



## **RULES**

**THE WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY (INDIA)**

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## **OBJECT**

**The establishment of a system of society based upon the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of the whole community.**

## **DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES**

1. That society as at present constituted is based upon the ownership of the means of living (i.e., land, factories, railways, etc.) by the capitalist or master class, and the consequent enslavement of the working class, by whose labour alone wealth is produced.
2. That in society, therefore, there is an antagonism of interests, manifesting itself as a class struggle, between those who possess but do not produce, and those who produce but do not possess.
3. That this antagonism can be abolished only by the emancipation of the working class from the domination of the master class, by the conversion into the common property of society of the means of production and distribution, and their democratic control by the whole people.
4. That as in the order of social evolution the working class is the last class to achieve its freedom, the emancipation of the working class will involve the emancipation of all mankind without distinction of race or sex.
5. That this emancipation must be the work of the working class itself.
6. That as the machinery of government, including the armed forces of the nation, exists only to conserve the monopoly by the capitalist class of the wealth taken from the workers, the working class must organize consciously and politically for the conquest of the powers of government, national and local, in order that this machinery, including these forces, may be converted from an instrument of oppression into the agent of emancipation and the overthrow of privilege, aristocratic and plutocratic.
7. That as all political parties are but the expression of class interests, and the interest of the working class is diametrically opposed to the interests of all sections of the master class, the party seeking working class emancipation must be hostile to every other party.
8. The World Socialist Party (India), therefore, enters the field of political action determined to wage a war against all other political parties, whether alleged labour or avowedly capitalist, and calls upon the members of the working class of this country to muster under its banner to the end that a speedy termination may be wrought to the system which deprives them from the fruits of their labour, and that poverty may give place to comfort, privilege to equality, slavery to freedom.

.....  
The Object and Declaration of Principles are basic to our organization. Initiated in 1904 with the inauguration of the Socialist Party of Great Britain these are being adopted as basic to organizations of class-conscious workers in other countries around the world.

## **ALL ENQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP TO...**

### **THE WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY (INDIA)**

257 Baghajatin 'E' Block (East), Kolkata 700 086,

Tel: 091-33-2425-0208 / 7256 / 7378

Email: [wspindia@hotmail.com](mailto:wspindia@hotmail.com) , [wsp\\_india@yahoo.com](mailto:wsp_india@yahoo.com)

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## RULES

(As adopted by the Membership Meetings in June 1995 and amended in October 1997)

1. The Party inaugurates with the **OBJECT** and **DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES** as stated in the **MANIFESTO OF THE WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY (INDIA)** adopted by the Founding Conference in March 1995 as basic.
2. The **OBJECT** and **PRINCIPLES** of the Party may be amended if necessary and in conjunction with the **COMPANION PARTIES FOR WORLD SOCIALISM**.
3. The conditionality of recognition of a Companion Party shall be the Party's adoption of and adherence to the **OBJECT** and **DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES**.

## MEMBERSHIP

4. (a) Any person prepared to accept by signification the **OBJECT** and **PRINCIPLES** as stated in the **MANIFESTO OF THE WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY (INDIA)** and the Party **RULES** is eligible to apply for membership. Such a willing person is required to fill up an **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP** form including a **MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE** to be lodged to the Secretary, **LOCAL BRANCH** [for the **CENTRAL BRANCH** see Rule 4 (b) below] – whose duty shall be to place the same before the next **Business meeting** (to which the applicant shall be invited) for consideration. After determining the applicant's membership-suitability decision shall follow the majority opinion, subject to the approbation of the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)**. On approval, the Branch shall regard him/her as a member since the date of enrolment. Any application rejected by the Branch shall be forwarded to the EC together with the reasons for rejection. On EC's rejection, the applicant shall have the right to appeal for a **PARTY VOTE** on the matter.  
(b) An applicant who resides where no Local Branch exists, or who, for reasons acceptable to both his/her Local Branch and the EC, finds any difficulty in joining his/her Local Branch, shall send his application to the General Secretary and following a similar procedure as in Rule 4.(a), if accepted by the EC, shall be registered by the Central Branch.
5. Each member, every five years, shall receive from the EC a copy of **RULES** and a **MEMBER** card showing the name of the Branch, the registered number, his/her name, address and the date of enrolment. Each member shall remain attached to a Branch. One shall not belong to more than one Branch at a time. Branch transfer is allowed, provided a clear record is furnished by one's last Branch. Members of a Branch ceasing to exist shall be directly transferred to the Central Branch unless they request otherwise.  
A member leaving India will be permitted to retain his/her membership only in the absence of a Companion Party or Group in the country he is becoming a resident of. A member of a Companion Party becoming a resident in India may write to the nearest Branch or to the EC for transfer of his/her membership to the **WSP (I)**; THE Secretary concerned shall contact the Companion Party and arrange transfer.
6. Members shall be entitled to attend meetings of branches other than their own and speak with permission without the right to vote thereat.

