APPENDICES
APPENDIX I

CONSTITUTION OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
(As amended by the AICC meeting at Delhi on 18th December, 1998) & Rules
(As approved by the Congress Working Committee at its meeting on 16th January and 17th March, 1999)

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

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

Article II (A)
PARTY FLAG
The flag of the Indian Congress shall consist of three horizontal colours: saffron, white and green with the picture of a Charkha in blue in the centre. It shall be made of certified Khadi.

Article III
CONSTITUENTS
The Indian National Congress will include the plenary and special sessions of the Congress and:
1. The All India Congress Committee.
2. The Working Committee
3. Pradesh Congress Committees.
4. District/City Congress Committees.
5. Committees subordinate to the District Congress Committee like Block or Constituency Congress Committee and other subordinate Committee to be determined by the Pradesh Congress Committee concerned.

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

Article IV

TERRITORIAL DIVISION

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pradesh</th>
<th>Headquarters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Andhra</td>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Arunachal</td>
<td>Itanagar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Assam</td>
<td>Guwahati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Bihar</td>
<td>Patna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Chhatishgarh</td>
<td>Raipur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Delhi</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Goa</td>
<td>Panaji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Gujarat</td>
<td>Ahmedabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Haryana</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Himachal</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>Srinagar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Jharkhand</td>
<td>Ranchi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Karnataka</td>
<td>Bangalore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Kerala</td>
<td>Thiruvananthapuram</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15. Madhya Pradesh  Bhopal
16. Maharashtra  Mumbai
17. Manipur  Imphal
18. Meghalaya  Shillong
19. Mizoram  Aizwal
20. Nagaland  Kohima
21. Orissa  Bhubaneswar
22. Pondicherry  Pondicherry
23. Punjab  Chandigarh
24. Rajasthan  Jaipur
25. Sikkim  Gangtok
26. Tamil Nadu  Chennai
27. Tripura  Agartala
28. Uttaranchal  Dehradun
29. Uttar Pradesh  Lucknow
30. West Bengal  Calcutta

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Territory</th>
<th>Headquarters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andaman-Nicobar Islands</td>
<td>Port Blair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dadra-Nagar Haveli</td>
<td>Selvasa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daman &amp; Diu</td>
<td>Moti Daman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakshadweep</td>
<td>Kavaratti</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

Article V

MEMBERSHIP

(A) (a) (i) Any person of the age of 18 or over, who accepts Article I, shall on making a written declaration in form ‘A’ and on payment of triennial subscription of Rs. 3.00 only become a primary member of Congress provided that he/she is not a member of any other political party, communal or other, which has a separate membership, constitution and programme;

(ii) No person shall be eligible to become a primary member except at his permanent place of residence or at a place where he carries on his business or work;

(iii) The term of membership, primary and active, shall be from 1st of January of the year or from the date of enrolment of a member upto 31st of December of the following third year;

(iv) Permanent Register of Primary members within their jurisdiction shall be maintained by every Block/Constituency and City/Town Congress Committee with copies to the District Congress Committee, as per prescribed rules;

(v) Renewal of Primary membership will be deemed to have been completed by depositing requisite membership fee.

(A) (b) Any Primary member may become an active Member, on enrolling 25 Primary members triennially, if he fulfils the conditions laid down in Article V (B)
(A) (c) The triennial subscriptions paid by primary and active members shall be distributed in the following proportions between the various Congress Committees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AICC</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCC</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCC</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subordinate CCs</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

(B) ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

The following categories of persons who are primary members are eligible to be Active Members:

(i) Members of Panchayats, Block Development Committees, Zila Parishads, Notified Area Committees, Town Area Committees, Municipal Committees, Municipal Corporations, other local bodies, Metropolitan Councils, State Legislatures and Parliament;

(ii) Those who are actively connected with such organisations as are recognised for the purpose by Working Committee;

(iii) Freedom Fighters who have undergone imprisonment or were externed or were underground or were penalized for participating in freedom movement;

(iv) Any person who has been primary member for two consecutive years;

(v) Any other person approved by the Congress President.

Every Active Member will have fulfilled the following conditions and make declaration in Form ‘B’ under his/her signature:

(a) He/She is the age of 21 and over;

(b) He/She is a habitual wearer of certified Khadi;

(c) He/She abstains from alcoholic drinks and intoxicant drugs;
(d) He/ She neither believes in or practices untouchability in any shape or form and undertakes to work for its removal;
(e) He/She believes in an integrated society without distinction of religion or caste;
(f) He/She undertakes to perform minimum tasks including manual labour as may be prescribed by the Working Committee;
(g) He/She does not own any property in excess of the ceiling laws applicable to him/her;
(h) He/She subscribes to and works for promoting the principles of secularism, socialism and democracy; does not, directly or indirectly, openly or otherwise, adversely criticise the accepted policies and programmes of the party, except through party forums;
(i) He/She shall subscribe to the periodicals approved by AICC.

