This is a dynamic document. The party may update its policy on these issues based on the evolving situation. This document contains the policy as was presented by the party on February 17, 2021.
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Foreword

This document lists down the policies of the Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP) on COVID-19 Vaccination, and on Education and Economy under COVID-19. These policies were shared at the Working Session of the JIP held on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 in Islamabad.

The session was attended by 29 eminent members of the party. (List of Participants attached as Appendix A.) Dr. Fareed Ahmed Paracha, Naib Ameer, JIP chaired the session and Mr. Azhar Iqbal Hasan, Deputy General Secretary JIP moderated the session. Dr. Khubaib Shahid, President Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) presented the party policy on COVID-19 Vaccination. This was followed by Mr. Asif Luqman Qazi, Director Foreign Affairs and Chairman of Standing Committee on Economic Affairs at JIP, presenting the party policy on Economy under COVID-19. Syed Waqas Jafri, Deputy General Secretary JIP, presented party policy on Education under COVID-19. A general discussion was held on these policies by members of the JIP policy wing who had joined the session. The JIP policies were later shared with media by Dr. Fareed Ahmed Paracha, Dr. Khubaib Shahid, Mr. Asif Luqman Qazi, Mr. Azhar Iqbal Hasan, Syed Waqas Jafri, and Dr. Tariq Saleem, Ameer JIP, Northern Punjab.

The party presented a thorough and comprehensive policy document. A rigorous consultative process was observed within the party during the conduct of the session, where various party members shared their input on the policies.
Background

As Pakistan grapples with a global pandemic of coronavirus, any socio-economic response to COVID-19 is incomplete without informed policy input by political parties. In order to facilitate political parties to update their policies on the management of the impact of coronavirus based on citizens’ input, PILDAT, as a friend of political parties, began to work with eight (8) key political parties including the JIP. The aim of engagement has been to facilitate and assist political parties by activating their own structures to develop policy options on Vaccination, Education and Economy under COVID-19.

In November 2020, PILDAT conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Women and Young Politicians from various political parties to collect their informed perspectives on issues relating to COVID-19. Similarly, virtual meetings with the Women and Young Politicians from the political parties including JIP were held to brief them on the system of policy forums as practiced by the Conservative and Labour Parties of the United Kingdom (UK) and how the system can be adapted by Political Parties in Pakistan. Following the focus group discussions and briefings, PILDAT facilitated 16 young and female politicians belonging to 8 political parties including JIP to conduct 16 Grassroots Policy Forums (GPFs) in different areas of Pakistan to collect citizens’ perspectives on Coronavirus-related issues faced by them. Following this, PILDAT organised a Joint Meeting of Policy Wings of 8 Political Parties to share policy recommendations from Focus Group Discussions and Grassroots Policy Forums with the parties. The policy input from all these initiatives was shared with the members of the JIP Policy Wing as well for their consideration and possible incorporation in the party’s policy documentation on Vaccination, Education and Economy under COVID-19.
JIP Policy on Vaccination

Advocacy and awareness

1. Full use of the media to be made to dispel doubts about the effectiveness of the vaccine.
2. Reliable, experienced and senior doctors need to give a positive message to the people.
3. A helpline to also be set up to allay public suspicions about vaccination

Integrated and Organised System

1. An integrated and organised system to be established for coronavirus vaccine use.
2. National harmony should be demonstrated beyond politics, regionalism and self-interest in distributing vaccine to every Pakistani.

Order Placement, Booking and Delivery

1. A well-tested vaccine needs to be selected which is safe and effective for all people. Though the vaccine is currently the most sought-after item in the world, there has been slowdown in all stages of order placement, booking and delivery. Pakistan has so far lagged far behind most other countries in the race for obtaining vaccines. From September 2020 to the beginning of January 2021, the government of Pakistan made no significant progress in placing the order for vaccines.
2. All vaccines should be purchased by the government.
3. There should be only government-controlled system of order placement, booking and delivery of vaccine.
4. Priorities for administering vaccination to citizens should be as below:
   a. Health care workers (Public and private sector)
   b. Persons above 55 years of age
   c. People exposed to crowds (Institutions, Markets, Hospitals and Mosques)

Vaccination process

1. Coronavirus Vaccine should be promptly available.
2. All government and private hospitals, teaching hospitals, District Headquarters (DHQs), Tehsil Headquarters (THQs), Rural Healthcare Centres (RHCs) and Basic Health Units (BHU) should be utilised for vaccination.
3. Database from NADRA and Health Care Commission should be used to administer vaccination process.
4. The vaccine should be within the purchasing power of the common man.
5. It could be expected that when vaccination begins, there may be unpleasant incidents of rush and overcrowding, irregularities and nepotism in vaccine centres, prevention of which was also the primary responsibility of the central and provincial administration.

