

Constitution
of
Lok Satta Party

October 2, 2006

Preamble

Indian people have enjoyed, over the past fifty six years, the fruits of a liberal and noble Constitution given to us by the generation that fought for freedom. The foundations of our democracy are strong and durable and our liberties are genuine.

However, the bulk of the people still suffer from the burdens of discrimination by birth and inadequate opportunities and their potential remains unfulfilled. Avoidable suffering is the lot of the majority of our people. The young people, who today constitute a vast majority of India, have hardly any place in our public affairs. Our antiquated political culture does not suit the aspirations of the new generation which is not burdened by the baggage of the past and is rearing to conquer the future.

Politics has increasingly become the preserve of a new class of entrepreneurs abusing public office for private gain. Excessive centralization, ineffective instruments of rule of law, marginalization of citizens in governance, autocratic political parties and unaccountable exercise of power have led to a perverse political culture and pervasive corruption. In our power-centered politics women continue to be marginalized. The disadvantaged sections who need high quality and reliable public services most, have no real power to determine the priorities of government or improve the outcomes. The middle classes, who should constitute the vanguard of a democratic polity, are increasingly alienated from the political process.

The need of the hour is to foster a new political culture and to create a new political formation for the new generation. The new political culture should be founded in our own liberal traditions and Constitutional values. These values should find expression in a member-controlled, democratic, transparent political process. There must be a harmonious reconciliation between the imperatives of rapid economic growth and the need for social justice and equal opportunities to all. Liberty and human dignity should be preserved and promoted at all costs and the citizen should be at the heart of the political process in the twenty first century.

In the twenty first century we need to build a society completely free from all forms of discrimination by birth and all vestiges of the pernicious caste system. All power should vest with the citizen and governance should be decentralized and restructured, based on the principles of citizen sovereignty and subsidiarity.

Corruption and private gain at public cost must be things of the past and all processes of governance should be transparent and accountable. The state needs to focus on creating conditions for peace and order, opportunities for fulfilling human potential and preventing avoidable suffering and wholesome and sustainable economic growth coupled with social justice. Politics must once again become a moral endeavour promoting human happiness and harmony.

It is with this vision and with a view to rejuvenate our republic and promote inclusive politics and reasoned public discourse that we, like-minded citizens of India, have decided to come together and form a new political formation – Lok Satta Party.

Article I. Name

The Party shall be named as “Lok Satta Party” (hereafter referred to as “The Party” or “Party”).

Article II. Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of ‘The Party’ are:

1. to establish a new political culture which will place the citizen at the centre of governance;
2. to protect the unity and integrity of India at all times and create a secular and just republic in which the citizen will be the true sovereign;
3. to nurture, protect and promote the constitutional values of liberty, justice and equality for all;
4. to create a political, economic and social environment which will ensure equal opportunities for vertical mobility to all sections of society, irrespective of caste, ethnicity, religion, or gender.
5. to eliminate all forms of discrimination by birth and guarantee dignity and opportunity to every citizen irrespective of origin and status; and to promote social equality and justice and fully integrate all disadvantaged sections including dalits, adivasis and socially and economically backward classes;
6. to ensure that every child, irrespective of her origins and socio-economic position, has reasonable access to quality education which will provide an opportunity to fulfill her true potential.
7. to build a viable and effective healthcare system which reaches every man, woman and child and guarantees good health to all, irrespective of economic status or birth;
8. to promote and implement policies aimed at rejuvenation of Indian agriculture, and substantial enhancement of rural incomes and improvement of quality of life;
9. to ensure that every young person acquires adequate knowledge and skills to make her a productive partner in wealth creation and thereby promote gainful employment and economic opportunities;
10. to ensure that every family, rural or urban, gets access to basic amenities of life including housing, sanitation and transport and opportunity for earning a decent livelihood;
11. to provide social security to the vast, underpaid, dispossessed and unorganized sector workers;

