

## Concept Note

### **Bihar Muslim Manch (BMM)**

#### **A Non-Party Political Platform for Jamhoori Bedari, Political and Policy Advocacy, Representation and Muslim Qayadat**

##### **1. Introduction**

**Bihar Muslim Manch** is proposed as a broad-based, political but non-party platform to strengthen jamhoori bedari, democratic and political consciousness among Muslims of Bihar. The Manch will not function as a political party and will not contest elections. However, it will be a clearly political platform in the democratic and constitutional sense: raising public issues, shaping policy debate, preparing leadership, engaging with political parties, and ensuring that Muslim concerns are heard in Bihar's political and development agenda.

The Manch will work to build informed political participation, strengthen Muslim representation, promote constitutional values, and prepare a new generation of Muslim leadership rooted in democracy, social justice, communal harmony and the inclusive development of Bihar.

Its purpose is not to stand outside politics, but to enable Muslims to participate in politics more confidently, responsibly and effectively as citizens, voters, community leaders, public representatives, professionals and partners in the growth of Bihar and India.

##### **2. Background and Political Context**

Muslims form a significant part of Bihar's population and have contributed deeply to the state's culture, economy, public life, education, language, labour, crafts, agriculture, trade and democratic politics. According to the 2011 Census, Muslims constituted 16.87 percent of Bihar's population; the Bihar caste-based survey placed the Muslim population at about 17.70 percent. Despite this significant presence, Muslim representation in political and administrative spaces remains a continuing concern. Recent reports on the 2025 Bihar Assembly noted that Muslims remained under-represented in the Assembly in comparison with their share of the state's population. Despite this presence, Muslims continue to face concerns related to political representation, access to public institutions, participation in decision-making, education, employment, welfare delivery, security, dignity and development.

The issue is not only social welfare. It is also a political voice. Muslim concerns often enter public debate only during elections, communal tensions, or moments of crisis. There is limited sustained engagement on questions such as representation in political parties, participation in local bodies, access to government schemes, inclusion in development planning, educational infrastructure, employment, police sensitivity, minority welfare, and the leadership of Pasmanda Muslims, women and youth.

Bihar Muslim Manch seeks to fill this gap by creating a serious, democratic and non-party political platform that can organise discussion, develop leadership, build consensus, engage all political parties, and place Muslim issues within the larger development agenda of Bihar.

### **3. Rationale for Bihar Muslim Manch**

There is a need for a platform that is **political in purpose but non-party in structure**. Bihar has many social, religious, educational and welfare organisations. Their contribution is valuable. But the Muslim community also needs a platform that can speak the language of representation, policy, power, governance, leadership and democratic participation.

Bihar Muslim Manch will not be an NGO-style service delivery organisation. It will not limit itself to charity, welfare or occasional memoranda. Its central work will be to create **siyasi sha'oor** — political consciousness and to prepare Muslims, especially youth, women and Pasmada (marginalised) communities, to participate meaningfully in public life.

The Manch will engage with all democratic political parties without becoming the wing of any party. It will invite parties to respond to Muslim concerns, place community demands before them, monitor promises, and encourage issue-based political accountability. It will seek to move Muslim politics from emotional mobilisation to informed negotiation, from tokenism to representation, and from passive voting to active democratic participation.

### **4. Vision**

To build a politically aware, democratically organised and socially responsible Muslim community in Bihar that contributes to the state's development, strengthens constitutional values, promotes communal harmony, and ensures fair representation of all sections, especially Pasmada Muslims, women and youth.

### **5. Mission**

To create a statewide non-party political platform for democratic awareness, policy advocacy, leadership development, representation, inter-party dialogue and coordinated Muslim participation in Bihar's public life.

### **6. Core Objectives**

Bihar Muslim Manch will work to:

1. Build **siyasi bedari** and democratic consciousness among Muslims of Bihar.
2. Prepare Muslim leadership at the state, district, block and panchayat levels.
3. Strengthen Muslim representation in political parties, elected bodies, public institutions and administrative structures.
4. Engage all democratic political parties on Muslim issues and Bihar's inclusive development.

5. Promote constitutional values, secularism, social justice, equality and fraternity.
6. Ensure meaningful participation of marginalised Muslims, women and youth in leadership roles.
7. Raise policy issues relating to participation and representation, education, employment, welfare, security, minority rights, Urdu, scholarships, skills and representation.
8. Build solidarity with Dalits, Adivasis, backward classes, minorities, workers, women and other marginalised groups.
9. Promote communal harmony and resist hate, misinformation and polarisation through democratic means.
10. Create a disciplined, informed and responsible Muslim public voice in Bihar.

