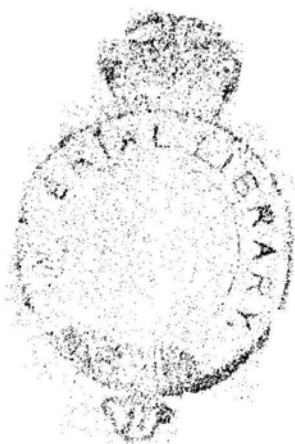


Constitution
of the
Indian National Congress

As Amended at the
LAHORE SESSION 1929

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CONSTITUTION
OF THE
INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

AS AMENDED AT

The Lahore Session, 1929

Article I

(224)

Object The object of the Indian National Congress is the attainment of Swarajya (complete independence) by the people of India by all legitimate and peaceful means.

Article II.

Sessions of the Congress (a) The Indian National Congress shall ordinarily meet once every year during the month of February or March to be fixed by the Working Committee in consultation with the Provincial Committee of the province concerned, at such place as may have been decided upon at its previous session or such other place as may have been determined by the All India Congress Committee hereinafter referred to.

(b) An extraordinary session of the Congress shall be summoned by the All India Congress Committee on the requisition of a majority of the Provincial Congress Committees or of its own motion, provided, in the latter case, due notice has been given and the proposal

is supported by two thirds of the members present. The All India Congress Committee shall determine the place where such session is to be held, and the Articles of the constitution shall apply with such modifications as the All India Congress Committee may consider necessary in respect of each such session.

Article III

The Indian National Congress organisation shall
Component parts of the Congress consist of the following:—

- (a) The Indian National Congress.
- (b) The All India Congress Committee.
- (c) Provincial Congress Committees.
- (d) District Congress Committees.
- (e) Sub-Divisional, Taluq or Tahsil, Firka and other local Congress Committees.
- (f) Such other committees outside India as may from time to time be recognised by the Congress or the All India Congress Committee in this behalf. (*Vide* Appendix A).
- (g) The Reception Committee of the Congress.

Note: Provincial, District, Taluq or Tahsil and other conferences may be organised by the above-named committees for educative and propaganda purposes.

Article IV

No person shall be eligible to be a member of any
Congress membership of the organisations referred to in the foregoing Article, unless he or she has attained the age of 18 and expresses in writing his or her acceptance of the object and the methods as laid down in Article I of this constitution and of the

rules of the Congress.

Article V

The following shall be the provinces with headquarters mentioned against them, but in every case the respective Provincial Congress Committee shall have the power to alter the headquarters from time to time.

<i>Province</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Headquarters</i>
1. Ajmer-Merwara and Rajputana	Hindustani	Ajmer
2. Andhra	Telugu	Bezawada
3. Assam	Assamese	Gauhati
4. Behar	Hindustani	Patna
5. Bengal and Surma Valley	Bengali	Calcutta
6. Berar	Marathi	Amraoti
7. Burma	Burmese	Rangoon
8. Central Provinces (Hindustani)	Hindustani	Jubbulpore
9. Central Provinces (Marathi)	Marathi	Nagpur
10. City of Bombay	Marathi and Gujrati	Bombay
11. Delhi	Hindustani	Delhi
12. Gujrat	Gujrati	Ahmedabad
13. Karnatak	Kannada	Dharwar
14. Kerala	Malayalam	Calicut
15. Maharashtra	Marathi	Poona
16. N.-W. F. Province	Hindustani	Peshawar
17. Punjab	Punjabi	Lahore
18. Sind	Sindhi	Hyderabad
19. Tamil Nadu	Tamil	Madras
20. United Provinces	Hindustani	Benares
21. Utkal	Oriya	Cuttack

Provided that the All India Congress Committee may from time to time assign particular Indian States to particular provinces, and a Provincial Congress Committee may in its turn allot particular Indian States assigned to it by the All India Congress Committee to particular districts within its jurisdiction.

Article VI

- (a) There shall be a Provincial Congress Committee in and for each of the provinces named in the foregoing
- Provincial Organisation

Article.