12. to empower women and provide opportunities for their economic, social and political advancement;
13. to promote public awareness about democratic functioning of all institutions of governance and encourage reasoned debate and healthy public discourse.
14. to establish a people-centric democratic polity based on liberty, self-governance, empowerment of citizens, rule of law and self-correcting institutional mechanisms.
15. to work for fundamental political, electoral and governance reforms listed below:
 - i. effective separation of legislature, executive and judiciary at all levels with appropriate checks and balances;
 - ii. political reforms which make elections truly democratic, representative and transparent; facilitate and promote the participation of men and women of integrity in the political process and curb electoral malpractices;
 - iii. effective empowerment of local governments at all levels in all respects as participative tiers of constitutional, democratic governance with their own legislature and executive, in a manner that authority and accountability fuse, and the link between vote and public good and taxes and services is fully established;
 - iv. speedy, accessible, effective and affordable justice at all levels to all citizens, irrespective of means and station at birth;
 - v. insulate crime investigation from the vagaries of partisan politics and to make police effective, citizen friendly, accountable and just in all respects;
 - vi. combat corruption and mis-governance through an institutional framework which will enhance transparency and accountability at all levels of administration.

Article III. Allegiance to Constitution

Lok Satta Party shall bear 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 IV. Flag and Logo

1. The Party flag shall also serve as the Party logo.
2. The flag shall be in the form of a rectangle of dark blue colour and bearing a pure white circle, centered in which shall be a five-pointed star of the same

colour as the rectangle. The dimensions, relative spatial arrangement and colors of the flag shall be as prescribed.

3. The dark blue colour symbolizes the vastness, depth and inclusive nature of the ocean in which all streams finally merge.
4. The five-pointed blue star signifies that the Party sets its course by the twinkle of the distant star, and not by the lights of passing ships. The five corners of the star stand for the five pillars of a true democracy: (i) liberty (ii) self-governance (iii) citizen empowerment (iv) rule of law and (v) self-correcting institutions.
5. The white colour of the circle stands for purity. The colour symbolizes unity of purpose and action amidst the diversity in religion, region, caste, language and beliefs.

Article V. Membership

1. The Party shall have two categories of members:
 - Primary Members
 - Active Members
2. The General Council of the Party shall have the power to create other categories of membership from time to time.
3. The primary membership of Lok Satta Party is open to any Indian citizen who has attained the age of 18 years and who abides by the Party's constitution.
4. Any individual who has a prior record of indulging in criminal, corrupt and/or morally reprehensible behaviour will not be eligible to be a member of Lok Satta Party.
5. In addition to meeting the criteria for a primary member, an active member shall satisfy the criteria prescribed for active membership.
6. Primary and active members of the Party shall pay the prescribed membership fee.
7. The enrolment and renewal of membership shall be as per the procedure prescribed.
8. Both primary and active membership shall ordinarily be valid for a period of 3 years from the date of enrolment. However, in an election year, membership is renewable before a date specified by the Party irrespective of the date of enrolment.

Article VI. Organizational Structure

The Party shall have a five-tier organizational structure comprising the following units:

1. Primary unit at the village panchayat, municipal ward, city corporation division or at all such other levels as the Party may prescribe.
2. Intermediate unit at the intermediate panchayat, municipality, municipal corporation, or at such other levels as the Party may prescribe.
3. District Unit at the district or at such other levels as the Party may prescribe.
4. State Unit at the state, union territory or such other levels as the Party may prescribe.
5. National Party at the national level.

Note 1: *Party members representing professionals, women, youth, students and other similar categories may form separate groups as part of the primary and intermediate levels and at such other levels as may be prescribed.*

Note 2: *The party may provide for affiliation of organizations and associations of like-minded citizens from time to time.*

Article VII. Party Elections

1. All elections within the Party shall be through a system of Single Transferable Vote (STV) and preferential voting system as prescribed.
2. All elections shall be by secret ballot.
3. The eligibility criteria to vote in the Party elections shall be as prescribed.

Article VIII. Leadership and Office Bearers

1. There shall be a Coordinator, Secretary and Treasurer at all levels of the Party.
2. The Coordinator of primary unit shall be directly elected by all members of the Party at that level. At all other levels the Coordinator shall be directly elected by all active members of the Party at the respective level.
3. The elected Coordinator shall function as the chief executive of the Party unit at that level.
4. At the primary, intermediate and district levels, the Secretary, Treasurer and other office bearers shall be elected by the General Council as prescribed.
5. At the state and national levels, the Secretary, Treasurer and other office bearers shall be appointed by the Coordinator as prescribed.
6. There may be various categories of office bearers whose title, numeric strength and responsibilities shall be as prescribed.
7. Unless otherwise specified the term of all office bearers for all organs of the Party shall be 3 years.
8. Party units representing professionals, women, youth, students and other such groups, shall have an elected Convenor.

