

CONSTITUTION & RULES OF INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Article I

OBJECT

The object of Indian National Congress is the well-being and advancement of the people of India and the establishment in India, by peaceful and constitutional means, of a Socialist State based on Parliamentary Democracy in which there is equality of opportunity and of political, economic and social rights and which aims at world peace and fellowship.

Article II

ALLEGIANCE TO CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

The Indian National Congress bears true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established and to the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy and would uphold the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.

Article II(A)

PARTY FLAG

The flag of the Indian National Congress shall consist of three horizontal colours: saffron, white and green with the picture of a Charkha in blue in the centre. It shall be made of certified Khadi.

Article III

CONSTITUENTS

The Indian National Congress will include the plenary and special sessions of the Congress and,

- (i) The All India Congress Committee,
- (ii) The Congress Working Committee,
- (iii) Pradesh Congress Committees,
- (iv) District/City Congress Committees,
- (v) Committees subordinate to the District Congress Committee like Block or Constituency Congress Committee, Intermediary Congress Committee, Panchayat and Ward Congress Committee and or other Subordinate Committees to be constituted by the Pradesh Congress Committee concerned.

Note: In this Constitution wherever the word “Pradesh” occurs, it will include “Territorial”, the word “District” will include “City” as required by the context.

Rule Under Article III (iv) – Constituents – City Congress Committee :

“The Pradesh Congress Committee, with the prior approval of the AICC President, will have the right to increase the number of District Congress Committees and freshly delineate the area and jurisdiction as also constitute City Congress Committee in the cities with population of over Five lakh. The City Congress Committee, thus, formed will have the status of a D.C.C.(Urban).”

Article IV

TERRITORIAL DIVISION

(a) Pradesh Congress Committees shall ordinarily be constituted in the Pradeshes named below with the headquarters mentioned against each:

	Pradesh	Headquarters
1.	Andhra	Visakhapatnam
2.	Arunachal	Itanagar
3.	Assam	Guwahati
4.	Bihar	Patna
5.	Chhatisgarh	Raipur
6.	Delhi	Delhi
7.	Goa	Panaji
8.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
9.	Haryana	Chandigarh
10.	Himachal	Shimla
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar
12.	Jharkhand	Ranchi
13.	Karnataka	Bengaluru
14.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
16.	Maharashtra	Mumbai
17.	Manipur	Imphal
18.	Meghalaya	Shillong
19.	Mizoram	Aizwal
20.	Nagaland	Kohima
21.	Odisha	Bhubaneshwar
22.	Puducherry	Puducherry
23.	Punjab	Chandigarh

24.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
25.	Sikkim	Gangtok
26.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
27.	Telangana	Hyderabad
28.	Tripura	Agartala
29.	Uttarakhand	Dehradun
30.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
31.	West Bengal	Kolkata

(b) Territorial Congress Committees shall be constituted in the territories named below with the headquarters mentioned against each:

	Territory	Headquarters
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Port Blair
2.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Silvassa
4.	Daman & Diu	Moti Daman
5.	Ladakh	Leh
6.	Lakshadweep	Kavaratti

(c) The Pradesh Congress Committee may, with the prior sanction of the Working Committee, change its headquarters.

(d) The Working Committee may, after ascertaining the wishes of the Pradesh Congress Committee or committees concerned, constitute a new Pradesh, abolish an existing Pradesh, merge any existing Pradeshes into one or assign to a Pradesh, a District or a portion or portions of a District from any other Pradesh.

(e) The Working Committee shall have the power to give representation in such manner as it thinks proper to areas in the Union of India as have not been included in the jurisdiction of any PCC and/or direct that such an area or part thereof be included in a neighbouring Pradesh.

Article V

MEMBERSHIP

- (A) (a) (i) Any person of the age of 18 or over, who accepts Article I, shall, on making a written declaration in a printed membership form until 31st December 2024 or digitally and on payment of Rs. 10.00 only as subscription for five years become a member of Congress, provided that he/she is not a member of any other political party, which has a separate membership, constitution and programme. With effect from 1st January 2025, all membership will be in digital form only;
- (ii) No person shall be eligible to become a member except at his permanent place of residence or at a place where he carries on his business or work;
- (iii) The term of membership, shall be from 1st of January of the year or from the date of enrolment of a member upto 31st of December of the following fifth year;
- (iv) Permanent Register of members within their jurisdiction shall be maintained by every Block/ Constituency and City/Town Congress Committee physically until 31st December 2024 or in digital form with copies to the District Congress Committee, as per prescribed rules. With effect from 1st January 2025, permanent register of members shall be maintained in digital form only;
- (v) Renewal of membership will be deemed to have been completed by depositing requisite membership fee;
- (vi) PCC may opt for enrolment of members through digital method and also maintain the membership data in digital form accessible to the authorized persons in DCCs, PCCs and AICC. With effect from 1st January 2025, membership shall be digital only.

- (A) (b) (i) A person who has been a member for at least three years shall only be eligible to be elected as a delegate or an office bearer of any Congress Committee.
- (ii) Any member, who becomes a delegate or an office bearer of District Congress Committee, Pradesh Congress Committee or AICC (including the Departments and Cells of PCC & AICC) shall deposit an annual amount as follows:-
- DCC delegate or office bearer - Rs. 500/-
 - PCC delegate or office bearer - Rs. 1,000/-
 - AICC member or office bearer - Rs. 3,000/-

(A) (c) The Five year subscription paid under the foregoing provisions of Sub-clause (a) of this clause by members shall be distributed in the following proportions between the various Congress Committees :

AICC	10%
PCC	25%
DCC	25%
Subordinate CCs	40%

Note: 40% share of Membership subscriptions and deposits to be proportionately distributed amongst various Subordinate Congress Committees below the DCC shall be determined by the Pradesh Congress Committee concerned.

(B) Every Member will have to fulfil the following conditions and make a declaration in Membership Form under his/her signature :

- (a) He/She is the age of 18 and over;
- (b) He/She is a habitual wearer of certified Khadi;

- (c) He/She abstains from use of psychotropic substances, prohibited drugs and intoxicants;
- (d) He/She neither believes in nor practices untouchability in any shape or form and undertakes to work for its removal;
- (e) He/She believes in an integrated society without distinction of religion or caste;
- (f) He/She undertakes and participates in tasks & projects for creation of public assets for the society, including shramdaan, blood donation camps, particularly for the deprived and poor sections, and conducts himself/herself in a manner to serve the cause of social justice, equality and harmony;
- (g) He/She has not violated the land ceiling laws nor has been convicted for an offence involving a heinous crime or moral turpitude;
- (h) He/She subscribes to and works for promoting the principles of secularism, socialism, social justice and democracy; does not, directly or indirectly, openly or otherwise, adversely criticize the accepted policies and programmes of the party on public platforms, except through inner party forum.
- (i) He/She shall subscribe to the periodicals approved by AICC.

(C) TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

- (1) Every Member shall undergo a minimum training as may be prescribed by the Working Committee.
- (2) No Member shall be entitled to contest for the election to :
 - (i) All India Congress Committee,
 - (ii) Pradesh Congress Committee,

- (iii) Executive of the District/City Congress Committee,
- (iv) Parliament, the State Legislature, Metropolitan Councils or Local Bodies contested on party ticket;

Unless he undertakes to undergo a minimum training as may be prescribed by the Working Committee.

- (3) No person shall be selected for election on party ticket to Parliament, State Legislature and Local Bodies unless he is a Congress Member.

(D) RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership may be renewed by filling up the digitally membership Form.

Rule Under Article V – Membership forms :

1. *The Pradesh Congress Committee shall print Membership forms physically until 31st December 2024 or enroll membership in digital format. PCC Executive may authorise DCCs in writing to print membership forms. Any DCC, printing the membership forms without such authorisation, shall be liable to disciplinary action. With effect from 1st January 2025, all membership shall be in digital form only.*
2. *Membership forms shall be serially numbered and in the case of those printed by DCCs, they should bear the name of the District concerned as well. Full details of forms so printed shall be supplied by the DCCs to the PCC before they are issued to subordinate Congress Committees. . The Digital Forms shall also be similarly numbered.*
3. *All membership forms should be bound in books of 25 forms each.*
4. *The District Congress Committee shall be primarily*

responsible for the enrolment of members in the district. The PCC shall issue membership forms to the DCCs which in turn shall issue them to the subordinate Congress Committees and through them to individuals. Not more than 1250 membership forms shall be supplied to an individual at a time. However, in the case of MPs, MLAs, MLCs, AICC members and PCC Office-bearers, 2500 membership forms may be supplied to such individuals at a time. More membership forms shall be supplied to individuals only when full account of the forms already supplied is rendered and the fees realised thereof are paid. The conditions prescribed above for filling up of physical membership form shall apply in the same manner to digital membership also.

- (a) If there are complaints against the subordinate Congress Committees that they are not making available enough membership forms, the DCC may issue them to individuals and may, if it deems fit, take disciplinary action against the committees concerned. If there are complaints that the DCCs are not issuing forms properly, the PCC shall directly issue forms to committees and individuals and may also take disciplinary action against the DCCs concerned.*
 - (b) Forms for enrolment of members shall in no case be issued to individuals who are not members of the Congress. The restriction of persons, who are not members of the Congress, not being permitted to enroll members shall apply equally to digital membership.*
5. *(a) When membership forms are issued to individuals or Committees, a signed acknowledgement shall be obtained in all cases and an undertaking to return the unused forms with proper accounts, whenever called upon to do so, should be obtained.*
- (b) When unused membership forms are returned by individuals or Committees a signed acknowledgement shall be issued.*

In the event of any individual failing to return the unused forms and/or accounts in time he shall be disqualified from contesting the organisational elections.

- (c) In the case of digital membership, it shall be the duty of the enroller to submit complete accounts. Any failure thereof shall result in disqualification from contesting the organizational elections.*
6. (a) *The PCC shall maintain register for the issue of membership forms showing the number of forms issued to each Committee or individual with their serial numbers and dates of issue and return of unused forms.*
- (b) The DCCs and the subordinate Congress Committees should also maintain similar registers.*
 - (c) The PCC, DCC or the subordinate Congress Committees, as the case may be, shall maintain similar electronic records of digital membership, akin to the physical records described in 6 (a) and 6 (b) above.*
 - (d) In order to give the Party a well informed and ideologically oriented cadre, the Congressmen at all levels shall participate in the training programmes prescribed by the Congress Working Committee for Members from time to time.*
7. *No person shall be enrolled as a member by any Committee or individual unless he pays the full subscription and also fulfils the conditions laid down in Article V (B) of the constitution.*
8. (a) *The PCCs shall send to the AICC report of members enrolled during the year giving details of Membership figures within two months of the last date of enrolment for the corresponding year. Along with this report, the PCC shall also send the full quota of membership fees and Congress Fund due to the AICC as well as a list of*

Members with full particulars.