(C) TRAINING FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

(1) Every Active Member shall undergo a minimum training as may be prescribed by the Working Committee.

(2) No Active Member shall be entitled to contest for the election to:

(i) All India congress Committee,
(ii) Pradesh Congress Committee,
(iii) Executive of the District/City Congress Committee,
(iv) Parliament, the State Legislature, Metropolitan Councils or Local Bodies contested on Party Ticket;

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

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

(D) RENEWAL OF ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Active Membership may be renewed by filling up the membership Renewal Form (C)
Article VI

TERM OF CONGRESS COMMITTEE

(i) The term of every Congress Committee and of its Office Bearers, Executive Committee and members shall ordinarily be three years.

(ii) The meetings of the DCCs, their Executive Committees and the PCCs and their Executive Committees shall ordinarily be held regularly within the stipulated time frame as prescribed in rules.

(iii) No Office Bearer of the Party shall hold an office ordinarily for more than two consecutive terms at Block/District/PCC Levels.

Article VI (A)

RESERVATION FOR WOMEN/SC/ST/OBC/MINORITIES

(a) 33% of the seats at different Committees shall be reserved for the women.

(b) Not less than 20% of the seats shall be reserved at different Committees for SCs/STs/OBCs and Minorities.

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

Article VII

REGISTER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTION TO PARTY FUND

1. Register

(a) Permanent Register of Active Members shall be maintained by the DCCs. A copy of the Permanent Register duly certified by the DCC President shall be made available to the PCC. The DCCs will issue Identity Cards with photographs of the members pasted on the cards under signatures of the Presidents of the DCC and PCC concerned.
(b) The Pradesh Congress Committee shall supply a duly certified copy of the Permanent Register of Active Members within their jurisdiction to the Office of the AICC and keep it informed of any changes made therein from time to time.

(c) The Register shall contain the full name, address, age, occupation, place of residence, and date of enrolment of every member.

(d) Membership shall cease by death, resignation, removal or non payment or contribution and non renewal of membership.

2. Contribution to Party Fund by Active Members:
Each Active Member shall have to contribute to the Party Fund certain percentage of his income, as prescribed in the rules by the Working Committee.

Article VIII

PRIMARY COMMITTEES AND QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS AND CANDIDATES

(a) Primary Committees:
Primary members of a basic unit will elect its President and an Executive Committee. President shall be an active member. The President shall appoint a Secretary from amongst the members of the Executive Committee.

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

(c) Candidates
Only an Active Member shall be eligible for election as a member of any Congress Committee other than Primary Committee.
Article IX

SUBORDINATE CONGRESS COMMITTEE

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

Provided that in any urban or otherwise special area, a Subordinate Congress Committee may be constituted for such territory as may be determined by the PCC with the previous approval of the Working Committee and such Committee shall also be known by the main “Block Congress Committee”.

(b) The PCC may constitute any other Congress Committee such as Village Committee, Area Committee or Neighborhood Committee which may consist of two or more primary committees and shall be subordinate to the Block Congress Committee.

(c) Every Primary Committee shall be subordinate to the Block Congress Committee for the area.

(d) Every Primary Committee shall elect a delegate to the Block Congress Committee. An Active Member who is enrolled as a member in the basic unit shall be eligible to be a candidate. Such delegate shall be a member of the Block Congress Committee.

(e) The Block Congress Committee shall consist of the Presidents of the Primary Committees subordinate thereto and the delegates elected by the Primary Committees.

(f) Where there are other subordinate committees such as Village Committee, Area Committee or Neighborhood Committee, the President of such Committees shall be co-opted as members of the Block Congress Committee but they shall not have the right to vote in any election of office-bearers of the Block Congress Committee or of delegates to the DCC and the PCC.
Article X

DISTRICT CONGRESS COMMITTEE

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

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

Article XI

PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE

A. A Pradesh Congress Committee shall consist of:

(a) Members Elected by the Block Committees;

1. Every Block Congress Committee shall elect by secret ballot, a delegate to the PCC and such delegate shall be a member of the PCC.
2. An Active Member ordinarily resident or having his place of business occupation or profession within the area of the PCC would be eligible to be a candidate for election as delegate from any Block Congress Committee within the area of the said PCC, provided that:
(i) Conditions and conduct of election will be in accordance with the rules prescribed by the Working Committee;

(ii) In the following Pradeshes and Union Territories the number of elected members of the Pradesh/Union Territory Congress Committees shall be equal to the number of Members of the Provincial/Territorial Legislative Assembly:

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

(b) Ex- Presidents of the PCC who have completed a full term of 365 days and have continued to be Active Members;

(c) Presidents of the DCCs provided that they shall not be eligible to become either President or Secretary of the PCC;

(d) AICC members who reside in the Pradesh;

(e) Members elected by the Congress Legislature Party at the rate of 5% of the number of PCC or TCC members subject to a maximum of 15;

(f) Members co-opted by the PCC Executive from special elements not adequately represented and others in accordance with the rules prescribed by the Working Committee.

