

**Freedom from Hunger**  
**Freedom from Fear**

**SDPI**★

**Party**

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**Constitution**

# PARTY CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE 1

### Name

Social Democratic Party of India

## ARTICLE 2

### Allegiance to the Constitution of India

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

## ARTICLE 3

### Aims and Objectives

Social Democratic Party of India shall stand for the realization of a social order and political system based on the great ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity enshrined in the Indian Constitution. It shall mobilize the people to enjoy civil rights through democratic struggles including elections.

Social Democratic Party of India shall strive for the establishment of governance in the Union and the States, capable of fulfilling equal rights to all citizens and all classes in India. It aims to unite all depressed classes in a national political movement.

**Social Democratic Party of India upholds a political ideology founded on the following principles:**

- ✓ National integration, communal amity and social harmony
- ✓ Democratization of society and politics
- ✓ Rule of law and Human Rights
- ✓ Freedom from fear and hunger
- ✓ Eco-friendly and non-destructive development model
- ✓ Welfare and progress of the weaker sections
- ✓ Security and dignity of the marginalized classes
- ✓ Cultural identity of the tribal, the dalits and the minorities
- ✓ Empowerment of minorities and backward castes
- ✓ Unity and solidarity among the depressed communities

#### **ARTICLE 4**

##### **Membership**

Social Democratic Party of India shall have a two-tier membership pattern:

*Party Cadre and Party Member.*

##### **1. Party Cadre**

Any member of the party, who has completed one year membership in the party, is eligible to be enrolled as a Cadre provided he or she fulfils the norms and conditions stipulated by the Party from time to time.

Party Cadres are admitted on the basis of the application submitted in the branch committee and approved by the district president/state president/national President as the case may be. (See annexure 1, appended to this constitution)

If the applicant is admitted to the Party, he or she shall take the prescribed pledge before the authorized representative of the Party President and remit the annual subscription.

Each Party Cadre has to renew his cadreship once in a term during the period prescribed for the same by remitting the subscription fee.

## **2. Party Member**

Any citizen of India, sixteen years of age or above who is willing to associate with the party will be a Party Member. Any person irrespective of religion, caste, creed and sex may be admitted as a Party Member, provided he is agreeable to the terms and conditions stipulated by the party for the members from time to time.

A Member has no right to elect office bearers or to be elected as office bearers, or to vote on any motion or resolution.

Each member has to renew his membership once in a term during the period prescribed for the same by remitting the subscription fee.

*(See annexure 1 appended to this constitution)*

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **Jurisdiction**

The jurisdiction of the Party is Indian Union.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **Pledge**

I accept the aims and objectives of the social Democratic Party of India. I am ready to work for the fulfillment of civil rights and social justice to all citizens of India. I shall abide by the constitution and discipline of the Party. I hereby pledge that I shall give priority to the interests of the people and shall keep away from personal vices and social evils.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **Records**

The party shall have the following records to be maintained by the Branch Committee.

1. Party Constitution
2. Register of Cadres.
3. Minute of the Branch Committee meetings.
4. Accounts of the Branch Committee.

**All other higher committees in the hierarchy up to the National Working Committee have to maintain the following records:**

1. Party Constitution
2. Minute of the respective Committee meetings
3. Accounts of the respective Committee.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **Structure**

#### **1. National Working Committee**

The National Working Committee is the ultimate decision making body of the Party. It has powers to veto any decision of the lower bodies including the National Secretariat.

The National Working Committee is constituted by minimum 15 and not more than 51 members elected by the National Representative Council for a period of three years. The State Presidents shall be ex-officio members, if they are not elected members. However the ex-officio members shall not have voting rights. In addition the National Working committee may nominate members to the committee provided the total number of nominated members does not exceed 1/3 of existing elected members. National Working Committee shall be convened at least once in every six months. If demanded by two third members, it shall be convened within a month of such a notice.