Vaccinators
1. Vaccinators must be trained.
2. National Immunisation Programme should be engaged for COVID-19 vaccination.

Role of the Parliament

1. The Parliament should be updated regularly by government officials on the vaccination process.
2. Legislation and oversight of all phases are urgently needed to prevent black marketing, inflation and rising costs.
3. Necessary steps should be taken by the Parliament to avoid influence of politics, regionalism and self-interest.

Local Production

1. Local production should be encouraged.
2. Those who want to produce vaccines within the country should be supported and facilitated.
JIP Policy on Education under COVID-19

Twenty million children between the ages of 5 and 16 are out of school (Pakistan Educational Statistics 2016-17). This number is 44% of the total number of children who go to schools. The number of public schools in Pakistan is far less than required. Many educational institutions lack basic facilities such as electricity, water, washrooms and boundary walls.

Educational loss of students due to COVID-19 spans on months. According to an estimate, 26 million children did not go to schools during the first wave of lockdown, 50% of which did not return to schools after schools reopened. This gives an idea of the magnitude of loss which occurred due to school closure, while losses in mental, psychological, social and moral education are an addition to this.

In Pakistan, 40% of educational institutions are private. 51% teachers in these private schools are teaching 21.6 million students in the country.

There are two types of private institutions: First, institutions that charge huge fees, attended by children belonging to the elite class and second, schools which charge lower fees where children belonging to the lower middle class and lower-class study. These schools are contributing significantly in the spreading knowledge and are reducing the government’s burden. According to a World Bank study, a 30% raise in enrolment was witnessed due to the low-cost schools. However, these schools have a shortage of resources and are facing multiple issues. During lockdown, these schools could not effectively continue distance learning programmes due to lack of equipment for online education. As a result, the parents were unwilling to pay school fee, which lead to non-payment of salaries to teachers and staff. Chances are that the teachers working in these private schools will have to leave the education sector and start any other work. This situation may lead to a big crisis.

The pandemic has further widened the class divide. The education system has significantly been impacted by the shortage of digital equipment. Only 14% of people in Pakistan use computers and laptops. In Pakistan, rural population is 60%, out of which 24% have internet facility and only 7% of these use computers. The areas without electricity also lack internet. The regions near borders also do not have internet owing to security issues. In total, 76% of the rural population does not have access to internet.

The speed of internet is slow due to system issues in the areas where internet is available. Low-income households cannot buy computers, laptops, smart phones and other internet devices. The lack of willingness and the limited ability of teachers to teach online further exacerbates the situation.

The Punjab Government decided to continue education on TV without using internet. Only 30% of the people in Punjab were aware of this arrangement and 10% of these were benefitting from this. In addition to this, the government continued education on radio channels as well. Firstly, use of TV and radio is low and secondly, there is no contact between the teacher and students; neither progress could be assessed nor is there any way to give feedback. Therefore, both these ways proved to be ineffective.

We should realise that education has the ability to unite, strengthen and stabilise a
society. Investing now on education would prove to be fruitful in the future. Assistant Director General for Education at UNESCO, Ms. Stefania Giannini, said that educational losses would increase by 75% if investments in education are not made now. The United Kingdom, The Netherlands and Sweden have announced special packages to uplift the education sector. The United States of America, according an estimate of the Care Act, has allocated 31 billion dollars for educational emergency. The Global Partnership for Education plans to spend 5 billion dollars in 67 poor and developing countries for development in Education.

1. A special fund should be allocated for tackling educational losses.

2. Now that the educational institutions have opened, teachers and other staff should be vaccinated on priority basis.

3. Necessary equipment should be provided to schools for implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

4. A system needs to be devised to make teachers, students and other staff aware of World Health Organization’s (WHO) instructions/ SOPs.

5. Cleanliness of classrooms, schools, school buses and entire environment of schools to be ensured.

6. A mechanism of contacting the Health Department staff should be devised.

7. Implementation of SOPs should be ensured and an effective monitoring system in this regard should be established. Every possible measure should be taken to mitigate the future risks.

