

Party emblem: CCTV camera (கண்காணிப்பு கேமரா). Illustration; the final artwork is adopted by the General Body under Article 1(3).

CONSTITUTION

of

NALLAATCHI KATCHI

நல்லாட்சிக் கட்சி

TEXT PLACED BEFORE THE FOUNDING MEETING, 18 OCTOBER 2026

This is the text placed before the founding meeting of Nallaatchi Katchi on 18 October 2026. It becomes the Party's constitution only if that meeting adopts it. The date of adoption and the place of the meeting are recorded on the last page, which is completed only after adoption.

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Part 1: Name, office, allegiance and aims

Article 1. Name, flag and emblem

(1) The name of the party is Nallaatchi Katchi (Tamil: நல்லாட்சிக் கட்சி), called "the Party" in this constitution.

(2) The Party has no official abbreviation unless the General Body adopts one and the Election Commission of India is informed.

(3) The Party's emblem is a surveillance camera (CCTV camera; Tamil: கண்காணிப்பு கேமரா), standing for the people keeping watch over how public money is spent. The Party's flag and emblem are adopted by the General Body and recorded in its minutes. They are the Party's own identity marks and are not an election symbol. An election symbol is allotted only by the Election Commission of India under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968. The Party may apply for the CCTV camera as its common symbol for an election if it is available under that Order at that time, but no symbol is reserved for the Party permanently.

Article 2. Head office and service address

(1) The head office of the Party is at Second Floor, EWS 366, Phase-2, Kamarajar Salai, 2nd South Extension, HB Colony, Anbu Nagar, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu - 627 011.

(2) Letters and notices for the Party, including those from the Election Commission of India, are sent to the head office. The General Secretary is responsible for receiving them, recording them and making sure they are answered.

(3) The General Body may move the head office, or choose a different service address, by resolution. The Party shall inform the Election Commission of India of the change without delay.

Article 3. Allegiance to the Constitution of India

Nallaatchi Katchi 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 4. Basic principles and aims

(1) Democracy, socialism, secularism, social justice, equality, and the rule of law are the basic tenets of the Party. The Party is committed to securing for all citizens Justice (social, economic, and political), Liberty of thought and expression, Equality of status and opportunity, and Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual.

(2) The Party shall not, in any manner, promote or instigate or participate in violence.

(3) The aims of the Party, in keeping with the Constitution of India, are:

(a) Nallaatchi (good governance): transparent, accountable and corruption-free administration, with a public account of how public money is spent.

(b) Pasumai (green development): protecting rivers, tanks, forests and farmland, and supporting sustainable agriculture.

(c) Valarchi (inclusive growth): fair access to welfare schemes, education, health care, jobs and rural infrastructure for every citizen, without discrimination.

(d) Helping citizens use their legal rights, including grievance petitions and the Right to Information Act, 2005.

(e) Contesting elections through peaceful, democratic and constitutional means.

(4) Help that the Party gives to citizens with grievances, or with access to public schemes, is not conditional on joining the Party, donating to it or supporting any candidate. The Party shall never promise a particular government outcome. If a service centre operates in the Party's name, its records and money are kept and audited as Party records.

(5) No person may use the Party's name, flag, emblem, letterhead or any service centre to collect money except as Article 12 allows, to threaten or pressure any official, to settle private disputes, to impose fines, to promise government benefits, or to run any local enforcement group. No weapons, and no private security or "protection" groups, are allowed at Party events or offices.

(6) In decisions on the environment, public finance and natural resources, the Party considers the interests of future generations.

Part 2: Membership

Article 5. Membership

(1) Any citizen of India who is 18 years of age or more may become a member of the Party. There shall be no discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, language, place of birth or any other ground, and no political, financial or educational test is applied.

(2) A person may not be a member of the Party and of any other political party at the same time.

(3) To join, a person completes the Party's membership form, states that the person accepts this constitution, and signs it or puts a thumb impression on it.

(4) The Constituency Committee admits applicants in its constituency. Until that Committee is constituted, the State Executive Committee does so. An applicant may be refused only because the applicant is not eligible under clause (1) or (2), has not completed the acceptance required by clause (3), is already on the register, gave false information, or is barred under Schedule 2, rule 3. Written reasons are given.

(5) The admitting body decides within 30 days. If it does not, or if the applicant appeals against a refusal within 30 days, the applicant may ask the Appeals Committee (Article 13(2)) for an expedited decision, which it gives within 14 days. Delay by any body never results in automatic admission. Every delay and its reason are recorded and reported to the next General Body meeting. Admission obtained by giving false information may be cancelled under Article 13.

(6) No fee is charged for membership.

(7) Founding members are the persons entered in the Founding Membership Register under Article 18(3). They have the same rights and duties as all other members.

(8) The General Secretary keeps a Membership Register at the head office. It records each member's name, Member ID, address, mobile number, Assembly Constituency, Unit and date of joining. The date of joining is the date of admission under this Article. The register does not record caste or religion. Any survey of social inclusion is voluntary and anonymous and is reported only as totals.

(9) The General Secretary updates the register as changes occur, and reconciles it once a year with the electoral roll, resignations and transfers. A member belongs to the Unit of the village panchayat or ward where the member is registered as an elector, except as clause (14) provides. A member who changes electoral-roll address is moved to the new Unit when the General Secretary records it, but no move takes effect between the day an election notice is published and the day results are certified. Duplicate records are merged, with written notice to the member. A member may correct personal details at any time by writing to the General Secretary.

(10) Full personal details in the register are open only to the General Secretary, the Treasurer for receipts, the Election Officer for elections, and persons the State Executive Committee authorises in writing for a stated purpose. A voters' list published for an election shows only names, Member IDs and Units. Member data is used only for stated Party purposes, is never sold or shared for commercial use, and is never used to profile members by caste or religion. Every access is logged, any bulk export needs the written approval of two office bearers, and any breach is reported to the State Executive Committee and to the members affected and put right without delay. The General Body may approve detailed Data Protection Rules.

(11) Membership ends when the member resigns in writing (from the day the resignation is received and recorded), joins another political party, dies, or is expelled under Article 13.

(12) A member in good standing is a member whose name is on the register and who is not suspended. A suspended member keeps the right to receive notices and to appeal, but may not vote, stand for election or exercise any office while suspended.

(13) To prevent sudden enrolment from deciding internal contests, a member may vote in an organisational election only if admitted at least 90 days before the count date, and may stand for any Party post only if admitted at least 180 days before the count date. A member may stand in a primary for a Party candidacy in Parliament, the Legislative Assembly or a local body only if admitted at least one year before the primary is announced, unless the State Executive Committee waives this for every nominee in that primary alike, by two-thirds of its members with written reasons, for example for an election called early. Founding members are exempt from these periods until the first organisational election is completed.

(14) A member who is eligible under clause (1) but is not yet on the electoral roll, or is registered as an elector outside Tamil Nadu, belongs to the Unit and Constituency Group of the place in Tamil Nadu where the member ordinarily lives or, if there is none, is attached to the State Executive Committee. For the election of General Body delegates, the members attached to the State Executive Committee together form one Constituency Group; if they are fewer than 10, the State Executive Committee combines them with the group of the Assembly Constituency in which the head office is situated. Only members registered as electors are counted as members in any filing with the Election Commission of India.

Article 6. Rights and duties of members

(1) Every member in good standing has the right to:

(a) vote in the elections of the bodies in which the member is entitled to vote, and stand for any Party post under this constitution;

(b) attend and speak at meetings of the member's Unit, and at General Body meetings while the General Body consists of all members;

(c) see the Party's audited annual accounts and the voters' list of any election in which the member may vote;

(d) receive written notice and a fair hearing before any disciplinary action;

(e) raise a grievance at any level of the Party and appeal as this constitution provides;

(f) petition any Party body in writing, and receive an acknowledgment within 7 days and a reasoned reply within 30 days, with a complaint to the Members' Ombudsman (Article 13(15)) if none comes.

(2) Every member has the duty to:

(a) obey the Constitution of India, this constitution and the law;

(b) never promote or take part in violence, or in hatred based on religion, caste, language or region;

(c) never offer or accept a bribe, or misuse Party money or property;

(d) give true information to the Party;

(e) disclose any personal interest in a matter before a Party body that is deciding it, and stay out of the vote on it.

(3) Honest criticism of Party decisions or leaders inside the Party, complaints to lawful authorities, and reports of misuse of Party funds made in good faith are never misconduct. Threatening, harassing, removing or otherwise disadvantaging a person because of such criticism, complaint or report is serious misconduct under Article 13. Complaints may be made in confidence under Article 13(4).

Part 3: Organisation, office bearers and internal elections

Article 7. Organisation

(1) The Party has four levels: State, where the bodies are the General Body and the State Executive Committee; District, where the body is a District Committee; Assembly Constituency, where the body is a Constituency Committee; and Local, where the body is a Village or Ward Unit. Each body exists only when it is constituted under this Article.