(b) *Any Pradesh Congress Committee or its subordinate Committee which fails to comply with these rules shall be liable to disciplinary action.*

9. *Membership forms printed or issued for one District shall in no case be used in another District without obtaining the prior approval of the PCC concerned.*

10. *Area of enrolment of Members shall be confined to the Pradesh concerned.*

Rule Under Article V(A)(a)(iv): Permanent Register for Members:

Permanent Register for Members within their jurisdiction shall be maintained by every Block/Constituency and City/Town Congress Committee. Copy of the Permanent Register shall be sent to the DCC in physical or digital form.

The register shall contain the following particulars in respect of each member :

- (i) *Serial Number*
- (ii) *Name*
- (iii) *Male/Female/ Transgender*
- (iv) *SC/ST/OBC/Minority*
- (v) *Father's or Mother's/Spouse's Name*
- (vi) *Permanent Address*
- (vii) *Present Address*
- (viii) *Age*
- (ix) *Occupation*
- (x) *Date of enrolment*
- (xi) *Voter ID Number*

- (xii) *Sl. No. and Name of Primary Unit*
- (xiii) *Form No. Date of Renewal of Membership*
- (xiv) *Term of Membership*
- (xv) *Date of deposit of Membership form*
- (xvi) *Remarks*

Rule Under Article V(A)(a)(v) – Renewal of Membership :

Renewal of membership of a person will be deemed to have been completed by depositing subscription of Rs. 10/- as membership fee for 5 years. The deposit of fee shall be entered in the permanent register in the column specified for this purpose against the name of each member or shall be digitally recorded in the renewal of subscription form to be filled up digitally and submitted to the concerned DCC or PCC. The member depositing the fee shall be given a separate receipt of payment. Such receipt books shall be printed and supplied by the PCC.

Rule Under Article V (B) – Membership:

1. *The following shall be the minimum tasks for Members under Article V(B)(f) of the Constitution:*
 - (a) *Enrolment of members;*
 - (b) *Collection of Congress Fund;*
 - (c) *To undertake Padyatras, house to house campaigns, shramdaan, blood donation camp and social sector projects including construction of streets/roads, chaupals, tree plantation, cleaning of slums, village sanitation and other such or similar campaigns prescribed by the respective Congress committees.*
 - (d) *Training Progammes of political and ideological study as directed by the Working Committee/AICC/PCC from time to time shall be applicable to Members, Office bearers of the*

organisational Committees and Party legislators. Failure to participate in the programmes so laid down may attract disqualification for holding office in the organisation.

- (e) Enrolment of subscriber to Congress periodicals published by any Congress Committee or any periodical recognised by the Pradesh Congress Committee concerned;*
- (f) Work in the field of social reforms, such as work against dowry system, child marriage, and work for family planning etc.;*
- (g) Members should use and encourage Swadeshi goods or articles to the maximum possible.*
- (h) Members shall promote one or more of the following constructive activities:*
 - (i) Spread of Education and Literacy*
 - (ii) Stopping Usage of Drugs. Psychotropic Substances and Intoxicants*
 - (iii) Promoting Khadi & Village Industry as also MSMEs*
 - (iv) Organisation of Youth and Students*
 - (v) Organisation of Labour and SHGs*
 - (vi) Organisation of Kisans & Khet Mazdoors*
 - (vii) Small Savings Campaign*
 - (viii) Village sanitation, health and hygiene*
 - (ix) Rashtrabhasha Prachar*
 - (x) Promotion of Co-operatives*
 - (xi) Work in the Constituencies*
 - (xii) Seva Dal*
 - (xiii) Providing service to persons suffering from Leprosy, HIV-AIDS, Cancer or other life-threatening diseases.*

- (xiv) *Empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes*
- (xv) *Removal of untouchability*
- (xvi) *Work for National Integration – work specially among minorities*
- (xvii) *Adult education and library movement*
- (xviii) *Sale of Party Literature*
- (xix) *Any special programme as may be laid down by the Working Committee from time to time.*
- (xx) *Work for equal rights of differently abled persons.*

Rule Under Article V (B) (i) – Subscription to Party Periodical for Membership:

1. *Every Member shall pay as subscription to the periodical approved by the AICC, i.e. “CONGRESS SANDESH”. The subscription amount shall have to be deposited along with his/her enrolment/renewal form. However, such of those persons who desire to become Members but can not afford to pay subscription for “CONGRESS SANDESH” along with his/her enrolment fee are permitted to pay the same within one year after their enrolment as Members. However, for the Members who get elected to any of the Committees, it shall be mandatory to enrol themselves as subscribers of the Congress Periodical i.e. “CONGRESS SANDESH”. In the case of elected representatives like MPs, MLAs, MLCs, Panchayat Raj Members and all party functionaries at Block level and above subscribing to “CONGRESS SANDESH” is compulsory.*

In cases where there are more than one Member in a family they will be granted exemption from subscribing to the “CONGRESS SANDESH” by each of the members in a family, any one Member of the same family shall subscribe to the “CONGRESS SANDESH”. In such cases the BCC/ DCC President is authorised to grant exemption for the rest of the members from paying this subscription.

2. *Every Member of the PCC and AICC, Congress MPs, MLAs, MLCs and Congress members of Municipal Corporations shall also subscribe to National Herald on Sunday (English) or Sunday Navjivan (Hindi).*
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Article VI

TERM OF CONGRESS COMMITTEE

- (i) The term of every Congress Committee and of its Office Bearers, Executive Committee and members shall ordinarily be five years.
- (ii) The meetings of the DCCs, their Executive Committees and the PCCs and their Executive Committees shall ordinarily be held regularly within the stipulated time frame as prescribed in rules.
- (iii) No Office Bearer of the Party shall hold an office ordinarily for more than two consecutive terms at Block/District/PCC levels.

Article VI (A)

RESERVATION FOR SCs/STs/OBCs/MINORITIES/ YOUTH AND WOMEN

- (a) 50% of all delegates and office bearers in Intermediate Congress Committees, Blocks/City Congress Committees, District Congress Committees and Pradesh Congress Committees shall be reserved for SCs/STs/OBCs/Minorities, out of which half shall be members of SCs/STs.
- (b) Additionally, there shall be 50% reservation for persons below 50 years of age as also women, both in the reserved categories in clause (a) above as also in the unreserved category in the remaining 50%.

- (c) In the elections/appointments of AICC delegates and office bearers the same principle as in (a) and (b) above, shall be followed to the extent possible.

Notwithstanding anything contained in the above provisions in the Article VI(A) (a), Article VI(A) (b) and Article VI(A) (c) the Congress President shall have the authority to relax the percentage of sectoral representations for the categories stated above.

Rule Under Article VI- Term of Congress Committee :

The term of Congress Committee shall be co-terminus with the period of Membership which has a five year term from the commencement of Membership and shall ordinarily function for five years or continue to function till the new Committee is elected as and when decided by the CWC.

Rule Under Article VI (ii) – Meetings of Congress Committees:

The General body of PCC shall meet at least once a year and Executive Committee at least once in 3 months. Similarly General bodies of DCC shall meet at least once a year and Executive Committee at least once in a month or as often as required. The Intermediate Committee (by whatever name called) and Block/Constituency Congress Committees shall meet every month.

Rule Under Article VI(A) (a) and (b) – Reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs/Minorities/Youth and Women :

- 1. The election to Block Congress Committees from Primary Units shall be held as provided in the Constitution. For the purpose of election of the Executive Committee of the BCC, there shall be reservation of 50% for SCs/STs/OBCs/Minorities, out of which half shall be for SCs and STs. There shall be reservation for persons below 50 years of age, as also Women both in the 50% reserved category as also in the remaining 50% unreserved category. In case of shortfall in the requisite number of the reserved*

categories of Members, the shortfall shall be made good by co-opting upto 25% of the total and the members so co-opted will have full voting rights to fulfil the constitutional requirements of Article VI (A) ”.

2. *For the purpose of election of DCC Members by Block Congress Committees, 3 seats out of 6 shall be reserved for SCs/STs/OBCs/Minorities/Youth and Women.*
3. *For the election of members of the Congress Working Committee under Article XIX (a) of the Constitution, out of the 18 members to be elected by the AICC, not less than 6 members shall be elected from amongst SCs/STs/OBCs/Minorities/Youth and Women.*

Among the total 35 members of Congress Working Committee (other than the President of the Congress, the Chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party, the Congress Prime Minister/Former Congress Prime Ministers, the Leaders of the Congress Party in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and Former Presidents of the Congress Party), it shall be ensured that 50% representation is given to SCs/STs/OBCs/Minorities/ Youth and Women.

4. *The Ballot paper for elections at all levels should be a common Ballot paper indicating the reserved category of each candidate.*
5. *The Ballot paper to be used in the elections to various bodies covering both Reservation category candidates and general category shall be the same.*
6. *At the time of counting in the first instance under both reserved categories, the Women and SCs/STs/Minorities and OBCs together, who have got the highest number of votes in the order of ranking, shall be declared elected. However, if any of them scores more than the rest of the general category candidates then such of the persons who*

have scored higher than the general category candidates shall be treated as won/elected from general category and the rest of the seats in the reserved category will be decided on the basis of highest ranking in each of the reserved category separately so as to fill up the rest of the number of seats.

7. *Wherever the word OBC occurs, it should also mean Backward Class (BC).*
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Article VII

REGISTER OF MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTION TO PARTY FUND

1. Register:

- (a) Permanent Register of Members shall be maintained by the DCCs **in physical and digital form**. A copy of the Permanent Register duly certified by the DCC President shall be made available to the PCC, **in physical and digital form, as the case may be**. The DCCs will issue Identity Cards with photographs of the members pasted on the cards under signatures of the Presidents of the DCC and PCC concerned.
- (b) The Pradesh Congress Committee shall supply a duly certified copy of the Permanent Register of Members within their jurisdiction to the Office of the AICC **in physical and digital form** and keep it informed of any changes made therein from time to time.
- (c) The Register shall contain the full name, address, age, occupation, place of residence and date of enrolment of every member.
- (d) Membership shall cease by death, resignation, removal

or non-payment of contribution and non-renewal of membership.

2. Contribution to Party Fund by Members/Office-bearers/Elected Representatives:

Each Elected Representative of the Congress Party shall contribute to the Party Fund in following terms:-

- (a) Individual contribution by delegates/office-bearers/members of the Congress party on regular or intermittent intervals or as per special drives undertaken by the party for specific causes in service of the people and in furtherance of its objectives.
- (b) Door to door and online donation drives to be undertaken by the Block/City/ Intermediate Congress Committee / DCCs with the prior permission of the respective PCC, as also by Pradesh Congress Committee and All India Congress Committee.
- (c) Income Tax payee members of the party to contribute Rs 1000/- every year.
- (d) Sarpanch/Head of the Gram Panchayat, Chairperson of the Block Samitis/Intermediate Samitis/Members and Chairperson of Zilla Panchayats shall contribute an amount equivalent to one month of their honorarium/salary, every year.
- (e) Members of the Parliament (Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha), MLAs, MLCs shall contribute one month of their salary to the party every year.
- (f) Any other amount or contribution that the Congress Working Committee may decide by a specific resolution in this regard.