8. Schools also need to pay special attention to the children who are lagging behind.

9. Those children should be traced who are at a high risk of not returning to schools and their families should be convinced to send their children back to schools.

10. A formula of discount in fee should be devised after mutual consultation of the government, parents and school administration. Schools should not charge sports funds and other extra-curricular activities. Similarly, 100% fee concession should be given to the children whose parents/ guardians have lost their jobs or were severely affected in any other way by the pandemic. As a compensation, the government should provide grants and interest-free loans to private institutions so that they can pay salaries to the teachers, and the educational sector be saved from a big crisis.

11. Government schools are already providing education free-of-cost. However, fee of universities needs to be reduced.

12. A new article should be added to the Constitution of Pakistan to make provision of internet mandatory along with free and compulsory education for children from the age of 5 to 16.
13. An agreement should be signed between the government and telecommunication companies for provision of internet throughout the country.

14. All federal and provincial administrations should collectively review the prices of devices used for online education and tax on these items should be reduced.

15. All citizens’ access to technology through public-private partnerships should be ensured. Students should be provided the devices on easy instalments, while deserving students should be provided free laptops and tablets from special funds.

16. Learning centres are to be established through special funds to help students in regions where there are internet connectivity issues.

17. A code of conduct should be formed for the use of internet for educational purposes.

18. Teachers should be trained on internet usage.

19. An educational monitoring system should be established in the Centre and the provinces, which performs the following duties:
   a. Assesses/ quantify the educational loss during lockdown
   b. Understand the impact of distance learning strategies
   c. Set objectives of education for the current educational year
   d. Policymakers give recommendations for compensating the educational loss

20. This year, specific basic skills (teaching at the right level) should be prioritised instead of teaching huge curriculums.

21. The current educational institutions are facing three major challenges:
   a. Grave uncertain situation
   b. Extraordinary pressure to bring children back to grade level
   c. Limited access to necessary skills and resources to achieve this objective
   Therefore, these schools must be aided in coming out of this crisis.
   d. The capacity of educational institutions to deal with such challenges should be enhanced.
   e. Keeping in mind the changing circumstances, capacity building of teachers should be arranged, educational institutions should be equipped with the latest technology, and they should be encouraged to maximise the integration of technology.
JIP Policy Statements on Vaccination, Education and Economy under COVID-19

JIP Policy on Economy under COVID-19

Policy Objectives

1. To develop and establish Pakistan’s economy according to Islamic principles.
2. To strive for social and economic justice in society.
3. To develop an interest-free economic system.
4. To lead Pakistan towards sustainable economic development, prosperity and well-being.
5. To end foreign economic dependence and achieve economic self-reliance.
6. To develop an egalitarian welfare society with an efficient system of Zakah and Ushr.
7. To be the voice of people in addressing their economic affairs.

Following is JIP Policy on economy under COVID-19:

Lockdown
Formulating a response to COVID-19 pandemic depends on the severity of the pandemic. Having reliable data is of utmost importance for decision-making by government. In wake of epidemics, monitoring and evaluation of the situation on a daily basis by a team of expert epidemiologists is essential. A complete lockdown is not the optimum solution as there is a trade-off between healthcare and economic objectives. Economic activity should not be completely shut down as it brings its own miseries. In a given situation, there is a need to find out the right combination of restrictions and permissions that suits that particular situation. Use of technology tools like Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response Systems (IDSRS) can also help in epidemic management. However, our weak governance is the menace that will beat any cutting-edge technology.

Smart Lockdown
A smart lockdown suggests selectively closing down hotspot areas of infected people and restricting their movement to contain the spread of the virus. The purpose of a smart lockdown is to provide relief and ease restriction on the labour and poor to survive economically while at the same time break the transmission cycle of the virus. It allows the informal sector of the economy to continue functioning to allow the poor to earn their livelihood within the prescribed guidelines.

Construction Industry
The construction industry normally does not require any close physical interaction between persons as labour is usually spaced out while where machinery is used, it otherwise reduces human interaction. Hence closing down the construction sector is unnecessary and will force major unemployment in the society.

Political Gatherings
Any type of gathering if conducted within the safety guidelines should not be a cause for major concern. Especially, if the gathering is in the open, with
attendants wearing masks and properly spaced out. Political gatherings must not be singled out as otherwise it will create an environment of mistrust. Politics must continue, albeit, with more health precautions.