(B) Every member of the PCC shall pay an annual fee of Rs. 50.00 to the PCC of which Rs. 25.00 shall be remitted to the AICC as delegate fee and shall collect Rs. 100.00 for Congress Fund triennially within 3 Months of his election to the PCC and deposit it with the PCC and obtain a receipt thereof. He shall receive a certificate duly signed by a Secretary of the PCC that he is a member and has collected Congress Fund.

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

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

(C) Every Pradesh Congress Committee shall coordinate the activities of the frontal organizations and shall:

(a) Ordinarily function through the District Congress Committees;
(b) Subject to the general supervision and control of the AICC, be in charge of the affairs of the Congress Committees within its own Pradesh and to that end frame its Constitution, not inconsistent with this Constitution, which shall come into operation only with the previous sanction of the Working Committee;
(c) Submit to the Working Committee an annual report of the work done by the Congress Organisation in the Pradesh including audited balance sheets;
(d) Pay to the AICC the share due to it out of the members' fees vide; Article V (A) (c) and Clause B above, before a date to be fixed by the Working Committee.

(D) The Pradesh, which has not completed the formation of the PCC on or before the date fixed by the working committee may, at the discretion of the Working Committee be disentitled to be represented at the Congress Session.

(E) On the failure of any Pradesh Congress Committee to function in terms of the Constitution or in accordance with the direction of the Working Committee, the Working Committee may suspend the existing PCC and form an ad hoc Committee to carry on Congress work in the Pradesh.

(F) Each Pradesh Congress Committee/Regional Congress Committee shall, in accordance with the directions/guidelines issued by the Working Committee of the AICC, constitute a Trust for holding immovable properties belonging to such PCC/RCC and also the properties belonging to Congress Committees namely District Congress Committee, Block Congress
Committee and other Committees subordinate to a PCC/RCC. The Board of Trustees of the said Trust shall not be less than 3 trustees nor more than 9 trustees including the Chairman and the other ex-officio Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall be appointed by PCC/RCC and shall comprise of persons as approved by the Working Committee of the AICC. The President of the PCC/RCC shall be the Chairman ex-officio of the Trust. The Treasurer of the AICC and General Secretary AICC Incharge of the concerned PCC/RCC shall be ex-officio members of the Board. The term of the Board of Trustees other than the Chairman and the two ex-officio Trustees shall be for three years. The Properties shall be held in the name of the said Trust and if that be not possible in a certain case/cases, then in such manner as directed by the Working Committee of the AICC.

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

Article XIII
ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE
A. The All India Congress Committee shall consist of:
(a) One-eighth of the number of the PCC members elected by them from amongst themselves by proportional representation according to the system of single transferable vote, provided that the number is not less than five; however four members each shall be elected from Chandigarh, Andaman Nicobar, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep TCCs;
(b) President of the Congress;
(c) Ex-Presidents of the Congress who have completed term of 365 days and have continued to be Active Members of the Congress;
(d) Presidents of the Pradesh Congress Committees, provided, that they shall not be eligible to become an office bearer of AICC;
(e) Leader of the Congress Party in Parliament;
(f) Leader of the Congress Party in the Legislatures, Legislative Assemblies in Union Territories and Metropolitan Councils;
(g) 15 members elected by the Congress Party in Parliament according to the system of single transferable vote;
(h) Members co-opted by the working committee from special elements not adequately represented and others in accordance with the rules prescribed by the working committee.

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

(g) Every member of the AICC shall pay an annual subscription of Rs. 100/- and shall collect Rs. 200/- for Congress fund within three months of his election to the AICC and deposit it with the AICC and shall obtain a receipt thereof. He shall receive a certificate of his membership duly signed by one of the Secretaries of the AICC. Any member who fails to pay his subscription or collect the fund within the period stipulated, shall forfeit his right to take part in any of the meeting of the AICC, Subjects committee or any Congress Session till such dues are cleared up.

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

Article XIV

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

The working committee and the executive committee at Pradesh and Lower may co-opt upto 15% of the total membership of the AICC, PCC and other lower committees concerned as per rules prescribed by the Working Committee. The co-opted members at the AICC, PCC and lower levels shall not exercise any voting right in any organisational election nor shall they contest any election in the Organisation; however, no person who is a co-opted member shall be debarred for that reason from seeking election to full membership of any Committee in the normal manner.