(b) Each Provincial Congress Committee shall organise District and other committees referred to in Article III and shall have the power to frame rules laying down conditions of membership and for the conduct of business not inconsistent with this constitution or any rules made by the All India Congress Committee.

(c) Each Provincial Congress Committee shall consist of representatives elected annually by the members of the Congress organisations in the province in accordance with the rules made by the Provincial Congress Committee.

(d) Each Provincial Congress Committee shall submit an annual report of the Congress work in the province to the All India Congress Committee not later than one month before the commencement of the annual session of the Congress.

Article VII

- (i) Every person not disqualified under Article IV and paying a subscription of annas,
- Franchise
- 4 per year in advance, or 2,000 yards of evenly spun yarn of his or her own spinning, shall be entitled to become a member of any primary organisation controlled by a Provincial Congress Committee: provided that no person shall be a member of

two parallel Congress organisations at one and the same time.

(ii) The yarn subscription mentioned in section (i) shall be sent direct by the spinner to the Secretary, All India Spinners' Association or to any person nominated by the Secretary in this behalf, and a certificate from the Secretary, All India Spinners' Association to the effect that he has received 2,000 yards of evenly spun yarn of the holder's own spinning as his or her yearly subscription shall entitle the holder to the membership mentioned in section (i) hereof: provided that for the purpose of checking the accuracy of the returns made by the All India Spinners' Association, the All India Congress Committee or any Provincial Congress Committee or any sub-committee thereunder shall have the right to inspect the accounts, the stock and the vouchers of the All India Spinners' Association or any subordinate organisation thereunder and provided further that in the event of any inaccuracy or error discovered by the inspecting body in the accounts, stock or vouchers examined, the certificates issued by the All India Spinners' Association in respect of persons with reference to whose membership the accounts have been examined, shall be declared cancelled; provided that the All India Spinners' Association or the person disqualified shall have the right of appeal to the Working Committee. Any person wishing to spin for the membership of the Congress may, if he or she desires, be supplied upon due security with cotton for spinning.

(iii) The year of the membership shall be reckon-

ed from April 1st to March 31st and there shall be no reduction in the subscription to be paid by members joining in the middle of the year.*

Transitory Provision

Congress members enrolled in 1930 shall continue to be members till March 31st, 1931.

(iv) a. No person shall be entitled to vote at the election of representatives or delegates or any committee or sub-committee of any Congress organisation whatsoever or to be elected as such or to take part in any meeting of the Congress or Congress organisation or any committee or sub-committee thereof, if he has not complied with section (i) hereof and does not habitually wear hand-spun and hand-woven khaddar.

b. The Working Committee shall frame rules for the proper carrying out of the provisions of this section.

*Note: The following interpretation of this rule was given by the Working Committee at its meeting held at Sabarmati on February 15, 1930.

"Members shall be entitled to exercise the rights of membership for one month after the close of the year. Their names will be kept on the rolls for an additional two months but they will not have the right to participate in Congress meetings unless they pay their subscription for the current year. If their subscription is not paid at the end of the third month of the new year their names will be struck off the membership rolls. They will be eligible however to join as new members at any time they pay their subscription".

Article VIII

Each Provincial Congress Committee shall be responsible for the election of delegates to the Congress.

Electorates and Delegates

No one who had not enlisted himself as a Congress member on or before December 1st immediately preceding a particular session of the Congress shall be qualified for election as a delegate to that session.

The members of the All India Congress Committee shall be ex-officio delegates to the Congress. Besides these ex-officio delegates the number of delegates returnable by Provincial Congress Committees shall be not more than one for every fifty thousand, or its fraction, of the inhabitants of each province, including the Indian States therein, in accordance with the census of 1921.

Each Provincial Congress Committee shall frame rules for the election of delegates, due regard being had to the return of women delegates and the representation of minorities, special interests or classes needing special protection.

The rules shall provide for the organisation of electorates and shall prescribe the procedure to be adopted for securing the proportional representation, by a single transferable vote or by any other method, of every variety of political opinion. Notice of all changes in the rules framed by the Provincial Congress Committee shall forthwith be sent to the general secretaries of the Congress.