Mandatory Masks
Masks are the first line of defence against COVID. They have to be strictly enforced. Currently, the administration seems to be lenient regarding their enforcement. A fine on violators is an easy way to ensure wider enforcement of mask wearing. However, adequate warnings on all media must be given before enforcing the order. Fine must not be too much to open another avenue of extortion for corrupt officials, however, it should be sufficient to encourage buying a mask instead of being harassed and embarrassed by officials. Currently, a single face mask is for Rs 10, a fine of around Rs 50 would be sufficient to discourage corruption by officials and also encourage people to buy and wear a mask.

Helping COVID-19 Affectees
JIP is not in favour of a complete lockdown. Businesses should be allowed to run with SOPs. However, if circumstances necessitate it, the government will have to ensure an adequate monetary compensation for the employees of such businesses.

Manufacturing Sector
Manufacturing sector should be allowed to function with SOPs. Closing down the manufacturing sector will have severe adverse effects on the economy. Not only will it trigger unemployment, it will also result in an uncontrolled inflation due to disruption in the supply chain. Therefore, they must be allowed to continue to operate with health safety in mind. Besides, the manufacturing sector is nearly shut down globally. Hence it may be an opportunity in disguise for Pakistan to attract foreign customers abandoned by their clients due to COVID-19 lockdowns.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
Since a universal bailout package is not within our financial capacity, an alternative option available to the government to assist such industries is to reduce their input costs. The costs can be reduced by giving special power tariff packages of electricity / gas and/or tax waiver / breaks for a certain duration. It will help keep these industries afloat till the situation normalizes. Interest-free loans should be given to eligible businesses by the State Bank through commercial banks meant for payment of salaries to employees.

Restaurants and Small Business
The pandemic is a hard time. Restaurants, private schools, shops, malls and other businesses have suffered equally. In order to save restaurants and other small businesses, the costs of such businesses should be reduced on the lines suggested for other small industries. Restricting their operation hours and closing private schools has also added to their misery. Therefore, they should be allowed to operate more freely within the health guidelines issued by the government and must be allowed to operate with SOPs as per pre-pandemic timings.
Helping Unemployed

Millions of people have been rendered unemployed due to COVID-19. Times like these remind us of the vision of founding fathers of Pakistan: “The economic system of the West has created almost insoluble problems for humanity. The adoption of western economic theory and practice will not help us in achieving our goal of creating a happy and contended people. We must work our destiny in our own way and present to the world an economic system based on true Islamic concept of equality of mankind and social justice” (Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah at the inauguration of State Bank of Pakistan).

JIP believes that in the context of the pandemic, all the instruments of Islamic social finance – zakāt, Sadaqah, waqf, takāful ta’awuni, and others – should be coordinated together and integrated with the fiscal policy of the governments in the form of safety nets and pro-poor expenditure. The best time to put in place the infrastructure of Islamic social finance was 70 years ago. The next best time is now. Governments may look at issuing Sukūk that is linked with temporary cash waqf to mobilise social and benevolent funds at below market rates for financing various safety net measures. Cash and corporate waqf funds may have a useful role when the government begins unwinding its holdings of corporate assets in the recovery phase.

Safety Net Programmes

All the safety net programmes whether federal, provincial or district, and whether public or private, should be integrated under one database to avoid the problem of duplication and omission. Pakistan should have universal safety net programme for all eligible citizens. Instead of all cash handouts, the programme should include a larger proportion in the form of microfinance.

Tax Break

A tax break in the times of this pandemic would be a ray of hope for businesses affected by the pandemic. There is a need to discover the option of giving a tax break to all sectors employing individuals on the condition of keeping their employees on their payroll during the pandemic. The tax break does not necessarily have to mean 0% tax but instead the percentage can be eased to ensure that losses incurred by the businesses are adequately compensated while at the same time ensuring that the main source of revenue is not completely cut-off or a wrong precedence is set which may be difficult to revoke later. Pakistan needs tax reforms which include reducing income-tax rates in line with supply-side economics, and levying tax on agricultural income and wealth.

Provincial and District Administration

The Provincial and District administration need to be aggressively involved to ensure implementation of government policies in true letter and spirit. Digital technology can facilitate such supervision through real time reporting and a reliable feedback mechanism. A mechanism needs to be set in place to ensure speedy vertical flow of accurate information for record or necessary corrective measures.

