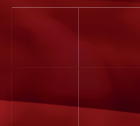




THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**MANIFESTO 2024**

**DIGNITY, IDENTITY AND  
DEVELOPMENT**



عزمِ راسخ، شوقِ کامل، سعیِ پیہم کی قسم  
یہ خیالِ خام ہے تیرا کہ منزل دور ہے

Azm-e-rasikh, Shauq-e-kamil, Sa'i-e-paiham Ki Qasam  
Yeh Khayal-e-khaam Hai Tera Ke Manzil Door Hai



# MANIFESTO 2024

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Dear People of Jammu and Kashmir,

As I reflect on the long journey we have traveled together, I speak to you today not just as a leader, but as someone who has witnessed the many trials and triumphs of our beloved land. I speak to you with the unwavering conviction that only the people of Jammu and Kashmir, united under the banner of the National Conference, can lead us out of the challenging predicament we find ourselves in today.

The path ahead is undoubtedly fraught with challenges. Our identity has not only been questioned but systematically eroded. Yet, even in the face of this relentless onslaught, I hold onto hope—a hope that is rooted in the belief that one day, my people will live with the honor and dignity that is rightfully theirs. And I believe that day is not far away.

In 1996, when the National Conference assumed the reins of government, we inherited a state in turmoil. Governance had collapsed, accountability was nonexistent, and the wheels of development had come to a grinding halt. The spirit of democracy had all but faded. Roads and bridges lay in ruins, hospitals were in disrepair, and our educational system was in disarray. Fear had seeped into every aspect of life, paralyzing our communities and stifling the voices of the people.

In this bleak and challenging environment, our loyal Party workers faced unimaginable adversity. Many were martyred daily, yet they persevered, driven by an unyielding spirit of devotion and sacrifice—values instilled in us by my father and your beloved leader, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. It was this spirit that brought the people together, leading to a landslide victory under my leadership. Today, the challenges remain, albeit with adversaries cloaked in different garbs and faces. Their intentions, however, remain unchanged—they seek to harm the National Conference and stifle the voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. But let me assure you: our resolve is stronger than ever. This manifesto is not just a collection of promises; it is a solemn pledge to you my sons and daughters, sisters and brothers. It is a promise that I and my Party will continue to serve you tirelessly. We will not rest until we have reclaimed what was unjustly taken from us, and until the years of harassment, injustice, and wrongdoing have been rectified. Our aim is simple yet profound: to ensure that you, the people of Jammu and Kashmir, are the true masters of your own destiny.

In this manifesto, we have addressed the major issues you face daily. Through these commitments, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference aims to fulfill the promises we make to you today. While our pride, politics, and status may have been challenged, our resolve remains unbroken. I humbly ask you to grant us a strong mandate, so we may continue to serve you and restore what has been lost.

**Dr. Farooq Abdullah**



## LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

### My Dear people of Jammu and Kashmir,

As we stand at a crucial juncture in our history, this manifesto is more than just a political document. It is a testament to our shared journey, a roadmap to reclaim the dignity and honour that has been the cornerstone of our identity for generations. Our challenges are vast, and the burdens you carry are heavy. But this manifesto is our collective pledge to confront those challenges head-on, with unwavering resolve.

In these pages of manifesto, you will find the essence of our struggle, the dreams of our forefathers, and the hopes of our future generations. This is not just about politics; it's about our very existence, our economy, our brotherhood, and the soul of Jammu and Kashmir. It is about the path we choose now— whether we ignore the enormity of our problems or step forward to be part of the solution.

The National Conference has always stood as a bulwark against those who sought to undermine our identity and our rights. We have faced unimaginable adversities, been targeted by our enemies, yet never once did we compromise on our core agenda. Today, I assure you that as long as the plough remains in the hands of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, no one can silence our genuine voice.

Your vote has always been a voice of power, but this time it carries the weight of our collective future. This election is different. It's a chance to correct the course, to send a resounding message that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will not be divided, will not be silenced, and will not be ignored. The fractured mandate of the past brought us to this precarious position, but with unity, we can and will rise again.

This manifesto is not just a list of promises; it is a pledge with the people. It reflects the blood, sweat, and tears of those who came before us, who dreamed of a prosperous and peaceful Jammu and Kashmir. It is your voice, your aspirations, your resilience, and your resolve.

I stand before you as your son, your brother, your friend committed to seeing every promise in this manifesto fulfilled. Together, we will bring back the glory of our state, restore its rightful place, and ensure that no force on earth can break our resolve.

With your support, with your vote, we will rise again, stronger and more united than ever.

May God bless you and all the people of Jammu and Kashmir.  
**Omar Abdullah**



## **WE STAND BY OUR WORD..**

A clean past, a clear present, courageous actions, and a secure future.



The political struggle in Jammu and Kashmir, commenced under the visionary leadership of Sher-i-Kashmir and spearheaded by the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, has been, from its very inception, essentially “a fight for the betterment of the downtrodden across the State.” The movement, in the words of the great leader, aimed at establishing a political system in the State “as would afford equal opportunities for progress in every walk of life to every individual inhabiting the State irrespective of his religion and community.” The strong commitment to democratic values and universally acknowledged freedoms was reflected in the 1944 Naya Kashmir manifesto of the Party. It pledged to “raise ourselves and our children forever from the abyss of oppression and poverty, degradation, and superstition.” It guaranteed the people of Jammu and Kashmir fundamental freedoms and rights in all dimensions. In particular, it promised women equal rights with men in all fields of national life and ensured equality of opportunity for children irrespective of accidents of birth and parentage. The manifesto, in the words of Sher-i-Kashmir, envisaged the future of the State in political as well as economic terms.

The ideals set out in the manifesto of 1944 have continuously guided the political journey of the Party. The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, true to its cherished goals, made all efforts at the time of Partition to ensure that the autonomy, identity, and territorial integrity of the State were guaranteed and implemented in real terms. It is because of the strenuous

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efforts of the Party leadership that Article 370 was incorporated into the Constitution of India, granting the State autonomy in all matters except defence, external affairs, and communication, and also the right to frame its own Constitution. The Party, soon after assuming office, undertook massive land reforms and sweeping social justice programs. The Delhi Agreement of 1952 paved the way for the abolition of the monarchy, gave people the right to elect the Head of State, and recognised Jammu and Kashmir’s right to have its own flag—an important symbol of its identity. The Delhi Agreement once again depicted the Party’s strong commitment to the identity and autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir.

In 1975, after a long-drawn struggle spanning over twenty years, the Kashmir Accord was signed, and the Party leadership succeeded in obtaining a guarantee from the Central Government that Article 370 would continue to govern the relations between the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union of India. Once elected in 1977, the Party, guided by its decisive leadership, took important measures of far-reaching consequences like Single Line Administration and the Hill Development Council for Ladakh to decentralise power and improve governance at the grassroots level.

In 2019, after rumors of the Central Government making an assault on the autonomy, identity, and territorial integrity of the State began circulating, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference made every effort to dissuade the Central Government from proceeding with its unconstitutional and anti-people designs. When the Central Government went ahead to attack the special constitutional status of the State, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference was the first to challenge the competence and constitutionality of the unilateral decisions and commenced a legal battle to overturn the undemocratic and unilateral decision in the highest constitutional court of the country. This was despite the entire leadership of the Party being imprisoned and all impediments created to hinder its normal political activities. The Party continues to be engaged in a political battle at both the central and state levels, garnering support for its principled stand to achieve its objectives.

The political course relentlessly pursued by the Party is traced to highlight its consistent and unwavering stand regarding the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and its seriousness and credibility in the promises and pledges made in this manifesto. As the Assembly Elections approach after almost ten years, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference once again presents itself before its true source of power—the people. The journey of people’s welfare and development is an ongoing process. While we put forth our future plans for popular endorsement, it is only fair to look back at the milestones we’ve crossed.