**The following shall be the main functions of National Working Committee:**

1. To discuss and decide on the policy of the Party
2. To amend the Party constitution and formulate the party programme
3. To elect the National Secretariat
4. To elect Office Bearers
5. Disciplinary Actions
6. Handle policy matters connected to party ideology

#### **2. National Secretariat**

The National Secretariat is constituted by minimum 7 and not more than 15 members including President and General Secretary in charge of Headquarters administration, to be elected by the National Working Committee from among its members. In addition the National Secretariat may nominate members to the National Secretariat, from among the national working committee members, provided the total

number of nominated members does not exceed 1/3 of existing elected members. The National Secretariat has to meet at least once in two months. Following shall be the functions of National Secretariat.

1. Supervise party administration
2. Supervise party funds and accounts
3. Formulate party election policy
4. Formulate party programmes, identification of issues and respond.
5. Supervise party functions in states
6. Formulate and supervise national level sub committees for the smooth functioning of the party

### **3. National Representative Council**

National Representative Council is constituted by the members of the National Working Committee excluding ex-officio members, elected members of the State Working Committees excluding the ex-officio and nominated members and councilors elected as per the ratio of the Party Cadres prescribed from time to time for a period of three years. The State Representative Councils have to elect councilors to the National Representative Council. The National Representative Council has to meet once in three years. It will make a triennial review of the situation in the Nation and the Party. National Working Committee has to submit the triennial report of the Party activities to the National Representative Council for discussion and suggestions. It has power to veto any amendments to the Party Constitution with two third majority of the members present and voting.

### **4. State Working Committees**

The State Working Committee is constituted by minimum 9 and not more than 33 members elected by the State Representative Council for a period of three years. The District Presidents shall be ex-officio members, if they are not elected members. However the ex-officio members shall not have voting rights. In addition the State Working committee may nominate members to the committee provided the total number of nominated members does not exceed 1/3 of the existing elected members. The state level decision making body of the Party shall be the State Working Committee. State Working Committee shall be convened once every three months. If demanded by two third members, it shall be convened within 15 days of such a notice. The State Working Committee has power to veto any decision of the State Secretariat.

## **5. State Secretariats**

The State Secretariat is constituted by minimum 5 and not more than 9 members including President and General Secretary in charge of State Office administration, elected by the State Working Committee from among its members. The State Secretariat is the sub-committee of the State Working Committee appointed for the running of the routine affairs of the Party. The State Secretariat has to meet every month.

## **6. State Representative Councils**

State Representative Council is constituted by the members of the State Working Committee excluding ex-officio members, elected members of the District Working Committees excluding the ex-officio and nominated members and councilors elected as per the ratio of the Party Cadres prescribed from time to time for a period of three years. The District Representative Councils have to elect councilors to the State Representative Council. The State Representative Council has to meet twice in a term. It will make an annual review of the situation in the State and the Party. State Working Committee has to submit the annual report of the Party activities to the State Representative Council for discussion and suggestions.

## **7. District working Committees**

The District Working Committee is constituted by minimum 7 and not more than 21 members elected by the District Representative Council for a period of three years. The Constituency Committee Presidents shall be ex-officio members, if they are not elected members. However the ex-officio members shall not have voting rights. In addition, the District Working Committee shall nominate members to the committee provided the total number of nominated members does not exceed 1/3 of the existing elected members'. The district level decision making body of the Party shall be the District Working Committee. District Working Committee shall be convened every month. If demanded by two third members, it shall be convened within 15 days of such a notice. The District Working Committee has powers to veto any decision of the District Secretariat.

## **8. District Secretariats**

The District Secretariat is constituted by 5 members including President and Secretary, elected by the District Working Committee from among its

members. The District Secretariat is the sub-committee of the District Working Committee appointed for the running of the routine affairs of the Party. The District Secretariat has to meet at least once in a month.

