

# Lok Satta Party

## Preamble

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

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

Politics has increasingly become the preserve of a new class of entrepreneurs abusing public office for private gain. Excessive centralization, ineffective instruments of rule of law, marginalization of citizens in governance, autocratic political parties

and unaccountable exercise of power have led to a perverse political culture and pervasive corruption. In our power-centered politics women continue to be marginalized. The disadvantaged sections who need high quality and reliable public services most, have no real power to determine the priorities of government or improve the outcomes. The middle classes, who should constitute the vanguard of a democratic polity, are increasingly alienated from the political process.

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

In the twenty-first century we need to build a society completely free from all forms of discrimination by birth, and all vestiges of the pernicious caste system. All power should vest with the citizen, and governance should be decentralized and restructured, based on the principles of citizen sovereignty and subsidiarity. Corruption and private gain at public cost must be things of the past, and all processes of governance should be transparent and accountable. The state needs to focus on creating conditions for peace and order, opportunities for fulfilling human potential and preventing avoidable suffering, and wholesome and sustainable economic growth coupled with social justice. Politics must once again become a moral endeavour promoting human happiness and harmony.

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

## **Article I Name**

The Party shall be named as "Lok Satta Party" (herein after referred to as "The Party").

## **Article II Aims and Objectives**

The aims and objectives of the Party are:

1. to establish a new political culture which will place the citizen at the centre of governance;
2. to protect the unity and integrity of India at all times, and create a secular and just republic in which the citizen will be the true sovereign;
3. to nurture, protect, and promote the constitutional values of liberty, justice and equality for all;
4. to eliminate all forms of discrimination by birth, and guarantee dignity and opportunity to every single citizen irrespective of origin and status; and to promote social equality and justice, and fully integrate all disadvantaged sections including dalits, adivasis and socially and economically backward classes;

5. to create a political, economic, and social environment which will ensure equal opportunities for vertical mobility to all sections of society, irrespective of caste, ethnicity, religion, or gender.
6. to ensure that every child, irrespective of her origins and socio-economic position, has reasonable access to quality education which will provide an opportunity to fulfil her true potential.
7. to build a viable and effective healthcare system which reaches every man, woman, and child and guarantees good health to all, irrespective of economic status and birth;
8. to promote and implement policies aimed at rejuvenation of Indian agriculture, and substantial enhancement of rural incomes and improvement of quality of life;
9. to ensure that every young person acquires adequate knowledge and skills to make her a productive partner in wealth creation, and thereby promote gainful employment and economic opportunities;

10. to ensure that every family – rural or urban – gets access to basic amenities of life including housing, sanitation, and transport, and opportunity for earning a decent livelihood;
11. to provide social security to the vast, underpaid, dispossessed unorganized sector workers;
12. to empower women and provide opportunities for their economic, social and political advancement;
13. to promote public awareness about democratic functioning of all institutions of governance and encourage reasoned debate and healthy public discourse.
14. to establish a people-centric democratic polity based on liberty, self-governance, empowerment of citizens, rule of law, and self-correcting institutional mechanisms.
15. to work for fundamental political, electoral, and governance reforms listed below:
  - i. effective separation of legislature, executive, and judiciary at all levels with appropriate checks and balances;

- ii. political reforms which make elections truly democratic, representative, and transparent; facilitate and promote the participation of men and women of integrity in the political process, and curb electoral malpractices;
- iii. effective empowerment of local governments at all levels in all respects as participative tiers of constitutional, democratic governance with their own legislature and executive, in a manner that authority and accountability fuse, and the link between vote and public good, and taxes and services is fully established;
- iv. speedy, accessible, effective, and affordable justice at all levels to all citizens, irrespective of means and station at birth;
- v. insulate crime investigation from the vagaries of partisan politics, and to make police effective, citizen friendly, accountable, and just in all respects;
- vi. combat corruption and mis-governance through an institutional framework which

will enhance transparency, and accountability at all levels of administration;

### **Article III Allegiance to the Constitution**

Lok Satta Party shall bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, and to the principles of socialism, secularism, and democracy, and would uphold the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India.