When the Party assumed the reins of government in 1996, the situation was dire. Governance had collapsed, accountability was nonexistent, and administrative and developmental processes had ground to a halt. The spirit of democracy had faded, and “Heaven on Earth” had turned into a hellish expanse of ruins. Roads, bridges, places



**WE STAND BY OUR WORD..**

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of worship, and hospitals lay destroyed, and the educational system was in disarray. Curfews, strikes, and security crackdowns were daily occurrences. Urban areas faced days without power, and rural areas faced weeks without it. Fear pervaded every aspect of life, restricting mobility and silencing communities.

In this bleak environment, our loyal Party workers faced tremendous adversity. Hundreds of committed workers were gunned down, yet they persevered, driven by the spirit of devotion and sacrifice once embodied by Baba-e-Qoum Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. The people rallied to ensure the success of our party nominees, leading to a landslide victory under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Farooq Abdullah. From Ladakh to Lakhanpur, Poonch to Paddar, and Karnah to Kathua, it was the National Conference party, its red flag, and its symbol—the Plough—that achieved unprecedented electoral supremacy. The people granted us a two-thirds majority.

In 1996, we made the Autonomy issue the central point of our Election Manifesto as an honest effort to connect hearts and minds. The people endorsed this demand by granting us an unprecedented majority. The Committee formed under Dr. Farooq Abdullah's leadership produced a comprehensive report after three years of labor, which was unanimously passed by the State Legislature. The Party's commitment to the political aspirations of people from all regions prompted it to get the "autonomy resolution" passed by the State Assembly. The "autonomy resolution," an important milestone in the struggle of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for identity and autonomy in all its dimensions, is of huge constitutional importance and can still serve as a baseline for addressing internal dimensions of the problem and securing durable peace in the region. However, the Centre's summary rejection of the report was a grave injustice, disregarding constitutional principles and democratic norms.

On August 5, 2019, the BJP once again betrayed the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Disregarding the constitution, the BJP harmed the constitutional, moral, ethical, and legal relationship with Jammu and Kashmir for electoral gains. For the first time in independent India's history, a prosperous state was downgraded and divided into two Union Territories. This act exhibited the BJP's disdain for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, devoid of any sense of righteousness. With a mere stroke of a pen, the state was defeated, and there was no respect for the rights of Kashmiris, Dogras, Gujjars, Paharis, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, and all proud Indians in Jammu and Kashmir.

The aftermath was marked by betrayal and pain, with all promises to Jammu and Kashmir broken. Despite this, our resolve remains unbroken. We stand firm on the constitutional promises made to us and will reclaim what was taken. The road ahead is challenging but not impossible. Through this manifesto, we assure the people of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh that we will fight constitutionally and prevail.

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The erosion of democratic institutions since 2019, under prolonged Governor's rule, has highlighted the urgency for a return to true democratic governance. It has been five years since the imposition of Governor's rule and a decade since the last elections, a period marked by BJP-led bureaucratic rule that undermines democracy. The time has come for the people to reclaim their democratic rights and ensure that their voices are heard.

We advocate for Indo-Pak dialogue as the best method to resolve ongoing conflicts. The yearning for peace and progress among the people of Jammu and Kashmir should compel these two nations to foster conditions that will end our miseries and promote better understanding and cooperation in South Asia. Meaningful talks between various groups and alienated sections within the State are essential, as is interaction with credible representatives from both sides of the Control Line. Such engagements can significantly contribute to the peace and progress of the region.

This manifesto is not just a document; it is a testament to our unwavering commitment to the people of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. It reflects our journey through adversity, our achievements, and our vision for a brighter future. We urge the people to stand with us as we strive to restore democracy, achieve constitutional promises, and lead Jammu and Kashmir on the path of success, progress, and development. Together, we can overcome the challenges ahead and build a future where the aspirations of our people are realized, and our region thrives in peace and prosperity.

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference makes a solemn pledge to the people of Jammu and Kashmir that the Party shall:

**GUARANTEE THESE 12 PROMISES..**





## RESTORATION OF OUR POLITICAL AND LEGAL STATUS

- Strive for the full implementation of the Autonomy Resolution passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in 2000.
- We strive to Restore 370-35A, and Statehood as prior to August 5 2019.
- In the interim period We will endeavor to redraw the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, and the Transaction of Business of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules, 2019.
- The Jammu and Kashmir assembly, in its first list of business after elections, will pass a resolution against the centre's decision to strip the region of its statehood and special status.
- Make efforts to modify, annul, and repeal post-August 5, 2019, laws that impact the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Protect the land and employment rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Formulate a policy to provide land to the landless and those who have been in uninterrupted possession of state lands for an extended period, granting ownership rights under a considered policy.
- Amend laws to restrict land ownership to actual residents by imposing reasonable restrictions on non-residents.
- Ensure government and semi-government employment opportunities are available to unemployed residents
- Promote regional autonomy and create a legal framework to make it vibrant, ensuring participation from all regions.
- Encourage dialogue between India and Pakistan
- Make efforts to secure the release of prisoners languishing in jails.

## RESTORING NORMALCY:

PSA: We will repeal the Public Safety Act (PSA).

- Release of Political Prisoners: We will Prioritise the release of Political prisoners and youth who have been unjustly detained in jails and are not involved in serious crimes. We will also seek amnesty for all political prisoners.
- The JKNC is strongly committed to the dignified return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits.
- Simplified Job Verification Process: Streamline the verification process for job applicants to make it more transparent and accessible, reducing unnecessary delays.
- Eased Passport Verification: Ensure that passport verification procedures are simplified, removing hurdles and making it easier for people to obtain passports.
- End to Unjust Terminations: Address and rectify cases of unjust job terminations, ensuring fair treatment and job security for all employees.
- Unnecessary harassment to people on highways will be stopped.

*For further details go on page number...*





## A COMPREHENSIVE JOB PACKAGE FOR YOUTH

- ◆ Provide one lac jobs to youth .
- ◆ Within first 3 months of forming Government we shall pass a Jammu and Kashmir Youth Employment Generation Act. This act will focus on creating sustainable employment opportunities for youth
- ◆ To fill-up all vacancies in government departments within 180 days and ensure policy for future
- ◆ The Job Application will be made free for all the examinations.
- ◆ We promise incentive-linked jobs under the start-up scheme.
- ◆ We promise employment in energy sector through government facilitation and incentive-linked mini hydropower generation projects including solar power projects.

*For further details go on page number....*



## RELIEF FROM ELECTRICITY AND WATER CRISIS.

- Provide 200 units of electricity free
- Transfer of hydro power projects to Jammu and Kashmir as recommended by Prime Ministers ' Committee
- We will implement a one-time settlement for pending electricity bill arrears in both rural and urban areas.
- To address the demand of industries, we will explore feasible ways to provide some respite in power tariffs, ensuring a more favourable environment for industrial growth and sustainability.
- We will provide free drinking water to each household.
- We shall Give special attention to far and inaccessible area of Jammu and Kashmir and ensure supply to drinking water to them.
- We shall ensure proper utilisation of funds that come under Jal Jivan mission and plug all the loop holes that have been exploited in recent years.
- Steps will be taken to get the free power ratio raised from present 10 percent to 40 percent to augment the domestic power supply. It is to mention that the all india norms are not in so facto applicable in Jammu and Kashmir because of IWT restrictions.

*For further details go on page number....*





## SOCIAL WELFARE

- Provide Rs. 5000 per month to female heads of households to EWS
- Women Empowerment: Implement schemes that offer financial assistance and support for women entrepreneurs and ensure representation of women in governance and decision-making processes.
- Provide 6 cylinders free of cost per year to EWS
- We will enhance the old age and widow pension to 3000.
- Women shall be entitled to travel free in all public Transport-
- Enhance the marriage assistance from 50000 to 75000 to EWS
- We promise to increase the medical allowance of pensioners and family pensioners from existing Rs 300 to Rs 1000 per month.
- We will work towards the establishing of Miniorty Commision.
- Two senior citizen homes one each in Jammu and Srinagar will be established with facilities of sports, recreation, reading and writing, etc

*For further details go on page number...*

## STRENGTHENING THE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

- Increasing FREE rice allocation to 10 kg per person per month.
- The general public will also be entitled to 10 kg rice/Atta per person per month.
- We will review the allocation of kerosene and sugar, similar to the approach taken by other states.
- Efforts will be made to strengthen the PDS and make it people friendly
- We will Guarantee that the PDS outlets are stocked adequately and that there is a timely supply of food grains to avoid shortages.