Members of the Central Branch shall be informed of a Party Vote, forwarded a voting paper, and shall be allowed to vote through the post or at any one Branch meeting on production of **MEMBER** card.

Members shall also be entitled to attend EC meetings and Party Conferences and with permission contribute to the discussions.

7. A member must not belong to any other political organization or to any religious body, or write or speak for any except for the ideas of the World Socialist Party (India), or render support to any movement (political, religious, etc.) in conflict with the **OBJECT** and **PRINCIPLES** of World Socialism.
8. Each member shall deposit a monthly membership subscription of Rs. 10.00 to his/her Branch Treasurer who is to acknowledge the receipt by signing his/her **Membership Subscription Card**. A member unable to pay it due to unemployment, sickness, or any reason (satisfactory to the Branch) upon written request will be exempted. A member becoming three months in arrears shall be immediately notified by the Branch Secretary allowing another month for collection or a satisfactory explanation, failing which, may be dropped from membership by the Branch, subject to ratification by the EC, and shall not be allowed to join any Branch till the arrears remain. Should the address of a member in arrear be unknown, such a member may also be dropped.
9. A member may leave party membership by submitting his/her resignation letter (for any reason except an anti-party false charge) to the Branch Secretary or the General Secretary. Any anti-party defamatory activity or behaviour of a member shall warrant his/her being duly charged and even expelled as per Rules 33 and 35.

## **BRANCH**

10. The Branch shall be the unit of the organization. Three or more members shall constitute a Branch, following approval of the EC on application using the specific form. If there are two or more Branches in a State, District, Municipal Corporation, Municipality or Panchayat area, they may be united on issues of their mutual concern, keeping the informed of the same.
11. Each Branch [see Rule 21 (d) for the Central Branch] shall annually elect a Branch Secretary and other necessary Functionaries from amongst its members. This election is to be accomplished every year in the very Branch meeting that has to follow the Party Conference. Any of those Functionaries shall remain subject to recall any time by a majority vote of the Branch. Results of any election shall be immediately communicated to the Executive Committee.
12. A Branch will hold at least one **Business meeting** a month following the procedure and order in Rule 37. On written requisition by one-third of the members on any matter the Branch Secretary shall notify summoning the meeting on a date fixed within 15 days. The Branch shall be entitled to decide its own quorum subject to review by the EC. If necessary Branches may draw up their internal management guidelines provided those do not conflict with the Party Manifesto, Object and Principles, Rules and Standing Orders. Branches must forward copies of minutes of each of their Business meetings to the EC.
13. The branch Treasurer shall return to the Head Office 80% of the collection. All resources of a Branch ceasing to exist shall accrue to the Executive Committee.
14. Each Branch shall report to the EC about its numerical strength and financial standing twice a year – once for the half-year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June and then for the half-year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December. These reports are to be audited and sent to the Head Office within two months after the expiration of the half-year. If a Branch fails to send in its reports within the specified time, the EC shall ask for an explanation and report the matter to the next following Membership Meeting / Delegate Meeting or Party Conference and

the members of the Branch be allowed to sit only with the permission of the Membership Meeting / Delegate Meeting or the Party Conference.

15. All accounts and records of the Party shall be kept open for inspection by any member upon due notice to the Functionaries concerned.
16. No Branch, Group or member shall publish, sell or distribute political literature in the name of the Party, excepting handbills and leaflets, without prior approval of the Executive Committee. Election Statements and Election Manifestos, being Official Party Statements, must be approved by the EC.
17. To resolve a difference of opinion between the EC and one-third of the Branches over a matter not clarified in the Rules, the EC shall summon a Membership Meeting / Delegate Meeting within two months and it is the resolution adopted there that will be given effect to. If necessary, there will be a Party Vote.
18. The form for Branch formation may be revised only by a Membership Meeting / Delegate Meeting, or Party Conference or Party Vote.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