### **Article IV Flag and Logo**

1. The Party flag shall also serve as the Party logo.
2. The flag shall be in the form of a rectangle of dark blue colour and bearing a pure white circle, centered in which shall be a five-pointed star of the same colour as the Rectangle. The dimensions, relative spatial arrangement, and colors of the flag shall be as prescribed.
3. The dark blue colour symbolizes the vastness, depth and inclusive nature of the ocean, in which all streams finally merge.

4. The five-pointed, blue star signifies that the Party sets its course by the twinkle of distant star, and not by the lights of passing ships. The five corners of the Star stand for the five pillars of a true democracy: (1) liberty (2) self-governance (3) citizen empowerment (4) rule of law and (5) self-correcting institutions.
5. The white colour of the circle stands for purity. The colour symbolizes unity of purpose and action amidst the diversity in religion, region, caste, language and beliefs.

### **Article V Membership**

1. The Party shall have two categories of members:
  - Primary Members
  - Active Members
2. The General Council of the Party has the power to create other categories of membership from time to time.
3. The primary membership of Lok Satta Party is open to any Indian citizen who has attained the age of 18 years, and who abides by the Party's constitution.

4. Any individual who has a prior record of indulging in criminal, corrupt, and/or morally reprehensible behaviour will not be eligible to be a member of Lok Satta.
5. In addition to meeting the criteria for a primary member, an active member shall satisfy the criteria prescribed for active membership.
6. Primary and Active members of the Party shall pay the prescribed membership fee.
7. The enrollment and renewal of membership shall be by the procedure prescribed.
8. Both primary and active membership shall be ordinarily valid for a period of 3 years from the date of enrollment. However, the renewal of membership shall be made in an election year before a date specified by the Party, irrespective of the date of enrollment.

## **Article VI Organizational Structure**

The Party shall have a 5-tier organizational structure comprising of the following units:

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

*Note:* Party members representing Professionals, women, youth, students, and other similar groups may form separate units at the primary and intermediate levels.

## **Article VII Party Elections**

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

## **Article VIII Leadership and Office Bearers**

1. There shall be a Coordinator and Secretary at all levels of the Party.
2. The Coordinator for primary units shall be directly elected by all members of the Party at that level. At all other levels, the Coordinator shall be directly elected by all active members of the Party at the respective level.
3. The elected Coordinator shall function as the chief executive of the Party unit at that level.
4. At the primary and intermediate levels, the Secretary and

Assistant Secretaries shall be elected by the General Council, as prescribed.

5. At the district level, the Secretary, Treasurer and other office bearers shall be elected by the General Council, as prescribed.
6. At the state and national levels, the Secretary, Treasurer and other office bearers shall be appointed by the Coordinator, as prescribed.
7. There may be various categories of office bearers, whose title, numeric strength, and responsibilities shall be as prescribed.
8. Unless otherwise specified, the term of all office bearers for all organs of the Party shall be 3 years.
9. Party units representing professionals, women, youth, students, and other such groups, if any, shall have an elected Convener.

## **Article IX Party Organs**

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

## **Article X Primary Units**

1. In addition to the Coordinator and Secretary, the Primary units shall have one or more Assistant Secretaries, or other similar office bearers if any, as prescribed.
2. All office bearers shall constitute the Working Committee, which

also functions as the Executive Committee at the primary level.

3. The total number of office bearers shall not be less than 3 at the primary level, and no more than the maximum strength prescribed.
4. At the primary level, one assistant secretary may be entrusted with the financial responsibilities of the unit.

## **Article XI Intermediate Units**

1. In addition to the Coordinator and Secretary, the Intermediate units shall have one or more Assistant Secretaries, or other similar office bearers if any, as prescribed.
2. The total number of office bearers shall not be less than 5 at the intermediate level, and no more than the maximum strength prescribed.
3. At the intermediate level, one assistant secretary may be entrusted with the financial responsibilities of the unit.