*For further details go on page number...*





## IMPLEMENTATION OF WADA REPORT JKNC'S DRUG MENACE ERADICATION COMMITMENT

- The WADA (War Against Drug Abuse) report will be implemented in toto.
- Prevention, Treatment, Rehabilitation: Setting up Addiction Treatment Facilities, Drug De-addiction and Drug Rehabilitation Centres across J&K.
- We shall involve civil society, religious groups, NGO's and all influential Groups to fight this drug menace.
- JKNC will tackle the drug menace in J&K head-on.
- JKNC will open a state of art rehabilitation centres for women.

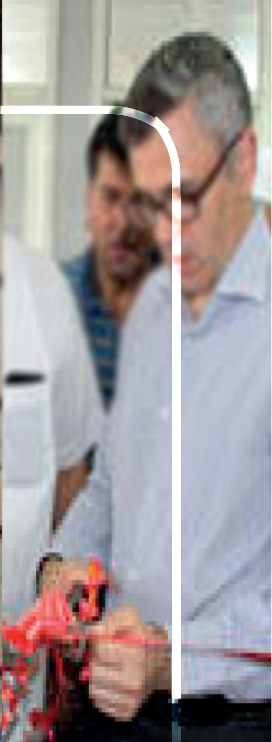
*For further details go on page number....*

## STRENGTHENING HORTICULTURE AND AGRICULTURE SECTORS

- ◆ Take all steps with Union Government to restrict the import of apple.
- ◆ Increase of Minimum Assessment value of imported apples to safeguard domestic farmers and also have a minimum support price for apple for domestic farmers.
- ◆ We will establish a High level committee dedicated to the protection and promotion of saffron production and find causes for its failure.
- ◆ We promise to make all efforts to exempt horticulture products from GST regime.
- ◆ Set up fruit and food preservation parks in each district.
- ◆ Guarantee against dispossession of legitimate land and ensure cultivation with production rights.
- ◆ Interest subvention on farmer's loans taken for production purposes.

*For further details go on page number.*





## CREATING ROBUST HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

- Restore the autonomy of Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences.
- Formulate a comprehensive State Health Policy.
- Create a Medical Trust with a free insurance cover of 5,00,000 per annum for terminal diseases like cancer, heart and kidney transplants
- We will make efforts to create a state of art cancer hospital.
- Establish Village & Mohalla Clinics for basic healthcare and emergency care.
- Provide Dialysis in all SDH centres across jammu and kashmir.
- Provide Diagnostic and Imaging services in all District hospitals

*For further details go on page number*

## TOURISM, INDUSTRY AND MINING:

- Provide industry status to tourism sector
- We will explore new tourist destination in J&K, including regions in Pir Panjal, Chenab, and other areas.
- We will develop new ski resorts and destination for adventure tourism.
- We will provide all possible assistance to houseboats to cater to the high demand and expedite their reconstruction and remodelling.
- We will incentivise the locals to develop hotel and tourism infrastructure .
- We will take a review at the sales of our price assets including Pahalgam Club, JKTDC huts ,Golf courses and Centaur Hotel.
- Development authorities will be given their due importance.
- **Industries:** We will establish industrial parks and special economic zones specifically designed to attract genuine investment into Jammu and Kashmir. Unlike the hollow promises of the last five years, our industrial initiatives will be tailored to suit the unique environment and geography of our region.
- **Mining:** We will ensure that the recently discovered lithium deposits are mined responsibly, with the primary focus on benefiting the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Also, we will enforce the payment of royalties for previously mined resources in accordance with the recent Supreme Court order. This includes securing royalties for the usage of our water by NHPC, as our rivers are among our most valuable resources.
- We will explore the sapphire mining opportunities in Padder and Kishtwar to ensure that Jammu and Kashmir fully benefits from this valuable resource.





## STRONG PLAN FOR EDUCATION SECTOR

- Making higher education accessible to all.
- We shall setup a Hospitality and Tourism University
- Make Higher education for all by Creating Six Higher Education Institutions.
- Two skill universities, one each in Jammu Division and Kashmir Division
- We will Introduce a scheme to guarantee that no school operates without a qualified teacher, thereby improving education quality and creating new employment opportunities for educated.
- Modernising school buildings/ Smart classrooms
- CCTV surveillance in all schools will be mandatory.
- We shall ensure that the outsourcing of exams will be given to only credible agency
- We shall make all efforts for all engineering and medical examinations to be conducted locally including NEET and other exams.

*For further details go on page number*

## COMPREHENSIVE EXPANSION OF SRINAGAR AND JAMMU CITIES

- ◇ To tackle pressing urban issues like congestion and environmental sustainability, a more proactive strategy is essential. This includes proposing specific measures to promote alternative modes of transportation. Establishing satellite townships can significantly alleviate the strain on urban centers like Srinagar and Jammu.
- ◇ We will Ensure the regularisation of colonies in Srinagar and Jammu that have developed in recent years, providing residents with legal recognition, proper infrastructure, and essential services.
- ◇ We will develop Mir Behri Dal as a Tourist village with all infrastructural support.
- ◇ We will draft a new master plan to extend the city limits of Srinagar and Jammu.
- ◇ We will develop new residential colonies in Srinagar and Jammu and ensure that all facilities are provided to these colonies.
- ◇ We will assess the feasibility of connecting Takht-i-Sulaiman (Shankaracharya Hill,) with Koh-e Maran (Hari Parbat Fort) through a gondola system, enhancing connectivity and promoting tourism in the area.
- ◇ We will create a comprehensive drainage plan and providing a housing plan with modern infrastructure, which includes internet connectivity, smart utilities, and sustainable development practices.
- ◇ We will start river transport and Connectivity will be increased to all district headquarters and public transport will operate till late and early hours.
- ◇ We will address the improper and inefficient handling of the Smart City projects, particularly concerning roads and footpaths. To rectify these issues, we will widen roads, alleviate bottlenecks, and ensure a well-connected road network.

*For further details go on page number*



## WE FURTHER PROMISE:

### 1. **National Unity:**

We stand against any imposition of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) or the Citizenship Amendment Act. We will support forces that champion national unity, brotherhood, communal harmony, stability, security, and social justice. We commit to actively combating communal strife, fascism, disruption, and extremism.

### 2. **Resumption of Full Darbar Move:**

We pledge to enhance the unity of our state by reinstating the full Darbar Move.

### 3. **Reservation Policy:**

The reservation policy will be reviewed and any injustice and imbalance will be corrected.

### 4. **J&K Muslim Waqf:**

We are committed to restoring the Waqf Board in Jammu and Kashmir to its past glory, correcting the mess created by the present regime. We will ensure that the Board operates with transparency, accountability, and a strong focus on serving the community.

### 5. **Roads and Tunnels:**

We will ensure enhanced connectivity across Jammu and Kashmir by widening roads and tunnels, making the Mughal Road an all-weather route, and vigorously pursuing the construction of other essential tunnels and roads with the Government of India. Also, we are committed to connecting all district headquarters with four-lane roads to further improve access and transportation throughout the region.

### 6. **Regularisation of Employees:**

We will formulate a policy for regularisation in a time bound manner for :

- Paramedical staff in Associated Hospitals, GMC
- Casual labours.
- Daily wagers
- CIC operators
- Contractual Employees
- Home Gard
- Rehbar-e-Kheel and other category of temporary employees

### 7. **Mining Contracts:**

We will ensure that sand mining contracts are exclusively awarded to locals and explore opportunities for granite and marble mining in Sonmarg, Uri, Kupwara, and other viable regions. :

### 8. **Dental Surgeons:**

We will guarantee the time-bound recruitment of dental surgeons, addressing a decade-long pending issue.