(2) The General Body is the highest body of the Party. It consists of all members in good standing, except where clause (3) provides otherwise. A count date exists only when an organisational election is announced (Article 19(1)(a)).

(3) Clause (3) applies only if the Party has more than 500 members on the count date of an organisational election (exactly 500 is not more than 500). The General Body elected at that election then consists of the delegates elected under clauses (4) to (6), together with the members of the State Executive Committee elected at the same election, who sit in the General Body for their term with one vote each.

(4) For delegate elections, the members registered as electors in one Assembly Constituency form a Constituency Group. A group with fewer than 10 members is combined by the State Executive Committee with a neighbouring group in the same district or, if there is none, with the nearest group in another district, until the combined group has at least 10 members. The combinations are published with the master notice and can be challenged under Schedule 1, rule 16.

(5) Each Constituency Group elects its delegates directly, by secret ballot under Schedule 1. The total number of delegates is the number of members in good standing divided by 10, rounded down, but never more than 300. Delegate seats are shared among the groups in proportion to their members, by the largest-remainder method, and every group of 10 or more members gets at least one seat. Members are counted on the count date. A member votes only in the group where the member is registered and holds only one delegate seat.

(6) A delegate's term is the General Body's term. A vacant delegate seat is filled by the unelected candidate of the same group who received the most votes, if there is one. If there is none, the seat stays vacant until the next election, unless vacant delegate seats exceed one-fifth of all delegate seats, in which case the Election Officer holds by-elections in the affected groups within 90 days.

(7) If membership rises above 500, or falls to 500 or fewer, between organisational elections, the General Body in office continues unchanged until its term ends. The count date of the next organisational election decides whether clause (3) applies at that election.

(8) Any member in good standing who meets the membership period in Article 5(13) and the field service requirement in clause (19) may stand for a State office-bearer post or as one of the eleven other State Executive Committee members (Article 8(1)), whether or not the member is a delegate, if proposed by one member of the electing body and seconded by another. The electing body is all members while clause (2) applies, and the delegates while clause (3) applies. Once members are registered in three or more Constituency Groups of 10 or more members each, the proposer and seconder must come from two different groups, and not more than one-third of the eleven elected seats, rounded down, may go to members registered in the same Assembly Constituency; if the count would break this limit, the next candidate by votes from another constituency takes the seat. A person elected who is not a delegate sits in the General Body for the term of the post.

(9) While the General Body consists of delegates, an outgoing office bearer or Executive member who is not an elected delegate may attend the election meeting and speak but does not vote at it, and has no General Body seat after the new term begins unless elected.

(10) The General Body sets Party policy; elects the State office bearers and the eleven other members of the State Executive Committee; elects the Disciplinary Panel and the Appeals Committee (Article 13(2)) and the Members' Ombudsman (Article 13(14)); appoints the Election Officer (Article 9(4)) and the auditor (Article 12(12)); approves the Finance Schedule (Article 12(9)), the Digital Democracy Rules (Article 9(11)) and the annual accounts; and alone may amend this constitution (Article 14) or decide on merger or dissolution (Articles 15 and 16).

(11) The State Executive Committee is made up of the State office bearers and eleven other members elected by the General Body, seventeen in all while there are six State office bearers. It runs the Party between General Body meetings, carries out General Body decisions, certifies Party candidates under Article 11(14), and reports to every General Body meeting. It has no power to amend this constitution. If fewer than eleven other members are elected, Article 18(6) applies.

(12) A Village or Ward Unit is constituted when at least 5 members in good standing are registered as electors in that village panchayat or ward. It consists of all those members. It elects a Secretary and a Treasurer, who must be two different persons, from among its members. It records public grievances, helps people reach welfare schemes, and carries out Party work in its area.

(13) A Constituency Committee is constituted when at least three Units in the constituency are constituted. Each constituted Unit elects delegates to it: one for every completed 25 members of the Unit and one more for a remaining part of 13 or more, and at least one for every Unit. The Committee elects a Secretary and a Treasurer, who must be two different persons, from among its members. It admits members, organises Units, helps the Election Officer run candidate primaries under Article 11, and leads local campaigns and grievance work.

(14) A District Committee is constituted when at least two Constituency Committees in the district are constituted. Each of them elects three delegates to it from among its own members. The District Committee elects a Secretary and a Treasurer, who must be two different persons, from among its members. It coordinates Party work in the district and reports to the State Executive Committee. A constituency that crosses district boundaries belongs to the district in which most of its members are registered as electors on the count date. If the numbers are equal, the State Executive Committee decides.

(15) Until a Unit, Constituency Committee or District Committee is constituted, its functions are performed by the next higher body that is constituted, and finally by the State Executive Committee. This applies in the founding period and whenever Party work starts in a new area. The State Executive Committee records which body performs the functions for each area and informs the members there. A member is a full member wherever the member lives, whether or not a Unit exists there. Once a body reaches the size needed to be constituted, the Election Officer holds its first election within 90 days, and no Party body may delay it.

(16) Unit boundaries follow village panchayat or ward boundaries. The State Executive Committee may not split, merge or redraw Units to change the number of delegates or the result of an election, or between an election notice and the certified results. Every change is recorded with reasons, and any affected member may challenge it before the Appeals Committee (Article 13(8)).

(17) The State Executive Committee may form a Youth Wing and a Women's Wing for Party members, and sets who is eligible for each wing when forming it. No one under 18 is admitted. A wing elects a convener and other office-holders every three years by secret ballot of its members, under rules the General Body approves. A wing has no separate bank account, reports every year to the State Executive Committee, and its office-holders have no seat or vote in any Party body unless elected to it in the ordinary way. No Party body or wing may be limited to members of one caste, religion or community, and forums on social justice are open to all members.

(18) Every member of every body under this Article is elected. No member of any body is nominated. The Election Officer is appointed under Article 9(4), and the Disciplinary Panel, the Appeals Committee and the Members' Ombudsman are elected under Article 13.

(19) Field service earns the right to stand. The General Secretary keeps a Field Service Register. A Unit or Constituency Secretary records each item of a member's field work for the public: grievance petitions filed or followed up, people helped to reach a public scheme, public meetings or awareness programmes organised, and relief or service-centre work. Enrolling members is Party work and does not count as field service. Each entry shows the date, the place, the evidence (such as a petition acknowledgment or photograph) and a person who can confirm it, and is countersigned by a second office-holder. A Secretary or countersigning office-holder who does not record or countersign an entry gives written reasons within 7 days of the request, and silence for 7 days counts as a refusal. The member may appeal to the Appeals Committee. An office-holder who is a nominee in the same election as the member does not record or countersign that member's entries; another office-holder of the same or the next higher level does so. To stand for the State Executive Committee or a State office-bearer post, a member needs at least 12 verified entries, spread over at least six different months, in the 24 months before the count date; to stand in a candidate primary under Article 11, at least 24, spread over at least twelve different months. The register is open to members, entries may be challenged before the Appeals Committee, and a false entry is misconduct under Article 13. Entries can never be bought or transferred. For the first 24 months after the date of formation, public-service work done before formation also counts, if supported by documents such as petition acknowledgments and verified by the Disciplinary Panel. A nominee's count is published in the nominee profile under Article 11(7).

(20) The State Executive Committee may form advisory councils on subjects such as environment, agriculture, local government, health, education, economy and law. They may include people who are not members, if each discloses their interests. Advisory councils give advice only and have no vote or power in any Party body.

(21) Each matter is decided at the lowest level of the Party able to decide it: a Unit decides Unit matters, a Constituency Committee constituency matters, a District Committee district matters, and the State bodies statewide matters and those this constitution gives them. A higher body may set aside a lower body's decision only if it breaks this constitution or the law, affects the Party beyond that area, or concerns integrity under Schedule 2, and only by a written decision with reasons, which may be challenged under Article 13(13).

Article 8. Office bearers

(1) The State office bearers are the President, the Vice-President, the General Secretary, the Deputy General Secretary, the Treasurer and the Deputy Treasurer. These six posts are the ones constituted when the Party is formed. Later, the General Body may by resolution create one more Vice-President post and one more Deputy General Secretary post, each with written duties, to be filled at the next organisational election or by a vacancy election under clause (14). Any additional post is added to the State Executive Committee.

(2) The General Body elects the State office bearers. No post is hereditary or permanent, and no office bearer has a veto. No person may hold more than one office-bearer post at the same time.

(3) The President, as Chief Executive, provides overall executive leadership to the Party and supervises the implementation of the decisions and policies adopted by the General Body and the State Executive Committee. The President chairs the General Body and the State Executive Committee, and represents the Party in public and before authorities.

(4) The President is the Chief Executive of the Party for the purposes of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and for filings with the Election Commission of India. As Chief Executive, the President signs the application for registration and authenticates every page of this constitution with full signature and the Party seal. Where the law or an election authority requires a particular office bearer or authorised person to sign or furnish a document, that person does so, and nothing in this constitution displaces that requirement.

(5) The Vice-President assists the President in executive administration and organisational affairs, and acts for the President as clause (12) provides.