Each Provincial Congress Committee shall send to

the office of the All India Congress Committee, an alphabetical list of the delegates so selected, containing the full name, occupation, age, sex, religion and address of each of them to reach the office not later than seven days before the date fixed for the holding of the session. In case, however, of interim vacancies, the Provincial Congress Committee shall fill them in accordance with the rules made in that behalf. Such rules shall not be valid unless they have been previously confirmed by the Working Committee. No changes however shall be made in the delegates list within seven days of the Congress.

Article IX

Each Provincial Congress Committee shall pay annually such subscription to the All India Congress Committee as may be fixed by the latter at its first meeting after the Congress. In fixing the subscription the All India Congress Committee shall pay regard not merely to the population of the province but to its financial capacity.

Article X

Each committee referred to in Article VIII shall issue certificates to the delegates duly elected in accordance with the form hereto attached, marked Appendix B, and signed by a secretary of the committee.

Article XI

Every delegate on presenting such a certificate and paying a fee of five rupees at the office of the All India Congress

Committee in the Congress camp at the place where the Congress is held shall receive a ticket entitling him to admission to the Congress.

Article XII

Delegates shall alone have the power of voting at the Congress sittings or otherwise taking part in its deliberations.

Voting at Congress

Article XIII

The Reception Committee shall be formed by the Provincial Congress Committee at least six months before the meeting of the annual session and may include persons who are not members of the Provincial Congress Committee. The members of the Reception Committee shall pay not less than Rs.25 each.

Reception Committee

Article XIV

The Reception Committee shall elect its chairman and other office-bearers from amongst its own members.

Article XV

It shall be the duty of the Reception Committee to collect funds for the expenses of the Congress session, to elect the president of the Congress in the manner set forth in the following Article, to make all necessary arrangements for the reception and accommodation of delegates and guests and, as far as practicable, of visitors, and for the printing and publication of the report of the proceedings, and to submit statements of receipts and expenditure to the Provincial Congress Committee within four months of the session of the Congress.

Article XVI

The several Provincial Congress Committees shall, as far as possible, by the end of August, suggest to the Reception Committee the names of persons who are in their opinion eligible for the presidentship of the Congress, and the Reception Committee shall, as far as possible, in the first week of September, submit to all the Provincial Committees the names so suggested, for their final recommendations; provided that such final recommendation will be of any one but not more of such names, and the Reception Committee shall, as far as possible, meet in the month of October to consider such recommendations. If the person recommended by a majority of the Provincial Congress Committees is adopted by a majority of the members of the Reception Committee present at a special meeting called for the purpose, that person shall be the president of the next Congress. If, however, the Reception Committee is unable to accept the president recommended by the Provincial Congress Committees, or an emergency arises by resignation, death or otherwise, of the president elected in this manner, the matter shall forthwith be referred by it to the All India Congress Committee whose decision shall be arrived at, as far as possible, before the end of November. In either case, the election shall be final, provided that in no case shall the person so elected as president belong to the province in which the Congress is to be held.

The president of a special or extraordinary session

shall be elected by the All India Congress Committee subject to the same proviso.

Article XVII

(a) The All India Congress Committee shall pay to the Reception Committee within a fortnight after the termination of the Congress session one-fifth of the delegation fees.

(b) If the Reception Committee has a balance after defraying all the expenses of the session, it shall hand over 50% thereof to the Provincial Congress Committee in the province in which the session was held, towards the Provincial Congress fund of that province, and the remaining 50% to the All India Congress Committee.

Article XVIII

(a) The receipts and expenditure of the Reception Committee shall be audited
Audit by an auditor or auditors appointed by the Provincial Congress Committee concerned, and the statement of accounts together with the auditor's report shall be sent by the Provincial Congress Committee not later than six months from the termination of the Congress, to the All India Congress Committee.

(b) The accounts of the All India Congress Committee shall be audited every year by an auditor appointed at the annual session. It shall be competent to this auditor to call for and inspect the accounts of the Provincial Congress Committees.

(c) The All India Congress Committee shall take

steps to ensure that the accounts of the Provincial Congress Committees are properly audited.