### 9. **Land Laws and Right to Employment:**

We will protect land laws and employment rights exclusively for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir and review all decisions made without the approval of the people.

### 10. **Cross-Border Shelling:**

We will develop a comprehensive scheme for the rehabilitation of individuals and households affected by cross-border shelling.

### 11. **LOC Trade:**

In pursuit of lasting peace, we will strive to revive LOC trade and explore possibilities for opening additional routes.

### 12. **Transportes:**

We will address the legitimate demands of transporters through a dedicated scheme.

### 13. **Artisans' Support:**

We will look into all issues and assist artisans by waiving loans for those severely affected by the 2014 floods and provide soft loans to help them recover.

### 14. **KCC Loans:**

We will address all farmer-related issues, including waiving Kisan Credit Card loans to support the agricultural community.

### 15. **Self Help Groups:**

We are committed to reviving the Self Help Group scheme to aid the unemployed.



16. **Old Pension Scheme:**

In view of the experiences of states who have opted for old pension scheme. We will find ways to reinstate the old pension scheme. We also promise to increase the medical allowance of pensioners and family pensioners from existing Rs 300 to Rs 1000 per month

17. **Hotel Industry :**

We will implement measures to promote the hotel industry and offer attractive incentives.

18. **J&K Employees:**

We will thoroughly examine all demands of J&K employees and review cases of terminated employees.

19. **Sports Infrastructure:**

We will significantly invest in sports infrastructure and training facilities to nurture young athletes across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

20. **Rural Infrastructure:**

We will improve rural infrastructure, including roads, irrigation systems, and electricity supply, to enhance agricultural productivity and quality of life.

21. **Satellite Townships:**

We will explore the possibilities of providing satellite townships in all districts for houseless individuals.

22. **Minority Youth Employment Generation:**

We will offer special tax incentives and financial support to Kashmiri Pandit youth and support minority entrepreneurs with concessional loans and micro financing.

23. **Lake Conservation:**

We will work to protect, preserve, and rejuvenate our diminishing water bodies through innovative and sustainable solutions.

24. **Elections to Urban and Local Bodies:**

We are committed to conducting elections for Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats to further empower the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

25. **Unnecessary harassment of People:**

The unnecessary stopping of people for routine movement of forces must be re-evaluated. We will make every effort to end this practice of inconvenience.

26. We promise to uphold fundamental rights of people in respect of freedom of expression and freedom of press.

27. We will resolve land lease policy and ensure all genuine leases are renewed



## MANIFESTO IN DETAIL

# MANIFESTO IN **DETAIL**

## Restoration of our Political and Legal Status.:

For nearly a century, the National Conference has aligned itself with the aspirations of the people, fighting against feudal oppression in the name of liberty, freedom, democracy, development, and social justice. After the liberation from feudal dominance, the party spearheaded a grassroots movement focused on empowerment and social justice, exemplified by landmark initiatives such as the massive land redistribution program through the Big Landed Estates Abolition Act of 1949-50, the Debt Relief Act of 1948, and a lasting commitment to universal free education. The party has consistently safeguarded the autonomous character of Jammu and Kashmir, playing a pivotal role in protecting the region's autonomy and preserving its unique identity. Today, the National Conference stands as a beacon of hope for the youth in despair, the destitute and impoverished, small-scale manufacturers under stress, farmers in distress, and apple growers and orchardists facing uncertainties. It also addresses the general public living in fear and insecurity while lacking access to basic social and economic amenities. There has been a disinformation campaign against the progress and development of Jammu and Kashmir economy for a period ending 2018-19 which is not only misleading but also contrary to the factual data of robust human development parameters as per the official reports. In terms of human development parameters, in comparison to many states including the neighbouring states, the social and economic indicators of Jammu and Kashmir economy stand far better than many states, that is, by 2015-16. The urban households have 100 percent access to electricity while 98.5 percent rural households have this facility. Similarly 93 percent rural households have access to potable water supply and 96 percent households in Jammu and Kashmir live in 'good and livable' houses unlike many states in the country. As many as 78 percent villages are connected through roads. The human development parameters have been robust by 2018-19 according National Family Health Survey-5 report. The sex ratio in Jammu and Kashmir stands 976 as against 875 in Himachal Pradesh. The life expectancy at birth stands 74.3 in Jammu and Kashmir as against 73.5 in Himachal Pradesh. The infant mortality rate, IMR, has substantially decreased in Jammu and Kashmir and stands 16.3 as against 25.6 in Himachal Pradesh. Similarly neonatal mortality rate, NMR, stands 9.8 in Jammu and Kashmir as against 20.5 in Himachal Pradesh and under five mortality rates is 18.5 in J&K as against 28.9 in Himachal Pradesh. As much as 91.6 percent population has access to toilet facility unlike a large number of states in the country. The per capita income (NSDP) at constant prices has demonstrated an annual growth rate of 16.3 percent during the period 2008 - 2015 as compared to 3.44 percent per annum for the period 2018 - 2023 We are committed to restoring dignity to the people and pledge to address the public's suffering.

### Restoration of Statehood

**Full Statehood:** We are committed to restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood to its status prior to August 5th, 2019, ensuring the protection of land, job opportunities, and contracts for local residents.

**Restoration of State Flag:** Our fight to restore Article 370, as enshrined in the Constitution, continues alongside the reinstatement of Article 35A. We will also strive to reinstate the state constitution and state flag, preserving our dignity, identity and heritage.

### State's Autonomy

We will make every effort to restore the autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir, as guaranteed in the Constitution of the country, to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We also pledge to intensify our efforts toward the unification and restoration of statehood, as well as the constitutional guarantees provided to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

### Youth, Empowerment and employment

The budding youth aspire a bright future and parents have been making huge investments in education, acquiring skills and in demand driven disciplines in an expectation to get jobs in the government sector or corporate bodies. The present state of unemployment, disguised unemployment and under-wage employment, relatively alarming in Jammu and Kashmir, has added to desperation and hopelessness among 42.40 percent of aspiring population. Given the sluggish growth of economy, agrarian crisis and farmers distress and deceleration in industrial economy of Jammu and Kashmir, a fast-track effective policy instruments need to be pressed into service to create employment opportunities, income and wage generation ventures to ensure sustained growth of regional economy.

It is the most challenging issue today, youth crying for jobs- the unemployment. The unemployment rate has been highest in Jammu and Kashmir relative to other states and union territories. The recent Economic Survey 2022-23 shows the unemployment rate 15.6 percent in J&K (Jan-March, 2022). The recruitment for the government jobs has been at a snail's pace during the last decade and large number of vacancies remains unfilled. The domestic corporate sector has failed to make investments and create jobs. The government policy has equally failed to create J&K an investment destination despite a huge potential. As a result of lackadaisical approach to the serious problem of unemployment, we guarantee:-

- ◆ To fill-up all vacancies in government departments within 180 days and ensure policy for future.
- ◆ We promise to provide 100 thousand jobs in the government sector and in formal scheme-driven ventures.
- ◆ Jammu and Kashmir Youth Employment generation Act. Unemployment is a serious issue, and we recognise its impact on our community. Addressing this challenge requires a robust plan. Therefore, the National Conference is committed to passing a JK Youth Employment Generation Act within three months of forming the



government. This act will focus on creating sustainable employment opportunities for youth through comprehensive measures, including streamlined processes, training programs, and support systems to foster entrepreneurship and job creation in Jammu and Kashmir. The key features of this act include a time-bound employment system across all institutions, ensuring that individuals can resolve their issues efficiently through a website or physical site visit. Also, a single-window system is established for youth, consolidating employment opportunities, training programs, education, loans, and monitoring under one platform. This streamlined approach aims to provide comprehensive support and resources for young people seeking to enhance their career prospects and entrepreneurial endeavors in Jammu and Kashmir

- ◆ We promise incentive-linked jobs under the start-up scheme.
- ◆ We promise employment in energy sector through government facilitation and incentive-linked mini hydropower generation projects including solar power projects.
- ◆ We promise a broad based import substitution policy to create employment opportunities and avenues particularly in mining and consumer sectors.
- ◆ We promise to restore and protect traditional craft skills and augment employment opportunities in traditional handicraft industry based on innovative and technologically-driven schemes.
- ◆ We promise to create entrepreneurship promotion organisation to oversee and coordinate entrepreneurship promotion and import substitution.
- ◆ We promise to create jobs in horticulture marketing by creating trade related procurement by self-help groups.
- ◆ We promise to create jobs in cut-flower industry through incentive linked marketing schemes.
- ◆ Much of the unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir is attributed to employability of educated youth, We therefore, promise to equip educated youth with skills to be imparted in technology institutions to acquire six month apprenticeship trainings in various skills to enable educated youth eligibility for jobs.
- ◆ The Job Application fee will be made free for all the examinations.