## **Article XII District Units**

1. In addition to the Coordinator and Secretary, the District units shall have a Treasurer, and other office bearers if any, as prescribed.
2. There shall be an elected district working committee with not less than 9 members, and not more than the maximum strength prescribed.
3. The District Coordinator shall be empowered to assign various responsibilities to the members of the district working committee.

## **Article XIII State Units**

1. There shall be an elected state working committee with not less than 15 members, and not more than the maximum strength prescribed.
2. The State Coordinator shall appoint a State Secretary, State Treasurer, and other office bearers as required from the members of the state working committee.
3. The State Coordinator shall be empowered to assign various responsibilities to the members of the state working committee.

## **Article XIV National Party**

1. There shall be an elected national working committee with not less than 21 members, and not more than the maximum strength prescribed.
2. The National Coordinator shall appoint a National Secretary, National Treasurer, and other office bearers as required from the members of the national working committee.
3. The National Coordinator shall be empowered to assign various responsibilities to the members of the national working committee.
4. Until such time that the Party has more than one state unit, the state unit of Andhra Pradesh shall function as the National Party.

## **Article XV General Council**

1. General Council is the general body of the Party, and shall be constituted at all levels with ex-officio, elected, and co-opted members as prescribed.

2. The General Council at the primary level shall be constituted with elected members only.
3. In constituting the General Council at various levels, the Party shall have the right to apportion appropriate weightage to units from different municipal corporations and other such levels, regions, states, and union territories, based on factors such as strength of membership, and number of elected representatives.
4. The General Council or the office bearers authorized on its behalf shall have the authority to take decisions on behalf of the Party.
5. The General Council at the primary and intermediate levels shall elect all office bearers excepting Coordinator, for the respective Party units, as prescribed.
6. The General Council at the district, state, and national levels shall elect the working committees at the respective levels, as prescribed.
7. Only the ex-officio and elected members of the General Council shall have the right to vote in electing office bearers.

## **Article XVI Working committee**

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

composition of the sub committee, and the manner in which they will function.

## **Article XVII Executive Committee**

1. There shall be an Executive Committee constituted at all levels of the Party excepting the primary level, with office bearers at that level, and the Coordinators of the immediately next lower level Party units.
2. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for implementation of policies framed by the General Council.

## **Article XVIII Co-Option**

1. Excepting at the Primary level, the General Council of the Party at all other levels shall have the right to co-opt a certain number or percentage of their total membership, as prescribed.
2. The co-opted members may be chosen from among the active members of the Party.
3. Co-opted members shall not have a right to vote, but will have the eligibility to contest for any office.

4. Co-opted members who are appointed as office bearers shall have voting rights.

### **Article XIX Filling Vacancies**

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

### **Article XX Powers of the Coordinator**

The Coordinator:

1. at all levels shall have substantial powers in discharging his duties as the chief executive of the Party unit.
2. at all levels shall have the power to assign specific responsibilities to office bearers, and members of the working committee.
3. at all levels shall have the deciding vote in case of a tie.
4. at state, and national levels shall have the power to appoint any individual to assist in the functioning of the Party.

5. at state, and national levels shall have the right to propose and recommend any major policy, subject to the ratification of the General Council.
6. at state, and national levels, shall have the right to constitute sub committees from members elected to the general council at the respective levels, or others, to assist in the functioning of Party.
7. at state, and national levels shall have the right to suspend any Party member for breach of discipline, until such time that the Disciplinary Authority conducts disciplinary proceedings. From time to time, if necessary, the Coordinator may delegate this power to the next lower level.

## **Article XXI            Electoral Authority**

1. An autonomous Electoral Authority shall be constituted as prescribed.
2. The eligibility criteria for becoming a member of the Electoral Authority and the term of the members and/or office bearers of the Electoral Authority shall be as prescribed.