(6) The General Secretary runs the head office, keeps the Membership Register, the notice register, the minutes and the compliance calendar, issues notices of meetings, and prepares the Party's correspondence with the Election Commission of India (Article 17).

(7) The Treasurer keeps the accounts, the Contribution Register, the receipt books, the bank records and the asset register, reconciles them as Article 12 provides, arranges the annual audit, and presents the accounts to the General Body.

(8) The Secretaries and Treasurers elected under Article 7 have, at their own level, the same duties as the General Secretary and the Treasurer.

(9) The Deputy General Secretary assists the General Secretary in the areas the State Executive Committee assigns in writing, and acts for the General Secretary as clause (12) provides. The Deputy Treasurer assists the Treasurer, keeps the duplicate receipt books and a copy of the Contribution Register, and acts for the Treasurer as clause (12) provides. A second Vice-President or a second Deputy General Secretary, if created, assists in the same way and acts after the first, in the order of election.

(10) The President may allocate administrative and organisational responsibilities among office bearers and members of the State Executive Committee, subject to this constitution. Such an allocation does not create a new office, and it cannot override a decision of the General Body or the State Executive Committee.

(11) In this constitution, an office bearer is absent when unable to act for more than 14 days in a row. A post is vacant on the death of the holder, on the day the holder's written resignation is received and recorded, on removal under Article 13(9), or when the holder's incapacity is declared. Incapacity means being unable to act for 60 days in a row because of illness, detention or another cause. It is declared by a resolution of two-thirds of the other members of the State Executive Committee, passed after written notice to the person or the person's family, and may be appealed to the Appeals Committee (Article 13(8)).

(12) When the President is absent or the post is vacant, the Vice-President acts as President, including as Chief Executive; if there is a second Vice-President, that person acts when the first is also absent or the post is vacant; and if there is none, the General Secretary acts. When the General Secretary is absent or the post is vacant, the Deputy General Secretary acts, in order of election. When the Treasurer is absent or the post is vacant, the Deputy Treasurer acts. If no deputy can act, the State Executive Committee by resolution designates one of its other members to act, but no one may act for the Treasurer while also acting for the President or the General Secretary.

(13) An acting officer has only the powers needed for routine and urgent business, may not approve the officer's own payments or reimbursements, and may act for no more than 90 days. Acting in another office gives a person no extra vote. Bank signatories change only by a recorded resolution of the State Executive Committee.

(14) A vacant post is filled by election by the body that elected the holder, within 90 days. The State Executive Committee shall call the election meeting within 30 days of the vacancy; if it does not, the General Secretary may do so, and if the General Secretary does not, any two members of the Appeals Committee may do so, as Article 10(3) provides for a requisitioned meeting. A person elected to a vacant post serves only the rest of the term.

(15) Within 7 days after a person leaves a post, or an acting arrangement ends, that person hands over to the successor, or to the General Secretary, the minutes, membership records, money, receipt books, bank mandates and cheque books, official correspondence including all correspondence with election authorities, and the passwords and control of the Party's email, website and social media accounts. A written inventory is signed by both. A copy goes to the State Executive Committee, and the bank is told of any change of signatories within the same 7 days.

(16) An elected office bearer may be removed before the end of the term only as Article 13(9) provides.

(17) No person may hold the post of President, General Secretary or Treasurer for more than two full consecutive terms. After a full term out of that post, the person may stand for it again.

(18) Close relatives may not hold together any two of the posts of President, General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary, Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer. While a person holds a State office-bearer post, no close relative of that person may be the Election Officer, the Deputy Election Officer, a member of the Disciplinary Panel or the Appeals Committee, or the Members' Ombudsman or deputy.

(19) Every State office bearer and State Executive Committee member files a written declaration of interests each year, listing businesses, paid posts, directorships, government contracts, and gifts above the limit in the Finance Schedule. A summary that leaves out private details such as account numbers and home addresses is published to members.

(20) The Party's email, website, domain and social media accounts are registered in the Party's name, protected by two-factor authentication, and recoverable by at least two office bearers. No official account may have a personal phone number or email of one person as its only means of recovery.

(21) The Treasurer and the Deputy Treasurer may not be paid by the Party or supply it with goods or services. The Election Officer and the Deputy, the members of both panels and the Members' Ombudsman and deputy may not hold any paid Party contract or work as a paid adviser to anyone standing in a Party ballot. The auditor may not do campaign or consultancy work for the Party.

Article 9. Organisational elections, member ballots and terms of office

(1) Elections to all Party posts and bodies, at every level, are held every three years. A term begins on the day the Election Officer certifies the result, and ends when the result of the next election for that body is certified. No term may last more than three years, except as clause (7) allows, and no term may ever last more than four years.

(2) Elections are held under this Article and Schedule 1, which forms part of this constitution and can be changed only under Article 14. Neither the State Executive Committee nor the Election Officer may change it, or use directions to change anyone's right to vote, stand, nominate or appeal.

(3) Elections at all levels follow one master timetable published by the Election Officer, in this order: Units and delegate elections in Constituency Groups (which may run together), then Constituency Committees, then District Committees, and last the State office bearers, the eleven other members of the State Executive Committee, the Disciplinary Panel, the Appeals Committee and the Members' Ombudsman.

(4) The General Body appoints an Election Officer and a Deputy Election Officer at the last annual meeting before a master notice is due, from members in good standing who hold no State post, are not candidates, and are not close relatives or business partners of a candidate. If the General Body has not done so 60 days before a term is due to end, the Appeals Committee makes the appointment. The Deputy acts when the Officer is absent, must step aside, or is a party to a dispute. Neither may be a candidate in that cycle.

(5) A complaint about the Election Officer or the Deputy goes to the Appeals Committee, which decides it under clause (9). A member of the Appeals Committee who is involved is replaced by a reserve member under Article 13(3).

(6) A person has one vote in each body, whatever the number of capacities the person holds. A person may stand for more than one body. A person elected to two posts that this constitution does not allow together chooses one within 7 days, and the other is filled under clause (8).

(7) An election that is due may be postponed only by a written resolution of the State Executive Committee passed by two-thirds of all its members. The resolution must state the exceptional and unavoidable reason, such as a natural disaster, a court order or the official election timetable of an authority; fix a new date not more than six months after the original date; and publish a replacement timetable to every member of the General Body. The General Body may cancel the postponement by simple majority at a meeting called within 30 days on the requisition of one-tenth of its roll. Postponements together may never make any term last longer than four years. While an election is postponed, the outgoing bodies act only as caretakers: they may do routine and urgent business, but may not amend this constitution, decide a merger or dissolution, redraw Units, or make new appointments to Party posts.

(8) A casual vacancy in any elected body is filled by election within 90 days by the electing body, under Schedule 1, and the person elected serves only the unexpired term. Article 7(6) applies to delegates and Article 8(14) to office bearers.

(9) Election disputes follow Schedule 1, rule 12: a challenge to the Election Officer within 7 days of the result, the Election Officer's decision within 15 days, an appeal to the Appeals Committee within 7 days of that decision, and the Appeals Committee's decision within 30 days, which it may extend once by 15 days by written reasons. The Appeals Committee in office when a dispute arises decides it, even if a new Appeals Committee has been elected since. The Appeals Committee may order a fresh poll only if a breach of the rules could have changed the result.

(10) The General Secretary keeps the election records (voters' lists, nominations, ballot papers, counting sheets, results and minutes) for three years after the end of the term concerned.

(11) Member ballots, including candidate primaries and all-member ballots, may be cast through the Party's secure voting system, the Nallaatchi App, only under Digital Democracy Rules approved by the General Body by Special Majority, and only after the system has passed an independent security audit and a trial ballot. Those Rules must ensure that: each verified member has one vote; the system can confirm that a member is eligible and has voted, but can never link a member to the vote cast; each vote uses a single-use anonymous ballot; each voter can check that their vote was counted; no one person can add, alter or decrypt votes, the decryption key being split among at least three independent trustees; a member may vote again during the voting period and only the last vote counts, a vote cast in person overriding an electronic one; no results are shown before voting closes; all records are tamper-evident; the system is independently audited before every statewide ballot and at least once a year; and members without a smartphone, or who need help, can vote secretly in person at a supervised polling point.

(12) The Party gives each member its own Member ID. A member's identity may be verified by any lawful method, including the electoral roll, and always by at least one method that does not need Aadhaar. An Aadhaar number is never used as the Member ID and is not stored by the Party. Caste and religion are never collected or used in any member ballot. Until the Digital Democracy Rules are approved and the system has passed its audit and trial, member ballots are held by secret ballot in person under Schedule 1.

Article 10. Meetings, quorum and decisions

(1) The General Body meets at least once a year. Every other committee and unit meets at least once every three months.

(2) Notice of a meeting is in writing, gives the date, time and place or link and the agenda, and is sent to every member of the body by letter, SMS, WhatsApp or email. The General Secretary, or the Secretary of the body, records the date, mode and recipients in a notice register. The minimum notice is 15 days for the General Body, 7 days for other bodies, and 30 days for elections (Schedule 1), removal of an officer (Article 13(9)), amendment (Article 14), and merger or dissolution (Articles 15 and 16). An urgent meeting of the State Executive Committee or a lower body may be called on 48 hours' notice, with reasons recorded, but not for any matter that needs a longer notice.