## **7. Key Areas of Work**

### **A. Political Advocacy**

Political advocacy will be the central function of the Bihar Muslim Manch. The Manch will identify key Muslim concerns and place them before political parties, elected representatives, government departments, commissions and public institutions.

It will prepare charters of demands, policy notes, constituency-wise issue briefs and election-time community agendas. It will also organise dialogues with political parties so that Muslim concerns are not reduced to symbolism, token candidates or last-minute electoral appeals.

The Manch will ask political parties to clarify their positions on issues such as minority welfare, educational infrastructure, scholarships, employment, representation, security, communal harmony, Urdu, Pasmanda inclusion, women's leadership, and development of Muslim-concentrated areas.

### **B. Jamhoori Bedari and Political Consciousness**

The Manch will conduct political education programmes to help Muslims understand how democracy works from panchayat to Parliament. These programmes will cover the Constitution, voting rights, local governance, legislative processes, welfare schemes, public budgets, minority rights, representation, and the role of citizens in holding institutions accountable.

The aim is to create citizens who do not merely vote, but question, negotiate, participate and lead.

### **C. Qayadat and Leadership Development**

Leadership development will be one of the core pillars of the Manch. The platform will identify and train emerging leaders from districts, blocks, panchayats, universities, professional groups, Pasmanda communities and women's networks.

Training will include public speaking, political communication, constitutional literacy, policy understanding, media engagement, negotiation with authorities, election literacy, grassroots mobilisation, documentation of public issues and ethical leadership.

The purpose is to prepare a new Muslim leadership that is informed, confident, democratic, inclusive and capable of engaging with the wider society.

#### **D. Representation and Political Accountability**

The Manch will work to increase Muslim representation in political parties, elected bodies, boards, commissions, local institutions, advisory bodies and administrative structures. It will also track the representation of Muslims, especially Pasmanda Muslims and women, in candidate selection, party positions, public appointments and welfare bodies.

The Manch will not dictate party choices to the community, but it will create awareness about representation, performance, accountability and issue-based voting.

#### **E. Dialogue with Political Parties**

Bihar Muslim Manch will maintain dialogue with all constitutional and democratic political parties. It will invite them to public consultations, policy roundtables and community hearings.

The Manch may organize an annual Muslim Political and Development Dialogue in Patna and Delhi, as being the national capital, and in other cities, as the case may be, where different political parties are invited to respond to a common Muslim development agenda. This will help shift the discourse from fear and symbolism to education, employment, security, representation, public infrastructure and Bihar's development.

#### **F. Communal Harmony and Democratic Solidarity**

The Manch will promote communal harmony as a political and constitutional responsibility. It will work against hate, misinformation and communal polarisation. It will support peace initiatives and build bridges with other communities.

It will also build solidarity with Dalits, Adivasis, backward classes, women, workers and other marginalised groups, recognising that Muslim questions are also questions of democracy, justice, dignity and equal citizenship.

#### **G. Policy Research and Public Documentation**

The Manch will collect district-level information on education, employment, scholarships, welfare schemes, police issues, communal tension, representation and development gaps. Based on this evidence, it will prepare reports, memoranda and policy briefs.

This will help the community move from complaint to evidence-based political advocacy.

### **8. Organisational Structure**

### **A. State Headquarters — Patna**

The state headquarters will be located in Patna. It will coordinate political advocacy, public campaigns, media engagement, policy research, leadership training, party dialogue and statewide organisational expansion. There will be an extension office in Delhi, coordinating and liaising with parties and institutions in the capital, and other outreach/outpost offices in other cities, as needed, for coordination and collaboration.

### **B. Majlis-e-Shura / State Executive Council**

At the state level, the Bihar Muslim Manch will have a **Majlis-e-Shura**, which will function as the principal executive and consultative body. It will guide the political direction, advocacy agenda, public statements, fact-finding, organizational discipline and statewide campaigns of the Manch.

The Majlis-e-Shura may include:

- State President / Convenor
- Working President / Co-Convenors
- General Secretary
- Organising Secretary
- Political Affairs Coordinator
- Policy and Research Coordinator
- Media and Communication Coordinator
- Legal and Constitutional Affairs Coordinator
- Senior Advisors from law, politics, education, public policy, academia, journalism, social movements and community leadership

The Majlis-e-Shura must reflect the diversity of Bihar's Muslims, including region, caste, class, gender, age and professional background.