Rule Under Article VII(I) (a) and (c): Register of Members & Identity Cards :

1. Register:

The permanent register of Members which will be maintained by the DCC, in physical and digital form, shall contain the following particulars about each Member:

- (i) Serial Number*
- (ii) Name*
- (iii) Male/Female/Transgender*
- (iv) SC/ST/OBC/Minorities*
- (v) Father's/Mother's or Spouse's Name*
- (vi) Address*
- (vii) Age*
- (viii) Occupation*
- (ix) Place of residence*
- (x) Form No.....of Membership*
- (xi) Voter ID Number*
- (xii) Name of Subordinate Committee of which the applicant is member*
- (xiii) Date of renewal of Membership*
- (xiv) Term of Membership*
- (xv) Remarks*

The PCC will, however, on its own initiative or on appeal, scrutinise (delete or add) the Permanent Register of Members maintained by the DCC in physical or digital form.

2. Identity Cards:

The DCCs will issue Identity Cards to each Member with his photograph pasted on it. The card will bear signature of the President of the DCC and PCC concerned. For this purpose each Member shall submit a copy of his/her photograph of passport size to the DCC office.

3. Alterations in Registers:

Alteration in the lists of Members and register of Members, if any, necessitated by the decision of the Executive of the DCCs or PCCs as a result of disciplinary action taken, shall be recorded in red ink under the signature of the President or the Secretary of the Committee concerned, in physical and/or digital form.

Rule Under Article VII (2): Contribution to Party Fund by Members:

- 1. The contributions received from the members, delegates, office-bearers, elected representatives under the provisions of Article VII, except contributions by AICC members and Members of Parliament, will be distributed as under:*

Reserved for Central Election Fund : 50%

AICC : 25%

PCC : 12.5 %

DCC: 12.5%

- 2. The PCC shall immediately send to the AICC its share of the contribution i.e., 50% for the Central Election Fund and 25% for the AICC. The PCC shall also send the share of the DCCs to the respective districts.*
- 3. The Subordinate Congress Committees below the DCC may be paid share of the contributions as may be determined by the PCC concerned from out of the share of DCC.*

Article – VIII

PRIMARY COMMITTEES AND QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS AND CANDIDATES

(a) Primary Committees :

The members of a basic unit will elect its President and an Executive Committee. The President shall fulfil the eligibility conditions specified in Article V(A) (b). The President shall appoint a Secretary from amongst the Members of the Executive Committee.

(b) Voters:

Every Member whose name is recorded in the Permanent Register maintained under Article V(A) (a) shall be entitled to vote in election of members of the subordinate Congress Committee.

(c) Candidates:

Only a Member who fulfills the eligibility conditions of Article V (A) (b) shall be eligible for election as a member of any Congress Committee other than a Primary Committee.

Rule Under Article VIII (a) – Primary Committee:

1. *A Primary Committee will be the basic unit of the Organisation.*
2. *A Primary Committee shall, as far as possible, correspond to the area of territory falling under one Polling Booth or Polling Station in the General Elections.*
3. *All Members of the Primary Committee shall meet at an appointed time and place and elect the President, Vice-President and a Treasurer and the Executive Committee of the Primary Committee.*
4. *The President of the Primary Committee and the delegates*

to the Block Congress Committee shall be elected from amongst the Members eligible under Article V (A) (b). Any Member can seek election to the Membership of the Executive Committee. The President shall appoint the General Secretary from amongst the Members of the Executive Committee.

- 5. The Election of the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Executive Members of the Primary Committee shall be by show of hands.*

Rule under Article VIII(b) and VII(1)(a)- Preparation of Roll of Members :

- 1. The District Congress Committee shall before the 31st of March in every five years or at such time as the Congress Working Committee may decide, publish the preliminary roll of Members enrolled or renewed during the previous term. The revised and final roll, after scrutiny under Rules 1 and 2 of Article XXII of the constitution, shall be published not later than the 31st of May every fifth year or at such time as the Working Committee may decide.*
- 2. The final roll published as above shall be in force till the next roll is prepared.*

Article IX

SUBORDINATE CONGRESS COMMITTEE

- (a) The PCC shall constitute a Subordinate Congress Committee for a Panchayat Development Block or Panchayat Samiti or Panchayat Union, as the case may be, and it shall be known by the name “Block Congress Committee”.*

Provided that in any urban or otherwise special area, a

Subordinate Congress Committee may be constituted for such territory as may be determined by the PCC with the previous approval of the Working Committee and such Committee shall also be known by the name “Block Congress Committee.

- (b) The DCC may constitute ‘Panchayat Congress Committee’ for each Panchayat or a group of Panchayats within the jurisdiction of Block Congress Committee. For the Urban area, the DCC shall similarly constitute ‘Ward Congress Committee’. The ‘Panchayat and Ward Congress Committees’ shall be subordinate to the Block Congress Committee.

The DCC shall also constitute ‘Intermediary Congress Committee’ for a group of Panchayats or wards, as the case may be. The Intermediate Congress Committee shall be subordinate to the Block Congress Committee.

- (c) Every primary committee shall be subordinate to the Block Congress Committee for the area. All other committees shall be subordinate to the District Congress Committee.
- (d) Every primary committee shall elect a delegate to the Block Congress Committee. A member who is enrolled in the basic unit shall be eligible to be a candidate, if he fulfills the eligibility conditions of Article V (A) (b). Such delegate shall be a member of the Block Congress Committee.
- (e) The Block Congress Committee shall consist of the Presidents of the Primary Committees subordinate thereto and the delegates elected by the Primary Committees.
- (f) Where there are other subordinate committees such as Panchayat Congress Committee or Ward Congress Committee, the President of such Committees shall be co-opted as members of the Block Congress Committee.

The Presidents of Intermediate Congress Committee shall be coopted as members of the Block Congress Committee.

(g) The executive committee of Block Congress Committee shall also include the following as ex-officio members, in addition to the office-bearers of the Block Congress Committee :-

- Presidents of Panchayat Congress Committee/ Ward Congress Committee/Intermediate Congress Committee.
- MLA(s)/MLC(s)/MP(s) from the Block.
- Congress Members elected as Chairpersons/ Members of Local Bodies, Cooperatives and Agricultural Marketing Committees from the Block
- Heads of Frontals/ Departments/ Cells at the Block Level.

(h) The executive committee of District Congress Committee shall also include the following as ex-officio members, in addition to the office-bearers of the District Congress Committee :-

- Presidents of Block Congress Committees.
- MLA(s)/MLC(s)/MP(s) from the District.
- Congress Members elected as Chairpersons/ Members of Municipal Council/ Committee/ Corporations, Chairman/Members of Zila Panchayat, Chairman of Panchayat Samiti/ Intermediate elected bodies (by whatever name known), Chairman/ Members of District Cooperative Banks and other such District level Marketing Committees of the District.
- Heads of Frontals/ Departments/ Cells at the District Level.

Rule Under Article IX – Subordinate Congress Committee:

1. *Every Primary Committee subordinate to the Block Congress Committee shall be entitled to elect one Member to the Block Congress Committee, provided however, that there shall be at least 25 Members in that Primary Committee. The election shall be by show of hands and declaration of results shall be by a simple majority.*
2. *A Subordinate Congress Committee will be deemed to have been constituted provided at least 50% of its Primary Committees have duly enrolled the requisite number of Members.*
3. *The Working Committee shall have the authority to relax the conditions prescribed in any of the Rules above in any special circumstances.*

Rule Under Article IX(b)- Intermediate Committee :

The Presidents of the Booth Committee, the Presidents of the Panchayat Congress Committees or the Ward Congress Committees, as the case may be, shall be part of the executive of Intermediate Congress Committee (by whatever named called). The Intermediate Congress Committee shall comprise of a President, Vice President(s), General Secretary(s), a Treasurer and Secretary(s).

Article X

DISTRICT CONGRESS COMMITTEE

ADCC shall cover an area prescribed by the PCC in its Constitution and shall consist of:

- (a) Six members elected by secret ballot by each Block

Congress Committee to the DCC as per rules prescribed by the Working Committee;

- (b) All ex-Presidents of the DCC who have completed a full term of 365 days and have continued to be Members;
- (c) Members of the PCC who reside in or have been elected from the District;
- (d) Presidents of the Block Congress Committee, provided that they shall not be eligible to become either President or Secretary of the DCC;
- (e) Members of the Congress Legislature Party, both Central and State, from the district, provided that they are Members;
- (f) Leaders of the Congress parties in Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and District Boards/Zila Parishads or Janpads in the Districts, provided that they are Members;
- (g) Members co-opted by the DCC Executive as per rules prescribed by the Working Committee.

Rule Under Article X – District Congress Committee

1. (a) *A candidate for election to a District Congress Committee need not necessarily be a member of a subordinate Congress Committee. Only a Member shall be entitled to be a candidate.*
 - (b) *A candidate for election to a District Congress Committee should ordinarily be resident of the District concerned.*
 - (c) *Voting in the election of Members of a District Congress Committee by the unit members of the subordinate Congress Committee shall be by ballot.*
2. *Special categories of persons, not adequately represented mentioned in Sub-Clause (g) of Article X, shall be co-*

opted by the Executive of the District Congress Committee from (i) Women, (ii) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, (iii) Minorities, (iv) Trade Unions, (v) Indian Youth Congress, (vi) National Students' Union of India, (vii) Congress Seva Dal and (viii) persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of literature, science, arts, social services etc. in the proportion of 15 per cent of the members of a DCC coming under clause (a) of Article X provided that in case of co-option of Youth Congress Workers, no person who is more than 30 years shall be eligible for such co-option.

Article XI

PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE

A. A Pradesh Congress Committee shall consist of:

(a) Members Elected by the Block Committees;

1. Every Block Congress Committee shall elect by secret ballot, a delegate to the PCC and such delegate shall be a member of the PCC.
2. A Member ordinarily resident or having his place of business, occupation or profession within the area of the PCC would be eligible to be a candidate for election as delegate from any Block Congress Committee within the area of the said PCC, Provided that.
 - (i) Conditions and conduct of elections will be in accordance with the rules prescribed by the Working Committee;
 - (ii) In the following Pradeshes and Union Territories the number of elected members of the Pradesh/Union Territory Congress Committees shall be equal to the number of Members of the Provincial/Territorial Legislative Assembly:

1. Arunachal, 2. Goa, 3. Manipur, 4. Meghalaya, 5. Mizoram, 6. Nagaland, 7. Puducherry, 8. Sikkim 9. Tripura.

(iii) From the Territorial Congress Committees of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Chandigarh and Ladakh Territories there shall be twenty five members each.