(3) If one-tenth of the roll of the General Body ask in writing, the person who receives the requisition checks the signatures against the roll within 3 days. Once members are registered in three or more Constituency Groups of 10 or more members each, the signatures must come from at least three of those groups. The President shall issue notice within 10 days of receiving the requisition for a meeting to be held within 30 days of receiving it. If the President does not, the General Secretary shall do so within a further 7 days. If the General Secretary does not, any two members of the Appeals Committee may convene the meeting, which must be held within 45 days of the requisition.

(4) The quorum for a meeting is worked out as follows:

(a) The roll is the list of members of the body on the day notice is issued, not counting vacant seats.

(b) The quorum is one-third of the roll, rounded up to the next whole number, and never fewer than three persons. If the roll is five or fewer, the quorum is a majority of the roll.

(c) For amendment, removal of an officer, and merger or dissolution, the quorum is one-half of the roll, rounded up.

(d) A suspended member is left out of the roll when working out the quorum in sub-clause (b), but counts on the roll for the quorum in sub-clause (c), for any Special Majority and for any majority of the whole roll, so that suspensions can never make those thresholds easier to reach. A member who steps aside from a matter counts as present for the quorum but does not vote on it. Attendance under clause (8) counts as present.

(e) A quorum must be present whenever a decision is taken. If there is no quorum 30 minutes after the time set, the meeting is adjourned to a date at least 7 days later on fresh notice, and the same quorum applies then.

(5) Decisions are taken by a simple majority, which means more than half of the votes cast for or against, not counting abstentions and blank votes, unless this constitution requires more. A Special Majority means at least two-thirds of the votes cast for or against, and votes in favour from at least two-fifths of the roll.

(6) Each member has one vote in a body, whatever the number of capacities the member holds. Votes are by show of hands unless this constitution requires a secret ballot or one-fifth of those present ask for one. There is no voting by proxy or by post.

(7) The person in the chair has a casting vote only when votes are equal on ordinary business decided by simple majority. There is no casting vote on any election, any matter needing a Special Majority or a majority of the total membership, any removal or discipline of the person in the chair, or any matter in which the person in the chair has a personal interest.

(8) A member may attend a meeting by live audio or video if the notice gives the link. Such attendance counts for the quorum and for votes by show of hands or roll call. A secret ballot needs the member's physical presence, except a ballot cast through the system approved under Article 9(11).

(9) Minutes are recorded, signed by the chair and the secretary within 14 days, and open to members of the body. A member who voted in the minority may attach a written dissent of up to 500 words, which may not be removed. Party records are open to members by default, including budgets, accounts, quotations and contracts, resolutions, attendance, recorded votes and declarations of interest. Only personal data, the identity of a confidential complainant, harassment proceedings, legal advice and ballot secrecy are withheld, and any refusal gives written reasons that may be taken to the Members' Ombudsman.

(10) A member with a personal interest in a matter, such as money, employment or a close relative, discloses it before the discussion and does not vote on it.

(11) Two members of any committee, or five per cent of the members a body represents, may place an item on that body's next agenda, and it must be discussed and voted on.

(12) Members may propose a policy or other resolution by a written initiative signed by one-tenth of the members in good standing and, once members are registered in three or more Constituency Groups of 10 or more members each, by members from at least three of those groups. The initiative is placed on the agenda of the next General Body meeting, or of a special meeting called under clause (3) if it asks for one. If the initiative was signed by fifteen per cent of the members and the General Body rejects or changes it, it goes to an all-member ballot under clause (15), on which the General Body may also place a counter-proposal.

(13) Within 30 days after a decision of the General Body, the State Executive Committee, or a District or Constituency Committee, fifteen per cent of the members in good standing affected by it may demand a ballot of those members; for a statewide decision, they must come from at least three Constituency Groups where that many groups of 10 or more members exist. Elections, disciplinary and appeal decisions, and filings the law requires, are excluded. The decision is suspended until the ballot, unless the body declares it urgent by two-thirds of its members with written reasons, and it is cancelled if more than half of the votes cast reject it.

(14) While the General Body consists of delegates (Article 7(3)), the following take effect only after approval in an all-member ballot, whether or not anyone demands one: an amendment of Article 1(1), Article 4, Article 11(3) to (14), Schedule 3, clauses (11) to (15) of this Article, or Article 14; a merger; and dissolution. Approval needs more than half of the votes cast, at least one-fifth of all members voting and, once three or more District Committees are constituted, a majority of the votes cast in more than half of those districts.

(15) All-member ballots are run by the Election Officer under Schedule 1, rules 7 to 14, with polling at Unit level or through the system approved under Article 9(11). When a member initiative and a counter-proposal are on the same ballot, members may choose either or reject both; if no option has more than half of the votes cast, the two leading options go to a second ballot within 14 days.

Article 11. Contesting elections and choosing candidates

(1) The Party shall contest an election conducted by the Election Commission of India within five years of its registration, and shall continue to contest elections after that.

(2) The Party may contest elections to Parliament, to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and to local bodies. Each is conducted by the election authority the law names for it, and the Party follows that authority's rules.

(3) The Party checks eligibility and capability, and the members choose their candidate wherever the Party's membership in an area is broad enough to speak for it. Where membership is still too small, an independent Candidate Assessment Panel decides, guided by the members' vote. The Panel exists to protect the Party where membership is small, and never to override a clear democratic mandate.

(4) Every Party candidate, for Parliament, the Legislative Assembly or any local body, comes from a primary for that seat: a secret ballot of the members in good standing who are registered as electors in the area of the seat and were admitted at least 90 days before the primary is announced, subject to the founding exemption in Article 5(13). The Election Officer runs every primary under Schedule 1, Schedule 3 and Article 9(11), and may shorten the periods in Schedule 1 for an election called at short notice, but never to less than 48 hours for nominations and 24 hours for voting.

(5) A member who is eligible under the law and meets Article 5(13), the candidate field service requirement in Article 7(19) and the candidate standard in Schedule 2 may stand by self-nomination, supported by members entitled to vote in that primary: 2 supporters where fewer than 25 members can vote, 5 where 25 to 99 can vote, and otherwise five per cent of them, but never more than 100. Members may also nominate an eligible member, with that member's written consent and the same support. No Party body or office bearer may add, remove or reorder names on the ballot except through clause (6).

(6) Before the ballot, the Disciplinary Panel vets each nominee under Article 13(11) and Schedule 2, and the Candidate Assessment Panel scores each nominee under Schedule 3, rules 6 to 10. A nominee who fails either test does not appear on the ballot, gets written reasons, and may appeal to the Appeals Committee, which decides before the ballot is published.

(7) Every nominee gets the same space, in the same format, in the Party's voting app and on paper: photograph, short biography, education and occupation, field service count, capability score, declarations of assets, liabilities, criminal cases and interests, policy priorities, and a statement or video of fixed length. No paid or preferential placement is allowed, the order of names is random for each voter, and no results are shown before polling closes.

(8) A nominee who wins more than half of the valid votes wins the primary; exactly half is not enough. If no one does, the two leading nominees go to a second ballot within 7 days. If the election timetable leaves no time for a second ballot, the primary is held as a ranked ballot: voters number the nominees in order of preference, the nominee with the fewest votes is eliminated and those votes pass to each voter's next choice, until one nominee has more than half. If the final margin is less than two per cent of the valid votes, the votes are recounted and audited before the result is declared.

(9) After the count, the Election Officer classifies the area of the seat as a Mature, Established or Developing Area under Schedule 3, rules 1 to 5, from the published figures, and publishes the classification with the result. No Party body may change the classification, which may be challenged only under Schedule 1, rule 12. Then:

(a) in a Mature Area, the winner of the primary is the Party candidate, subject only to clauses (11) and (14);

(b) in an Established Area, the winner is the Party candidate if they won at least 55 per cent of the valid votes in the final round; otherwise the Candidate Assessment Panel chooses between the two finalists under clause (10);

(c) in a Developing Area, the member vote is advisory and the Candidate Assessment Panel chooses from the nominees on the ballot under clause (10).

(10) Whenever the Candidate Assessment Panel chooses a candidate, it decides by at least four of its five members, with published reasons that record the member vote, the capability scores and any public consultation under clause (12), and that explain any choice other than the winner of the primary. It may not consider anything that Schedule 3, rule 8 excludes. If four members do not agree, the winner of the primary is the Party candidate.

(11) For Legislative Assembly and Parliament seats, the winner of the primary must also have at least 20 per cent of the final-round votes in at least one-third of the Units (for an Assembly seat) or of the Assembly segments (for a Parliament seat) in which at least 10 final-round votes were cast. If not, the Candidate Assessment Panel chooses between the two finalists under clause (10), even in a Mature Area.