Article IX. Party Organs

1. To assist in its functioning, the Party shall have the following organs at all levels:
 - General Council
 - Working Committee
 - Executive Committee
2. The Coordinator shall be the chairperson and chief executive for all Party organs at the respective levels.
3. Members of the Party elected to various legislative bodies such as state legislatures, local governments and Parliament may form legislative committees, which shall function under the working committees at the respective Party levels.

Article X. Primary Unit

There shall be a Working Committee constituted by (i) office bearers, and (ii) elected members numbering not less than 7 and not more than the maximum strength prescribed.

Article XI. Intermediate Unit

There shall be a Working Committee constituted by (i) office bearers, and (ii) elected members numbering not less than 11 and not more than the maximum strength prescribed.

Article XII. District Unit

There shall be a Working Committee constituted by (i) office bearers, and (ii) elected members numbering not less than 15 and not more than the maximum strength prescribed.

Article XIII. State Unit

1. There shall be an elected State Working Committee with not less than 25 members and not more than the maximum strength prescribed.
2. The State Coordinator shall appoint the State Secretary, State Treasurer and other office bearers, as necessary, from among the members of the State Working Committee.

Article XIV. National Party

1. There shall be an elected National Working Committee with not less than 31 members and not more than the maximum strength prescribed.
2. The National Coordinator shall appoint National Secretary, National Treasurer and other office bearers, as necessary, from among the members of the National Working Committee.
3. Until such time that the Party has more than one state unit, the state unit of Andhra Pradesh shall function as the National Party.

Article XV. General Council

1. General Council is the general body of the Party and shall be constituted at all levels other than at the primary level with elected, ex-officio and co-opted members as prescribed.
2. The General Council at the primary level shall be constituted with all the members.
3. The General Council at all other levels shall be constituted as prescribed.
4. In constituting the General Council, excepting at the primary level, the Party shall have the right to give appropriate weightage to units from municipal corporations, regions, states and union territories based on factors such as total membership and the number of elected representatives.
5. The General Council at the primary and intermediate levels shall elect all office bearers excepting Coordinator as prescribed.
6. The General Council at the district, state and national levels shall elect the working committees at the respective levels as prescribed.
7. Only the elected and ex-officio members of the General Council shall have the right to vote in electing office bearers.
8. The ex-officio members of the General Council shall be as prescribed.
9. The General Council and the office bearers authorized by it shall have the authority to take decisions on behalf of the Party.

Article XVI. Executive Committee

1. At the primary level, the Working Committee will also function as the Executive Committee.

2. There shall be an Executive Committee constituted at all levels of the Party, excepting at the primary level, with office bearers, elected members of the Working Committee and the Coordinators of the immediate lower level Party units.
3. The Executive Committee shall exercise all powers and functions of the General Council and be responsible for implementation of policies framed by the General Council.

Article XVII. Working Committee

1. A Working Committee shall be constituted, at all levels, with the Coordinator, office bearers and members elected by the respective General Councils as prescribed.
2. The National General Council shall prescribe the strength and the manner in which State Working Committees will be constituted.
3. The State General Council shall prescribe the strength and the manner in which Working Committees at all levels within the state will be constituted.
4. The Working Committee shall be responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the Party.
5. The Working Committee at the district level shall have the authority to constitute sub committees to assist in its functioning. The Working Committee shall decide the composition of the sub committee and the manner in which they will function.

Article XVIII. Co-Option

1. Excepting at the Primary level, the General Council of the Party at all other levels shall have the right to co-opt a certain number or percentage of their total membership as prescribed.
2. At the National and State levels, the Coordinator shall have the authority to co-opt members to the Working Committee.
3. The co-opted members may be chosen from among the active members of the Party.
4. Co-opted members shall not have the right to vote but will have the eligibility to contest for any office.
5. Co-opted members who are appointed as office bearers shall have voting rights.

Article XIX. Filling Vacancies

If for any reason, a vacancy arises for any elected office at any level of the Party, the concerned Electoral Authority shall fill the vacancy only for the remainder of that term, as prescribed.