#### **9. District Representative Councils**

District Representative Council is constituted by the members of the District Working Committee excluding ex-officio members, elected members of the Constituency Committees excluding the ex-officio and nominated members and councilors elected as per the ratio of the Party Cadres prescribed from time to time for a period of three years. The Constituency Councils have to elect councilors to the District Representative Council. In the absence of constituency level structure in any District, it is constituted by the elected members of the immediate lower structure in the hierarchy. The District Representative Council has to meet once in a year. It will make a review of the Party situation in the district.

#### **10. Constituency Committees**

The Constituency Committee is constituted by minimum 7 and not more than 21 members elected by the Constituency Council for a period of three years. The Panchayat/ Municipal/City Committees Presidents shall be ex-officio members, if they are not elected members. However the ex-officio members shall not have voting rights.

#### **11. Constituency Councils**

Constituency Council is constituted by the members of the Constituency Committee excluding ex-officio members, elected members of Panchayat/ Municipal/City Committees excluding the ex-officio and nominated members and councilors elected as per the ratio of the Party Cadres prescribed from time to time for a period of three years. The Panchayat / Municipal / City Councils have to elect councilors to the Constituency Council. In the absence of Panchayat/ Municipal/City level structure in any District, it is constituted by the elected members of the immediate lower structure in the hierarchy. The Constituency Council has to meet once in a year. It will make a review of the Party situation in the constituency.

#### **12. Panchayat / Municipal / City Committees**

The Panchayat/ Municipal/City Committee is constituted by minimum 5 and not more than 17 members elected by the Panchayat/ Municipal/City



councils for a period of three years. The Branch Committee Presidents and Secretaries shall be ex-officio members, if they are not elected members. However the ex-officio members shall not have voting rights.

### **13. Panchayat / Municipal / City Councils**

Panchayat / Municipal / City Council is constituted by the members of the Panchayat / Municipal / City Committee excluding ex-officio members, elected members of Branch Committees excluding the ex-officio and nominated members and councilors elected as per the ratio of the Party Cadres prescribed from time to time for a period of three years. The Party Cadres in each Branch under the jurisdiction of the respective Panchayat / Municipal / City Council have to elect councilors to the Panchayat / Municipal / City Council. The Panchayat/Municipal/City Council has to meet once in a year. It will make a review of the Party situation in the Panchayat/Municipality/City.

#### **1) Branch Committees**

The Branch Committee is constituted by Office Bearers elected by the Party Cadres in the Branch for a period of three years. The Branch committee has to meet every month.

#### **2) Branch**

The Party Cadres not less than 5 and not more than 25 shall constitute a Party Branch. All Party Members in the same jurisdiction shall be part of the respective Branch. The Branch has to meet once in 2 months.

3) Number of elected members of working committees at every level shall be fixed by the next upper committee within the limit prescribed in the constitution for each term. But National Working Committee itself will fix the number of members to be elected to the National Working Committee.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### **Office Bearers**

The Party Office Bearers at all levels except Branches shall be elected by the Working Committee or Committee members at the respective level. Office Bearers of Branches shall be elected by the cadres of the respective Branch. Secret ballot method shall be adopted for election in all levels.

### **1. National level**

The National Working Committee shall elect the following office bearers:

- 1. National President**
- 2. National Vice Presidents** (not more than 5)
- 3. National General Secretaries** (not more than 5)
- 4. National Secretaries** (not more than 10)
- 5. National Treasurer**

### **2. State level**

The State Working Committee shall elect the following office bearers:

- 1. State President**
- 2. State Vice Presidents** (not more than 3)
- 3. State General Secretaries** (not more than 3)
- 4. State Secretaries** (not more than 6)
- 5. State Treasurer**

### **3. District level**

The District Committee shall elect the following office bearers:

- 1. District President**
- 2. District Vice Presidents** (not more than 3)
- 3. District General Secretary**
- 4. District Secretaries** (not more than 6)
- 5. District Treasurer**