Article XIX

The All India Congress Committee shall consist of 350 members, exclusive of ex-officio members. Every member of the All India Congress Committee, ex-officio or elected, shall pay an annual subscription of Rs.10, payable at or before the first meeting of the All India Congress Committee. Members in default will not be permitted to take part in any meeting of the All India Congress Committee or the Subjects Committee.

The ex-officio members shall be the elected president, past presidents of the Congress if they sign Article I of this constitution and are members of any Congress organisation, the general secretaries and the treasurers of the Congress.

Each Provincial Congress Committee shall elect the allotted number of members of the All India Congress Committee from among the members of the Congress Committees within its jurisdiction.

The allotment shall be, as far as possible, on the basis of population according to the linguistic distribution of provinces, as given in Appendix C.

The method of election shall be the same as already prescribed for the election of delegates.

Elections to the All India Congress Committee shall ordinarily take place in the month of November.

Casual vacancies in the All India Congress Com-

mittee caused by resignation, death, absence from India, or otherwise, shall be filled by the Provincial Congress Committee.

The All India Congress Committee shall meet as often as may be necessary for the discharge of its obligations, and every time upon requisition by 30 members thereof, who shall state in their requisition the definite purpose for which they desire a meeting of the All India Congress Committee. When once such a meeting is requisitioned and convened, additional subjects may be brought up for consideration, provided due notice has been given to the members of the same.

The quorum for the All India Congress Committee shall be fifty.

The All India Congress Committee shall hold office till the election of the new All India Congress Committee.

Article XX

The secretaries of the respective Provincial Congress Committees shall issue certificates of membership of the All India Congress Committee to the persons so elected.

Article XXI

The All India Congress Committee shall be the committee of the Congress to carry out the programme of work laid down by the Congress from year to year and deal with all new matters that may arise during the year and may not be provided for by the Congress itself. For this purpose the All India

Function of A. I. C. C.

Congress Committee shall have the power to frame its own rules not inconsistent with this constitution.

Article XXII

The president of the Congress shall be the Chairman of the All India Congress Committee for the year following.

Article XXIII

The Indian National Congress shall have two general secretaries and two treasurers, who shall be annually elected by the Congress.

There shall be a permanent fund of the Congress the interest on which shall be used for the ordinary work of the All India Congress Committee. The corpus of the fund shall not be spent.

The treasurers shall be in charge of the funds of the Congress and shall keep proper accounts of them. The general secretaries shall be in charge of the office of the All India Congress Committee and shall be responsible for the publication of the report of the proceedings of the preceding session of the Congress and of any special session held in the course of the year, in co-operation with the Reception Committee. Such report shall be published as soon as possible and not later than four months after the session, and shall be offered for sale.

The general secretaries shall prepare the report of the work of the All India Congress Committee during the year and submit it, with a full account of the funds which may come into their hands, to the All

India Congress Committee at a meeting to be held at the place and about the time of the session of the Congress for the year; and copies of such account and report shall then be presented to the Congress and sent to the Congress Committees and published along with the next Congress report.

There shall be one permanent paid secretary who shall be in charge of the office of the All India Congress Committee.

Article XXIV

The All India Congress Committee shall, at its first meeting after the annual session of the Congress, elect ten members who shall, with the president, general secretaries and treasurers be the Working Committee of the Congress and the executive authority responsible to the All India Congress Committee in all matters.

All proceedings of the Working Committee shall be placed before the next meeting of the All India Congress Committee.

Article XXV

The members of the All India Congress Committee shall constitute the Subjects Committee for the ordinary or extraordinary session following.

Article XXVI

The Subjects Committee shall meet at least two days before the meeting of the Congress in open session. At this meeting, the president-elect shall preside, and the outgoing secretaries shall submit the draft programme of

the work for the ensuing session of the Congress, including resolutions recommended by the different Provincial Congress Committees for adoption.

Article XXVII

The Subjects Committee shall proceed to discuss the said programme and shall frame resolutions to be submitted to the open session.

Article XXVIII

The Subjects Committee shall also meet from time to time, as the occasion may require, during the pendency of the Congress session.