Economic Recession

The economic recession brought about by COVID-19 is unique. Not only has it
retracted economies worldwide, but has also left a scar which will show its
effects for long. Apart from financial crunches, closure of educational and
training institutions will have long lasting effects on human capital
development. We believe Islamic Finance can offer a lot in this regard. A new
paradigm is needed to respond to repeated crises and to the pandemic-induced
stagnation of the global economy. In particular, institutionalised risk-sharing
can help the global economy to resiliently absorb shocks and stimulate
stagnated demand.

**IMF Programme**

We believe that IMF programmes are part of the problem, and not part of the
solution. Private sector industry is the engine for economic progress and IMF
programmes are detrimental for private sector. All the IMF policy goals in effect
increase the cost of production and render our industry uncompetitive in
international market. We need to get rid of IMF programmes and adopt an
approach of self-reliance. While we understand that it cannot be done abruptly,
the government needs to have a plan to get out of this in due course of time.
The $6 billion IMF Loan Programme for Pakistan envisages tax rationalisation
to raise revenue, increase in power tariff for elimination of circular debt, and
new legislations. The adverse effects of the pandemic have changed the
dynamics surrounding the loan programme. We should therefore renegotiate.

**Private Sector**

Private sector should be facilitated as much as possible and preferably taxed on
their bottom-line only, instead of taxing all their inputs.

**Debt Relief**

Pakistan in collaboration with other developing countries must push for debt
relief from IMF and other international lending agencies. We believe a joint
and aggressive diplomacy by developing countries is the need of the hour to get
out of this debt trap.
## Appendix A: List of Participants

The names have been arranged alphabetically

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Mode of Participation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ms. Aneela Mehmood</td>
<td>Chief of Election Cell, JIP Lahore Women Wing</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mr. Asif Luqman Qazi</td>
<td>Director Foreign Affairs, President, Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, JIP</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ms. Ayesha Syed</td>
<td>Former MNA, JIP</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Ms. Ayesha Syed</td>
<td>Naib Nazima, Foreign Affairs Department, JIP Women Wing</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Mr. Azhar Iqbal Hassan</td>
<td>Deputy Secretary General, JIP</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Dr. Kausar Firdous</td>
<td>Former Secretary General, Women Wing, JIP</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Dr. Khubaib Ahmad Shahid</td>
<td>Central President, Pakistan Islamic Medical Association</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Dr. Mian Muhammad Akram</td>
<td>Former Central President, Teachers Association Pakistan</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Dr. Samia Raheel Qazi</td>
<td>Former MNA, Director Foreign Affairs Department, JIP Women Wing</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Dr. Fareed Ahmed Paracha</td>
<td>Vice President, JIP</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ms. Fauzia Irfan</td>
<td>Naib Nazima, Women Wing, Southern Punjab, JIP</td>
<td>Online</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Hafiz Shamsher Ali Shahid</td>
<td>President (Muntazim-e-Ala) Jamiat Talba Arabiyaah Pakistan</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Mr. Hamza Muhammad Siddiqui</td>
<td>Nazim-e-Ala Islami Jamiat Talba Pakistan</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Mr. Hanifullah</td>
<td>Ameer JIP Upper Dir District</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Mr. Iqbal Khan</td>
<td>Secretary General, Northern Punjab, JIP</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Mr. Maaz Ahmed Kakakhel</td>
<td>Member, JIP</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Mr. Muhammad Amin</td>
<td>Former Member KP Assembly</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Mr. Muhammad Bilal</td>
<td>Member, JIP</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Ms. Naila Syed</td>
<td>Deputy General Secretary, JIW</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Raja Arif Sultan</td>
<td>Naib Ameer, JIP Karachi</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Dr. Rukhsana Jabeen</td>
<td>President, JIP Women and Family Commission</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Ms. Sakina Shahid</td>
<td>Deputy Secretary General, JIP Women Wing</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Ms. Samina Saeed</td>
<td>Former Member Balochistan Assembly</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Shaikh Usman Farooq</td>
<td>Member, Central Executive Committee, JIP</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Syed Bakhtiyar Maani</td>
<td>Deputy Secretary General JIP, Former MNA</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Syed Muhammad Bilal</td>
<td>Central Incharge, Sector Relationships and Networking</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Syed Waqas Jafri</td>
<td>Deputy Secretary General, JIP</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Dr. Tariq Saleem</td>
<td>Ameer JIP, Northern Punjab</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Mr. Zikrullah Mujahid</td>
<td>Ameer JIP, Lahore</td>
<td>In-person</td>
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