### **Energy economy, transfer of hydropower projects, power tariffs**

People of Jammu and Kashmir have been suffering from power supply crisis not only in winter months, when the power generation in hydropower houses is very low due the water level of rivers, but even in summer season when power generation is high. Jammu and Kashmir suffers from IWT (Indus Water Treaty) bottlenecks and is bound to use run of the river resources in compliance to IWT provisions. After a sustained hard struggle by successive governments of J&K, eventually, at the Prime Ministers level, a Committee headed by former RBI Governor, C Rangarajan was constituted and the said Committee, among other things, strongly recommended the transfer of Dulhasti Hydropower House, 330 MWs and upcoming Bursar Hydropower House, 1200 MWs to be transferred to State of J&K and the recommendation remains yet to be implemented. We, therefore, promise that all efforts will be made to get the report implemented. Secondly, NHPC, the monopoly

central government power producing corporation, follows All India norms with regard to free power ratio which, to our view, is not ip so facto applicable to Jammu and Kashmir so long as it suffers IWT bottlenecks. Therefore, we promise to:-

- FREE electricity up to 200 units.
- We will strive to implement a scheme that ensures 24hours uninterrupted power supply to all.
- Impress upon the Union of India to implement the recommendations of the C Rangarajan Committee report in letter and spirit
- All other hydro power projects be transferred to Jammu and Kashmir as per agreement.
- Steps will be taken to get the free power ratio raised from present 10 percent to 40 percent to augment the domestic power supply. It is to mention that the all india norms are not in so facto applicable in JK because of IWT restrictions.
- A one-time settlement for pending electricity bill arrears will be implemented in Urban and for rural areas.
- We will review and revisit all the Power purchase agreement done with other states recently. First right to usage will be of the state.
- We will encourage people to invest in Mini Hydro power projects in remotest areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

### **Social Welfare Programmes:**

In order to improve the well-being of individuals and families in need. We shall outline programs that aim to provide support for the basic needs of the population, such as healthcare, education, housing, and financial assistance. By addressing issues like poverty, unemployment, and social inequality, Effective social welfare systems are essential for building inclusive societies where all citizens have the opportunity to thrive. Therefore we promise.

- We shall Provide 5000 per month to female heads of households, ensuring a basic level of income security. We will Conduct a thorough research to determine the appropriate level of income support.
- We shall Provide 6 cylinders free of cost per year to EWS.
- We shall increase the marriage assistance from 50000 to 75000 under a proper scheme to EWS.
- We will enhance the old age and widow pension to 3000.
- Public transport will be made free for women.
- Two senior citizen homes one each in Jammu and Srinagar will be established with facilities of sports, recreation, reading and writing, etc
- Women Empowerment: Implement schemes that offer financial assistance and support for women entrepreneurs and ensure representation of women in governance and decision-making processes.
- Welfare for Sanitation Workers: Develop a comprehensive welfare scheme for sanitation workers, their children including health insurance and safety training.
- The recent changes in the qualifications for Anganwadi workers are deeply concerning and warrant immediate course correction. Under the new guidelines,



Anganwadi Workers are required to have a 10+2 pass, while Anganwadi Helpers must possess a Matric pass. This shift is both impractical and unfair, as it raises barriers for many deserving candidates who have been serving these communities with dedication and competence. We believe that the qualifications should be revised to ensure that Anganwadi Workers need only a Matric pass and Anganwadi Helpers a Middle pass, to maintain inclusivity and fairness in these essential roles.

- We will consider the formation of a Transgender Welfare Board which will focus on vocational training, job fairs, and inclusive employment practices for transgender community.

### **Public Distribution System**

The existing public distribution system will be strengthened, and the rice allocation per member per household will be increased to 10 kg per person per month, up from the existing allocation.

There will also be enhancement to 10 kg in the allocation of rice to general public.

### **WADA ( War Against Drug Abuse) JKNC's Drug Eradication Commitment**

JKNC stands firm in its commitment to create a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

A 2018 survey indicates that 14.09 lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir are abusing psychoactive substances, including opioids, cannabis and inhalants. Once in power, JKNC will tackle the drug menace in J&K head-on. The WADA report will be implemented in toto. Our strategy includes:

- Prevention, Treatment, Rehabilitation: Setting up Addiction Treatment Facilities, Drug De-addiction and Drug Rehabilitation Centres across J&K.
- JKNC will open a state of art rehabilitation centre for women.
- Law Enforcement: Cracking down on drug trafficking, holding corrupt officials accountable, and enhancing border controls
- **Awareness:** Raising public awareness about the dangers of drug abuse.
- We will involve civil society, religious leaders.

### **Protect interests in commercial agriculture**

Commercial Agriculture (Horticulture)

Despite significant efforts to prioritize commercial agriculture, particularly horticulture, the acreage under dry and fresh fruits expanded from 2.58 lakh hectares in 2004 to 3.44 lakh hectares in 2022-23. This increase led to a rise in production from 13.3 lakh metric tons to 27.2 lakh metric tons during 2004-2023. However, in recent years, the industry has been discouraged, and the farming community has faced uncertainties and deprivation.

Horticulture in Jammu and Kashmir is now confronting competition from imports from many countries. According to official estimates, around 3.5 million people are directly or indirectly dependent on horticulture for their livelihood (Economic Survey, 2023). Recently, apple imports have surged, with about 38 thousand tons coming from Afghanistan, over

33 thousand tons from Poland, 137 thousand tons from Iran, 117 thousand tons from Turkey, and imports from the USA increasing 40 times in 2023-24. Other countries like New Zealand and Chile are also contributing to the import. Under this tough competitive conditions the J&K horticulture will emerge a losing proposition, unviable and non-profit making. Under these circumstances effective measures need to be taken to save J&K horticulture from the import wrath. We, therefore, promise:-

- Take all steps with Union Government to restrict the import of apple.
- Increase of Minimum Assessment value of imported apples to safeguard domestic farmers and also have a minimum support price for apple for domestic farmers .
- We will set up, in phased manner, agro-industry enterprises, like fruit and food preservation parks in each district by facilitating basic infrastructure, easy access to credit facility to promoters and prospective entrepreneurs. This will enable to save 6 lakh metric tons of fresh fruits which otherwise go waste.
- To facilitate marketing and trading organisations, by self-help groups, would be set up to monitor price signals, storage capacity, demand fluctuations, supply chain and mapping of current problems associated with horticulture and its ancillary activities. This would further augment creation of employment avenues for youth.
- THE JKNC is concerned about the decline in saffron farming and the lack of interest among farmers in this vital industry. The production has come down by 67 % which is alarming. Considering the gravity of the situation. We will establish a High level committee dedicated to the protection and promotion of saffron production and find causes for its failure.
- The horticulture lacks formal R&D input (Research and Development). We promise to provide R&D inputs to fruit growers. We further promise to establish such institutions, under public private partnership/ private sector and in collaboration with Himachal Pradesh to augment hybrid and competitive quality product and develop nurseries.
- We, therefore, promise to set up consortium of apple producing states in north region to safeguard interests of people connected with industry and regions producing apple.
- We promise to initiate the process for overseas export of fresh fruits and fruit products under the brand promotion schemes for higher returns to growers.
- Fruits and fruit products were always exempted from taxes, duties or cess, but currently these products are subjected to GST regime. We promise to make all efforts to exempt horticulture products from GST regime.
- We promise the innovative and technology-driven packing of fruit brands to capture markets and nudge consumer preferences under the formulated scheme
- We will formulate a special scheme for promotion of Olive farming and production

### **Protect interests of farming community and agrarian economy**

The promises outlined above are made in recognition of the apple industry's role as a vital economic pursuit for hundreds of thousands of rural residents who are deprived of viable and profitable agricultural opportunities due to inevitable changes in the agrarian structure. About 85 percent of agricultural holdings in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) are classified as



marginal, compared to 76.8 percent at the all-India level. The average size of holdings in J&K has decreased significantly, from 1.12 hectares in the 1960s to 0.59 hectares in 2015, according to Agricultural Census Reports. As a result, the average cultivating household struggles to achieve subsistence from their land, leading to widespread distress sales of arable land in Kashmir.