Article XX. Powers of the Coordinator

The Coordinator:

1. at all levels shall have substantial powers in discharging his duties as the chief executive of the Party unit.
2. at all levels shall have the power to assign specific responsibilities to office bearers and members of the working committee.
3. at all levels shall have the deciding vote in case of a tie.
4. at state and national levels shall have the power to appoint any individual to assist in the functioning of the Party.
5. at state and national levels shall have the right to propose and recommend any major policy, subject to the ratification of the General Council.
6. at state and national levels, shall have the right to constitute sub-committees from members elected to the general council at the respective levels, or others, to assist in the functioning of Party.
7. at state and national levels shall have the right to suspend any Party member for breach of discipline.

Article XXI. Electoral Authority

1. An autonomous Electoral Authority shall be constituted as prescribed.
2. The eligibility criteria to be a member of the Electoral Authority and the term of the members and/or office bearers of the Electoral Authority shall be as prescribed.
3. The Electoral Authority shall:
 - a. oversee the process of enrolment of members;
 - b. maintain the membership rolls at various levels of the Party;
 - c. conduct internal Party elections at all levels of the Party as prescribed;
 - d. conduct primary elections for selecting Party candidates for elective office;
 - e. conduct elections to fill any vacancies that arise at any level of the Party;

- f. conduct a recall election if warranted;
 - g. receive complaints in respect of active membership enrolment and conduct of elections and forward the same to the Disciplinary Authority concerned . Based on the recommendations of the Disciplinary Authority it shall dispose of the complaints. The decision of the Electoral Authority in this regard shall be implemented by the Party unit.
4. If there is a dispute over an election at any level an appeal shall lie to the Electoral Authority at the next higher level. If there is a dispute at the National level the appeal shall lie to a Committee constituted by the National Coordinator.
 5. If there is a dispute over the election of the National Coordinator an appeal shall lie to a committee constituted by the National General Council.

Article XXII . Electoral College

1. All Party members at the primary level shall constitute the Electoral College for electing the Coordinator.
2. At all other levels, active members of the Party at that level shall constitute the Electoral College, for electing the Coordinator.
3. At primary, intermediate and district levels, the elected and ex-officio members of the General Council shall constitute the Electoral College for electing the office bearers and Working Committee.
4. At the state and national levels, the elected and ex-officio members of the General Council shall constitute the Electoral College for electing the Working Committee.

Article XXIII . Selection of Candidates

Selection of Party candidates for local, state, national legislatures and other elective bodies shall be through a democratic process, as may be prescribed.

Article XXIV. Motion to Challenge and Recall

1. There shall be a provision to challenge and recall the Coordinator at all levels of the Party as prescribed.
2. There shall be a provision to challenge and unseat any office bearer at all levels of the Party as prescribed.

Article XXV. Gender and Social Equity

1. The Party shall endeavour to ensure equitable and fair representation to women at all levels.
2. The Party shall endeavour to ensure equitable and fair representation to traditionally weaker and marginalized sections of society such as BCs/SCs/STs/other minorities at all levels.
3. The Party shall adopt proactive affirmative action based approach to ensure gender and social equity, as prescribed.

Article XXVI. Disciplinary Authority

1. An autonomous Disciplinary Authority shall be constituted as prescribed.
2. The Disciplinary Authority shall frame the procedure for conducting disciplinary and appeal proceedings.
3. The Disciplinary Authority may have chapters at different levels of the Party to assist in its functioning.
4. The Disciplinary Authority shall:
 - a. receive and investigate complaints received against any member, active member or office bearer of the Party and recommend appropriate disciplinary action.
 - b. take *suo motu* cognizance of any news or information against any member, active member or office bearer of the Party and conduct appropriate investigation;
 - c. investigate the complaints forwarded by the Party electoral authority and send its finding to it;
 - d. reject any complaints on appropriate grounds which shall be communicated to the complainant in writing;
 - e. dispose of all disciplinary proceedings within the time frame prescribed;

- f. provide an opportunity for one appeal to the next level of the Disciplinary Authority.