- (b) Ex-Presidents of the PCC who have completed a full term of 365 days and have continued to be Members;
- (c) Presidents of the DCCs provided that they shall not be eligible to become either President or Secretary of the PCC;
- (d) AICC members who reside in the Pradesh;
- (e) Members elected by the Congress Legislature Party at the rate of 5% of the number of PCC or TCC members subject to a maximum of 15;
- (f) Members co-opted by the PCC Executive from special categories of persons not adequately represented and others in accordance with the rules prescribed by the Working Committee.
- (g) That in addition to clauses (a) to (f), the following shall be ex-officio members of the PCC-
 - Congress Chief Minister and Former Chief Minister(s), who continue to be members of the Congress party,
 - Chairperson(s) of the Zilla Panchayat(s)/Zilla Parishad(s) who have been elected on the symbol of the Congress party,
 - President(s) of the Municipal Corporation(s) who

have been elected on the symbol of the Congress party.

- President(s) of the State Cooperative Bank and State level Marketing Societies, who have been elected on the symbol of the Congress party.

B. Every member and office bearer of the PCC shall pay an annual fee of Rs. 1000/- [as stipulated under Article V (A) (b) (ii)] to the PCC of which 50% shall be remitted to the AICC as delegate fees.

He shall receive a certificate duly signed by a Secretary of the PCC that he is a member and has collected Congress Fund.

Any member, who fails to pay his subscription shall forfeit his right to exercise the functions of member, including the right to attend any meeting of the PCC, till such dues are cleared. The PCC shall forward to AICC Office a certified list of Members not later than the date fixed by the Working Committee in that behalf.

Note: The PCC will decide the proportion in which the Congress Fund may be distributed among Subordinate Congress Committees.

C. Every Pradesh Congress Committee shall coordinate the activities of the frontal organisations and shall:

- (a) Ordinarily function through the District Congress Committees;
- (b) Submit to the Working Committee an annual report of the work done by the Congress Organisation in the Pradesh including audited balance sheets;
- (c) Pay to the AICC the share due to it out of the members' fees vide Article V(A) (c) and Clause B above, before a date to be fixed by the Working Committee.

- D. The Pradesh, which has not completed the formation of the PCC on or before the date fixed by the Working Committee may, at the discretion of the Working Committee, be disentitled to be represented at the Congress Session.
- E. On the failure of any Pradesh Congress Committee to function in terms of the Constitution or in accordance with the direction of the Working Committee, the Working Committee may suspend the existing PCC and form an ad-hoc Committee to carry on Congress work in the Pradesh.
- F. Each Pradesh Congress Committee/TCC/Regional Congress Committee shall, in accordance with the directions/guidelines issued by the Working Committee of the AICC, constitute a Trust for holding immovable properties belonging to such PCC/TCC/RCC and also the properties belonging to Congress Committees namely District Congress Committee, Block Congress Committee and other Committees subordinate to a PCC/TCC/RCC. The Board of Trustees of the said Trust shall not be less than 3 trustees nor more than 9 trustees including the Chairman and the other ex-officio Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall be appointed by PCC/TCC/RCC and shall comprise of persons as approved by the Working Committee of the AICC. The President of the PCC/TCC/RCC shall be the Chairman ex-officio of the Trust. The Treasurer of the AICC and General Secretary AICC Incharge of the concerned PCC/TCC/RCC shall be ex-officio members of the Board. The term of the Board of Trustees other than the Chairman and the two ex-officio Trustees shall be for five years. The properties shall be held in the name of the said Trust and if that be not possible in a certain case/cases, then in such manner as directed by the Working Committee of the AICC.
- G. That AICC President may constitute a 'Political Affairs Committee' of the PCC in order to coordinate the political activities as also to deliberate the important policies issues and provide guidance thereon.

Rule Under Article XI(A) – Pradesh Congress Committee:

1. *Election of members to the Pradesh Congress Committee under sub-clause (a) of Article XI(A) shall be as follows :*
 - (a) *All members of the Block Congress Committee, which forms the Delegate constituency, shall meet at an appointed time and place for the election and each member shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates. The election result shall be declared by simple majority.*
 - (b) *The voting, if necessary, shall be by secret ballot.*
 - (c) *A candidate for election to the Pradesh Congress Committee need not necessarily be a member of subordinate Congress Committee.*
 - (d) *A delegate constituency shall be entitled to elect its delegate provided that Block Congress Committee members have been duly elected in at least 50 per cent of its basic units.*
2. *The special categories of persons not adequately represented mentioned in sub-clause (f) of clause (A) of Article XI shall be co-opted by the Executive of the Pradesh Congress Committee from (i) Women, (ii) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, (iii) Minorities, (iv) Trade Unions, (v) Indian Youth Congress, (vi) National Students' Union of India, (vii) Congress Seva Dal and (viii) persons having special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, arts, social services etc. in the proportion of 15 per cent of the members of the PCC coming under sub-clause (a) provided that in the case of co-option of Youth Congress workers, no person who is more than 30 years shall be eligible for such co-option.*
3. *Election of members to a Pradesh Congress Committee under sub-clause (e) of Article XI(A) shall be as follows:*

The Legislature Congress Party shall elect to the PCC 5 per cent of the total number of PCC or TCC members subject to the maximum of 15 by proportional representation according to the system of single transferable vote.

Rule Under Article XI(B) – Collection of Congress Fund:

Every PCC member or office bearer shall undertake a campaign for collection of Congress Fund as directed by PCC or AICC and this may be collected against coupons of such denomination that the PCC or AICC may print and supply or against the receipt books that be supplied by the concerned PCC and full accounts thereof shall be rendered to the PCC and AICC.

Rule Under Article XI(F) – Board of Trustees in Pradeshes:

In case any Trustee appointed under the provision of Article XI (F) ceases to be a member of the Party, his/her seat in the Board of Trustees shall automatically fall vacant and President of the Indian National Congress shall appoint a new Trustee to fill-up the vacancy thus caused at the level of PCC. In the case of Board of Trustees at lower level i.e. District, Block or Village level, the PCC President shall appoint the new Trustees to fill up the vacancies thus caused and obtain concurrence from the Congress President.

Article XII

DELEGATES

All members of the Pradesh Congress Committees shall be delegates to the Indian National Congress.

Article XIII

ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE

- A. The All India Congress Committee shall consist of :
- (a) One-sixth of the number of the PCC members elected by them from amongst themselves by proportional representation according to the system of single transferable vote, provided that the number is not less than five; however four member each shall be elected from Chandigarh, Andaman & Nicobar, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep and Ladakh TCCs;
 - (b) Congress Prime Minister and former Congress Prime Minister(s);
 - (c) Ex-Presidents of the Indian National Congress, who have continued to be members of the Congress;
 - (d) Presidents of the Pradesh Congress Committees and Chairman of the North East Coordination Committee provided that they shall not be eligible to become an office-bearer of AICC;
 - (e) Chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party and Leaders of the Congress Party in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha;
 - (f) Leaders of the Congress Party in the Legislatures, both in State Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils as also leaders of the Congress Party in Legislative Assemblies in Union Territories and Metropolitan Councils.
 - (g) 15 members elected by the Congress Party in Parliament according to the system of single transferable vote;
 - (h) Members co-opted by the Working Committee from special categories of persons not adequately represented and others in accordance with the rules prescribed by the Working Committee.

- B. (a) The President of the Congress shall be the President of the All India Congress Committee.
- (b) The AICC shall arrange for the implementation of the Programme of the work laid down by the Congress and shall have powers to deal with matters and situations that may arise during its term of office.
- (c) The AICC shall have power to frame rules, not inconsistent with this Constitution, for regularising all matters connected with the Congress which shall be binding on all subordinate Congress Committees.
- (d) The AICC shall meet as often as required by the Working Committee, but at least once in a year, or on a joint requisition addressed to the Working Committee by not less than 20% of the total number of AICC members having full voting rights. Such requisition shall specify the purpose for which the requisitionists desire a meeting of the AICC. A requisitioned meeting shall be held within 2 months of the receipt of the requisition, provided that not more than one requisition can be moved in one year. At any requisitioned meeting, additional items of business may be brought up by the Working Committee for consideration.
- (e) At all meetings of the AICC other than requisitioned meetings, at least 2 hours shall be allotted for consideration of proposition of which due notice has been given by the members of the AICC in accordance with the rules prescribed in that behalf.
- (f) One hundred or one-fifth of the total number of members, whichever is less, shall form the quorum for a meeting of the AICC.
- (g) Every member of the AICC shall pay an annual subscription of Rs. 3000/- [as stipulated under Article V (A)(b) (ii)] and shall obtain a receipt thereof. He shall receive a certificate of his membership duly signed by one of the Secretaries of

the AICC. Any member who fails to pay his subscription shall forfeit his right to take part in any of the meetings of the AICC, Subjects Committee or any Congress Session till such dues are cleared up.

- H. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Articles and Rules, the AICC President shall have the authority to relax the provisions thereof.

Note : A member of the AICC need not collect fund for PCC also.

Rule Under Article XIII(A) – All India Congress Committee:

1. *Election of members of the All India Congress Committee under Sub-clause (g) of Article XIII(A) shall be as follows:*

The Congress Party in Parliament shall elect from amongst its MPs 15 members to All India Congress Committee by proportional representation according to the system of single transferable vote. In case a Member so elected ceases to be a Member of Parliament, his/her membership of the AICC under Article XIII (A) (g) will also cease.

2. *The special categories of persons not adequately represented mentioned in Sub-clause (h) of clause (A) of Article XIII shall be co-opted by the Working Committee from (i) Women, (ii) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, (iii) Minorities, (iv) Trade Unions, (v) Indian Youth Congress, (vi) National Students' Union of India, (vii) Congress Seva Dal and (viii) persons having special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, arts, social services etc. in the proportion of 15 per cent of the members of the AICC coming under sub-clause (a) provided that in the case of co-option of Youth Congress Workers, no person who is more than 30 years shall be eligible for such co-option.*

Rule Under Article XIII(B) Sub-Clause (d) : Reception Committee for AICC Meetings :

1. *The Pradesh Congress Committee, in whose jurisdiction the AICC meeting is held, shall make such arrangements for holding the meeting as may be deemed necessary, and for the purpose, shall form a reception committee which shall work under its general guidance and which may include therein persons who are not its members.*
2. *The Reception Committee shall elect its Chairman and other office-bearers from amongst its own members.*
3. *The Reception Committee shall collect funds for the expenses of the meeting and shall make all necessary arrangements for the reception and accommodation of the members. It may also make necessary arrangements for the visitors.*
4. *The receipts and disbursements of the Reception Committee shall be audited by an auditor or auditors, appointed by the Pradesh Congress Committee and the statement of account together with the audit report shall be submitted by the Pradesh Congress Committee to the AICC office, within four months after the meeting. Any surplus funds remaining with Reception Committee shall be divided equally between the AICC and the Pradesh Congress Committee.*

Rule Under Article XIII(B), Sub-Clause (e) : Non-official resolutions for AICC :

Members, who wish any propositions to be considered by the AICC should send such propositions in writing so as to reach the AICC Office at least 15 days prior to the date of the meeting.