Article XIV- A

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

All Members of the Congress Party belonging to Panchayat/Nagar Palikas, Legislative Assemblies, Legislative Councils, Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha shall be Ex-Officio Members of the Congress Committees at the corresponding levels such as Unit/Block/Town/District/PCC Committees respectively.
Article XV

SUBJECTS COMMITTEE

(a) The AICC shall meet as the Subjects Committee under the Chairmanship of the President to the Congress Session. The Working Committee or, in case a new President has been elected before the Session and there is no Working Committee appointed by him functioning, a Steering Committee appointed by the President shall submit to the Subjects Committee the programmes of work, including draft resolution for the Congress Session. The draft resolutions shall be made available to the members of the Subjects Committee/AICC at least two weeks before the meeting while drafting the resolutions, the Working Committee or the Steering Committee shall take into consideration the resolutions recommended by the Pradesh Congress Committee and resolution given notice of by the Members of the AICC.

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

Article XVI

PLENARY CONGRESS SESSION

a. A Session of the Congress shall ordinarily be held once in three years at the time and place decided upon by the Working Committee or the AICC as the case may be:

b. A Congress Session shall consist of the President of the Congress and all other delegates.

c. (i) A Congress session shall consider resolutions recommended to it for adoption by the Subjects Committee in the first instance.

(ii) Thereafter the Session shall take up any substantive motion not included in (i) above, but which 40 delegates have before the commencement for the
day’s sittings, requested the President in writing to allow them to place before the Congress; provided, however, that no such motion shall be allowed unless it has been previously discussed at the meeting of the Subjects Committee and received the support of at least a third of the members then present at the Subjects Committee meeting.

d. The Pradesh Congress Committee, in whose jurisdiction the Congress Session is held, shall make such arrangements for holding the Congress Session as may be deemed necessary, and for the purpose shall form a Reception Committee which shall work under its general guidance and which may include therein persons who are not its members.

e. The Reception Committee shall elect its Chairman and other Office Bearers from amongst its own members.

f. The Reception Committee shall collect funds for the expenses of the Session and shall make all necessary arrangements for the reception and accommodation of delegates. It may also make necessary arrangements for the visitors.

g. The receipts and disbursements of the Reception Committee shall be audited by an auditor or auditors appointed by the Pradesh Congress Committee and the Statement of Accounts together with the audit report shall be submitted by the Pradesh Congress Committee to the Working Committee, within six months of the conclusion at the Congress Session. Any surplus funds remaining with the Reception Committee shall be divided equally between the AICC and the PCC.

**Article XVII**

**SPECIAL SESSION**

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

ARTICLE XVIII

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

a) The chairman of the Central Election Authority will be the Ex-Officio Returning Officer for the election of the President.

b) Any ten delegates may jointly propose the name of any delegate for election as President of the Congress. Such proposals must reach the Returning Officer on or before the date fixed by the Working Committee.

c) The Returning Officer shall publish the names of all persons so proposed and it shall be open to any person whose names has been so proposed to withdraw his candidature within seven days of the proposed names by writing to the Returning Officer to that effect.

d) After eliminating the names of those who have withdrawn, the Returning Officer shall immediately publish the names of the remaining candidates and circulate them to the Pradesh Congress Committees. If, after elimination, there remains only one candidate, he shall be declared duly elected as President of the next Congress Session.

e) On a date fixed by the Working Committee, which shall not ordinarily be less than seven days after the final publication of the names of contesting candidates, each delegate shall be entitled to record, for the election of a President, his vote in the following manner: On the voting paper which shall exhibit the names of the candidates, the delegate shall, if there are only two candidates, record his vote for one of them. If there are more than two candidates, the delegate shall record at least two preferences by writing the figures 1, 2 etc. against the names of the candidates voted for. In such a case, he may give more than two preferences if he wishes to do so but any voting paper showing less than two preferences will be regarded as invalid. The voting paper shall be deposited in a ballot box provided for the purpose.
f) The Pradesh Congress Committees shall immediately forward the ballot boxes to the AICC.

g) As soon as may be after the receipt of the ballot boxes, the Returning Officer shall count the votes of the first preferences recorded for each candidate. If a candidate secures more than 50 percent of the votes of the first preferences, he shall be declared elected as President. If no candidate secures more than 50% of the first preferences, candidate who has secured the smallest number of first preferences shall be eliminated, and the second preferences recorded by the voters who gave him the first preferences shall be taken into account in counting the votes of the remaining candidates. In this counting the candidate who secures the smallest number of votes shall be eliminated. By this process of eliminating the candidates who secure the smallest number of votes in subsequent counting after the transfer of votes according to recorded preferences, the candidate who secures more than 50% of the votes shall be declared elected as President.

h) In the event of any emergency by reason of any cause such as the death or resignation of the President elected as above, the senior most General Secretary will discharge the routine functions of the President until the Working Committee appoints provisional President pending the election of a regular President by the AICC.

i) The President shall preside over the Session of the Congress held after his election and during this term of Office and he shall exercise all the powers of the Working Committee when it is not in session.