3. The Electoral Authority may have chapters at different levels of the Party to assist in its functioning.
4. The Electoral Authority shall:
  - a. oversee the process of enrollment of members;
  - b. maintain the membership rolls at various levels of the Party;
  - c. conduct internal Party elections at all levels of the Party, as prescribed;
  - d. conduct primary elections if any, for selecting Party candidates for elective office;
  - e. conduct elections to fill any vacancies that arise at any level of the Party;
  - f. conduct a recall election, if warranted;
  - g. receive any complaints in respect of membership enrollment, and conduct of elections, and forward the same to the disciplinary authority at that level. Based on the recommendations of the disciplinary committee, it shall take an appropriate decision for the disposal of the complaints, which shall be implemented by the Party units at that level;

5. If there is a dispute over an election at any level, an appeal shall lie to the Electoral Authority at the next higher level. If the dispute is at the National level, in exceptional circumstances, an appeal shall lie to a Committee constituted by the National Coordinator.
6. If there is a dispute over the election of the National Coordinator, an appeal shall lie to a committee constituted by the National General Council.

## **Article XXII      Electoral College**

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

## **Article XXIII Selection of Candidates**

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

## **Article XXIV Motion to Challenge and Recall**

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

## **Article XXV Gender and Social Equity**

1. The Party shall endeavour to ensure equitable and fair representation to women at all levels.
2. The Party shall endeavour to ensure equitable and fair representation to traditionally

weaker and marginalized sections of society such as BCs/SCs/STs/ other minorities, at all levels.

3. The Party shall adopt a proactive affirmative action based approach to ensure gender and social equity, as prescribed.

### **Article XXVI Discipline**

1. An autonomous Disciplinary Authority shall be constituted as prescribed;
2. The Disciplinary Authority shall frame the procedure for conducting disciplinary and appeal proceedings;
3. The Disciplinary Authority may have chapters at different levels of the Party to assist in its functioning;
4. Unfettered freedom of expression on all policy issues within the councils of the Party, and internal democracy shall be protected.
5. The Disciplinary Authority shall:
  - a. receive and investigate complaints received against any member, active member, or office bearer of the Party, and recommend appropriate disciplinary action.

- b. take suo moto cognizance of any news or information against any member, active member, or office bearer of the Party, and conduct appropriate investigation;
  - c. investigate the complaints forwarded by the Party electoral authority, and forward a report to it;
  - d. reject any complaints on appropriate grounds, which shall be communicated to the complainant in writing;
  - e. dispose all disciplinary proceedings within the time frame prescribed;
  - f. provide an opportunity for one appeal to the next level of the Disciplinary Authority;
6. In exceptional circumstances, there may be a final appeal to a committee constituted by the National Coordinator.
7. The Disciplinary Authority shall have the power to impose the following penalties:
- a. Suspension of membership
  - b. Change in the membership category
  - c. Removal from office
  - d. Expulsion from the Party

## **Article XXVII    Resources and Accounts**

1. The Party units at all levels shall maintain a bank account.
2. The Coordinator of the unit shall designate an office bearer(s) to operate the account on behalf of the Party unit.
3. Donations to the Party and membership fee should be duly acknowledged by a receipt.
4. All donations above the limit prescribed by the Party shall be received only in the form of a cheque.
5. Annual statement of accounts should be maintained at all levels, and should be submitted to the General Council after ratification by the executive committee,.
6. At the district, state and national levels, the treasurer should submit an audited statement of accounts ratified by the executive committee, to the General Council.

## **Article XXVIII Rules and Regulations**

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

## **Article XXIV**

### **Amendments to the Constitution**

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

## **Article XXX Merger or Dissolution**

1. A requisition meeting of the National General Council shall be convened with 30 days advance notice.
2. A resolution should be approved by two-thirds of the total delegates, or three-fourths of the delegates present at a specially convened meeting of the National General Council.
3. 51 % of the active members of the Party should approve the resolution through a ballot.