Explanation: *Free and fair expression of views on policy issues within Party fora, and legitimate challenge of leadership in a manner prescribed by this Constitution shall not constitute grounds for disciplinary action.*

5. In exceptional circumstances, there may be a final appeal to a committee constituted by the National Coordinator.
6. The Disciplinary Authority shall have the power to impose the following penalties:
 - a. Suspension of membership
 - b. Change in the membership category
 - c. Removal from office
 - d. Expulsion from the Party

Article XXVII. Resources and Accounts

1. The Party units at national, state, district and other such levels as authorized by the State General Council shall maintain a bank account.
2. The Coordinator shall designate office bearers to operate the account, jointly.
3. Donations to the Party and membership fee should be duly acknowledged by a receipt.
4. All donations above the limit prescribed by the Party shall be received only in the form of a cheque.
5. Annual statement of accounts should be prepared at all levels and should be submitted to the General Council after approval by the Executive Committee,.
6. At the district, state and national levels, the treasurer should submit an audited statement of accounts ratified by the Executive Committee to the General Council.

Article XXVIII. Rules and Regulations

1. The National General Council shall be empowered to make appropriate rules and regulations for better functioning of the Party by a simple majority.
2. The National General Council shall have the power to frame appropriate code of conduct for all members and office bearers of the Party.

Article XXIX. Amendments to the Constitution

1. Any amendments to the Party Constitution shall be made with the approval of two-thirds of total members and not less than three-fourths of members present and voting at the National General Council.
2. Notice of intent to propose any amendment to the Party Constitution should be given at least 30 days before the scheduled meeting of the National General Council.

Article XXX. Merger or Dissolution

1. A requisition meeting of the National General Council shall be convened with thirty days advance notice to consider any proposal for merger or dissolution of the Party.
2. The resolution for merger or dissolution should be approved by two-thirds of the total members or three-fourths of the members present at the specially-convened meeting of the National General Council.
3. Such resolution should be approved through a ballot by at least 51 % of the active members of the Party

Article XXXI. Statutory Meetings

The various organs of the Party shall meet regularly as prescribed.

Article XXXII. Requisition and Emergency Meetings

There shall be a provision for convening Requisition and Emergency meetings of various organs of the Party as prescribed.

Article XXXIII. Quorum

1. One-third of the total membership shall constitute the quorum for the General Council at all levels of the Party.
2. 51% of the total membership shall constitute the quorum for the Executive and Working Committees at all levels of the Party.

Rules & Regulations

1. Dimensions and Colours of Party Flag (Article IV)

Dimensions:

- i. The ratio between the length (longer side) and the breadth (shorter side) of the Rectangle in the Lok Satta Party Flag and Logo shall be 3:2 irrespective of the overall dimensions. The rectangle shall be of dark blue colour as prescribed.
- ii. The white circle shall overlay the dark blue rectangle and shall have a diameter of 76% of the breadth (shorter side) of the rectangle.
- iii. The five-pointed blue star shall be symmetric all (a)round and shall lie entirely within the white Circle. When measured from the center, the corners of the star shall lie at 87% of the half-diameter of the circle.

Relative Spatial Arrangement:

- iv. The white circle is centered both vertically and horizontally, inside the Rectangle.
- v. The five-pointed, blue star is centered, both vertically and horizontally, inside the Rectangle.

Colours:

- vi. The dark blue colour of the Rectangle and the five-pointed star is the result of mixing of standard colours of cyan and magenta, in the ratio of 89% and 70%, respectively.
- vii. The pure white colour of the circle is obtained by combining, in equal measure, all colours of the spectrum.

2. Membership Enrolment Procedure (Article V)

- i. Any individual aspiring to become a primary member should make an application in the prescribed form to the Electoral Authority or a person designated. On being satisfied with the correctness of the information furnished, the Electoral Authority shall accord primary membership to the applicant and inform the primary unit and the applicant.

- ii. Any individual aspiring to become an active member should make an application in the prescribed form along with a signed affidavit in the prescribed format to the Electoral Authority or a person designated.
- iii. Applications for active membership shall be displayed by the Electoral Authority calling for objections, if any.
- iv. Objections against aspiring active members may be submitted by existing members in writing, within fifteen days from the date of notification.
- v. Any complaints or objections received will be forwarded to the Party Disciplinary Authority by the Electoral Authority.
- vi. In the absence of any objections the Electoral Authority will accord active membership within twenty days of receipt of application.
- vii. The recommendation of the Disciplinary Authority shall be taken into account by the Electoral Authority in accepting or rejecting an application for active membership.
- viii. The reasons for rejecting the application for active membership should be communicated in writing to the applicant.
- ix. The Electoral Authority shall maintain a Register of members at all levels. A copy of the Membership Register shall be made available to the respective Party units.