### **4. Constituency level**

The Constituency Committee shall elect the following office bearers:

- 1. Constituency President**
- 2. Constituency Vice Presidents** (not more than 2)
- 3. Constituency Secretary**
- 4. Constituency Joint Secretaries** (not more than 3)
- 5. Constituency Treasurer**

### **5. Panchayat / Municipal /City level**

The Panchayat / Municipal /City Committee shall elect the following office bearers:

1. Panchayat / Municipal / City President
2. Panchayat / Municipal / City Vice Presidents (not more than 2)
3. Panchayat / Municipal / City Secretary
4. Panchayat / Municipal / City Joint Secretaries (not more than 2)
5. Panchayat / Municipal / City Treasurer

#### **6. Branch level**

The Branch Committee shall elect the following office bearers:

1. Branch President
2. Branch Vice President
3. Branch Secretary
4. Branch Joint Secretaries (not more than 3)
5. Branch Treasurer

However in the case of a Branch with minimum number of cadres, there shall be only 3 Office Bearers; i.e. President, Secretary and Treasurer.

### **ARTICLE 10**

#### **Powers and Duties of Office Bearers:**

##### **President**

- 1) The President at all levels in the structural hierarchy shall supervise the activities of the party.
- 2) He shall have the responsibility for the growth and development of the Party under his jurisdiction.

##### **Vice President**

- 1) The Vice President at all levels in the structural hierarchy shall assist the President and undertake the responsibilities delegated to him by the President.
- 2) In case of absence of the President from the routine functions, the President can appoint a Vice President as in-charge.

##### **General Secretary**

- 1) The General Secretary at all levels shall look after the general administration of the Party under the supervision of the President.
- 2) In case there is more than one General Secretary, the concerned

Working Committee can decide about the work distribution among them.

#### **Secretaries**

- 1) The Secretary shall assist the General Secretary.
- 2) In case there is no provision for General Secretary at a particular level, the Secretary shall assume the powers and duties of the General Secretary.
- 3) In case there is more than one Secretary, the concerned Working Committee can decide about the work distribution among them.

#### **Joint Secretaries**

- 1) The Joint Secretary shall assist the Secretary.
- 2) In case there is more than one Joint Secretary, the concerned Committee can decide about the work distribution among them.

#### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer at all levels in the structural hierarchy shall manage the income, expenditure and accounting of the Party under the supervision of the General Secretary or Secretary, in case there is no provision for General Secretary.

### **ARTICLE 11**

#### **Quorum of Meetings**

The quorum of meetings of all Committees and Councils shall be 50% of the total members of the respective Committee or Council. In case a meeting of the Committee or Council is not held due to the lack of quorum, there will be no need of quorum for the next meeting of the respective Committee or Council.

### **ARTICLE 12**

#### **Party Funds**

The source of income of the party will be the following:

- 1) Subscription from Party Cadres and Party Members
- 2) Donations from general public

All party funds collected at any level other than national has to be remitted to the State Working Committee. Each State Working Committee has to remit a prescribed percentage of their annual income

to the National Working Committee.

The Party accounts at all levels below national must be audited every year by the auditors appointed by the immediate higher Committee in the structural hierarchy. The National level accounts must be audited by the auditors appointed by the National Representative Council.

## **ARTICLE 13**

### **Party Discipline**

The Party Cadres shall uphold ethical values and refrain from all kinds of vices. In case a Party Cadre is charged with serious violation of party discipline, the State President may take appropriate disciplinary action including suspension based on the report from the subordinate Committee. A Party Cadre can be suspended by the President below the level of State for a period of three months and before of the expiry of this period the matter has to be finally decided by the State President. If the Party Cadre is member of state Working Committee or National Working Committee, the matter has to be finally decided by the National Working Committee.

A Party Member can be suspended by the President below the level of District for a period of three months and before the expiry of this period the matter has to be finally decided by the District President.