## **Article XXXI Statutory Meetings**

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

## **Article XXXII Requisition and Emergency Meetings**

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

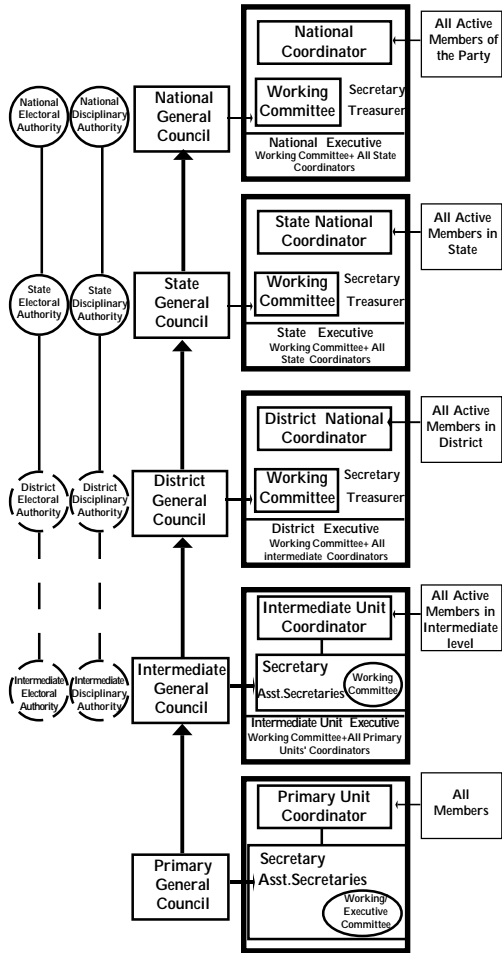
## **Article XXXIII      Quorum**

1. 1/3 of the total membership shall constitute the quorum for the General Council at all levels of the Party.
2. 51 % of the total membership shall constitute the quorum for the Executive and Working Committees at all levels of the Party.

# Appendix I Organization Chart

## LOK SATTA PARTY

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



# **Rules & Regulations**

## **(Article IV)**

### **1. Dimensions and Colors of Party Flag**

#### **Dimensions**

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

#### **Relative Spatial Arrangement**

- iv. The white circle is centered, both vertically and horizontally, inside the rectangle.

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

**Colours:**

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

**(Article V)**

**2. Membership Enrollment Procedure**

- i. Any individual aspiring to become a primary or active member should complete the prescribed application form, and apply for enrollment to the Party Electoral Authority, or a person designated by the Electoral Authority.
- ii. The Party Electoral Authority, or designated person shall notify and display the application forms of aspiring members at its local office, within 7 days of receiving duly completed and signed application forms.

- iii. Any objections against aspiring members may be submitted by existing members in writing, within one month from the date of notification.
- iv. Any complaints received against any aspiring member will be forwarded to the Party Disciplinary Authority.
- v. In the absence of any objections from existing members, the applicant will become a member of the Party at the expiry of the 30 day period from the date of notification.
- vi. The recommendation of the Party Disciplinary Authority will be taken into account by the Party Electoral Authority in accepting or rejecting an application for membership.
- vii. The reasons for rejecting the application for membership should be communicated in writing to the applicant.
- viii. The Electoral Authority shall maintain a Register of members at all levels. A copy of the Membership Register shall be made available to all Party units.

**(Article V)**

**3. Membership Fee**

- i. The membership fee for a primary member will be Rs.25.
- ii. The membership fees for an active member will be Rs. 25, in addition to the annual donation prescribed by rule 5 (ii).

**(Article V)**

**4. Procedure for Renewal of Membership**

- i. Primary membership can be renewed every 3 years, by submitting the completed renewal form and paying the membership fee of Rs. 25.
- ii. Active membership can be renewed every 3 years, by submitting the completed renewal form, along with proof of having met the criteria prescribed in rule 5, and paying the membership fee of Rs. 25, and the donation prescribed by rule 5 (ii).