3. Membership Fee (Article V)

- i. The membership fee for a primary member is Rs.25.
- ii. The membership fee for an active member is Rs. 25 in addition to the annual donation prescribed under rule 5 (ii).

4. Procedure for Renewal of Membership (Article V)

- i. Primary membership can be renewed every 3 years by submitting the completed renewal form and paying the membership fee of Rs. 25.
- ii. Active membership can be renewed every 3 years, by submitting the completed renewal form and payment of Rs.25, along with proof of having complied with the requirements under rules.

5. Eligibility Criteria for Active Members (Article V)

Any individual aspiring to become an active member of the Party should meet the eligibility criteria prescribed below:

- i. Should be able to complete and submit the membership application form in his/her own hand writing.
- ii. Shall donate, annually, a part of his/her income to the Party as prescribed below:
 - Rs. 50 for members whose annual income is less than Rs. 50,000
 - Rs. 100 for members whose annual income is more than Rs. 50,000 and less than Rs. 1,00,000.
 - Rs. 300 for members whose annual income is more than Rs. 1,00,000 and less than Rs. 2,00,000.
 - Half percent of the annual income for members whose annual income is more than Rs. 2,00,000 and less than 5,00,000.
 - One percent of annual income for members whose annual income is more than Rs. 5,00,000.
- iii. Should subscribe to the Party magazine/newspaper.
- iv. Should either take responsibility for a specific Party activity, or participate in an activity suggested by the Party.
- v. Should undergo the prescribed training .
- vi. Should follow the prescribed code of conduct.
- vii. Should fulfill such other criteria as prescribed from time to time.

6. Code of Conduct for Active Members (Article XXVIII)

All active members of Lok Satta Party shall abide by the code of conduct prescribed below.

- i. Active Members of Lok Satta Party shall not:***
 - a. discriminate against any one on the basis of caste, religion, region and gender.
 - b. make any personal recommendations of any nature on behalf of the Party.
 - c. aspire to profit from any activity using the Party and the office.
 - d. indulge in any electoral malpractices such as bribing voters with money, liquor or any other such similar means.
 - e. indulge in any behaviour which will encourage groupism and nepotism.

- f. indulge in any personality based politics.
- g. make politics a source of income or livelihood.
- ii. Active Members of Lok Satta Party shall:**
 - a. exhibit the highest standards of ethical and moral behaviour.
 - b. promote politics as a means to public good.
 - c. have the right to freely express his/her views in the Party internal fora.
 - d. adhere to positions approved by the Party, in public discourse and for a.
 - e. respect the decision of the majority with grace and humility.
 - f. be a team player with the capacity to work with others for common purpose.
 - g. respect the right of the minority to differ.
 - h. issue a duly signed receipt in token of acceptance of contributions to the Party.
 - i. abide by the financial code of conduct prescribed by the Party.
- iii. All elected office bearers of the Party at the district, state and national levels shall file an annual financial disclosure statement with the Party.

7. Affirmative action for ensuring gender, youth, and social equity (Article XXV)

- i. At all levels, one-third of all elected positions in all organs of the Party shall be reserved for women and one-third for weaker sections of the society. This provision shall not be applicable to positions automatically filled by ex-officio members.
- ii. In all units other than at Primary unit at least 50% of the members of General Council shall be of less than 40 years age. If this requirement is not complied with the eldest members other than the office bearers shall be treated as special invitees and the vacancies arising shall be filled by those who are less than 40 years of age.
- iii. In positions reserved for BC/SC/ST/other minorities, any member from these sections will be eligible to contest. In other words, this will be treated as a block quota and there will be no separate reservation for each group.
- iv. The positions reserved for women shall be open for women from any section of the society.
- v. The office of the Coordinator, at all levels of the Party, and the office of the Secretary, up to district level, shall be open for all active members of the Party to contest.