In Himachal Pradesh, marginal holdings account for 81.4 percent; in Haryana, 66.3 percent; at the all-India level, 76.8 percent; and in J&K, 93 percent, according to the latest All-India NSS report. Among J&K's rural population, 74.4 percent of households are agricultural, with 93 percent of them owning less than 8 kanals of land, a minimal amount for subsistence (NSSO 77th Round). This percentage is higher than in neighboring states. The literacy rate among agricultural households in J&K is lower than in neighboring states: 76.2 percent in J&K, compared to 84.6 percent in Himachal Pradesh, about 80 percent in Haryana, and about 79 percent in Punjab.

The share of agriculture in J&K's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has plummeted from 68 percent in the 1950s to 16 percent in 2023. Farmers' distress remains a pressing issue, with distress sales of land dominating J&K's agrarian economy today. To mitigate this distress, we promise to:

- Guarantee against the dispossession of legitimate land and ensure cultivation with production rights.
- Provide interest subvention on farmers' loans taken for production purposes.
- Augment farmers' incomes with new ventures based on various 'income and employment' generating schemes, such as sheep farming, open-field poultry, apiculture, mulberry culture, cut-flower production and marketing, and dairy products enterprise. We promise facilitation and infrastructural support with hassle-free access to these schemes.

The regional economy continues to demonstrate sluggish growth in industry, particularly in the MSME sector and manufacturing. While the share of the manufacturing sector in 2013-14 was 10.10 percent of the total GSDP at constant prices, it has only marginally increased to 11.20 percent in 2022-23, indicating stagnation. Consequently, income and employment generation in industry remain stagnant. Investment opportunities are low due to the landlocked nature of the economy, and the unemployment crisis has reached critical levels. Official data reveals that the share of J&K's income (Net State Domestic Product, NSDP) in the Secondary Sector, that is, industry, has declined from 8.79 percent to 8.68 percent over the past ten years, from 2013-14 to 2022-23. The construction industry's share, which had been flourishing before 2014, has declined from 9.94 percent to 7.64 percent during the reference period. Overall, the Secondary Sector's income and employment generation, in terms of share in state income, has decreased from 23.58 percent to 20.39 percent between 2013-14 and 2022-23. It is only the services sector that has registered a 5 percent increase during the reference period.

### **Land Possession Guarantees**

The government claims that the economy of Jammu and Kashmir has shown a positive trend from 2014-15 to 2021-22, growing at a compound annual growth rate of 5.7%, which is higher than the national average of 5.1% (Economic Survey, 2022-23). However, a recent NSSO report reveals that the agricultural incomes of rural households in Jammu and Kashmir are significantly lower than those in neighboring states. In Jammu and Kashmir, the annual agricultural income is Rs 18,918, compared to Rs 22,841 in Haryana and Rs 26,701 in Punjab (NSSO 77th Round). Moreover, while the government claims that Jammu and Kashmir is moving toward self-reliance, official data shows that imports into the region have substantially increased compared to exports.

The mass empowerment program initiated in the late 1940s, including the land redistribution program through the Big Landed Estates Abolition Act of 1949-50, is widely regarded as landmark legislation. However, in recent times, people have been dispossessed of their lands without regard to the revenue classification of rural lands in Jammu and Kashmir and the historical practices that have been followed since then. Therefore, we promise the restoration and protection of people's rights regarding land possession and their legitimate rights.

- More land will be granted, under formulated schemes, for youth empowerment, entrepreneurship promotion, and the creation of jobs for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.
- We will resolve the land lease policy and ensure that all genuine leases are renewed.

### **Industry, MSME incentives and sustainable growth**

The industrial sector has shown diversification and growth over the years, but its share in the gross domestic product (GDP) has declined, which should be a cause for concern. A disaggregated analysis of the total secondary sector reveals that the construction industry has the largest share in the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), while the combined share of registered and unregistered manufacturing sectors is less than 5 percent at current prices.

Most of the inputs and raw materials for the construction industry are imported, resulting in a high leakage effect. Also, much of the labor engaged in construction is also imported. As a result, domestic income and employment generation are fragile. In 1980-81, the construction industry's share in the GSDP was 12.90 percent at current prices, increasing to 24.56 percent in 2014-15. However, it has since declined to 20.39 percent.

A large number of small-scale units remain neglected, with a total of 59,000 sick units in 2016, employing about 300,000 people. To create a vibrant industrial sector capable of achieving self-sustained growth, we promise to:

- We shall launch comprehensive skill development programs tailored with the needs of industries to enhance employment and establish partnerships with industries and educational institutions to create relevant training programs.



- We shall provide incentives to industries that hire locally trained individuals.
- Provide financial incentives, subsidies, and training programs for the growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
- Survey and monitor government facilitated manufacturing industries to rescue sick units and upgrade their infrastructure and make the sick units functional.
- Identification of new resource potential to establish industrial units in viable industrial estates and to that effect in the beginning Srinagar and Jammu municipal areas will be divided in 7-10 zones for establishment of slaughter houses for hides and other raw materials for processing purposes.
- Fur and woolen industry will be rejuvenated and wool procurement centres will be established.
- Additional cluster houses will be set up to make finished leather product for direct export.
- Sericulture industry shall be brought back to its old glory.
- We will Propose a flexible debt restructuring schemes, an extended moratorium period, and a special One-Time Settlement (OTS) policy to support MSMEs categorized as NAs, allowing them time to recover and stabilize.
- Sports goods industry shall be provided support and facilities under the brand promotion schemes for self-sustained growth.
- A network of private sector sheep farms would be created to tap resource of infant death among sheep for 'Qaraqul' material.
- Additional environmental concerned resource will be set up to enable final finished leather product in Kashmir itself.
- More attention would be given to agro-based industries in terms of financial support and management and also technical inputs.
- Mining and drilling will be encouraged to revive marble, granite, lignite and sephire and other minierals to enable import substitution programme. We shall explore Uri, Sonmarg and other mountainous regions for the purpose.
- 'Ease of doing business' policy shall be re-examined to make entrepreneur and promoter friendly.
- Start-up policy will be re-examined to make it more promoter friendly and extend the same to agro-based industries. Establish incubation centers and provide seed funding to encourage entrepreneurship among the youth.
- Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme: Introduce a scheme for corporates to earn tax credits for additional hiring.

### **Health Policy Vision.**

Health is essential for the happiness and wellbeing of our nation, significantly contributing to economic growth and development. A healthy population lives longer and is more productive. Health is a critical human development indicator, vital for the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir. As the premier political dispensation of this land, we are committed to ensuring Accessible, Affordable, and Quality Healthcare for all through a Holistic, Humane, and Patient-Centric approach. This aligns with the WHO's Sustainable Development Goals, promoting healthy living and preventive well-being for people of all ages.