**(Article V)**

**5. Eligibility Criteria for Active Members:** Any individual aspiring to become an active member of the Party should meet the eligibility criteria prescribed below:

- i. Should be able to complete and submit the membership

application form in his own hand writing.

- ii. Shall donate annually a part of his income to the Party, as prescribed below:
  - Rs. 50 for members whose annual income is less than Rs. 50,000
  - Rs. 100 for members whose annual income is more than Rs. 50,000 and less than Rs. 1,00,000.
  - Rs. 300 for members whose annual income is more than Rs. 1,00,000 and less than Rs. 2,00,000.
  - for members whose annual income is more than Rs. 2,00,000, 0.5% of the annual income.
  - for members whose annual income is more than Rs. 5,00,000, 1.0% of the annual income.
- iii. Should subscribe to the Party magazine/newspaper.
- iv. Should either take responsibility for a specific Party activity, or participate in an activity suggested by the Party.

- v. Should undergo the prescribed training for active members.
- vi. Should follow the code of conduct prescribed.
- vii. Should fulfil such other criteria as prescribed from time to time.

**(Article XXVIII)**

**6. Code of Conduct for Active Members**

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

***i. Active Members of Lok Satta shall not***

- a. discriminate against any one on the basis of caste, religion, region, and gender.
- b. make any personal recommendations of any nature on behalf of the Party.
- c. aspire to profit from any activity using the Party and the office.
- d. indulge in any electoral malpractices such as bribing voters with money, liquor or any other such similar means.
- e. indulge in any behaviour which will encourage groupism, and nepotism.
- f. indulge in any personality based politics.

- g. make politics a source of income or livelihood.

***ii. Active Members of Lok Satta shall:***

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

**(Article XXV)**

**7. Affirmative action for ensuring gender, youth, and social equity**

- i. The Coordinator at all levels of the Party, and Secretary upto district level, shall be elected general constituencies, which will be open for all members of the Party to contest.
- ii. The positions reserved for women, shall be open for women from any section of the society.
- iii. In positions reserved for BC/SC/ST/other minorities, any member from these sections will be eligible to contest. In other words, this will be treated as a block quota, and there will not be separate reservation for each group.
- iv. At all levels of the Party, at least 50% of the elected office bearers, executive, and General Council shall be of less than 40 years age. If this is violated, the eldest members excepting the office bearers shall be treated as special invitees, and the vacancies shall be filled by those who are less than 40 years old.

- v. At the primary and intermediate levels, at least one assistant secretary position shall be reserved for women, and one assistant secretary position for BC/SC/ST/other minorities.
- vi. At the district, state, and national levels, 1/3 of all elected positions in all organs of the Party shall be reserved for women, and 1/3 for weaker sections of the society. This provision shall not be applicable to positions automatically filled by ex-officio members.

**(Article XV)**

**8. Constituting the General Council**

- i. The National General Council shall be constituted with the following members:
  - a. The National Coordinator as chair person.
  - b. Coordinators and Secretaries of all State units, as ex-officio members.
  - c. Prescribed number of members elected from each state general council, out of which 1/3 shall be women, and 1/3 from BC/SC/ST/other minorities.

- d. Co-opted members, not exceeding 10 % of the membership of the General Council
- ii. The State General Council shall be constituted with the following members:
  - a. The State Coordinator as chair person.
  - b. Coordinators and Secretaries of all District units, as ex-officio members.
  - c. 9 members elected from each district general council, out of which 1/3 shall be women, and 1/3 from BC/SC/ST/other minorities.
  - d. Co-opted members, not exceeding 20 in number.
- iii. The District General Council shall be constituted with the following members:
  - a. The District Coordinator as chair person.
  - b. Coordinators and Secretaries of all intermediate units, as ex-officio members.
  - c. 3 members elected from each intermediate general council, out of which one shall be