Article XIX

WORKING COMMITTEE

The Working Committee shall consist of the President of the Congress, the leader of the Congress Party in Parliament and 23 other members of whom 12 members will be elected by the AICC, as per rules prescribed by the Working Committee and the rest shall be appointed by the President. The president
shall appoint a Treasurer and one or more General Secretaries from amongst the members of Working Committee. The President will have power to appoint one or more Secretaries/ Joint Secretaries from elected members of AICC. The Secretaries/Joint Secretaries will discharge the duties as may be assigned to them by the President. Ordinarily members of the Working Committee will be appointed from amongst the members of the AICC may be appointed form amongst the members of the AICC but in special cases, delegates who are not member of AICC may be appointed; provided however, that a delegate so appointed shall cease to be member of the Working Committee if he is not elected as member of the AICC within six months of his appointment.

a) The quorum for a meeting of the Working Committee shall be eight.

b) The Working Committee shall be the highest executive authority of the Congress and shall have the power to carry out the policies and programmes laid-down by the Congress and by the AICC and shall be responsible to the AICC. It shall be the final authority in all matters regarding interpretation and application of the provisions of this Constitution.

c) The Working Committee shall place before every meeting of the AICC a report of the proceedings of the previous meeting of the AICC and also the agenda of business for the meeting and shall allot time for non-official resolution of which notice may have been given by the members of the AICC in accordance with the rules prescribed in that behalf.

d) The Working Committee may appoint one or more auditors or inspectors or other officers to examine the records, papers and account books of all Congress Committees and organisations. It shall be incumbent on all such Committees and organisations to furnish all the required information to the
auditors, inspectors or other officers and to give them access to all offices, accounts and other records.

e) The Working Committee shall have the power:

(i) To frame rules for the proper working of the organisation. Such rules shall, as early as possible, be placed for the consideration of their AICC;

(ii) To issue instructions not inconsistent with the Constitution and frame rules in all matters not otherwise provided for;

(iii) To superintend, direct and control all Pradesh Congress Committees and Subordinate Committees as well as the Reception Committees;

(iv) To take such disciplinary action as it may deem fit against a Committee other than the AICC or an individual;

(v) In special case, to relax application of provision under Articles V (A), (a) (i), V (B), VIII (b) and VIII (c).

f) The Working Committee shall have the accounts of the AICC audited annually by an auditor or auditors appointed by the AICC every year.

g) The Working Committee shall fix the date by which the information of Subordinate, District, Pradesh and All India Congress Committees shall be completed.

h) The Working Committee shall constitute a Trust for holding immoveable properties belonging to the All India Congress Committee. The Board of Trustees of the said Trust shall be appointed by the Working Committee and shall comprise of not less than five not more than nine Trustees including the Chairman and the other ex-officio Trustees. The President of the Congress shall be Chairman (ex-officio) of the Trust and the Treasure of the AICC and
the General Secretary Incharge of Administration of AICC shall be Ex-officio members of the Board. The term of the members of the Board of Trustees other than the Chairman and the two other ex-officio Trustees shall be three years. The properties shall be held in the name of the said Trust and if that be not possible in a certain case/cases, then in such manner as directed by the Working Committee.

i) To meet any special situation the working committee shall have the power to take such action in the interest of the congress as it may deem fit; provided however that if any action is taken which is beyond the power of the Working Committee as defined in this Constitution, it shall be submitted as early as possible to the AICC for ratification but not later than six months.

DISCIPLINARY RULES

1. Authorities who can take disciplinary action under Article XIX (f) (IV):
Subject to the following restrictions, the Working Committee Executives of the PCC, TCCs, and Executive of the DCCs can take action against a Congress Committee who commits breach of discipline:
a. The Working Committee can take action only against any Congress Committee and any individual Congressman, but not against the All India Congress Committee.
b. The Executive of a PCC can take action only against Committee subordinate to it and individuals other than members of the AICC and members of Parliament in whose case it can only make recommendations to the Working Committee for disciplinary action.
c. The Executive of a DCC can take action only against Committees subordinate to it members of the DCC and of its subordinate Committees provided that the DCC can not take such action against a person who is a
delegate or a member of a Legislature. In such cases it can only make recommendations to the competent authority for taking disciplinary action.

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

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

3. **Power of Suspension:**

   (a) The Congress President can place under suspension any Committee subordinate to the AICC and any member of the Congress, if there is a prima facie breach of discipline. The President should place this matter before the next meeting of the Working Committee.

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

4. **Breach of Discipline:**

   Breach of discipline includes the following:

   (a) Deliberately acting or carrying propaganda against the programmes and decisions of the Congress;

   (b) Deliberately disregarding rules or disobeying orders passed by any competent authority;
(c) Indulging in fraudulent action relating to Congress fund, enrolment of members or election to committees.

(d) Being guilty of offences involving moral turpitude, black marketing, adulteration, bribery, corruption, forgery, embezzlement of Congress funds or dealing in liquor;

(e) Deliberately acting in a way calculated to lower the prestige of the Congress or carrying on propaganda against Congress Committees or office bearers thereof.