The resignation of a Party Cadre who is not an Office Bearer has to be submitted to the Branch President and the final decision has to be taken by the District President. If the Party Cadre is a member of a Committee above the level of Branch and below the level of State, his or her resignation as a cadre or office bearer has to be submitted to the President of the respective Committee and the matter has to be finally decided by the District President. If the Cadre is a member of State Working Committee or National Working Committee, the resignation has to be submitted to the respective President and the matter has to be finally decided by the respective Committee.

The right to suspend freeze or dissolve a Committee\Council below state level vest with State Working Committee. The rights

to suspend, freeze or dissolve State Working Committee, State Secretariat or State Representative Council vest with National Working Committee.

#### **ARTICLE 14**

##### **Appeal**

There shall be right of appeal to the next higher level in all disciplinary actions.

#### **ARTICLE 15**

##### **Amendments**

The right to amend the Constitution vests with the National Working Committee of the Party. However, the National Representative Council convened specifically for the purpose with prior notice has the power to veto any such amendment with two third majority of those who are present and voting.

#### **ARTICLE 16**

##### **Merger / Dissolution of the Party**

Any decision regarding the dissolution of the Party or the merger of the Party with another party has to be taken in the National Working Committee meeting convened specifically for the purpose, by two third majority of the members present in the concerned meeting. However, any decision regarding the dissolution of the Party or the merger of the Party shall be in effect only after the approval in the National Representative Council meeting convened specifically for the purpose, by simple majority of the members present in the concerned meeting, within a period of two months from the date of the said decision in the National Working Committee.

(Revised on 18.12.2014)

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**ANNEXURE 1**  
**RESOLUTION PASSED IN**  
**THE NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD AT MYSORE ON 18.12.2014**

In the two tier membership system adopted by the party, cadres are to be recruited exclusively from the members of the Party.

**The following norms and conditions are stipulated for consideration of a member to the cadre:**

1. They should work as a member of the party for a minimum period of 1 year.
2. Attendance in at least 50 percent of the party conventions held during the past 1 year.
3. Completion of the basic party education course
4. Satisfactory participation in party activities as per the guideline prescribed from time to time
5. They should avoid alcoholic drinks, drugs and other social evils.
6. They should keep away from bribery and corruption

**The following terms and conditions are stipulated for the recruitment of a party member:**

1. They should complete 16 years of age
2. They should be ready to abide by the policies, aims and objectives of the party.
3. They should not be a member of any other political party.
4. They should obey the directions and orders of the party leaders and keep the discipline of the party.
5. They shall keep the basic values of the morality.
6. Each member has to renew his membership once in term.

**METHOD FOR ENROLLMENT OF MEMBERS TO CADRESHIP**

Application has to be submitted in the branch committee and the branch committee will forward it, with its recommendation, to the immediate higher committee which will forward it to the District President for decision.

Authority for approval of cadre ship shall be District President/State President/National President, as the case may be.

### **EXEMPTIONS:**

Though cadres only are considered for inclusion in party committees in different levels and also for leadership, in special cases exemption can be granted by the prescribed authority for inclusion of a non-cadre member in a committee and for leadership in that level on adhoc basis, provided they shall complete party basic course within 6 months of their inclusion in the committee and there upon they will be deemed to be cadres. However they shall abide by the conditions 3 to 6 prescribed for enrollment of a member to cadre.

**Authority for giving exemption shall be as follows:**

Branch level to District level	State Secretariat
State level	National Secretariat
National level	NWC

### **ANNEXURE 2**

#### **RESOLUTION PASSED IN THE NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT BANGALORE ON 21.04.2015**

The count of National Vice Presidents has been increased to from 3 to 5.

**Reference: Article 9 Office Bearers >**

**1. National Level**

**1.2 National Vice Presidents (not more than 5)**



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## **Social Democratic Party of India**

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