(12) In a Developing or Established Area, the Election Officer may hold a public preference consultation among the area's registered electors, verified under the Digital Democracy Rules, through the Party's app or in person. It is separate from the primary, gives no Party membership or vote, and is advisory only. Its result is published with the primary result, and the Candidate Assessment Panel must consider it and record how it did so. No consultation is held or published at any time when the law restricts opinion polls.

(13) For each primary, the Candidate Assessment Panel is made up of the three members of the Disciplinary Panel, the deputy Members' Ombudsman, and one member entitled to vote in that primary, drawn by lot by the Election Officer in public. A person who is a close relative, business partner, campaign worker or paid adviser of a nominee, or who has publicly supported a nominee, steps aside and is replaced by a reserve member of the Disciplinary Panel or by a fresh draw. Each member's scores and reasons are recorded and published to members, leaving out private details. If the deputy Members' Ombudsman must step aside or the post is vacant, the Members' Ombudsman sits instead and, if neither can sit, a reserve member of the Appeals Committee. As the Party grows, the General Body may elect further Disciplinary Panel benches so that more assessment panels can sit, each made up in the same way, and elects an additional deputy Members' Ombudsman for each further bench in the manner of Article 13(14).

(14) Within 3 days the State Executive Committee certifies the person chosen under clauses (9) to (11) as the Party candidate. It may refuse only because that person is disqualified under the law, fails Schedule 2, made a material false declaration, or has been found under Article 13 to have bought or coerced votes in the primary. Its written reasons are published, and the person may appeal to the Appeals Committee, which decides within 3 days. If certification is finally refused, a fresh primary is held if time permits; otherwise the eligible nominee placed next in the final count becomes the candidate. No Party body may substitute a candidate for any other reason, such as money, caste, personal preference, donor influence or the chance of winning. If no eligible nominee remains, the Party does not contest that seat.

(15) A member of the State Executive Committee, either panel, the Members' Ombudsman or deputy, or the election staff who stands in a primary takes no part in its vetting, assessment, administration or certification, and is not counted in the quorum for any decision on it.

(16) Every Party candidate must disclose assets, liabilities and criminal cases as the law requires.

(17) The Party's authorisation documents are signed for the certified winner only, by the person the law or the election authority requires or, if none is required, by the President as Chief Executive (Article 8(4)) or an office bearer the State Executive Committee authorises in writing. Nothing in this Article assumes that the Party is registered, or entitled to any particular symbol, at any time. The Party acts only as the law then allows.

(18) Every Party candidate shall keep and file every election expenditure account that the law and the election authority require. The candidate shall also publish the same account on the Party's website and at the head office on the day it is filed. The General Secretary, or an office bearer the State Executive Committee names in advance, uploads it and places a printed copy at the head office, open for inspection in office hours. The public version shows every item of expenditure with the payee and amount, and leaves out only bank account numbers, passwords, and personal identifiers such as Aadhaar numbers and the private phone numbers and home addresses of individuals. A correction is published in the same way within 2 working days after it is filed, with the original kept visible and marked as corrected on the date. If the website cannot be updated on the filing day, the printed copy is placed at the head office that day, the outage is entered with its date, time and reason in the Compliance Log kept by the General Secretary, and the account is uploaded within 24 hours after the website is available again and in any case within 3 days.

(19) If a Party candidate has criminal cases pending, the Party publishes the details of the cases and the reasons for the selection, which must relate to the candidate's qualifications, achievements and merit, and to the members' choice in the primary or the Candidate Assessment Panel's reasons, and not merely to the chance of winning, on its website and social media and in newspapers, in the form and within the time that the directions of the Supreme Court of India and of the Election Commission of India require.

(20) An alliance or seat-sharing arrangement for a single by-election or local-body election is decided by the State Executive Committee and reported to the next General Body meeting. An alliance for a general election to Parliament or the Legislative Assembly needs the approval of the General Body by simple majority. A long-term or ideological alliance, or any alliance that commits the Party beyond one election, needs a Special Majority of the General Body and is subject to Article 10(13). Seat-sharing may decide which seats the Party contests, but never who the Party candidate is in a seat it contests.

Article 12. Funds, accounts and audit

(1) Party funds come from voluntary contributions and donations permitted by law. The Party does not accept foreign contributions or any money the law forbids.

(2) The Party accepts contributions only in these ways:

(a) by account-payee cheque;

(b) by account-payee bank draft;

(c) by electronic transfer through a bank account, including UPI, to an account or UPI address in the Party's own name;

(d) by any other electronic mode the law prescribes, if the auditor has confirmed in writing that it is currently usable;

(e) in cash, within clause (3).

(3) Cash is accepted only up to Rs. 2,000 in total from any one donor in a financial year, counted across the whole Party, including every Unit, committee and wing. The Treasurer keeps a central donor list to add up each donor's cash. Every Unit and committee reports each cash receipt to the Treasurer within three working days, with the donor's identifying number, and any excess found is dealt with under this clause. A cash gift that would take a donor over the limit is refused. If it is received by mistake, it is returned to the donor the same day against a signed acknowledgment and is not banked as a Party contribution; if it cannot be returned that day, the Treasurer records it in the refund register, keeps it separately, returns it within 7 days and tells the auditor. Depositing cash later never cures the way the Party received it.

(4) Every contribution, in whatever form, is entered in the Contribution Register on the day it is received. The Treasurer gives a serially numbered receipt showing the donor's name, address, identifying number (such as a mobile number, so that a donor's amounts can be added up), the amount, the date and the mode of payment. For any donor whose contributions in a financial year total more than Rs. 20,000, the Treasurer also obtains and records the donor's Permanent Account Number, as the contribution report to the Election Commission of India requires. Spoilt receipts are kept and marked cancelled. Party receipts never go into a personal bank account or a personal UPI address.

(5) Special cases are handled as follows:

(a) A receipt issued by mistake, or a contribution the Party may not lawfully keep, is refunded to the donor by the same mode and recorded in the refund register. The Treasurer and the General Secretary approve refunds.

(b) An amount credited to the Party's account whose sender cannot be identified is recorded in a separate account. The Treasurer tries to identify the sender within 30 days and, if the sender is identified and the contribution may not be kept, refunds it. How an amount that stays unidentified is treated is decided on the written advice of the auditor and the Party's advocate.

(c) If a cheque or other instrument is dishonoured, the receipt is cancelled, the donor is told, and the entry is recorded in the dishonour register.

(d) Gifts of goods or services are recorded with a declaration from the donor and the fair value the auditor advises. They never count towards the cash limit.

(e) Loans to the Party, and the recording of donated goods or services, are treated as the auditor advises in writing. A loan is never treated as a donation.

(6) Party money is used only for the Party's political activities.

(7) All Party bank accounts are in the Party's name and use the Party's PAN. They are operated jointly by the Treasurer, or by the Deputy Treasurer when acting for the Treasurer under Article 8(12), and either the President or the General Secretary. No one approves a payment to themselves; where the Treasurer is the payee, the President and the General Secretary sign. Only the State Executive Committee, by a recorded resolution, opens or closes an account, including an account for a Unit or committee. Every account's statement goes to the Treasurer each month, and every Unit or committee account is consolidated in the Party's annual accounts with its receipts, expenditure, assets and liabilities.

(8) All cash received is deposited in the Party's bank account within three working days, and none of it is spent before it is deposited. The Treasurer reconciles the Contribution Register, the receipt books and the bank statements every month. The General Secretary checks the reconciliation. The auditor examines all of it each year under clause (12).

(9) The State Executive Committee approves an annual budget and reports it to the General Body. Every payment needs a voucher and a supporting bill or record. The General Body approves a Finance Schedule that sets the limits for single payments, for petty cash and for payments in cash, and the level above which the State Executive Committee reviews an exceptional expense, and it reviews the Schedule every year. Any purchase above the Finance Schedule limit needs at least three written quotations, and any transaction with an office bearer, a close relative of one, or a business connected with either is disclosed in writing and approved by members with no interest in it. Until the Schedule is approved, every payment except petty cash needs the prior written approval of two Executive members who are not the payee or beneficiary, and the State Executive Committee sets the petty-cash limit by a recorded resolution.

(10) An office bearer or Executive member discloses in writing any personal interest in a payment. Payments to office bearers, their relatives or businesses connected with them are approved by Executive members who have no interest in them, and the approval is recorded in the minutes. No one approves their own reimbursement, and every reimbursement needs receipts.

(11) Accounts are kept on the accrual basis. The financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March. Party assets are held in the Party's name. The Treasurer keeps an asset register showing who has custody of each asset. Accounts, vouchers and registers are kept for the period the law requires, as confirmed by the auditor.

(12) The accounts are audited every financial year by a Chartered Accountant on the panel of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The General Body appoints the auditor each year from a list of at least two proposed by the State Executive Committee. The auditor must be independent: not a member of the Party, not related to any office bearer, and not the person who keeps the Party's books. The same auditor or firm may not audit the accounts for more than five consecutive financial years. Before the appointment, the Treasurer obtains the auditor's written confirmation that the firm is on the panel and files it in the Party's records.