**8. Constitution of General Council
(Article XV)**

- i. The National General Council shall be constituted with the following members
 - a. The National Coordinator as chairperson.
 - b. Coordinators and Secretaries of all State units as ex-officio members.
 - c. Prescribed number of members elected from each State General Council, out of which one-third shall be women and one-third from BC/SC/ST/other minorities.
 - d. Co-opted members, not exceeding 10% of the membership of the General Council
- ii. The General Council of the State Unit shall be constituted with the following members
 - a. The State Coordinator as chairperson.
 - b. Coordinators and Secretaries of all District units as ex-officio members.
 - c. 9 members elected from each district general council out of which one-third shall be women and one-third from BC/SC/ST/other minorities.
 - d. Co-opted members, not exceeding twenty in number.
- iii. The General Council of the District Unit shall be constituted with the following members:
 - a. The District Coordinator as chairperson.
 - b. Coordinators and Secretaries of all intermediate units as ex-officio members.
 - c. 3 members elected from each intermediate general council out of which one shall be a woman and one from BC/SC/ST/other minorities.
 - d. Co-opted members, not exceeding ten in number.
- iv. The Intermediate General Council shall be constituted with the following members:
 - a. The Coordinator of the intermediate unit as chairperson.
 - b. Coordinators and Secretaries of all primary units and Convenors of Professional, Women, Youth, Students and other such groups at Intermediate level as ex-officio members.
 - c. 6 members elected from the General Council of each primary unit out of which one-third shall be women and one-third from BC/SC/ST/other minorities.
 - d. Co-opted members, not exceeding five in number.

**9. Filling of Vacancies
(Article XIX)**

The Electoral Authority shall conduct a special election for filling any vacancy only if more than one-third of the term of office is remaining. If the balance term of office is one-third of the term or less, the following arrangements shall be made

- a) At the primary and intermediate levels of the Party if a vacancy arises for the position of Coordinator, the Secretary shall act as Coordinator.
- b) At the district, state and national levels, if a vacancy arises for any elected office the Executive Committee shall choose a replacement for that office

10. Procedure to Challenge and Recall Coordinator (Article XXIV)

- i. To challenge and recall a Coordinator at any level of the Party a notice backed by a resolution approved by two-thirds of the voting members of the General Council at a requisition meeting, or a notice signed by one-fourth of all active members at that level should be submitted to the Electoral Authority.
- ii. The Electoral Authority shall verify the veracity of such notice and if satisfied, conduct a recall election within 3 months from the date of receiving the notice.
- iii. The Coordinator can be unseated by a majority vote in a recall election.

11. Procedure to Challenge any other Office Bearer (Article XXIV)

- i. To challenge any elected office bearer, other than the Coordinator at any level of the Party, a resolution by one-third of the voting members of the General Council at that level is mandatory.
- ii. Any elected office bearer other than the Coordinator, at any level of the Party, can be unseated by a resolution passed by a majority of the voting members of the General Council at a requisitioned meeting.

12. Limit for Donations in Cash (Article XXVII)

Donations less than Rs.10,000 (Rupees Ten Thousand) may be accepted in cash, which, however, shall be acknowledged by a receipt.

13. Conduct of Meetings (Article XXXI, XXXII)

- i. At all levels of the Party, meetings of all organs excepting those of the disciplinary and electoral authorities shall be chaired by the concerned Coordinator..
- ii. The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the proceedings of the meetings and the same shall be approved by the president of the meeting.

**14. Statutory Meetings
(Article XXXI)**

- i. The statutory meetings of various Party organs at different levels shall be held as prescribed below:

	Working Committee	Executive Committee	General Council
National Party	Once every 60 days	Once every 3 months	Once a year
State Unit	Once every 30 days	Once every 3 months	Once every 6 months
District Unit	Once every 30 days	Once every 3 months	Once every 6 months
Intermediate Unit	Once every 15 days	Once every 2 months	Once every 4 months
Primary Unit	Not Applicable	Once every 15 days	Once every 2 months

- ii. Notice Period
 - a. A statutory meeting of the Executive Committee at the intermediate, district, state and national levels shall be convened with a 10 day notice.
 - b. A statutory meeting of the General Council at the intermediate, district, state and national levels shall be convened with a 15 day notice.

**15. Requisitioned Meeting
(Article XXXII)**

A Requisitioned Meeting of any Party organ at any level shall be convened with the support of one-third of the members of that organ with a 15-day notice.