19. General Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor and three other Executives – these seven members shall constitute the Executive Committee. Members of the EC shall be at least 18 years of age with power of legal contract.  
This Committee shall be elected in **Annual Party Vote**. Within the first half of December each Branch shall send nominations following the aforesaid sequence to the **Ballot Committee** formed in the preceding Membership / Delegate Meeting. The Ballot Committee shall work in accordance to **Standing Orders** as formulated by the Annual Conference. Preparation of Ballot Papers, dispatch and the vote shall be accomplished within the next six weeks. Result shall be declared in the Conference and the newly elected Committee shall assume charge after the Conference. Any vacancy shall be filled up only by further nomination and vote. A post falling vacant after 1<sup>st</sup> September shall not be filled up.  
No member of the EC shall receive remuneration for any party work. However, reasonable expenses incurred in executing EC duties shall be compensable.  
Members of the Executive Committee and the Editorial Committee and any Official Party Speaker must pass the **General Knowledge Test**. Any willing member shall be given the Test by the EC. A member who lost membership for whatever reason shall be required to take the Test again prior to his/her re-entry.
20. The EC shall meet at least once a month. Four members shall form the quorum. A member shall lapse from the EC if absent from three consecutive meetings unless granted a leave of absence by the EC for Party work, holidays, sickness or other reasons acceptable to the EC. Any Party member shall be entitled to EC meetings and speak with permission except voting right. The EC shall forward copies of all meeting minutes (covering names of members present and how they have voted on Party principles and policies) to all Branches and Companion Parties.
21. The Executive Committee's function is to administer the affairs of the Party and particularly:
  - (a) To act up to the wishes of the Party as expressed in the Party's Manifesto, Rules and as determined by Party Conference, Membership / Delegate Meeting and Party Vote;
  - (b) To supervise the Party work all over the country and to appoint Delegates to all debates;
  - (c) To seek from Branches names for appointing necessary Functionaries and Organizers in order for spreading Party work;
  - (d) To appoint annually a Secretary to the Central Branch;

- (e) To ensure the scope for every member's participation in Party Votes;
  - (f) To consider proposals on Party's activities received from any Branch or member and put them in Party Vote if required;
  - (g) To appoint and supervise the activities of an Editorial Committee for publishing and controlling Party literature and a Publicity Committee for literature circulation;
  - (h) To establish and maintain communication with Companion Parties in other lands;
  - (i) To arrange for Party Conferences, Membership / Delegate Meetings and Party Votes and to report there into about the work done by themselves, their delegated Functionaries and Sub-Committees and to explain if asked to;
  - (j) To forward to all Branches Annual Financial Statement with Account audited by the Party Auditor;
  - (k) To deposit in a bank account, in the name of the World Socialist Party (India), to be operated by the General Secretary on the basis of settlement of accounts between the General Secretary and the Treasurer, the money in excess of which to be kept in hand for running regular activities;
  - (l) To make preparations for the establishment of Provincial Executive Committees in provinces when appropriate.
22. No EC member, or any Functionary appointed by the EC (whose work is being reviewed) shall sit as Chairperson in Party Conference or Membership Meeting; They shall, however, enjoy their right to speak therein.
23. The Executive Committee, on receipt of a written detailed complaint by a Branch against a Speaker, shall immediately send copies to the Speaker in question and the Propaganda Committee and shall require for them, within one month, a written reply and a report respectively. The EC then may call upon such Speaker to undergo an examination by a Committee appointed by the EC. Such member shall not be allowed to speak as a speaker for the Party until examined and the EC satisfied. A rejected member shall have the right to appeal to a Conference or a Membership Meeting.

## **PARTY CONFERENCE**

24. The Party Conference shall be held every year in the second week of February. Each member shall have the right to attend the Party Conference with equal voting power. A member prevented in any way shall also be entitled to send his written opinion on the agenda with his votes.
25. In the beginning of October the Executive Committee shall ask Branches to receive from members Proposals and amendments to Rules and forward to the EC for inclusion in the Preliminary Agenda to be returned to the Branches. All amendments to the Resolutions received up to the third week of November shall appear on the Final Agenda and shall be issued to the Branches at least one month before Conference. Branches shall hold one Special meeting wherein members shall vote on the Final Agenda. The actual number of votes for and against each Amendment to Rule and Resolution as cast at Branch meetings shall be the votes recorded at Conference. Likewise, the actual number of votes for and against, as cast by the Central Branch members shall also be the votes recorded.
26. Party Conference shall be Governing Body of the Party. The EC shall summon a Special Party Conference if so proposed in writing by one-third of the regularly active Branches. It is only by Party Conference, or Membership Meeting, or Party Vote that any change of the Rules shall be accomplished. Any member attending the Party Conference may demand that any Resolution of the Conference be submitted to the membership in a Party Vote. The demand may either be made as a motion from the

floor (requiring no second and allowing no debate), or in writing to the Executive Committee within 30 days of the Conference. Written Resolutions signed by every member shall have the same force as Resolution of the Party Conference.

### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING / DELEGATE MEETING**

27. The Executive Committee shall summon Membership Meeting/Delegate Meeting (a) each year in October to discuss the EC Report (including the Financial Statement); (b) any time on political or economic events of countrywide or global importance in order to keep the members in the know of all related and available information; If necessary before a Party Poll; or (d) on written request by one-third of the regularly active Branches. Membership Meeting/Delegate Meeting shall have the power to ask the EC to call Special Party Conference or take a Party Vote on any matter arising from the EC Report.

### **PARTY VOTE**

28. Party Vote shall be arranged by the Election Committee to be appointed by the EC, if the EC considers it necessary, or for resolving a dispute inside the Party, or to give effect to a Membership Meeting decision, or on written proposal by one-third of the membership (in which case preparing all papers shall be those members' responsibility and voting expenses Party Fund's). Party Votes shall be held not more than once in four months.
29. Before issuing Ballot Papers the EC may convene a Special Membership / Delegate Meeting to discuss only the specific motion with procedures. Before each Party Vote Branches shall sit in a Special meeting on the issue. Each member shall receive one Ballot Paper and cast votes individually (i.e. like the method of electing Party Functionaries, c.f. Rule 19). The Ballot Papers are to be returned to the Head Office within six weeks after being issued. Only signed and legible Ballot Papers shall be deemed valid. The result of a Party Vote shall overrule all previous decisions on the question (as of the EC, Party Conference, Membership / Delegate Meeting, Party Vote).
30. A simple majority shall be decisive for all Resolutions except the ones for (a) expelling a Branch, or (b) transferring the Party's Head Office, or (c) amending Rules 1,2 and 3, which shall require two-thirds of votes.

### **PARTICIPATION IN GENERAL ELECTION**

31. "That the body of individual citizens of India as a political party shall bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by laws established, and to the principles of socialism and democracy, and would uphold the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India." [*Sub-section (5) of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951*]
32. Candidates for Political office shall have to pass the Party's Speaker's Test. A Branch intending to contest elections, local, provincial or national, shall first obtain permission from the Executive Committee. Campaign shall be carried on only the Socialist Programme and against any kind of reformation, promises and personality praise/personal antagonism; votes shall be sought from only those who understand and want Socialism. Party members shall not stand for any political office except as official candidate of the Party.
33. Elected candidates shall be pledged to act on the instructions of their Branches locally, and of the EC provincially and nationally. Elected Socialists shall decline to accept any administrative posts of the capitalist society. Socialist as an emergent majority and thereby capable of abolishing instead of

administering and reforming capitalism shall only take transitional power, not any existing posts.

## **DISCIPLINE**

34. Any complaint of any member shall be lodged in writing in one's own Branch and its copy forwarded to the member accused – who shall be allowed a month to respond. The Branch, then, shall hold a Special meeting within six weeks in all. If it involves different Branches, the complainer's Branch shall pass information on to the respondent's Branch for decision. A member may be suspended by simple majority and expelled by a two-thirds majority. Any decision shall have to be ratified by the EC. An expelled member shall have the right of appeal to the Party Conference or Membership / Delegate Meeting.
35. Disputes between two or more Branches shall be lodged with the EC; all statements - written, signified, and copied shall be supplied to the Branches. The EC decision shall be effective. But their right of appeal to the Party Conference or Membership / Delegate Meeting shall hold.
36. A Branch or member acting in a manner deemed by the EC as an infringement of the Principles or Rules, or detrimental to the interest of the Party, shall be immediately suspended by the EC from all Party business except the matter in dispute. The EC shall forthwith submit particulars of the charge with a copy of this Rule to the accused. Branches shall summon at least one Special meeting to discuss the charge. The next Membership / Delegate Meeting or Conference shall hear the case of the EC and of the accused, after which no further debate shall be allowed. The members shall submit their findings to a Party Poll – the result of which shall apply as from the date of suspension. While considering the case, no parties to the charge or dispute shall be allowed to sit as the Chairperson or Functionaries.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

37. The order of business at all Business meetings of the Party shall be modeled after the following:
  - (1) Election of Executives: (a) Election of a Chairperson; (b) Election of other Executives when necessary;
  - (2) Reading of Minutes of previous meeting(s), omissions and corrections. Motion to accept;
  - (3) Membership;
  - (4) Correspondence;
  - (5) Reports of the Executives and Committees;
  - (6) Advancement of the Movement;
  - (7) Unfinished Business;
  - (8) New Business;
  - (9) Collection of dues;
  - (10) Adjournment.
38. No meeting of the Party shall be secret; any person shall be allowed to attend any meeting and to speak with permission.