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference's vision for health and wellness spans the next two decades, to be implemented in achievable phases and drawn from our aspirant populations and health professionals across Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, we promise to:

1. Restore the Autonomy of Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences and give it a full University Status: Ensure its research is unhindered.
2. Formulate a State Health Policy: This updated and realistic policy will serve as a framework and guideline for the next five years, covering all aspects of healthcare, medical education, and skilling. This strategic document will be created with input from an Advisory Board of foremost experts.
3. Enhance the Health and Medical Education Budget: Increase the budget and ensure full utilization.
4. Envisage to Create the Sher-i-Kashmir Medical Trust: This trust will provide a free insurance cover of 5,00,000 per annum to patients with terminal disease.
5. Establish Village & Mohalla Clinics: Provide basic healthcare, preventive, and emergency care to a target population of 20,000. In the first phase, 400 units will be created.
6. Upgrade Human and Technical Infrastructure: Enhance medical colleges, nursing colleges, paramedical institutes, laboratories, transfusion services, quality assurance departments, primary health centers, district hospitals, children hospital, in a time bound manner with rigorous audits, anticorruption measures, and periodic recertifications.
7. Reformulate PPP Guidelines: Make Public-Private Participation more realistic and attractive in fields like pharmaceuticals, biotech, medical insurance, medical devices, and tertiary healthcare in North Kashmir.
8. Develop Medical Tourism: Leverage our natural gifts and skilled manpower to make J&K a premier medical tourism destination. The Medicity projects will be reshaped to support this vision, alleviating skilled unemployment across medical, tourism, and hospitality sectors.
9. Eliminate Inequalities in Healthcare Access: Digitize the healthcare sector through a hybrid model, eventually transitioning to full digitalization while providing opportunities for reskilling and upskilling.
10. Create the Jammu & Kashmir Medical Service Cadre: Establish this premier cadre on par with civil service cadres like KAS, with admission through a standard examination conducted by PSC. (More elaborate )
11. Introduce Healthcare Management and Economics Courses: Offer these courses and certifications in our medical colleges and training institutions.
12. .Mental Health Support: Establish mental health care centers and helplines to provide support and counselling services for every district hospitals.
13. Provide Dialysis in all SDH centres across jammu and kashmir.
14. .Provide Diagnostic and Imaging services in all District hospitals.

### **Tourism industry promotion and new tourist destinations**

Jammu and Kashmir is recognized and globally accepted an important tourist destination for natural landscape, scenic beauty and heritage sites. The European and North American tourist travel accounts of past two centuries are testimony to that effect. Therefore, tourism



has emerged as one of the gainful economic pursuits pursued by people over centuries. This is demonstrated by growing tourist footfall from 1951 till date. This growing sector needs to be given 'industry status' in view of its 7-8 percent share in state gross domestic product (GSDP) and employment potential. It leads to domestic infrastructural growth on the one hand and significant income generation via tourist multiplier effect, on the other. To give boost to tourism we promise to:-

- Provide industry status to tourism sector
- Develop infrastructure in the new identified tourist destinations to ease pressure on the traditional tourist destination across jammu and kashmir.
- We identify 6 'Dream Destinations', 3 in Jammu Division including one in pir panjal, one in Chenab and 3 in Kashmir Division including one on north kashmir and one in south kashmir with full infrastructural support available round the year.
- Identification of new tourist villages in districts of Jammu and Kashmir divisions.
- Home stay policy will be streamlined and made household and owner friendly.
- Recreation facilities, river rafting, water sports, trekking, snow skiing and winter games would be made integral part of the tourism growth.
- Gandola services would be extended to some selected tourist destinations depending upon the viability and technical feasibility in both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir.
- We shall augment seating and carrying capacity of the Gulmarg Gondola which will significantly enhance the tourism experience, attracting more visitors and boosting the local economy and creating more job opportunities for locals.
- Incentives and facilities would be given to tourist service providers like hoteliers, restaurants, recreation service providers, taxi owners, Shikara owners, houseboat owners, pony-wallas and others connected with tourist services based on well formulated schemes.

### EDUCATION :

Education is the cornerstone of a progressive society. Our commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir will be a comprehensive approach to both school and higher education, ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

We aim to provide high-quality education to every child, regardless of their socio economic background. By improving infrastructure, providing adequate resources, and ensuring well-trained teachers, we will create a conducive learning environment. We promise.

1. Upgrade infrastructure and teaching facilities in government schools to provide high-quality education.
  - Invest in modernizing school buildings and smart classrooms with up-to date technology and resources.
  - We shall provide free education up to 12th class.
  - We shall provide CCTV surveillance to all private and government schools for the protection and monitoring.

- We will ensure that every schools has a lavatory block with separate facilities for girls and boys.
- We shall ensure that the outsourcing of exams will be given to only credible agency
- We shall make all efforts for all engineering and medical examinations to be conducted locally.

### Higher Education accessible to All.

Creating Six Higher Education Growth Centres : Six higher education growth centres will be created as full-fledged affiliating universities to augment the gross enrolment ratio (GER). Three will be in the Jammu region including Chenab and Pir Panjal and three in the Kashmir region including North kashmir and South Kashmir, by upgrading the satellite campuses of the University of Kashmir and the University of Jammu, thus relieving the two universities of affiliation congestion. This will provide higher education at the doorstep. The South Campus of the University of Kashmir and the two satellite campuses of the University of Jammu, namely Baderwah Campus and Kathua Campus, in the Jammu division will be upgraded to independent universities. Colleges in respective districts will be affiliated with these upgraded universities. Currently, there are around 4,000 seats available at the University of Kashmir and a similar number at the University of Jammu, while the applicants number between 30,000 to 40,000 every year. This model will make higher education available at the doorstep, relieve the two conventional universities of affiliation congestion, and substantially increase the number of seats without financial implications.

- Higher education institutions will be encouraged to undertake demand driven skill courses to enrich and enhance the employability of youth.
- We shall also strictly ensure the quality of education is improved.
- Two skill universities, one each in Jammu Division and Kashmir Division, will be set up to generate employable human capital.
- We shall setup a Hospitality and Tourism University
- Higher education-industry linkages will be created to augment the employability of enrolled students.
- Modern sports infrastructure will be created at the institutional level to augment competitive talent.
- Offer scholarships and financial aid for higher education to students from economically weaker sections and Implement a transparent application process to ensure fair distribution of scholarships.

### SRINAGAR/ JAMMU

Urban Development and Transport Facility

To tackle pressing urban issues like congestion and environmental sustainability, a more proactive strategy is essential. This includes proposing specific measures to promote alternative modes of transportation and enhance green infrastructure. Establishing satellite townships can significantly alleviate the strain on urban centers like Srinagar and Jammu.



Srinagar and Jammu require the development of Metro systems, expansion of railway networks, and improved road infrastructure. Also promoting affordable housing and sustainable urban development is crucial. Vertical development of these cities is especially important with earthquake-resistant structures.

**Naya Sheher :** Develop Naya Sheher in City Limits with modern infrastructure, including internet connectivity, smart utilities, and sustainable development practices.

- **Affordable Housing:** Launch housing schemes to provide affordable homes to the underprivileged sections of society.
- We will develop state-of-the-art fire stations in all eight constituencies. These stations will be equipped with modern technology and tools to effectively manage all types of fire incidents.
- We will ensure public participation in the planning and implementation of smart city projects.
- Acknowledging the issues hidden under the guise of the Smart City project, we will address the unnecessary and improper handling of the city's roads and footpaths. As part of this initiative, we will widen roads, alleviate bottlenecks in various areas, and ensure well-connected road networks.
- We will pay special attention to the drainage system in Srinagar and Jammu and implement a comprehensive plan to improve it.
- We will develop and maintain parks and green spaces to improve air quality and provide recreational areas..
- **Safe Play Areas:** we will Develop and maintain playgrounds and parks with safe, age-appropriate equipment. We will Create indoor play areas and community centers for year-round activities.

#### **Multi-Modal Urban Public Transport:**

Implement a comprehensive plan for urban public transport.