(13) The Party shall submit its audited annual financial statement to the Election Commission of India within six months after the end of each financial year. It shall also file contribution reports, election expenditure statements and every other statement the law requires, on time, as Article 17(3) assigns. The statement is filed by the deadline whether or not the General Body has yet met. The General Body approves it at its next meeting, and any change it requires is filed as the law allows. The General Body's annual meeting is timed to allow this.

(14) A summary of income and spending, showing cash and non-cash contributions separately, is shared with all members every year, and the audited accounts are open to any member on request.

(15) No contribution creates any right to a post, a candidate selection, a contract or a policy decision. Offering or asking for money in return for any of these is misconduct under Article 13.

Article 13. Discipline, appeals, constitutional complaints and the Members' Ombudsman

(1) A member may face disciplinary action for breaking this constitution; taking part in violence or calling for it; caste slurs, practising untouchability, social boycott, inciting caste or communal clashes, religious intimidation or organised discrimination; sexual harassment, stalking, coercion, threats, abuse of authority or repeated bullying; corruption, misuse of Party money, or linking money to posts (Article 12(15)); breaking Article 4(5); retaliating against a person protected by Article 6(3); falsifying a Field Service Register entry; seeking votes in any Party ballot by appeals to caste or religion, intimidation, threats of social boycott, money, gifts or coercion (Schedule 1, rule 17); giving false information; or working against the Party's officially selected candidate. Working against a candidate means, after the selection has been recorded and published, campaigning for a rival candidate, standing against the Party's candidate, or knowingly spreading false statements about the candidate. Disagreeing with a selection before it is made, or criticising the process in good faith, is not misconduct. In any complaint that a statement was false, the complainant must prove that it was false and that the member knew it.

(2) At each organisational election (Article 9(3)), the General Body elects, by secret ballot under Schedule 1, rule 7, a Disciplinary Panel of three members and an Appeals Committee of three members, each with two reserve members, from members in good standing who are eligible under clause (3). In each panel, the three candidates with the most votes are the members and the next two are the reserve members, but each panel must include at least one woman member: if none of the three is a woman, the woman candidate with the most votes takes the third member seat, and the candidate she displaces becomes the first reserve member. Their term is the General Body's term. A panel member may be removed only by the General Body by a Special Majority, for misconduct or inability to act. A vacancy is filled by a reserve member, in the order of votes received at the election, and by the General Body at its next meeting if no reserve remains.

(3) No member of either panel, and neither the Members' Ombudsman nor the deputy, may be a State office bearer, and not more than one may be another member of the State Executive Committee. No one sits on both panels, and no close relative of a State office bearer sits on either (Article 8(18)). A panel member steps aside, and a reserve member takes the place, in any matter where the member is the complainant or the person complained of, is a close relative or business partner of either, has a personal interest in the outcome, has publicly taken a side, took part in the decision under appeal, or is a candidate in the election concerned. Not being a candidate is not enough on its own. If fewer than three uninvolved members remain, the General Body meets on 15 days' notice to elect temporary members for that matter.

(4) A complaint is made in writing to the General Secretary, or to the chair of the Appeals Committee if it concerns the General Secretary. A complainant may ask that their identity be known only to the Panel members hearing the matter. If disclosure later becomes necessary for a fair hearing, the complainant is told first and may withdraw. Within 7 days the recipient sends it to the Disciplinary Panel. The Panel gives the member the charge in writing, allows at least 15 days to reply, holds a hearing at which the member may be heard, and records its decision with reasons within 60 days of receiving the complaint. It may extend that time once, by 30 days, by written reasons sent to both sides. The complainant takes no part in deciding or voting.

(5) The Panel may decide on a warning, a recommendation for removal from an elected post under clause (9), suspension of membership for up to one year, or expulsion. A decision needs the agreement of at least two of the three Panel members, and expulsion needs the agreement of all three.

(6) On the written request of the State Executive Committee or of any five members, and after giving the member 3 days to reply in writing, the Disciplinary Panel may suspend a member while the inquiry is pending, for up to 60 days in total for the same or substantially the same facts. The Appeals Committee may extend this once, to 90 days in total, by written reasons. The suspension may not otherwise be renewed or repeated on those facts.

(7) A warning takes effect at once. A suspension or expulsion takes effect after 30 days unless the member appeals within that time. If the member appeals, it is stayed until the Appeals Committee decides, unless the Disciplinary Panel finds in writing that there is a serious risk of violence, misuse of funds or intimidation, in which case it takes effect at once and the Appeals Committee may lift it at any time. Clause (6) governs interim suspension.

(8) A member may appeal to the Appeals Committee within 30 days of a decision. The Appeals Committee decides within 30 days of receiving the appeal, and may extend that time once, by 15 days, by written reasons sent to both sides. Its decision is final within the Party. The Appeals Committee also decides appeals on membership (Article 5(5)), election disputes (Article 9(9)), declarations of incapacity (Article 8(11)) and challenges to Unit boundaries (Article 7(16)). It meets on 7 days' notice at the request of any two of its members, and may hold its hearings by live audio or video. As the Party grows, the General Body may create regional benches of the Appeals Committee, elected in the same way, with a final appeal to the Appeals Committee itself.

(9) Elected posts are affected by discipline only in these three ways. First, the body that elected an office bearer or another member may remove the person before the end of the term by a Special Majority, at a meeting called on 30 days' notice that states the reasons, after the person has had at least 14 days to reply in writing and a chance to be heard at the meeting; where the reason given is misconduct under clause (1), the body may act only after the Disciplinary Panel has investigated under clause (4) and found it proved; where no misconduct is alleged, the body may remove the person for loss of confidence only by a motion that, in the same vote and by the same Special Majority, elects a named successor who has been vetted under clause (11); the successor serves the rest of the term. Second, an expulsion that has become final under clause (7) automatically makes every post the person holds vacant. Third, a suspension, whether interim under clause (6) or a sanction under clause (5), only passes the person's duties to an acting officer under Article 8(12) for the time it lasts; the person returns to the post when it ends if the term is still running. The Panel cannot otherwise remove anyone from an elected post. The person whose removal is being considered does not chair that meeting.

(10) Nothing in this Article stops a member from going to a court or another lawful authority. A decision that is final within the Party does not exclude any remedy outside it.

(11) The Disciplinary Panel vets every person nominated for a State office-bearer post, a State Executive Committee seat, a panel seat, or the post of Members' Ombudsman or deputy, every person proposed as Election Officer or Deputy Election Officer, and every nominee in a candidate primary, against Schedule 2. It decides on documents, gives written reasons within 7 days, and its decision may be appealed to the Appeals Committee within 7 days, which decides within 14 days.

(12) A complaint of sexual harassment, stalking or coercion is heard by a bench of three drawn from the members and reserve members of both panels who are not involved, at least two of whom are women, with a woman presiding. If there are not enough such women, the General Body elects temporary women members under clause (3). The complainant is protected from retaliation under Article 6(3), and the time limits in clause (4) apply.

(13) Any member or Party body may complain to the Appeals Committee that a decision or act of a Party body or office bearer breaks this constitution, within 30 days after it becomes known. The Appeals Committee may admit a late complaint for sufficient cause, and no time limit runs while a breach continues. The Appeals Committee may suspend the decision at once while it considers the complaint, and decides within 30 days. It may declare the decision invalid, set it aside, or direct the body to act as this constitution requires, giving written reasons, and its decision binds every Party body, subject to clause (10).

(14) At each organisational election the General Body elects, by secret ballot, a Members' Ombudsman and a deputy from members in good standing who are eligible under clause (3), for the General Body's term. The Ombudsman and the deputy hold no other Party post and may be removed only as clause (2) provides for panel members.

(15) The Members' Ombudsman receives complaints from members about delay, failure to reply, unfair treatment, refusal of records under Article 10(9) and unanswered petitions under Article 6(1). The Ombudsman may also inquire on their own initiative, may require any Party body or office bearer to answer within 14 days, recommends remedies, refers possible misconduct to the Disciplinary Panel and possible breaches of this constitution to the Appeals Committee, and publishes an annual report to members. Every Party body or office bearer answers a recommendation of the Ombudsman in writing within 30 days, saying whether it accepts it and why; a failure to answer may be taken to the Appeals Committee under clause (13).

Part 4: Amendment, merger, dissolution and founding

Article 14. Amendment of this constitution

(1) Only the General Body may amend this constitution.

(2) A proposed amendment is sent, with its exact text, to every member of the General Body at least 30 days before the meeting that will consider it.

(3) The quorum for that meeting is one-half of the roll, rounded up (Article 10(4)).

(4) An amendment needs a Special Majority (Article 10(5)).

(5) No amendment may change Article 3 in any way that departs from Section 29A(5) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. No amendment may lower the majority required by this Article or by Article 15 or 16, except by the majority that those Articles now require.

(6) Every amendment is sent to the Election Commission of India without delay.

(7) Once three or more District Committees are constituted, an amendment also needs, in the same vote, the support of a majority of the voting delegates from more than half of those districts.