Rule Under Article XIII(B), Sub-Clause (g): Collection of Funds by AICC Members:

Every AICC member shall undertake collection of the Congress Fund as desired by AICC and this may be collected against coupons of such denomination that the AICC may print and supply or against the receipt books that may be supplied by the AICC and full accounts thereof shall be rendered by the member to the AICC.

Article XIV

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

The Working Committee and the Executive Committee at Pradesh and lower levels may co-opt upto 25% of the total membership of the AICC, PCC and other lower Committees concerned as per rules prescribed by the Working Committee for giving representations to the sections not adequately represented amongst the elected members of the AICC. The Co- opted members at the AICC, PCC and lower levels shall not exercise any voting right in any organisational election nor shall they contest any election in the organisation, however, no person who is a co-opted member shall be debarred for that reason from seeking election to full membership of any Committee in normal manner.

Article XIV-A

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

All elected members of the local bodies (Rural & Urban), Cooperative bodies, Agricultural marketing bodies, Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council and Parliament, who are members of the Congress Party shall become Ex-Officio members of the corresponding Congress Committee as specified in the rules.

Rule under Article XIV (A) - Ex-Officio Members :

- (A) (i) *The members of the Gram Panchayats, the members of the Municipal Committees and the Members of the Block Panchayats shall be Ex-Officio members of the primary Congress Committee.*
- (ii) *The members of Zila Parishads, President of the Block Panchayat, President of the Nagar Palika, President of the Block Level Cooperatives and Agricultural Marketing Bodies shall be Ex-Officio Members of the Block Congress Committee.*
- (iii) *The Presidents of Zila Parishads, The Presidents of the District Level Cooperative bodies, The Presidents of the District Level Agricultural Marketing Bodies and Mayors of the Municipal Corporations shall be Ex-Officio Members of the District Congress Committees.*
- (iv) *All the members of the Legislative Assembly and of the Legislative Council shall be Ex-Officio members in the Block Congress Committees, District Congress Committees in their Assembly segment and respective Pradesh Congress Committee.*
- (v) *All the members of Parliament shall be Ex-Officio members of the Block Congress Committees and, District Congress Committees falling within their Parliamentary Constituency, respective Pradesh Congress Committee and All India Congress Committee.*
- (B) *Ex-Officio members shall not exercise any voting rights in any election held in the respective Committees but they shall be allowed to participate in decision making discussions and vote on the resolutions.*
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Article XV

SUBJECTS COMMITTEE

- (a) The Subjects Committee shall consist of :
- (i) The President of the All India Congress Committee.
 - (ii) The Members of the Working Committee.
 - (iii) Permanent Invitees and Special Invitees of the Working Committee.
 - (iv) The Presidents of all Pradesh Congress Committees.
 - (v) All Leaders of Congress Legislature Party in Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, if any;
 - (vi) The Chiefs of all Frontal Organizations of the AICC and the President of the Indian National Trade Union Congress;
 - (vii) Office bearers of the Congress Parliamentary Party ;
 - (viii) The Chairman of the North East Coordination Congress Committee.
- (b) The Subjects Committee shall meet under the Chairmanship of the President prior to the Congress Session. The Working Committee or, in case a new President has been elected before the Session and there is no Working Committee appointed by him functioning, a Steering Committee, appointed by the President, shall submit to the Subjects Committee the programmes of work, including draft resolutions for the Congress Session. The draft resolutions shall be made available to the members of the Subjects Committee atleast two weeks before the meeting. While drafting the resolutions, the Working Committee or the Steering Committee shall take into consideration the resolutions recommended by the Pradesh Congress

Committee and resolutions given notice of by the Members of the Subjects Committee.

- (c) The Subjects Committee shall proceed to discuss the programme and shall frame resolutions for being moved in the Open Session. As far as possible, four hours shall be allotted for the consideration of propositions of which due notice has been given by the Pradesh Congress Committee.

Article XVI

PLENARY CONGRESS SESSION

- (a) A Session of the Congress shall ordinarily be held once in five years at the time and place decided upon by the Working Committee or the AICC as the case may be.
- (b) A Congress Session shall consist of the President of the Congress and all other delegates.
- (c)
 - (i) A Congress Session shall consider resolutions recommended to it for adoption by the Subjects Committee in the first instance.
 - (ii) Thereafter the Session shall take up any substantive motion not included in (i) above, but which 40 delegates have before the commencement for the day's sittings, requested the President in writing to allow them to place before the Congress; provided, however, that no such motion shall be allowed unless it has been previously discussed at the meeting of the Subjects Committee and received the support of atleast a third of the members then present at the Subjects Committee meeting.
- (d) The Pradesh Congress Committee, in whose jurisdiction the Congress Session is held, shall make such arrangements for holding the Congress Session as may be deemed

necessary, and for the purpose shall form a Reception Committee which shall work under its general guidance and which may include therein persons who are not its members.

- (e) The Reception Committee shall elect its Chairman and other Office-Bearers from amongst its own members.
- (f) The Reception Committee shall collect funds for the expenses of the Session and shall make all necessary arrangements for the reception and accommodation of delegates. It may also make necessary arrangements for the visitors.
- (g) The receipts and disbursements of the Reception Committee shall be audited by an auditor or auditors appointed by the Pradesh Congress Committee, and the Statement of Accounts together with the audit report shall be submitted by the Pradesh Congress Committee to the Working Committee, within six months of the conclusion of the Congress Session. Any surplus funds remaining with the Reception Committee shall be divided equally between the AICC and the PCC.

Article XVII

SPECIAL SESSION

- (a) A Special Session of the Congress shall be held in case the AICC so decides or if majority of PCCs, through their resolutions, request the President of the Congress to convene such a Special Session.
- (b) Such a Session shall be organised by the PCC of the Pradesh selected for holding the Session.

Article XVIII

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

- (a) The Chairman of the Central Election Authority will be the Ex-Officio Returning Officer for the election of the President.
- (b) Any hundred delegates may jointly propose the name of any delegate for election as President of the Congress. Such proposals must reach the Returning Officer on or before the date fixed by the Working Committee.
- (c) The Returning Officer shall publish the names of all persons so proposed and it shall be open to any person whose name has been so proposed to withdraw his candidature within seven days of the proposed names by writing to the Returning Officer to that effect.
- (d) After eliminating the names of those who have withdrawn, the Returning Officer shall immediately publish the names of the remaining candidates and circulate them to the Pradesh Congress Committees. If, after elimination, there remains only one candidate, he shall be declared duly elected as President of the next Congress Session.
- (e) On a date fixed by the Working Committee, which shall not ordinarily be less than seven days after the final publication of the names of contesting candidates, each delegate shall be entitled to record, for the election of a President, his vote in the following manner: On the voting paper which shall exhibit the names of the candidates, the delegate shall, if there are only two candidates, record his vote for one of them. If there are more than two candidates, the delegate shall record atleast two preferences by writing the figures 1,2 etc. against the names of the candidates voted for. In such a case, he may give more than two preferences if he wishes to do so but any voting paper showing less than two

preferences will be regarded as invalid. The voting paper shall be deposited in a ballot box provided for the purpose.

- (f) The Pradesh Congress Committees shall immediately forward the ballot boxes to the AICC.
- (g) As soon as may be after the receipt of the ballot boxes, the Returning Officer shall count the votes of the first preferences recorded for each candidate. If a candidate secures more than 50 per cent of the votes of the first preferences, he shall be declared elected as President. If no candidate secures more than 50 per cent of the first preferences, candidate who has secured the smallest number of first preferences shall be eliminated, and the second preferences recorded by the voters who gave him the first preferences shall be taken into account in counting the votes of the remaining candidates. In this counting the candidate who secures the smallest number of votes shall be eliminated. By this process of eliminating the candidates who secure the smallest number of votes in subsequent counting after the transfer of votes according to recorded preferences, the candidate who secures more than 50 per cent of the votes, shall be declared elected as President.
- (h) In the event of any emergency by reason of any cause such as the death or resignation of the President elected as above, the Senior most General Secretary will discharge the routine functions of the President until the Working Committee appoints a provisional President pending the election of a regular President by the AICC.
- (i) The President shall preside over the Session of the Congress held after his election and during his term of Office and he shall exercise all the powers of the Working Committee when it is not in session.

Article XIX

WORKING COMMITTEE

- (a) The Working Committee shall consist of the President of the Congress, the former Congress President(s), the Leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party in Parliament, the Congress Prime Minister and former Congress Prime Minister(s), the leader of Congress Party in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and 35 other members of whom 18 members will be elected by the AICC, as per rules prescribed by the Working Committee and the rest shall be appointed by the President. The President shall appoint a Treasurer and one or more General Secretaries from amongst the members of the Working Committee. The President will have power to appoint one or more Secretaries / Joint Secretaries from elected members of the AICC. The Secretaries / Joint Secretaries will discharge the duties as may be assigned to them by the President. Ordinarily members of the Working Committee will be appointed from amongst the members of the AICC but in special cases, delegates who are not members of the AICC may be appointed; provided however, that a delegate so appointed shall cease to be a member of the Working Committee if he is not elected as member of the AICC within six months of his appointment.
- (b) The Quorum for the Meeting of the Working Committee shall be 12.
- (c) The Working Committee shall be the highest executive authority of the Congress and shall have the power to carry out the policies and programmes laid down by the Congress and by the AICC and shall be responsible to the AICC. It shall be the final authority in all matters regarding interpretation and application of the provisions of this Constitution.
- (d) The Working Committee shall place before every meeting

of the AICC a report of the proceedings of the previous meeting of the AICC and also the agenda of business for the meeting and shall allot time for non-official resolutions of which due notice may have been given by the members of the AICC in accordance with the rules prescribed in that behalf.

- (e) The Working Committee may appoint one or more auditors or inspectors or other officers to examine the records, papers and account books of all Congress Committees and organisations. It shall be incumbent on all such Committees and organisations to furnish all the required information to the auditors, inspectors or other officers and to give them access to all offices, accounts and other records.
- (f) The Working Committee shall have the power:
 - (i) to frame rules for the proper working of the organisation. Such rules shall, as early as possible, be placed for the consideration of the AICC;
 - (ii) to issue instructions not inconsistent with the Constitution and frame rules in all matters not otherwise provided for;
 - (iii) to superintend, direct and control all Pradesh Congress Committees and Subordinate Committees as well as the Reception Committees;
 - (iv) to take such disciplinary action as it may deem fit against a Committee other than the AICC or an individual;
 - (v) in special case, to relax application of provision under Articles V(A) (a) (i), V(B), VIII (b) and VIII (c).
- (g) The Working Committee shall have the accounts of the AICC audited annually by an auditor or auditors appointed by the AICC every year.