(f) Notices:

(a) No disciplinary action shall be taken without an opportunity being given, with at least two weeks notice to the Committee or individual concerned, to explain its or his/her case and answer such charges as are made against it or him/her. However, the Working Committee can reduce the period of notice when it deems fit to do so.

(b) Notice can be issued at the instance of the President of the Committee, competent to take disciplinary action, provided that he feels there is a prima facie breach of discipline against the Committee or person concerned.

(6) Punishment:

Following punishment is prescribed:

(a) In the case of a Congress Committee, supersession of such a committee and such other action against offending individual members as may be necessary.

(b) In the case of an office-bearer or member of any Congress Committee, his removal from office of membership and fixation of a period during which he can not be elected or nominated to any office or membership in any Committee or enrolled as primary member.

(c) In case of a Primary or Active Member, his removal from membership and disqualification from membership for a specified period.
Provided that if any person against whom disciplinary action has been taken and punishment awarded, is a member of any local body, legislature, Parliament or holds any other position by virtue of his being a Congressman, he may also be called upon to resign from such bodies.

7. **Report of Disciplinary Action:**
Any disciplinary action taken either by the Executive of the DCC or the PCC shall be reported to the PCC and the Working Committee respectively within a week of such action.

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

**Article XX**
**TREASURER**
The treasurer shall be in charge of the funds of the Congress and shall keep proper accounts of all investment, income and expenditure.

**Article XXI**
**GENERAL SECRETARIES**
(a) Subject to general control of the President, the General Secretaries shall be incharge of the office of the AICC.
(b) The General Secretaries shall be responsible for the preparation and publication of a report of the proceedings of the Congress Session including its audited accounts, as soon as possible after the Session.

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

**Article XXII**

**SCRUTINY OF MEMBERSHIP**

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

**Article XXIII**

**ELECTION DISPUTES**

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

**Article XXIV**

**ELECTION MACHINERY**

(a) **Election Authority**- The Working Committee shall set up a Central Organisational Election Authority of the AICC comprising of not less than three not more than five members, one of which will be Chairman of such Authority. The Chairman and members of the Authority will not hold any organisational office during their tenure as Chairman and member of the Authority. Apart from conducting the organisational election, this authority
will also supervise and oversee enrolment of Members for Organisational elections. The Authority will also finalise the calendar of elections starting from enrolment of Members up to the stage of completion of the elections.

(b) The Chairman of the Central Election Authority will be the Ex-Officio Returning Officer of Congress President and Members of the Working Committee.

(c) The Central Election Authority of the AICC shall appoint a Pradesh Election Authority at PCC level comprising of not less than three and not more than five members, one of which will be the Chairman of the Authority. The term of office of the Election Authority will be three years. The Chairman or Member of the Authority will not hold any organisational office during their term. The Central Election Authority shall appoint the Pradesh or Territorial Returning Officer.

(d) For smooth functioning of the Organisational elections, the Central Election Authority will make necessary rules and regulations.

(e) The Pradesh Returning Officer shall conduct all Congress elections in the Pradesh. He shall, in consultation with the Executive of the PCC or TCC and DCCs, appoint District Returning Officers and such other officers as may be necessary for the proper conduct of elections in the Pradesh or Territory. He shall also perform such other functions as are allotted to him by the Central Election Authority from time to time.

(f) The Pradesh Returning Officer shall hold office ordinarily for one term but he will continue till a new Pradesh Returning Officer is appointed or he is removed from office in accordance with the rules framed in this behalf by the Central Election Authority.

Article XXV

(A) PARLIAMENTARY BOARD

The Working Committee shall set up a Parliamentary Board consisting of the Congress President and nine other members, one of whom will be the leader
of the Congress Party in Parliament, with the Congress President as the Chairman for the purpose of regulating and co-coordinating the Parliamentary activities of the Legislature Congress Parties and shall frame rules in that behalf.

(B) ELECTION COMMITTEES
(a) A Central Election Committee shall be set up consisting of members of the Parliamentary Board, and nine other members elected by the AICC for the purpose of:
(i) Making the final selection of the candidates of the State and Central Legislature, and
(ii) Conducting election campaigns.
(b) The Pradesh Election Committee shall consists of the President of the PCC/TCC, the leader of the Congress Legislature Party and/or in case of a Union Territory the leader of Congress Party in the Assembly/Metropolitan Council, and not more than ten and not less than four other members, who shall be elected by the General Meeting of the PCC, or the TCC. If the members of the Committee are elected by two-third majority of members present and voting, they shall be declared elected. The voting for such an election shall be by ballot and on each ballot paper the voter shall have to record as many votes as there are members to be elected to the Committee. In case a two-third majority is not secured by each of the members to be elected, there shall be a fresh election by the system of single transferable vote. The President of the PCC or TCC shall be ex-officio Chairman of Pradesh or Territorial Election Committee.
(c) The Pradesh or Territorial Election Committee, constituted in the above manner, shall recommend candidates for the Central and State Legislatures to the Central Election committee.
(d) The Central Election Committee shall frame necessary rules to give guidance to the Pradesh Election Committee in regard to the selection of candidates and other matters relating to the conduct of elections.