(8) While the General Body consists of delegates, every amendment is subject to Article 10(13) and, for the matters listed there, to Article 10(14).

Article 15. Merger, and members who leave

(1) A proposal to merge the Party with another party is first sent to all constituted levels and units of the Party. They have at least 30 days to give their views. The notice of the special General Body meeting under Article 10(2) is sent at the same time, so the two 30-day periods run together, and the meeting is held after the 30 days have ended.

(2) The General Body decides at a special meeting called for this purpose, after considering the views received. The quorum is one-half of the roll, rounded up.

(3) A merger needs the votes of two-thirds of the total membership of the General Body, meaning the whole roll and not only those present.

(4) The decision is sent to the Election Commission of India without delay.

(5) A resolution under this Article settles only the Party's internal position. It does not by itself decide any dispute about the Party's name, election symbol, assets or elected legislators. The competent legal and election authorities keep their powers on those matters.

(6) If the resolution passes, the Treasurer and the General Secretary jointly hold the records and assets, settle the liabilities, close or transfer the accounts, and file the final accounts and reports, under the supervision of the auditor. If either is unable to act or has a conflict of interest, the General Body names a replacement.

(7) A member or group of members who leave the Party gain no right to its name, flag, emblem, accounts, membership data, website, domain or property. Any dispute is for the competent courts and the Election Commission of India.

Article 16. Dissolution

(1) A proposal to dissolve the Party is first sent to all constituted levels and units of the Party, and the periods and notice in Article 15(1) apply.

(2) Dissolution needs the votes of three-fourths of the total membership of the General Body, meaning the whole roll and not only those present, at a special meeting. The quorum is one-half of the roll, rounded up.

(3) On dissolution, the accounts are audited up to that date and all debts are paid. The Treasurer and the General Secretary jointly hold the records and assets, close the accounts and file the final accounts and reports, under the supervision of the auditor.

(4) Remaining money and property are not shared among members, directly or indirectly. They go to a registered charitable body or public trust with lawful civic, environmental or public-interest purposes that are compatible with Article 4, chosen by the General Body. A member who has an interest in a candidate recipient, such as paid work or a family link, discloses it and does not vote on the choice, and no body in which an office bearer holds a paid post may be chosen.

(5) The Election Commission of India is informed without delay, and Article 15(5) applies.

Article 17. Communication with the Election Commission and other filings

(1) Any change in the Party's name, head office, service address, office bearers or any other material matter is communicated to the Election Commission of India without delay.

(2) The General Secretary prepares these communications, and the President signs them as Chief Executive, unless the law requires someone else to sign.

(3) The Party has separate filing obligations, and each is tracked separately in a Compliance Calendar kept by the General Secretary with the Treasurer. They are: the audited annual statement (Article 12(13)), prepared by the Treasurer; contribution reports, furnished by the Treasurer or the person the State Executive Committee authorises in writing; the Party's own election expenditure statement after each election, prepared by the Treasurer; each candidate's expenditure account (Article 11(18)), filed by the candidate with the Party's help; and the Party's income-tax return, signed by the person the law requires. For each, the calendar records the form, the recipient, the deadline as currently notified, the responsible officer and the acknowledgment received. Deadlines are checked when each filing falls due and are not copied from this constitution.

(4) The General Secretary is the person responsible for correspondence with the Election Commission of India (Article 2(2)).

Article 18. Founding provisions and dates

(1) Three dates are kept apart. The date of a draft is the date shown on it. The date of formation is the date recorded in the minutes of the founding meeting as the day the Party was formed. The date of adoption is the day the General Body adopts this text. Adopting a later text does not change the date of formation. No document is dated on any day other than the day it was actually signed, and no meeting, vote or signature is recorded that did not take place.

(2) This constitution comes into force on the date of adoption at the founding meeting under clause (4), and continues until amended.

(3) Before the founding meeting, the Convener and two other founding members named in the notice prepare the Founding Membership Register from the signed membership forms, proof that each person is a registered elector, and a signed declaration by each person that they are not a member of any other political party. A person is a founding member only if entered in that register. The register is shown to every person listed in it before the meeting starts, and the Convener and the two others decide any objection in writing before the meeting starts. Visitors and other persons who attend are not founding members.

(4) The Convener, a founding member named in the notice, calls the founding meeting by notice given before the meeting to every person in the register, in writing or by WhatsApp or another electronic message, with the draft constitution, the agenda and the nomination procedure. A founding member may take part by live audio or video as Article 10(8) provides, and the minutes name each person who took part that way. The founding meeting needs at least one-half of the persons in the register present. At the start, the founding members present elect, by show of hands, a chair for the meeting who is not a candidate for any post being filled. The meeting then decides by simple majority whether to form the Party and to adopt this constitution.

(5) The founding meeting then holds the founding elections. First it elects an Election Officer for them by simple majority from founding members who are not candidates. Then it elects the six State office bearers and up to eleven other members of the State Executive Committee, by secret ballot wherever there are more candidates than seats, following Schedule 1, rules 4 to 11. For the founding elections, the vetting that Article 13(11) requires is done by a Founding Scrutiny Committee of the Election Officer and two founding members who are not candidates, elected by the meeting, with an appeal to the meeting, decided by simple majority before polling. The notice, voters' list and objection rules in Schedule 1 are replaced for this meeting by the notice and the Founding Membership Register under clauses (3) and (4). Nominations are received by the Convener from the notice until the election item begins, each proposed and seconded by founding members, and scrutiny and withdrawal take place at the meeting before polling. Records are kept as Article 9(10) provides. Article 5(13), the field service requirement in Article 7(19) and the geographic limits in Article 7(8) do not apply to the founding elections. Those elected hold office until the first organisational election under Article 9, which is held within three years of the date of formation.

(6) If the founding meeting elects the six office bearers but fewer than eleven other members of the State Executive Committee, the Committee is those elected, and the vacant seats are filled by election by the General Body at a meeting held within 90 days on notice under Article 10(2). The President has no power to appoint. The quorum is worked out on the filled seats but is never fewer than three persons. If any of the six posts is not filled at the founding meeting, it is filled at a General Body meeting held within 90 days, and Article 8(12) applies meanwhile. The Appeals Committee, the Disciplinary Panel, the Members' Ombudsman and the deputy are elected under Article 13(2) and (14) by the General Body at a meeting held within 90 days of the date of formation on notice under Article 10(2), and hold office until the first organisational election. Until they are elected, no member is suspended or expelled, and any dispute about the founding elections is decided by that meeting. Until the first Disciplinary Panel takes office, the Founding Scrutiny Committee does the vetting that Article 13(11) requires, and an appeal from it is decided by the General Body at the meeting that holds the election.

(7) Until Units, Constituency Committees and District Committees are constituted, Article 7(15) applies.

(8) The minutes of the founding meeting and the signed attendance list are the proof that the General Body adopted this constitution. The minutes record who convened the meeting, who chaired it, who verified the register, the votes cast and the results.

Article 19. Interpretation

(1) In this constitution:

(a) "count date" means the day the Election Officer publishes a master notice under Schedule 1, rule 1;

(b) "roll" has the meaning in Article 10(4);

(c) "member in good standing" has the meaning in Article 5(12);

(d) "constituted" has the meaning given for each body in Article 7;

(e) "Special Majority" has the meaning in Article 10(5);

(f) "days" means calendar days, and a period that ends on a public holiday runs to the next working day;

(g) "close relative" means a spouse, parent, child, brother or sister, the spouse of a child, brother or sister, and a parent, brother or sister of one's spouse;

(h) "field service" means work recorded in the Field Service Register under Article 7(19);

(i) "primary" means a member ballot to choose a Party candidate under Article 11(4);

(j) "Candidate Assessment Panel" means the panel made up under Article 11(13);

(k) "Digital Democracy Rules" means the rules approved under Article 9(11).

(2) Nothing in this constitution limits the powers of the courts, the Election Commission of India or any other lawful authority.

(3) Headings help the reader and do not change the meaning of any clause.

(4) A dispute about the meaning of this constitution is decided by the Appeals Committee. The General Body may settle the meaning by an amendment under Article 14.

Schedule 1. Election rules

(1) The Election Officer publishes a master notice, by the means in Article 10(2), at least 30 days before the first poll of an election cycle. It shows every stage, the dates of nominations, scrutiny, withdrawal and polling for each stage, the place or arrangements for each poll, and any combination of Constituency Groups under Article 7(4). The day it is published is the count date. Every poll in the cycle is held at least 30 days after the master notice.

(2) Only members in good standing on the count date may vote in Unit elections and in delegate elections in Constituency Groups. For the Constituency Committees, the District Committees, and the State posts, the voters are the delegates certified from the stage before. The Election Officer publishes the provisional voters' list, showing names, Member IDs and Units, with the master notice for the first stage, and within 7 days after the results of the stage before are certified for later stages.