*This is a tentative idea – can be shaped up after the consultation.*

### **C. District Units**

District units will be formed in every district of Bihar. Their responsibilities will include:

- District-level political awareness campaigns
- Engagement with MLAs, MPs, district administration and party representatives
- Identification of Muslim development and representation issues
- Coordination with local Muslim organisations
- Youth and women leadership programmes
- Communal harmony initiatives
- Documentation of local grievances and policy gaps
- Preparation of district-level Muslim development charters

#### **D. Block Units**

Block units will be formed, especially in minority-concentrated blocks. These will be the grassroots political units of the Manch. They will conduct voter awareness, identify local issues, support access to public schemes, coordinate with panchayat representatives, and build leadership at the local level.

#### **E. Panchayat and Booth-Level Expansion**

In the next phase, Bihar Muslim Manch may expand to the panchayat and booth levels. This expansion should be disciplined and training-based. The objective is not only organisational spread, but political education, leadership identification and democratic participation at the grassroots.

### **9. Membership**

Membership will be open to individuals who believe in the Constitution of India, democracy, social justice, communal harmony and the non-party character of Bihar Muslim Manch.

#### **Who Can Become Members?**

- Social and political activists
- Retired public servants
- Religious and educational leaders who believe in democratic engagement
- Workers, artisans, small traders and local community representatives
- Members of different political parties, provided they respect the non-party character of the Manch
- Pasmada representatives
- Teachers, lawyers, doctors, journalists and professionals
- Community workers
- Students and youth leaders
- Women leaders

The Manch may allow individuals associated with different political parties to participate, but no party will be allowed to control the platform.

*Detailed criteria and conditions for membership to ensure only committed, socially credible individuals can become members.*

### **10. Conditions for Membership**

A person may become a member if they:

1. Accept the aims and principles of Bihar Muslim Manch.
2. Believe in the Constitution of India and democratic methods.
3. Commit to communal harmony and non-violence.

4. Respect the non-party character of the Manch.
5. Do not use the Manch for personal electoral bargaining or party propaganda.
6. Respect marginalized women and youth leadership.
7. Do not promote sectarian division, hate speech or communal polarisation.
8. Agree to organisational discipline and collective decision-making.
9. Pay the prescribed membership fee, if any.

Membership may be suspended or cancelled if a person misuses the platform, promotes hatred, violates organisational discipline, or acts against the democratic and constitutional values of the Manch.

### **11. Guiding Principles (very important)**

Bihar Muslim Manch will be guided by:

- **Jamhooriyat** — democracy and public participation
- **Aainiyat** — constitutionalism and rule of law
- **Qayadat** — responsible leadership
- **Numaindagi** — fair representation
- **Insaf** — justice and equality
- **Mushawarat** — consultation and collective decision-making
- **Ittehad** — unity within diversity
- **Aman** — peace and communal harmony
- **Taraqqi** — development and progress
- **Samaji Insaaf** — social justice and solidarity with marginalised communities

### **12. Proposed Initial Activities**

In the first year, the Bihar Muslim Manch may undertake:

1. State-level launch convention in Patna.
2. Formation of Majlis-e-Shura.
3. District-level political consultations.
4. Preparation of a Bihar Muslim Political and Development Charter.
5. Dialogue with all major political parties on Muslim representation and development.
6. Leadership training for youth, women and Pasmada representatives.
7. Constitutional literacy and voter awareness programmes.
8. Mapping of Muslim representation in politics, administration and public institutions.
9. Documentation of district-level issues on education, employment, welfare and security.
10. Formation of district and block units.
11. Communal harmony and inter-community dialogue meetings.
12. Annual Bihar Muslim Jamhoori Convention.

### 13. Expected Outcomes

Bihar Muslim Manch is expected to contribute to:

- Stronger political consciousness among Muslims of Bihar.
- A new generation of trained Muslim leadership.
- Better representation of Muslims, especially marginalized groups, women and youth.
- More structured engagement with political parties and public institutions.
- Evidence-based advocacy on Muslim political questions and development issues.
- Greater accountability of elected representatives and political parties.
- Stronger communal harmony and democratic solidarity.
- A more confident Muslim role in Bihar's political and development process.

### 14. Conclusion

Bihar Muslim Manch is proposed as a political but non-party platform for *jamhoori bedari, qayadat, numaindagi and taraqqi*. Its purpose is not to create another social organisation or NGO, but to build a serious democratic platform that can prepare leadership, shape public debate, engage political parties, and represent Muslim concerns within the larger framework of Bihar's development and India's constitutional democracy.

By bringing together Muslims across regions, religious sects, classes, castes, professions, organizations and political affiliations, especially marginalised communities, women and youth, the Bihar Muslim Manch can become a meaningful platform for democratic renewal, political awareness and inclusive development in Bihar.