- (h) The Working Committee shall fix the date by which the formation of Subordinate, District, Pradesh and All India Congress Committees shall be completed.
- (i) The Working Committee shall constitute a Trust for holding immoveable properties belonging to the All India Congress Committee. The Board of Trustees of the said Trust shall be appointed by the Working Committee and shall comprise of not less than five nor more than nine Trustees including the Chairman and the other ex-officio Trustees. The President of the Congress shall be Chairman (ex-officio) of the Trust and the Treasurer of the AICC and the General Secretary Incharge of Administration of AICC shall be ex-officio members of the Board. The term of the members of the Board of Trustees other than the Chairman and the two other ex-officio Trustees shall be five years. The properties shall be held in the name of the said Trust and if that be not possible in a certain case/cases, then in such manner as directed by the Working Committee.
- (j) To meet any special situation, the Working Committee shall have the power to take such action in the interest of the Congress as it may deem fit; provided however that if any action is taken which is beyond the power of the Working Committee as defined in this Constitution, it shall be submitted as early as possible to the AICC for ratification but not later than six months.

Rule under Article XIX (a): Working Committee :

Procedure for election of 18 members of the Working Committee:

A. Nomination:

1. *Only a member of the All India Congress Committee with full voting rights shall be entitled to contest the election to the Working Committee.*
2. *Nominations should be proposed and seconded by at least*

12 members of the All India Congress Committee with full voting rights.

- 3. A member of the AICC can propose as many as 18 members for the membership of the Working Committee.*
- 4. Nomination paper should signify the consent of the candidate proposed.*

B. Method of Voting:

- 1. Voting shall be by ballot.*
- 2. A voter can record on the ballot paper as many as 18 votes. Provided that not more than one vote shall be cast in favour of each candidate.*
- 3. A ballot paper shall be rendered invalid if a voter records more than eighteen votes on the ballot papers.*
- 4. The first 18 candidates, securing the highest number of votes, shall be declared elected.*
- 5. These election rules shall apply mutatis mutandis to the by elections that may be caused.*
- 6. Ballot papers for this election shall indicate whether the candidate belongs to the reserved category i.e. women, SC/ST/OBC/Minority.*
- 7. The above rules framed under Article XIX (a) shall be read with the rules framed under Article VI (A) (a) and (b) regarding reservation for women, Youth, SC/ST/OBC/ Minorities and made applicable for the purpose of ensuring reservation for the above mentioned categories.*

Rule under Article XIX (i) - Board of Trustees at AICC level:

In case a Trustee of the Board of Trustees leaves the Party or tenders resignation, his/her seat in the Board of Trustees shall automatically fall vacant and President of the Indian National Congress shall appoint a new Trustee to fill-up the vacancy thus caused.

DISCIPLINARY RULES

1. Authorities who can take disciplinary action under Article XIX (f) (iv):

Subject to the following restrictions, the Working Committee, Executives of the PCC, TCCs, and Executives of the DCC's can take action against a Congress Committee who commits breach of discipline:

- (a) The Working Committee can take action against any Congress Committee and any individual Congressman, but not against the All India Congress Committee.*
- (b) The Executive of a PCC can take action only against Committees subordinate to it and individuals other than members of the AICC and members of Parliament in whose case it can only make recommendations to the Working Committee for disciplinary action.*
- (c) The Executive of a DCC can take action only against Committees subordinate to it and members of the DCC and of its subordinate Committees provided that the DCC can not take such action against a person who is a delegate or a member of a Legislature. In such cases it can only make recommendations to the competent authority for taking disciplinary action.*

2. Delegation of authority under Article XXVII (b):

The Working Committee shall be competent to delegate its authority to a sub-committee under Article XXVII (b) but neither the Executive of a PCC, TCC nor of a DCC shall delegate its powers. However, the Executive of a PCC, TCC and the Executive of a DCC may constitute sub-committees to examine cases for disciplinary action coming before it and to make recommendations to the Executive Committee concerned.

3. Power of Suspension:

- (a) *The Congress President can place under suspension any Committee subordinate to the AICC and any member of the Congress, if there is a prime facie breach of discipline. The President should place this matter before the next meeting of the Working Committee.*
- (b) *The President of the PCC can place under suspension any Committee subordinate to the PCC, any member of the PCC or Committee subordinate to the PCC, but not a member of Parliament or AICC, if there is a prima facie breach of discipline. All such cases of suspension and subsequent decision thereon shall be reported to the AICC Office within a week from the date of such suspension or decision. But he should place the matter before the next meeting of the Executive of the PCC and proceedings should be initiated so as to dispose of disciplinary action case within one month of the suspension order.*

4. Breach of Discipline:

Breach of discipline includes the following:

- (a) *Deliberately acting or carrying on propaganda against the programmes and decisions of the Congress;*
- (b) *Deliberately disregarding rules or disobeying orders passed by any competent authority;*
- (c) *Indulging in fraudulent action relating to Congress funds, enrolment of members or election to Committees;*
- (d) *Being guilty of offences involving moral turpitude, black marketing, adulteration, bribery, corruption, forgery, embezzlement of Congress funds or dealing in liquor;*
- (e) *Deliberately acting in a way calculated to lower the prestige of the Congress or carrying on propaganda against Congress Committees or office-bearers thereof.*

5. Notices:

- (a) *No disciplinary action shall be taken without an opportunity being given, with at least two weeks notice to the Committee or individual concerned, to explain its or his/her case and answer such charges as are made against it or him/her. However, the Working Committee can reduce the period of notice when it deems fit to do so.*
- (b) *Notice can be issued at the instance of the President of the Committee, competent to take disciplinary action, provided that he feels there is a prima facie breach of discipline against the Committee or person concerned.*

6. Punishment:

Following punishment is prescribed:

- (a) *In the case of a Congress Committee, supersession of such a committee and such other action against offending individual members as may be necessary.*
- (b) *In the case of an office-bearer or member of any Congress Committee, his removal from office of membership and fixation of a period during which he can not be elected or nominated to any office or membership in any Committee or enrolled as member.*
- (c) *In the case of a Member, his removal from membership and disqualification from membership for a specified period.*

Provided that if any person against whom disciplinary action has been taken and punishment awarded, is a member of any local body, legislature, Parliament or holds any other position by virtue of his being a Congressman, he may also be called upon to resign from such bodies.

7. Report of Disciplinary Action:

Any disciplinary action taken either by the Executive of the DCC or the PCC shall be reported to the PCC and

the Working Committee respectively within a week of such action.

8. Appeal

- (a) *It shall be open to any Congress Committee or person, against whom disciplinary action is taken, to appeal to the Working Committee in the case of decisions of the PCC Executive and to the PCC Executive in the case of decisions of the DCC Executives, within three weeks of the receipt of the order provided that pending the appeal, the order appealed against is obeyed. The President of the AICC or of the PCC, as the case may be, may, however, stay the execution of the order appealed against whenever deemed fit;*
- (b) *Appeals should be filed in duplicate within three weeks of the receipt of the order of the Committee concerned;*
- (c) *Pending the disposal of the appeal against disciplinary action involving removal from an elective Committee the vacancy thus created shall not be filled.*

Article XX

TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be incharge of the funds of the Congress and shall keep proper accounts of all investment, income and expenditure.

Article XXI

GENERAL SECRETARIES

- (a) Subject to general control of the President, the General Secretaries shall be incharge of the office of the AICC.
- (b) The General Secretaries shall be responsible for the

preparation and publication of a report of the proceedings of the Congress Session including its audited accounts, as soon as possible after the Session.

- (c) The General Secretaries shall prepare a report of the work of the AICC and the Working Committee, including an audited statement of Accounts for the period since the last submission of such a report and submit the same to the first meeting of the AICC held before the Plenary Session of the Congress.

Article XXII

SCRUTINY OF MEMBERSHIP

The Central Election Authority shall arrange for scrutiny of membership through the Pradesh Election Authority. Appeals regarding scrutiny of members will be disposed of by the Pradesh Election Authority. Pradesh Election Authority will appoint Scrutiny Committee at appropriate levels.

Rule under Article XXII - Scrutiny of Membership :

1. *Any person, who has been refused enrolment as a Member under Article V(A) (a), (b) and V(B) or whose name has been omitted from or incorrectly entered in the register of Members, or any member, who objects to the entry of any name therein, may submit to the Chairman of the District Scrutiny Committee appointed by the Pradesh Election Authority concerned an objection in writing stating the reasons against such refusal, an omission, irregular or wrong entry, within 7 days of publication of the preliminary electoral rolls.*
2. *The District Scrutiny Committee after hearing the objector or any other party concerned, may direct any name to be entered into, corrected or omitted, from the register of*

members. The Scrutiny Committee shall ordinarily dispose of such complaints within 7 days of their filing.

3. *The District Scrutiny Committee shall have the power to scrutinise the membership form of any Member, and to enquire into whether the rules and provisions of the Congress Constitution regarding such membership have been fulfilled. The Scrutiny Committee may also scrutinise the periodical reports submitted by the Members. They shall then take their decision after giving an opportunity for explanation to the persons concerned.*
4. *The District Scrutiny Committee shall maintain a brief record of these proceedings and a copy of the decision shall be forwarded to the persons concerned within three days of such decision.*
5. *If there is no District Congress Committee functioning in the District at the time and there is an Ad-hoc Committee, all objections should be submitted to the District Scrutiny Committee appointed by the Pradesh Election Authority.*
6. *Appeals against the decision of the District Scrutiny Committee shall be filed before the Pradesh Election Authority by the aggrieved party within ten days of the decision taken by the District Scrutiny Committee. Pradesh Election Authority shall dispose of such appeals ordinarily within 7 days of their filing. The decision of the District Scrutiny Committee will be operative only when the time for appeals has expired or after the disposal of an appeal already filed.*
7. *It shall be competent for the Pradesh Election Authority and the District Scrutiny Committee to delegate the authority vested in them under these rules to one or more sub-Committees or individuals.*
8. *The aggrieved party may file an appeal before the Central*

Election Authority within 10 days of the decision taken by the Pradesh Election Authority.

Article XXIII

ELECTION DISPUTES

The Pradesh Election Authority will take such steps as necessary to conduct the Organisational elections in a free and fair manner. Any election dispute shall also be adjudicated by the Pradesh Election Authority. All appeals against the decisions of Pradesh Election Authority shall be disposed of by the Central Election Authority.