- Invest in diverse transport options, including buses, revival of river transport and bicycles.
- To augment urban transport facilities, under the public-private partnership mode, e-buses will be made available to connect most city routes as well as district headquarters.
- Infrastructure for river transport within Srinagar municipal limits will be created to reduce road traffic congestion and provide a low-cost, efficient mode of transport.
- High-tech parking capacity in urban centers will be developed.

#### **Develop Water bodies Under Srinagar /Jammu**

Reviving All Lakes, Including Dal Lake, and Integrating Its Inhabitants:

##### **A Comprehensive Approach**

1. **Implement Strict Anti-Pollution Measures:** Prevent waste and untreated sewage from entering the lakes to protect their ecosystem.
2. **Regular Dredging and Cleaning:** Continuously remove silt and aquatic weeds to maintain the health and longevity of the lakes.

3. **Community Involvement:** Engage local communities in the restoration process by providing training and employment opportunities in conservation efforts.
4. **Promote Alternative Livelihoods:** Encourage eco-tourism, handicrafts, and sustainable fishing to provide alternative livelihoods for the inhabitants.
5. **Establish Monitoring Systems:** Implement systems to regularly assess and maintain the health of the lakes.

#### **Jhelum/Tawi Reconstruction Project:**

We will extend the project to Pampore and a similar approach for Tawi river to enhance the region's infrastructure and environmental sustainability. As a pilot program we shall develop Mir Behri Dal by expanding the interior road from Karam Shah Bridge via Boud Moti Mohalla Road to Nishat. This development will feature scenic walkways and resting spots along the road, similar to the Foreshore Road. This step will increase the Tourism Revenue Which is Projected to rise by 15-20% annually. This shall also Approximately create 1,000 new jobs in the first phase.

We will similarly develop Jhelum, Anchar Sar Lake, Gilsar Lake, and Khoshalsar Lake under the Tourism Department. The desilting of these lakes will be prioritized, initiating the development of eco-tourism activities such as boating, kayaking, and guided eco-tours.

**Note:** Many water bodies are under threat and endangered. In the process of sustainable growth and development, it is essential to maintain the ecological balance. Therefore, we promise to conserve and upgrade the requisite infrastructure of wetlands as well as natural sanctuaries in both Kashmir and Jammu region.

#### **Protection and Revival of Heritage:**

Reviving and protecting the heritage of Jammu and Kashmir requires a multi faceted approach: As such,

- We will Initiate and fund projects to restore and maintain historical monuments, shrines, temples, and traditional architecture, using local artisans and craftsmen to preserve authenticity.
- We will preserve Karewas and ensure its protection from defacement.
- Enforce and strengthen policies that protect heritage sites from encroachment, vandalism, and neglect.

#### **Artisans.**

Artisans in Jammu and Kashmir have long been the custodians of a rich cultural heritage, crafting masterpieces that reflect the region's history and artistry. In both Kashmir and Jammu, these traditional crafts are not just a means of livelihood but a testament to the timeless beauty of handmade art. Kashmiri Carpets, Pashmina Shawl, Papier-mâché, Wood Carving, Embroidery (Kashida), Namda and Gabba Rugs, Basoli paintings And Shawls, Kishtawari blanket, Khatamband, Metalwork ( Crafting of copper and silver items) are some to mention.

In order to ensure that the rich artistic heritage of Jammu and Kashmir is preserved we promise. We will strive and explore the Ways to Protect and Promote Artisans' Skills by Education and Training, We will upgrade and strengthen vocational training centers to teach traditional crafts to the younger generation and enhance existing artisans' skills.



Provide financial assistance and subsidies to artisans to help them sustain their crafts and invest in quality materials and tools.

Integrate local crafts into the tourism industry by promoting craft tours and establishing craft villages that attract tourists and provide direct sales opportunities for artisans. Also Organise national and international exhibitions and collaborations with designers and artists to showcase and innovate traditional crafts.

### **Reorganisation of Divisions**

Decentralised decision-making can result in more efficient resources allocation allowing Regions to prioritise spending and development projects that directly benefit their local economies and populations.

Following administrative precedent we will reorganise divisions to take the decision making at the local level.

### **Land Use Policy**

All steps will be taken to protect “Abi Awal” irrigated lands from utilization for purposes other than paddy production and a comprehensive land use policy will be formulated for efficient utilisation.

### **Environment and Sustainability**

**Green Initiatives:** Promote the use of renewable energy, implement afforestation projects, and take measures to reduce pollution.

Implement policies that encourage the adoption of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power.

Develop afforestation projects to increase green cover and combat climate change. Introduce regulations and incentives to reduce pollution and promote sustainable practices.

**Waste Management:** Develop efficient waste management systems, including recycling and waste-to-energy plants.

Invest in modern solid waste management infrastructure and technologies.

**Solar Energy:** Encourage the use of solar energy in residential areas with government subsidies.

Provide more financial incentives for households to install solar panels. Develop community solar projects to provide affordable solar energy to multiple households.

### **Minorities:**

The Kashmiri Pandit, Sikh, Buddhist, and other communities have been integral to the socio-cultural and political fabric of Jammu and Kashmir for over The years.

Kashmiri Pandits: Due to various reasons, Kashmiri Pandits experienced an exodus from their homeland three decades ago. As a secular mainstream political movement, we are dedicated to addressing their legitimate demands when we form the government. We acknowledge their

aspirations expressed through numerous socio cultural and religious organizations in Jammu, other states of India, and abroad. Our commitments include:

1. **Return and Rehabilitation:** The J&K National Conference is firmly committed to the dignified return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits. We will establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to heal wounds, dispel misconceptions, and bridge divides within our communities.
2. **Temples, Shrines, and Religious Places Bill:** We will formulate, table, and advance the Temples, Shrines, and Religious Places Bill in the State Assembly. Communities, where applicable, will be involved in the management of these places of worship and their endowments.
3. **Temporary Housing:** We are committed to expediting the time-bound completion of temporary housing for Prime Minister Package Employees in Kashmir.

**Sikhs:** The Sikh community has played a significant role in our region’s socio-political landscape. To address their concerns, we promise:

1. **Reservation in Government Jobs:** We will include reservations for Sikhs in government jobs under SRO 425, similar to the provisions for Kashmiri Non-Migrant Pandits. This will ensure fair employment opportunities and support their socioeconomic upliftment.
2. **Inclusion of Gurmukhi Language:** We will advocate for the inclusion of Gurmukhi/Punjabi language to preserve and promote it.
3. **Reservation in J&K Assembly:** We will support the reservation of two seats in the J&K Assembly—one for each region, Jammu and Kashmir—to ensure adequate representation for the Sikh community.

### **Governance**

To make governance people friendly we shall foster a culture of excellence and competitive spirit among officers and officials, we pledge to:

- Institute Medals, Prizes, Awards, and Certificates of Merit for Districts.
- Recognize and reward best-performing officials and officers



## Manifesto Committees for Manifesto 2024

**Abdul Rahim Rather**  
Chairman

**Ajay Sadotra**  
Additional General Secretary

**Mian Altaf Ahmed**  
Honrouble Member Parliament

**Aga Ruhullah**  
Honrouble Member Parliment

**Nasir Aslam Wani**  
Provincial President (K)

**Rattan Lal Gupta**  
Provincial Presdient (J)

**Sakina Itoo**  
Centra Secretary

**Khalid Najeed Sohrawrdhy**  
Ex- Minister

**Rtd. Justice Hussnain Masoodi**  
Ex- Member of Parliament

**Shareef-u-din Shariq**  
Ex- member of Parliament

**Sardar Shammi Oberoi**  
Treasurer

**Tanvir Sadiq**  
Chief spokesperson and  
Communications Incharge.

**Showkat Mir**  
Provincial Secretary

**Mohd Yousuf Teng**  
Ex- MLC

**Babu Rampal**  
Member

**Dr Sameer Koul**  
Member

**Muzaffar Ahmed**  
Member.

**Professor Nisar Ali**  
Academician  
Member







THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

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JKNC HEADQUATERS, NAWA-E-SUBHA COMPLEX,  
ZERO BRIDGE SRINAGAR