- women, and one from BC/SC/ST/other minorities.
- d. Co-opted members, not exceeding 10 in number.
- iv. The Intermediate General Council shall be constituted with the following members:
    - a. The Coordinator of the intermediate unit as chair person.
    - b. Coordinators and Secretaries of all primary units, and Conveners of Professional, Women, Youth, Students and other such groups if any, as ex-officio members.
    - c. 6 members elected from each primary general council, out of which 1/3 shall be women, and 1/3 from BC/SC/ST/other minorities.
    - d. Co-opted members, not exceeding 5 in number.
  - v. The Primary General Council shall be constituted with the following members:
    - a. The Coordinator of the primary unit as chair person.
    - b. Conveners of Professional, Women, Youth, Students and other such groups if any.

- c. 15 members elected from all members of the Party at this level, out of which 1/3 shall be women, and 1/3 from BC/SC/ST/other minorities.

**(Article X, XI)**

**9. Strength of Office Bearers**

- i. The total number of office bearers at the Intermediate level shall not be more than 5, including a maximum of 3 Assistant Secretaries.
- ii. The total number of office bearers at the Primary level shall not be more than 4, including a maximum of 2 Assistant Secretaries.

**(Article XI X)**

**10. Filling Vacancies**

- i. The Electoral Authority shall conduct a special election for filling any vacancy, if more than 1/3 of the term of office is remaining.
- ii. At the primary and intermediate levels of the Party, if a vacancy arises for the position of Coordinator, the Secretary shall act as the Coordinator, until such time that the Electoral

Authority notifies and conducts a special election for that office.

- iii. At the district, state, and national levels, if a vacancy arises for any elected office, the Executive Committee shall choose a replacement for that office, until such time that the Electoral Authority notifies and conducts a special election for filling that office.

**(Article XXIV)**

**11. Procedure to Challenge and Recall Coordinator**

- i. To challenge and recall a Coordinator at any level of the Party, either a resolution approved by 2/3 of the voting members of the General Council at a requisitioned meeting, or a notice signed by 1/4 of all active members of the Party at that level should be submitted to the Electoral Authority.
- ii. Upon validation of the challenge and recall motion, the Electoral Authority, shall conduct a recall election within 3 months from the date of receiving the notice.

- iii. The Coordinator at any level of the Party can be unseated by a majority vote in a recall election.

**(Article XXIV)**

**12. Procedure to Challenge any other Office Bearer**

- i. To challenge any elected office bearer at any level of the Party, excepting the Coordinator, a resolution supported by 1/3 of the voting members of the General Council at that level is mandatory.
- ii. Any elected office bearer excepting the Coordinator, at any level of the Party, can be unseated by a resolution passed by a majority of the voting members of the General Council at that level, at a requisitioned meeting.

**(Article XXVII)**

**13. Limit for Donations in Cash**

Donations less than Rs.5,000 may be accepted in cash, which shall be acknowledged by a receipt.

**(Article XXXI , XXXII)**

**14. Conduct of Meetings**

- i. At all levels of the Party, meetings of all organs

excepting the disciplinary and electoral authorities, shall be chaired by the Coordinator at that level.

- ii. The Secretary shall be responsible for conducting the proceedings of the meetings.

**(Article XXXI)**

**15. Statutory Meetings**

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

	Working Committee	Executive Committee	General Council	All Members
National Party	Once every 60 days	Once every 3 months	Once a year	NA
State Unit	Once every 30 days	Once every 3 months	Once every 6 months	
District Unit	Once every 30 days	Once every 3 months	Once every 6 months	
Intermediate Unit	Once every 15 days	Once every 2 months	Once every 4 months	
Primary Unit	NA	Once every 15 days	Once every 2 months	Once every 3 months

- ii Notice Period

- a. A statutory meeting of the Executive Committee at the intermediate, district, state,

and national levels can be convened with a 10 day notice.