Article XXIX

No subject shall be passed for discussion by the Subjects Committee or allowed to be discussed at any Congress by the president thereof, to the introduction of which the Hindu or Mohammedan delegates, as a body, object by a majority of three-fourths of their number, and if, after the discussion of any subject which has been admitted for discussion, it shall appear that the Hindu or Mohammedan delegates, as a body, are, by a majority of three-fourths of their number, opposed to the resolution which it is proposed to pass thereon, such resolution shall be dropped.

Article XXX

At each sitting of the Congress, the order in which business shall be transacted shall be as follows:—

Order of Business

(a) The resolutions recommended for adoption by the Subjects Committee.

(b) Any substantive motion not included in (a) but which does not fall under Article XXIX of the constitution and which 25 delegates request the president in writing, before the commencement of the day's sitting, to be allowed to place before the Congress; provided, however, that no such motion shall be allowed unless it has been previously discussed at a meeting of the Subjects Committee and has received the support of at least a third of the members then present.

Article XXXI

The All India Congress Committee shall have the
 Rule-making power power to frame rules in respect of
 all matters not covered by the
 constitution and not inconsistent with its Articles.

Article XXXII

The All India Congress Committee shall, at its
 first meeting every year, nominate
 Election disputes panel a panel of twelve members to en-
 quire into and finally decide all
 election disputes coming before it. The parties to the
 dispute shall nominate one each out of this panel to re-
 present the respective disputants, and the president shall
 choose the third.

Article XXXIII

The proceedings of the Congress, the All India
 Congress Committee and the
 Languages for proceed- Working Committee shall ordi-
 ings narily be conducted in Hindus-
 tani; the English language or any provincial language
 may be used if the speaker is unable to speak in Hindus-

tani or whenever necessary.

The proceedings of the Provincial Congress Committees shall ordinarily be conducted in the language of the province concerned. Hindustani may also be used.

APPENDIX A

The following committees outside India have been affiliated by the Congress in accordance with Art. III(f) of the constitution.

South African Indian Congress	Johannesburg
Kabul Congress Committee	Kabul
London Branch of the Congress	London
New York Branch of the Congress	New York
Japan Congress Committee	Kobe
Goa Congress Committee	Goa

NOTE—The first of the foregoing Committees has been authorised to return twelve delegates to the Congress and the rest, two delegates each excepting the Goa Committee, which is authorised to send one delegate. The delegates are considered members of the Subjects Committee of the Congress and authorized to take part in the Committee's proceedings.

APPENDIX B

(Vide Art. X)

I hereby certify that

Full name

Occupation

Age

Sex

Religion

Address

was enrolled a member of the

on
Congress Committee—the 1st of December, 19 , and has been
before
duly elected by the

Congress Committee as a delegate
to the Indian National Congress to be held at

in the
month of 19

Place

Date

SECRETARY

..... Provincial Congress Committee

APPENDIX C

Number of members of the All India Congress Committee allotted to the different provinces in accordance with Art. XIX of the constitution:

<i>Province</i>	<i>Number</i>
1. Ajmer	7
2. Andhra	24
3. Assam	5
4. Behar	33
5. Bengal and Surma Valley	48
6. Berar	7
7. Burma	12
8. Central Provinces (Hindustani)	13
9. Central Provinces (Marathi)	7
10. City of Bombay	7
11. Delhi	7
12. Gujrat	12
13. Karnatak	15
14. Kerala	8
15. Maharashtra	16
16. N.-W. F. Province	4
17. Punjab	33
18. Sind	9
19. Tamil Nadu	25
20. United Provinces	46
21. Utkal	12



The following revised membership form has been recommended to Congress committees for adoption:—

Congress Membership Form

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Province

I desire to become a member of the Committee of the National Congress. I am over 18 years of age and have paid this year's subscription. I accept the object of complete independence and the methods as laid down in Article one of the constitution (given below) and the rules of the Congress.

Date

Signature

Full name

Full address

Age Religion Sex

Occupation

Article I of the Constitution: The object of the Indian National Congress is the attainment of Swarajya by the people of India by all legitimate and peaceful means. (Swarajya means complete independence).

Annual subscription: Four annas or 2,000 yards of self-spun yarn.

No member is entitled to vote at Congress elections or offer himself for election unless he wears handspun and handwoven khaddar habitually.