Rule under Article XXIII - Election Disputes :

1. *A complaint against the election of the President, Treasurer and Members of the Executive Committee of a Pradesh Congress Committee and members of the All India Congress Committee shall be filed before the Central Election Authority within 15 days of the declaration of the result of such elections. The Central Election Authority may empanel from amongst its members, a special forum for deciding such complaints.*
2. *Only a member of the Pradesh Congress Committee concerned can file a petition referred to in clause (1) above.*
3. *Every election petition other than those in clause (1) above shall be filed before the Pradesh Election Authority within seven days of the declaration of the result of such an election.*
4. *Election petitions may be presented to the Pradesh Election Authority either in person or by registered post.*
5. *It shall be competent for Pradesh Election Authority to*

pass any order by way of stay or injunction pending the disposal of the petition or appeal.

6. *Every election petition shall ordinarily be disposed of by the Pradesh Election Authority within thirty days of its presentation. If the Pradesh Election Authority fails to do so, the Central Election Authority may make suitable arrangements for their disposal.*
7. *The Central Election Authority shall frame regulations for the conduct of business by the Pradesh Election Authority in connection with the disposal of election petitions and appeals.*
8. *No person other than the candidate who files the election petition or appeal shall have the right to appear before the Pradesh Election Authority except with its approval, provided that lawyers shall, in no case, be engaged.*
9. *The Pradesh Election Authority shall have the power to delegate the authority vested in them under these rules to one or more of its members.*
10. *Any dispute regarding elections at the Primary unit level and at the Block level may be submitted before the District Congress Committee Executive within 10 days of the declaration of the results. The DCC Executive shall dispose of such cases within 10 days of its presentation.*

Any appeal against the decision of the DCC Executive may be filed before the Pradesh Election Authority within 10 days of the decision taken by the DCC Executive. Any dispute regarding elections at the DCC level may be submitted before the Pradesh Election Authority within 10 days of the declaration of results. The Pradesh Election Authority shall dispose of all appeals within 10 days of the presentation of such appeals.

Any appeal about the election at the Pradesh level can be filed before the Central Election Authority within 10 days of the

declaration of results. The Central Election Authority will dispose of all such disputes within 10 days after its presentation.

The Pradesh Election Authority will be the final adjudicator about election disputes at Primary Unit, Block and District levels. If there is any dispute in the election at any level other than the PCC level which requires examination from constitutional point of view and rules may be brought to the notice of the Central Election Authority for adjudication. Such matters will have to be brought before the CEA within 10 days after declaration of results of the concerned election.

Article XXIV

ELECTION MACHINERY

- (a) **Election Authority** - The Working Committee shall set up a Central Organisational Election Authority of the AICC comprising of not less than three nor more than five members, one of which will be Chairman of such Authority. The Chairman and members of the Authority will not hold any organisational office during their tenure as Chairman and member of the Authority. Apart from conducting the organisational election, this Authority will also supervise and oversee enrolment of Members for Organisational elections. The Authority will also finalise the calendar of elections starting from enrolment of Members up to the stage of completion of the elections.
- (b) The Chairman of the Central Election Authority will be the Ex-Officio Returning Officer to conduct elections of the Office of Congress President and Members of the Working Committee.
- (c) The Central Election Authority of the AICC shall appoint a Pradesh Election Authority at PCC level comprising of not less than three and not more than five members,

one of which will be the Chairman of the Authority. The term of office of the Election Authority will be five years. The Chairman or Member of the Authority will not hold any organisational office during their term. The Central Election Authority shall appoint the Pradesh or Territorial Returning Officer.

- (d) For smooth functioning of the Organisational elections, the Central Election Authority will make necessary rules and regulations.
- (e) The Pradesh Returning Officer shall conduct all Congress elections in the Pradesh. He shall, in consultation with the Executive of the PCC or TCC and DCCs, appoint District Returning Officers and such other officers as may be necessary for the proper conduct of elections in the Pradesh or Territory. He shall also perform such other functions as are allotted to him by the Central Election Authority from time to time.
- (f) The Pradesh Returning Officer shall hold office ordinarily for one term but he will continue till a new Pradesh Returning Officer is appointed or he is removed from office in accordance with the rules framed in this behalf by the Central Election Authority.

Rule under Article XXIV - Election Machinery :

1. *Every Pradesh Returning Officer and all other Returning Officers under him shall be members of the Congress and shall not hold any office or membership in any Committee. They shall not also stand as candidates for any Congress election within the area in which they function as Returning Officers during the period they hold such office and for 6 months thereafter.*
2. *The Pradesh and District Returning Officers shall locate their offices at the respective headquarters of the Pradesh*

and District Congress Committees, provided that with the special permission of the respective higher Authority, they can locate them elsewhere.

3. *The Pradesh Returning Officer shall be responsible for the conduct of all the Congress elections in the Pradesh. Pradesh Election Authority shall take necessary decisions for the proper conduct of elections in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution and the rules thereunder.*
4. *The Central Election Authority may also remove from office a PRO and the Pradesh Election Authority may remove a DRO or any other Election Officer if it is satisfied that he has not discharged or will not discharge his duties in a manner befitting his office, provided that before such action is taken due opportunity shall be given to him to answer the charges brought against him.*
5. *No Returning Officer or any other officer shall have the power to delegate any of his functions except with the permission of the PRO or the Officer superior to him.*
6. *Candidates for election shall not be appointed as Returning Officers or to any other Election Office in their respective areas. Thus a candidate for election to a Block Congress Committee shall not be appointed as Election Officer in the Block, a candidate for election to a DCC shall not be appointed as an Election Officer in the District. Similarly, an Election Officer or Returning Officer of a block shall not contest for election to the PCC from the same Block. He can, however, contest election to the PCC from any other Block/Constituency.*
7. *Subject to the supervision and control of PRO, DRO shall be responsible for the conduct of all Congress elections in the District. He shall also appoint, with the approval of the PRO, Polling and other officers in the District.*

8. *The DRO shall fix location of the polling stations and specify the area covered by each polling station and publish them at least 10 days before the polling date. He shall also notify, at least 10 days before the date of polling, the date of poll and the polling hours.*
9. *The Polling Officers shall be responsible for keeping order at the polling stations and to see that the election is fairly conducted.*
10. *Nomination papers in the form prescribed by the Pradesh Election Authority shall be filed before the concerned Returning Officer by the candidate or his representative in person addressed to the Returning Officer. Nomination paper can be printed, typed or hand written.*
11. *Withdrawals from the validly nominated candidates shall be filed before the concerned Returning Officer so as to reach him at least 48 hours before the day of voting. Withdrawal papers should be in writing and signed by the candidate withdrawing his candidature.*
12. *The following shall be the procedure for elections to be held by ballot:*
 - (i) *The Polling Officer shall be responsible for maintaining secrecy of voting and for regulating the number of voters to be admitted to the polling booths at a time;*
 - (ii) *The DRO or the concerned Polling Officer shall permit the agents of the candidates access to the polling booths for observing the polling on behalf of the candidates concerned. The Polling Officer will initial each ballot paper in the space provided for the purpose before handing it over to the voter;*
 - (iii) *At the close of polling, the Polling Officer shall count the votes secured by each candidate and report the figure to the Returning Officer. The candidates and/*

or one of their agents may be present at the counting if they so desire;

(iv) On receipt of the figure relating to the number of votes secured by each candidate the Returning Officer shall declare the results.

13. *The following shall be the procedure when voting is to be held by show of hands in the election at Primary unit level:-*

(i) The Polling Officer shall scrutinise every voter before he enters the meeting place;

(ii) The Polling Officer shall associate in the counting one agent of each candidate. After counting, the Polling Officer may obtain the signature of the Polling agents on the counting sheet;

(iii) Whenever possible, the Polling Officer may mark separate enclosures for each candidate and may ask the voters to go to the enclosures of their choice to facilitate counting of votes;

(iv) The Polling Officer in the Assembly of Members shall announce the time for proposing candidates for election and also the time of withdrawal at such elections in the said Assembly. The Polling Officer shall also notify the time for the commencement and closing of voting. He shall, however, have the power to extend this time by half an hour if he finds it necessary.

14. *During election a candidate shall not use vehicles for bringing voters nor shall he resort to any undesirable pamphleteering or other kind of public propaganda. Contravention of these provisions shall render the candidate's election invalid and further make him liable to disciplinary action.*

15. *The first meeting of the members of the PCC shall be convened and presided over by the PRO or in his absence by a nominee of the Central Election Authority. At such a meeting the President of the PCC, all Executive Members including Office-Bearers such as Vice-President, Treasurer etc. who come under elected category and all other Committees which are needed to be elected by the PCC, shall be elected.*

The first meeting of the members of the DCC shall be convened and presided over by the DRO concerned, or in his absence, by a nominee appointed by the PRO and at such meeting the President of the DCC, all Executive Members including Vice-President, Treasurer etc. who come under elected category, shall be elected.

Article XXV

PARLIAMENTARY BOARD

The Working Committee shall set up a Parliamentary Board comprising of the Congress President, the Congress Prime Minister, the Chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary party in Parliament and 5 other members. The Congress President shall be the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Board.

Article XXV (A)

ELECTION COMMITTEES

- (a) The Congress Working Committee shall set up a Central Election Committee (CEC) comprising of 12 members to be appointed by the CWC, in addition to the AICC President. The 12 members of the CEC shall include the Chairperson of the Congress Party in Parliament & Leaders of Congress Party in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The CEC shall :
- (i) Make the final selection of the candidates to the State and Central Legislature or authorize AICC President

in this regard to take a final call, and

- (ii) Conduct election campaigns.

The AICC President shall chair the CEC.

- (b) The Pradesh Election Committee shall consist of the President of the PCC/TCC, the Leader of the Congress Legislature Party and / or in case of a Union Territory the leader of Congress Party in the Assembly/Metropolitan Council, and not more than fifteen and not less than five other members, who shall be appointed by the AICC President. The President of the PCC or TCC shall be ex-officio Chairman of Pradesh or Territorial Election Committee.
- (c) The Pradesh or Territorial Election Committee, constituted in the above manner, shall recommend candidates for the Central and State Legislatures to the Central Election Committee.
- (d) The Central Election Committee shall frame necessary rules to give guidance to the Pradesh Election Committee in regard to the selection of candidates and other matters relating to the conduct of elections.

Rule under Article XXV - Formation of Parliamentary Board:

The Parliamentary Board shall be set up by the Working Committee in the manner prescribed in Article XXV and the five members thereof shall be chosen from amongst the members of the Working Committee at its first meeting after its formation and shall continue in office till a new Board is set up.

Rule under Article XXV (A) Formation of Election Committee:

Formation of Election Committees:

1. *The Central Election Committee shall be set up by the CWC from amongst AICC members ordinarily and shall*

continue in office till a new CEC is set up. It shall function for the General Elections or any mid-term elections that might be held.