- b. A statutory meeting of the General Council at the intermediate, district, state, and national levels can be convened with a 15 day notice.

**(Article XXXII)**

**16. Requisitioned Meeting**

A Requisitioned Meeting of any Party organ at any level can be convened with the support of 1/3 of the members of that organ with a 15-day notice.

**(Article XXXII)**

**17. Emergency Meeting**

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

**(Article XXI)**

**18. Electoral Authority**

- i. The National Working Committee shall constitute the National Electoral Authority with a Chair Person, and at least 2, and no more than 8 members as a permanent organ of the Party.

- ii. The National Working Committee shall appoint such members or other individuals to the National Electoral Authority who are known for their integrity and neutrality.
- iii. The term of office for members of the National Electoral Authority shall be 6 years.
- iv. 1/3 of the members of the National Electoral Authority shall retire every 2 years, and the vacancies shall be filled by the National Working Committee.
- v. The State, District and Intermediate level Electoral Authorities may be constituted with no less than 3, and no more than 5 members.
- vi. The National Electoral Authority shall appoint members of the State, District, and Intermediate level Electoral Authorities, from a panel recommended by the respective state, district and intermediate level Working Committees.
- vii. The State, District, and Intermediate level Electoral Authorities shall function under

the guidance of the National Electoral Authority. The National Electoral Authority shall be empowered to remove from office an erring member of the lower level Electoral Authorities.

- viii. The Electoral Authority shall conduct all internal Party elections before the term of office expires.
- ix. The Electoral Authority shall conduct an election to fill any vacancy in no more than 45 days from the date of receiving a notice from the Coordinator.
- x. If warranted, the Electoral Authority shall conduct a recall election within 3 months of receiving notice.
- xi. The National Working Committee is empowered to remove from office, any erring member of the National Electoral Authority.
- xii. The members of the Electoral Authority at any level shall not be eligible to contest in any Party elections.

**(Article XVI)**

**19. Disciplinary Authority**

- i. The National Working Committee shall constitute the National Disciplinary Authority with a Chair Person, and at least 2, and no more than 8 members.
- ii. The National Working Committee shall appoint such members or other individuals to the National Disciplinary Authority who are known for their integrity and neutrality.
- iii. The State, District and Intermediate level Disciplinary Authorities may be constituted with no less than 3 and no more than 5 members.
- iv. The National Disciplinary Authority shall appoint members of the State, District, and Intermediate level Disciplinary Authorities, from a panel recommended by the respective state, district, and intermediate Working Committees.
- v. The State, District, and Intermediate level Disciplinary Authorities shall function under the guidance of the National

Disciplinary Authority. The National Disciplinary Authority shall be empowered to remove from office an erring member of the lower level Disciplinary Authorities.

- vi. All disciplinary proceedings at the sub-district level shall be disposed of in less than 2 months from the date of receiving the initial complaint, or start of disciplinary proceedings.
- vii. All disciplinary proceedings at the district, state, and national levels shall be disposed of in less than 3 months from the date of receiving the initial complaint, or start of disciplinary proceedings.
- viii. Any subsequent appeal to a higher authority shall be disposed of in no more than 30 days.
- ix. The National Working Committee shall be empowered to remove from office, any erring member of the National Disciplinary Authority.
- x. The members of the Disciplinary Authority at any

level shall not be eligible to contest in any Party elections.

**(Article VIII)**

**20. Functions of the Coordinator**

The Coordinator shall

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

**(Article VIII)**

**21. Functions of the Secretary**

The Secretary shall

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

- iii. execute the specific responsibilities entrusted by the Coordinator.

**(Article VIII)**

**22. Functions of the Assistant Secretary**

The Assistant Secretary shall discharge the responsibilities entrusted by the Coordinator.

**(Article VIII)**

**23. Functions of the Treasurer**

The treasurer or the office bearer entrusted with financial responsibilities shall

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