16. Emergency Meeting (Article XXXII)

An Emergency Meeting of any Party organ at any level can be convened at any time at short notice.

17. Electoral Authority (Article XXI)

- i. The National Working Committee shall constitute the National Electoral Authority with a Chair Person and at least 2 and no more than 8 members as a permanent organ of the Party.
- ii. The National Working Committee shall appoint such members or other individuals to the National Electoral Authority who are known for their integrity and neutrality.
- iii. The term of office for members of the National Electoral Authority shall be six years.
- iv. One-third of the members of the National Electoral Authority shall retire every 2 years and the vacancies shall be filled by the National Working Committee.
- v. The State, District and Intermediate level Electoral Authorities may be constituted with no less than three and no more than five members.
- vi. The National Electoral Authority shall appoint members of the State, District and Intermediate level Electoral Authorities from a panel recommended by the respective state, district and intermediate level Working Committees.
- vii. The State, District and Intermediate level Electoral Authorities shall function under the guidance of the National Electoral Authority. The National Electoral Authority shall be empowered to remove from office an erring member of the lower level Electoral Authorities.
- viii. The Electoral Authority at different levels shall conduct all internal Party elections before the term of office of the elected members expires.
- ix. The Electoral Authority shall conduct an election to fill any vacancy in no more than 45 days from the date of receiving a notice from the Coordinator.
- x. If warranted the Electoral Authority shall conduct a recall election within 3 months of receiving notice.
- xi. The National Working Committee is empowered to remove from office any erring member of the National Electoral Authority.
- xii. The members of the Electoral Authority at any level shall not be eligible to contest in any Party elections.

18. Disciplinary Authority

(Article XVI)

- i. The National Working Committee shall constitute the National Disciplinary Authority with a Chair Person and at least two and no more than eight members.
- ii. The National Working Committee shall appoint such members or other individuals to the National Disciplinary Authority who are known for their integrity and neutrality.
- iii. The State, District and Intermediate level Disciplinary Authorities may be constituted with no less than three and no more than five members.
- iv. The National Disciplinary Authority shall appoint members of the State, District and Intermediate level Disciplinary Authorities, from a panel recommended by the respective state, district and intermediate Working Committees.
- v. The State, District and Intermediate level Disciplinary Authorities shall function under the guidance of the National Disciplinary Authority. The National Disciplinary Authority shall be empowered to remove from office an erring member of the lower level Disciplinary Authorities.
- vi. All disciplinary proceedings at the sub-district level shall be disposed of in less than 2 months from the date of receiving the initial complaint, or start of disciplinary proceedings.
- vii. All disciplinary proceedings at the district, state and national levels shall be disposed of in less than 3 months from the date of receiving the initial complaint, or start of disciplinary proceedings.
- viii. Any subsequent appeal to a higher authority shall be disposed of in no more than 30 days.
- ix. The National Working Committee shall be empowered to remove from office, any erring member of the National Disciplinary Authority.
- x. The members of the Disciplinary Authority at any level shall not be eligible to contest in any Party elections.

**19. Functions of the Coordinator
(Article VIII)**

The Coordinator shall

- i. provide effective leadership to the Party unit in implementing various Party activities and programmes;
- ii. preside over the meetings of the General Council Working Committee and Executive Committee at that level;
- iii. assign specific responsibilities to Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and other office bearers;
- iv. cast a tie breaking vote when warranted;
- v. notify the Electoral Authority within 15 days when a vacancy arises;

**20. Functions of the Secretary
(Article VIII)**

The Secretary shall

- i. with the consent of the Coordinator convene meetings, issue circulars and agendas, as well as organize the meetings;
- ii. present a report of Party activities;
- iii. execute the specific responsibilities entrusted by the Coordinator.

**21. Functions of the Treasurer
(Article VIII)**

The treasurer or the office bearer entrusted with financial responsibilities shall

- i. maintain the income and expenditure account of the Party unit;
- ii. for all Party units above the district level, submit an audited statement of accounts ratified by the executive committee to the general council;
- iii. for all Party units at the sub-district level, submit a statement of accounts ratified by the executive committee to the general council;
- iv. fulfill the regulatory requirements as prescribed by the Representation of People Act, or any other such similar state or national law governing political parties.