2. *Pradesh Election Committee shall be set up by the AICC president ordinarily from amongst the Members of the PCC and shall continue in office till a new Committee is appointed.*
-

Article XXVI

VACANCIES

- (a) The Office of a delegate or a member of any Committee or Board constituted under this Constitution shall be vacated by resignation, removal or death.
- (b) All vacancies shall, unless otherwise provided for, be filled in the same manner in which the vacated member was chosen and member so elected shall hold office for the unexpired term of the seat vacated.
- (c) In the absence of any provision to the contrary, a Committee or Board, once it is properly constituted, shall not become invalid by reason of any vacancy on it.

Article XXVI-A

CELLS AND DEPARTMENTS

- (a) The Congress President may create Cells/Departments to discharge responsibilities as assigned to such Cells/Departments.
- (b) The Chairman/Members of such Cells/Departments shall be appointed by the Congress President.
- (c) Chairman of such Cells/Departments may appoint Chairman and Members of Cells/Departments at the

Pradesh level in consultation with the Pradesh Congress Committees.

Article XXVII

MISCELLANEOUS

- (a) A Committee may delegate any of its power to a smaller Committee or an individual.
- (b) Population figures of the last available census shall be utilized, wherever relevant.
- (c) Where there is a question of the value of fractions, a fraction of one-half or more shall be treated as one, and less than half as zero.
- (d) Wherever in this Constitution, the word “vote” or any of its inflections occurs, it means or refers to a valid vote.
- (e) The Block, District and Pradesh Congress Committees shall elect from amongst its members the President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurers and members of their Executive Committees and from amongst the members of the Executive Committees. The Presidents of the respective Committees shall appoint Secretaries.
- (f) Any question or dispute arising under the Constitution with regard to provisions, contents, interpretations or the procedures laid down therein, between members and Committees or between Committees interse, shall be determined by the appropriate authorities indicated in this Constitution, and the decision of such an authority shall be final and binding on all members and Committees of the Indian National Congress, and shall not be liable to question by any of them in a court of law.
- (g) Any member who does not attend three successive meetings of any Congress Committee without prior intimation of

his absence shall cease to be a member of the Committee concerned.

Article XXVIII

CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution can be amended, altered or added to only by a Session of the Congress. The AICC shall, however, have authority, except in regard to Article I, to amend, alter or add to the Constitution when the Congress is not in Session, if so desired by the Working Committee, provided that no such addition, alteration or amendment shall be made by the AICC except by a majority of two-third of the members present and voting at a meeting held specially for this purpose after due notice of the proposed changes have been given to each member, at least one month prior to the date of such a meeting. The changes made by the AICC shall be placed before the next Session of the Congress for ratification but they may come into operation even before ratification from such date as may be prescribed by the AICC.

MISCELLANEOUS (RULES)

1. Disqualification of candidates for elections:

(a) Election Officers:

The Pradesh Returning Officers and other Election Officers shall not be eligible to stand as candidates for any Congress election in the area where they function during the time they are in office and for a period of six months thereafter.

(b) Defaulters of subscription or other dues:

- (i) The leaders of the Legislature Congress Parties (in the States and at the Centre) should fix a time-limit within which the members should pay up their contribution every month.*

- (ii) *A member of the Legislature who fails to pay his contributions within the time fixed by the Executive of the Legislature Party shall be debarred from standing for Party or organisational elections.*
- (iii) *The Secretary of the Legislature Congress Party should convey to the Secretary of the PCC and the Secretary of the DCC from time to time information about the members who have failed to pay their dues within the time-limit.*
- (iv) *The Secretaries of the PCCs and the DCCs on receipt of such information should inform the PRO and DROs that such members of the Legislature are ineligible for organisational elections.*
- (v) *Such members will not be eligible for nomination by the PCC or DCCs or the subordinate Congress Committees to any Committee or and Sub-Committee.*
- (vi) *In the event of a member of the Legislature paying his arrears, the Secretary of the Party shall intimate to the Secretary of the PCC and the DCC that the arrears are paid and a similar intimation will be given by the Secretary of the PCC and DCC to the PRO and the DROs. On receipt of such information the PRO and the DROs will declare them as eligible provided such intimation is received by the PRO or DRO concerned at least 24 hours before the time for nomination.*
- (vii) *Congressmen, who are not members of a Legislature and against whom there are any arrears pending, will also be not eligible for organisational elections or to be nominated to any Committee or Sub-Committee.*

2. Method of voting:

Where the Constitution or Rules do not specify the method of election to any office or committee, voting shall be by

ballot and where more than one member has to be elected, it shall be by simple majority.

3. Formation of Congress Committee:

A Congress Committee will be deemed to have been duly constituted provided that at least three-fourths of its members have been duly elected out of the total number of valid members including the reserve quota to be elected. However, in the case of Block Congress Committee, 50% of its Members from the Primary Units will have to be elected for being duly constituted.

4. Term of co-opted members:

The term of the co-opted members shall be co-terminus with that of the elected members of the Committee concerned.

5. Option to choose membership of a Committee:

- (a) *When a member of the PCC or DCC is elected from an area in which he does not reside, he should indicate to the PCC or DCC concerned, in writing, the name of the DCC or Block Congress Committee of which he desires to be a member before their first meeting, failing which he will be deemed to have opted for the DCC or the Block Congress Committee in the area from which he has been elected.*
- (b) *When a member of Parliament or State Legislature is elected from an area coming under more than one subordinate Congress Committee or District Congress Committee, as the case may be he shall be entitled to become an ex-officio member of the subordinate Congress Committee and the District Congress Committee concerned under whose jurisdiction he normally resides.*

6. General:

- (i) *The President of any Congress Committee shall have the authority to remove any of its office-bearers appointed or nominated by him provided he is satisfied that he is not*

discharging his duties to his satisfaction. However, due opportunity shall be given to the office-bearer concerned to explain his position before such an action is taken against him.

- (ii) The President of a Congress Committee shall have the authority to appoint an Acting President for a short period from amongst the Vice-Presidents with the previous permission of the Superior Congress Committee concerned in case he is not able to function as such for a limited period.*
- (iii) Wherever the words “Certified Khadi” occur in this Constitution, it will mean Khadi certified by Khadi Commission or Khadi Boards.*

7. Formation of ad-hoc Committee at the District and Block level:

On the failure of a District or Subordinate Congress Committee or any other lower Congress Committee thereof to be constituted or to function in terms of the Constitution or in accordance with the directions of the superior Committee the latter may suspend the existing Committee and form an ad-hoc committee to carry on Congress work in the area but no DCC shall be superseded, suspended or an ad-hoc Committee constituted by the Pradesh Congress Committee without the prior approval of the Working Committee and similarly no DCC shall supersede or form an ad-hoc subordinate Congress Committee without the prior approval of the PCC concerned. An ad-hoc Committee so constituted shall ordinarily function for a period of three months provided that the period can be extended by three months at a time upto a total period of one year with the approval of the immediate superior Committee. Unless otherwise specified, an ad-hoc Committee shall enjoy the same powers and privileges of a normal Committee.

However, the Working Committee shall have the right to extend the period of an ad-hoc Committee beyond one year under special circumstances.

8. Functioning of Frontal Organisations:

- (a) *Each Frontal Organisation should have its own Constitution. It should have its own membership apart from their membership of the Congress Party. Regular elections should be held at every level. A system also needs to be developed for close co-ordination between the Frontal Organisations and the parent body at every level. More intensive and extensive consultations should be held between the parent body and the Frontal Organisations, especially on policy matter.*
- (b) *Autonomy of the Frontal Organisation should be ensured in regard to the election/selection of functionaries. They should have autonomy in working out their own programmes.*
- (c) *Each Frontal Organisation shall have an Advisory Committee headed by the Congress President. The Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Congress President in consultation with the respective Frontal Organisations.*

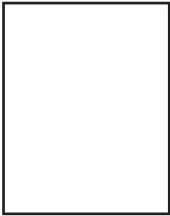
9. Authority to Frame Additional Rules

In the case of any difficulty in implementing any of the provisions made in the Constitution, the Congress President shall have the authority to issue instructions and to frame necessary rules to overcome the difficulty.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Under Article V (A) (a) (i) of the Congress Constitution

Form No.....



I wish to be enrolled as a Member/ renew my Membership of the Indian National Congress. I accept Article I of the Congress Constitution which is as follows:-

“The object of Indian National Congress is the well-being and advancement of the people of India and the establishment in India, by peaceful and constitutional means, of a Socialist State based on Parliamentary Democracy in which there is equality of opportunity and of political, economic and social

rights and which aims at world peace and fellowship.”

I am not a member of any other political party, communal or other, which has a separate membership, Constitution and programme. I herewith deposit Rs. 2.00 as membership subscription for the years.....to.....

Name.....

(* Sex: Male/Female/Transgender (* Tick Mark whichever is applicable

(* Belongs to: SC/ ST/ OBC/Minority (* Tick Mark whichever is applicable

Mother’s /Father’s/Spouse’s name.....

Permanent address.....

Permanent place of residence or place of work.....

Age.....Occupation.....

Mobile No..... Tel. No.....

and E-mail if any.....

Booth Committee/ Unit.....S.No..... Name.....

Name of the Block.....Voter ID.....

.....
Signature or thumb impression
of the applicant

.....
Signature of the enroller

Date.....

Note : Address should be given in full which should be traceable

Note by the Secretary of theDistrict Congress Committee. The above application ofhas been received in this office with Rs.10.00 as membership fee for the yearsto..... which has been deposited by the enroller Shri/Ms. The Serial number in the District Congress Committee Register is

Date.....

.....
Signature of the Secretary
District Congress Committee

Form No.....

Receipt to be given to the Applicant : Receipt No.....Received from Shri/Mshis/her membership form along with the fee of Rs.10.00 (Rupees Ten only) for the yearsto.....

.....
Signature of the enroller
Date.....

.....
Signature of the Secretary
District Congress Committee

DECLARATION

I declare that –

- (i) I am of the age of 18 years and over;
- (ii) I am a habitual wearer of certified Khadi;
- (iii) I abstain from alcoholic drinks and intoxicant drugs;
- (iv) I neither believe in nor practise social discrimination in any shape or form and undertake to work for its removal;
- (v) I believe in an integrated society without distinction of religion or caste;
- (vi) I undertake to perform minimum tasks including manual labour as may be prescribed by the Working Committee;

- (vii) I do not own any property in excess of the ceiling laws;
- (viii) I subscribe to and work for promoting the principles of secularism, socialism and democracy. I shall not, directly or indirectly, openly or otherwise, adversely criticise the accepted policies and programmes of the party, except through party forums.
- (ix) I shall subscribe to the periodicals approved by AICC.
- (x) I shall abide by the conditions laid down and the rules framed under the Constitution of the Indian National Congress.

.....
Signature or thumb impression

Date.....

of the applicant

Object

“The object of Indian National Congress is the well-being and advancement of the people of India and the establishment in India, by peaceful and Constitutional means, of a Socialist State based on Parliamentary Democracy in which there is equality of opportunity and of political, economic and social rights and which aims at world peace and fellowship.”