(3) Any member may object in writing to an omission or a wrong entry within 7 days after a provisional list is published, or within 3 days for a list of delegates certified from an earlier stage, where only errors of copying may be raised. The Election Officer decides in writing within 5 days, or 2 days for a delegate list, and publishes the final list at least 10 days before polling, or 5 days for a delegate list. If an earlier result is set aside, the later list is corrected.

(4) A nomination is in writing, carries the candidate's signed consent, and is proposed by one voter and seconded by another. A voter may propose or second only one candidate for each post. A candidate must be a member in good standing who may stand for that post under this constitution. Nominations open with the master notice, or with the publication of a delegate list, and close at least 10 days before polling.

(5) The Election Officer scrutinises the nominations within 2 days after they close and publishes the list of valid nominations with reasons for any rejection. A candidate may withdraw in writing within 3 days after that. The final list of candidates is published at least 5 days before polling.

(6) If the number of candidates left equals the number of seats, they are declared elected without a ballot. If it is fewer, nominations reopen once for 5 days, and any seat still unfilled is a vacancy filled under Article 9(8) or, for a Unit, dealt with under Article 7(15).

(7) If there are more candidates than seats, there is a secret ballot, in person or through the system approved under Article 9(11). Each voter has one ballot for each post, or for each pool of seats. In a pool of several seats, a voter may mark up to half as many candidates as there are seats, rounded up (for example 6 marks for 11 seats, 2 marks for 3 seats), one mark for each candidate, so that a large minority can also win seats. There is no voting by proxy or by post, and electronic voting is allowed only through the system approved under Article 9(11). The ballot box is open for at least four hours on the poll day, and the poll is valid whatever the turnout, if notice was given as this Schedule requires.

(8) The Election Officer counts the votes immediately after polling closes, in the presence of the candidates or their agents. Invalid ballots are set aside and shown. The counting sheet is signed by the Election Officer and the Deputy.

(9) For a single post, a candidate needs more than half of the valid votes; if no one has that, the two leading candidates go to a second ballot, at the same meeting or within 7 days. In a pool of several seats, the candidates with the most valid votes fill the seats. The result is announced the same day and recorded in the minutes, and the Election Officer certifies it in writing within 2 days. The new term begins as Article 9(1) provides.

(10) If a tie affects who is elected, the Election Officer holds a fresh ballot between the tied candidates within 7 days. If they are still tied, the Election Officer draws lots in front of the candidates or their agents.

(11) A candidate may ask in writing, within 24 hours after the result is announced, for a recount if the gap between that candidate and the last winning candidate is 3 votes or fewer, or 2 per cent of the valid votes cast or less, whichever is greater. The Deputy Election Officer recounts once, in the candidate's presence.

(12) A voter or candidate may challenge a result in writing to the Election Officer within 7 days after it is announced. The Election Officer decides within 15 days. An appeal lies to the Appeals Committee within 7 days after that decision, and the Appeals Committee decides within 30 days, which it may extend once by 15 days by written reasons. A challenge to the Election Officer or the Deputy goes straight to the Appeals Committee (Article 9(5)). A challenge does not stop a result taking effect unless the Appeals Committee orders a stay, which it may do only if the breach alleged could change the result.

(13) If the Appeals Committee orders a fresh poll, it is held within 30 days after the order, on at least 15 days' notice, under these rules.

(14) When a cycle ends, the Election Officer gives all election records to the General Secretary, who keeps them under Article 9(10). Ballot papers are sealed and kept until the challenge and appeal periods have ended.

(15) The Election Officer may issue written directions only to apply these rules. A direction may not change any right that this constitution gives.

(16) Any member may object in writing to a combination of Constituency Groups published under Article 7(4) within 7 days after it is published. The Election Officer decides within 5 days. An appeal lies to the Appeals Committee within 3 days after that decision, and it decides within 5 days, in every case before polling.

(17) No one may seek votes in any Party ballot by appeals to caste or religion, intimidation, threats of social boycott, money, gifts, meals or other inducements, or coercion, or by paid promotion inside Party channels. The Election Officer reports any breach to the Disciplinary Panel, and the Appeals Committee may set aside a result affected by it.

Schedule 2. Integrity standards

(1) There are three levels of integrity standard: the member standard, for ordinary membership; the office standard, for State office bearers, State Executive Committee members, panel members, the Members' Ombudsman and deputy, the Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer, and the office bearers of every District Committee, Constituency Committee, Unit and wing; and the candidate standard, for Party candidates in any election. Each higher level includes the lower ones.

(2) The grave offences in this Schedule are: corruption or bribery; extortion; organised crime; murder, attempt to murder or other serious violence; sexual offences; human trafficking; offences against children; offences under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989; promoting enmity or violence between communities, castes or religions; serious fraud or cheating, particularly involving public money; and electoral offences involving violence or bribery.

(3) Member standard: a person is refused membership, or ceases to be a member under Article 13, if convicted of a grave offence and less than six years have passed since the sentence ended.

(4) Office standard: a person may not hold or stand for an office covered by rule 1 if convicted of a grave offence, or if a court has framed charges against the person for a grave offence and the charge is pending. Every such person files a sworn declaration of all convictions and pending criminal cases with the Disciplinary Panel.

(5) Candidate standard: in addition to rule 4, a person may not be a Party candidate if disqualified under the law, and any Party candidate with pending cases becomes the candidate only with the publication required by Article 11(19).

(6) A First Information Report, a complaint or a pending case without framed charges is not a bar by itself. A case arising from peaceful, lawful protest is considered on its facts. The Disciplinary Panel looks at the actual record and hears the person before deciding.

(7) Decisions under this Schedule rest on court records, certified copies and sworn declarations. Newspaper reports, social media posts and complaints by opponents are not evidence on their own.

(8) A false or incomplete declaration under this Schedule is misconduct under Article 13 and ends the person's eligibility for the office or candidature concerned.

Schedule 3. Candidate selection standards

(1) In this Schedule, for the area of a seat: E is the number of registered electors in the latest published electoral roll; M is the number of members entitled to vote in the primary on the day it is announced; V is the number of valid votes cast in the first round; coverage is M divided by E; and turnout is V divided by M.

(2) The figures for each kind of seat are:

(a) a local-body seat, such as a ward or a village panchayat: an Established Area needs coverage of at least 5 per cent, at least 50 members and turnout of at least 40 per cent; a Mature Area needs coverage of at least 15 per cent, at least 100 members and turnout of at least 50 per cent;

(b) a Legislative Assembly seat: an Established Area needs coverage of at least 1 per cent, at least 1,000 members and turnout of at least 40 per cent; a Mature Area needs coverage of at least 3 per cent, at least 3,000 members and turnout of at least 50 per cent;

(c) a Parliament seat: an Established Area needs coverage of at least 0.5 per cent, at least 3,000 members and turnout of at least 40 per cent; a Mature Area needs coverage of at least 2 per cent, at least 10,000 members and turnout of at least 50 per cent.

(3) An area is a Mature Area if it meets every Mature figure, an Established Area if it meets every Established figure, and otherwise a Developing Area. If fewer than 10 members can vote for a seat, the area is a Developing Area.

(4) The Election Officer publishes E, M, V, coverage, turnout and the classification with every primary result. E is taken from the electoral roll as published by the election authority, and M from the Membership Register on the day the primary is announced.

(5) The figures in this Schedule may be changed only by amendment under Article 14. No change applies to a primary that has already been announced.

(6) Before each primary, the Candidate Assessment Panel scores every nominee out of 100, on written evidence and an interview open to the members of the area, as follows:

(a) verified public and field service: 25 marks;

(b) integrity and transparency: 20 marks;

(c) knowledge of local problems and of local government: 20 marks;

(d) problem-solving and policy ability: 15 marks;

(e) communication and listening: 10 marks;

(f) teamwork, inclusiveness and democratic conduct: 10 marks.

(7) A nominee needs at least 60 marks to appear on the ballot.

(8) No marks are ever given for wealth or ability to pay for an election, caste, religious or community strength, donations to the Party, family connections, celebrity, or social media following, and none of these may count in any decision of the Candidate Assessment Panel.

(9) Each member of the Panel scores independently, with a short reason under each heading. The nominee's score is the average of the members' scores, rounded to the nearest whole mark. Every score and reason is published to members, leaving out private details.

(10) The integrity heading measures openness and conduct beyond the legal minimum. A nominee who fails Schedule 2 cannot stand, whatever the score.

Adoption and signature

To be completed only after the General Body has actually adopted this text at a meeting that has taken place. Nothing below is to be filled in beforehand or backdated.

Date of formation, as recorded in the minutes: [TO BE FILLED FROM THE MINUTES]

Date of adoption of this text: [TO BE FILLED ONLY AFTER ADOPTION]

Place of the founding meeting: [PLACE]

Signature of President and Chief Executive: _____

Name of the President and Chief Executive: [NAME EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS IN THE CURRENT ELECTORAL ROLL. TO BE VERIFIED FROM THE ELECTORAL ROLL, IDENTITY DOCUMENTS AND ANY COMPLETED NAME-CHANGE RECORDS BEFORE PRINTING.]

Seal of the Party: