *ibid* empowers the courts to refer civil cases provided in its Schedule and compoundable criminal cases/disputes to the ADR persons which include parties themselves, their counsels, mediator judges to be appointed by the High Court, ADR service providers and ADR centres, for resolution of disputes through conciliation and mediation.

In terms of section 21 of the Act *ibid,* an Authority was established with its core objectives to accredit the ADR service providers and ADR centres and the said Authority, after thorough deliberations, proposed the Punjab Alternative Dispute Resolution Bill 2026, by repealing the Act *ibid,* with certain necessary and important improvements in the existing mechanism and by providing a comprehensive system of alternative dispute resolution in the Punjab. It has also been proposed that an autonomy, by way of establishing the accreditation authority as an autonomous body, be given for better performance in the said field. Hence this Ordinance.

**(SARDAR SALEEM HAIDER KHAN)**
**GOVERNOR OF THE PUNJAB**

**Dated: 06/10/2026**

**(MUHAMMAD ASIF BALAL LODHI)**
Secretary
Government of the Punjab
Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department

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