Article XXVI

VACANCIES

(a) The Office of a delegate or a member of any Committee or Board constituted under this Constitution shall be vacated by resignation, removal or death.

(b) All vacancies shall, unless otherwise provided for, be filled in the same manner in which the vacated member was chosen and member so elected shall hold office for the unexpired term of the seat vacated.

(c) In the absence of any provision to the contrary, a Committee or Board, once it is properly constituted, shall not become invalid by reason of any vacancy on it.

Article XXVI-A

CELLS AND DEPARTMENTS

(a) The Congress President may create Cells/Departments to discharge responsibilities as assigned to such cells/Departments.

(b) The Chairman/Members of such Cells/Departments shall be appointed by the Congress President.

(c) Chairman of such Cells/Departments may appoint Chairman and members of Cells/Departments at the Pradesh Level in consultation with the Pradesh Congress Committees.

Article XXVII

MISCELLANEOUS

(a) No person shall be member of any two parallel Committees.

(b) A Committee may delegate any of its power to a smaller Committee or an individual.
(c) Population figures of the last available census shall be the basis for all Congress purposes.

(d) Where there is a question of the value of fractions, a fraction of one-half or more shall be treated as one, and less than half as zero.

(e) Wherever in this Constitution, the word "vote" or any of its inflections occurs, it means or refers to a valid vote.

(f) The Block, District and Pradesh Committees shall elect from amongst its members the Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Treasurers and members of their Executive Committees and from amongst the members of the Executive Committees, the Presidents of the respective Committees shall appoint Secretaries.

(g) Any question or dispute under the Constitution with regard to provisions, contents, interpretations or the procedures laid down therein, between members and Committees or between committees inter se, shall be determined by the appropriate authorities indicated in this Constitution and the decision of such an authority shall be final and binding on all members and Committees of the Indian National Congress, and shall not be liable to question by any of them in a court of law.

(h) Any member who does not attend three successive meetings of any Congress Committee without prior intimation of his absence shall cease to be a member of the Committee concerned.

**Article XXVIII**

**CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION**

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

MISCELLANEOUS (RULES)

1. Disqualification of candidates for elections:
   (a) Election Officers:-

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

   (b) Defaulters of subscription or other dues:

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

   (ii) A member of the legislature who fails to pay his contributions within the time fixed by the Executive of the Legislature Party shall be debarred from standing for Party or organisational elections.

   (iii) The Secretary of the Legislature Congress Party should convey to the Secretary of the PCC and the Secretary of the DCC from time to time information about the members who have failed to pay their dues within the time-limit.

   (iv) The Secretaries of the PCCs and the DCCs on receipt of such information should inform the PRO and DROs that such members of the Legislature are ineligible for organisational elections.

   (v) Such members will not be eligible for nomination by the PCC or DCCs or the subordinate Congress Committees to any Committee or and Sub-Committee.
(vi) In the event of a member of the Legislature paying his arrears, the Secretary of the Party shall intimate to the Secretary of the PCC and the DCC that the arrears are paid and a similar intimation will be given by the Secretary of the PCC and DCC to the PRO and the DROs. On receipt of such information the PRO and the DROs will declare them as eligible provided such intimation is received by the PRO and DRO concerned at least 24 hours before the time for nomination.

(vii) Congressmen, who are not members of a Legislature and against whom there are any arrears pending will also be not eligible for organisational elections or to be nominated to any Committee or Sub-Committee.

2. **Method of Voting:**
Where the Constitution or Rules do not specify the method of election to any office or committee, voting shall be by ballot and where more than one member has to be elected it shall be by simple majority.

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

4. **Term of co-opted Members:**
The term of the co-opted members shall be co-terminus with that of the elected members of the Committee concerned.

5. **Option to choose membership of a Committee:**
(a) When a member of the PCC or DCC is elected from an area in which he does not reside, he should indicate to the PCC or DCC concerned, in writing the name of the DCC or Block Congress Committee of which he desires to be a member before their first meeting, failing which he will be
deemed to have opted for the DCC or the Block Congress Committee in the area from which he has been elected.

(b) When a member of Parliament or State Legislature is elected from an area coming under more than one subordinate Congress Committee or District Congress Committee, as the case may be he shall be entitled to become an ex-officio member of the subordinate Congress Committee and the District Congress Committee concerned under whose jurisdiction he normally resides.

6. **General:**

(i) The President of any Congress Committee shall have the authority to remove any of its office-bearers appointed or nominated by him provided he is satisfied that he is not discharging his duties to his satisfaction. However, due opportunity shall be given to the office-bearer concerned to explain his position before such an action is taken against him.

(ii) The President of a Congress Committee shall have the authority to appoint an Acting president for a short period from amongst the Vice-Presidents with the previous permission of the Superior Congress Committee concerned in case he is not able to function as such for a limited period.

(iii) Wherever the words “Certified Khadi” occur in this Constitution it will mean Khadi certified by Khadi Commission or Khadi Boards.

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

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

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

8. **Functioning of Frontal Organisations:**

(a) Each Frontal Organisation should have its own Constitution. It should have its own membership apart from their membership of the Congress Party. Regular elections should be held at every level. A system also needs to be developed for close co-ordination between the Frontal Organisations and the parent body at every level. More intensive and extensive consultations should be held between parent body and the Frontal Organisations, especially on policy matter.

(b) Autonomy of the Frontal Organisation should be ensured in regard to the election/selection of functionaries. They should have autonomy in working out their own programmes.

(c) Each Frontal Organisation shall have an Advisory Committee headed by the Congress President. The Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Congress President in consultation with the respective Frontal Organisations.

9. **Authority to Frame Additional Rules**

In Case of any difficulty in implementing any of the provisions made in the Constitution, the Congress President shall have the authority to issue instructions and to frame necessary rules to overcome the difficulty.
APPENDIX II
Questionnaire-cum-Interview Schedule for the Leaders
Part I  Background Data and Political Awareness

1. Name
2. Father’s Name
3. Date of Birth
4. Age
5. Religion
6. Caste
7. Qualification
8. Residential Address
9. Occupation/Profession
10. Annual Income upto a) 1 Lakh, b) 2.5 Lakh, c) 7 Lakh, d) 15 Lakh.
11. What is your status in Congress Party? a) Member, b) Office Bearer.
12. Since when have you been with Congress? a) Last Five Years, b) Last Ten Years, c) More Than Ten Years.
13. Who else in your family is a member of the Congress Party?
15. Have you ever contested elections? (Y/N) If yes, which year and at what level? a) At Parliament level, b) At State level, c) At Local level.
16. What was the result?
Part II  Political Perceptions and Orientations of Leaders

1. What have been the reasons for fluctuating electoral performance of Congress in Punjab? A) Anti-incumbency, b) Factionalism, c) Mis-governance, d) Faulty Ticket Distribution, e) Religious Issues, f) Development Issues, g) Any other.

2. Does Congress gain from electoral alignments with CPI, CPM and BSP? (Y/N)


4. Do you approve of the shift in the Congress stand from socialism to privatization, liberalization and globalization? (Y/N)


6. Do you approve of the populist policies of the parties? (Y/N) If yes, why? A) Political Compulsion, b) Vote Catching Device, c) Welfare of the Poor, d) Any other.

7. Are you in favour of inner-party Democracy? (Y/N)

8. Do you favour coalition politics? (Y/N)
APPENDIX III

Questionnaire-cum-Interview Schedule for Voters

Part I  Background Data and Political Awareness

1. Name
2. Father's Name
3. Date of Birth
4. Age
5. Qualification
6. Religion
7. Caste
8. Residential Address
9. Occupation/ Profession
10. Annual Income upto a) 1 lakh, b) 2.5 lakh, c) 7 lakh, d) 15 lakh.
11. Do you have interest in politics? (Y/S)
12. Name the major parties in your state and their symbols.
13. Which party is ruling now-a-days?
14. Name the MLA/MP from your area and his party.
15. Do you exercise you voting right? (Y/S) If yes, how often? a) Regularly, b) Sometimes.
17. Have you ever been a member of any Political Party? (Y/S) If yes, name the party.
18. Have you ever held any office in party hierarchy?
19. Have you ever contested any election? (Y/S) If yes, which year and at what level? a) At Parliament level, b) At State level, c) At Local level.
20. What was the result?

Part II  Political Perceptions and Orientations of Voters
2. In your opinion, which section of society does the policies of Congress favour? a) Businessmen, b) Farmers, c) Poor, d) Employees, e) Don't Know.
3. How do you view the claim of Congress Party as a secular party? a) Secular, b) Not Secular, c) Occasionally Secular, d) Don't Know.
4. Does Congress favour Democracy? (Y/N)
5. How do you view the shift in the Congress stand from socialism to liberalization, privatization and globalization? a) Right, b) Wrong, c) No Comment.
6. Do you find the Congress leaders accessible? (Y/N)
7. Do the Congress leaders visit the constituencies after getting elected? (Y/N)
8. Who according to you is the most popular Congress Chief Minister?
9. To what extent the Congress representatives (MLA/MP) have undertaken the development work of your area? a) to a Great Extent, b) to Some Extent, c) Not At All, d) Don't Know.
10. How far the Congress government has been successful in providing clean administration? a) to a Great Extent, b) to Some Extent, c) Not At All, d) Don't Know.
11. Has the Congress been successful in improving law and order situation in Punjab? (Y/N)