

Procedural Guide

All India Political Parties Meet





Agenda: 2017- 2019: Road map to General Election, 2019

COMMITTEE CONCEPT

An All India Political Parties Meet is convened inviting all prominent political parties across various spectrums of the Indian polity and special invitees that could be organisations, councils or personalities to discuss a particular/ many prevalent issues at hand.

It is essential that members be thoroughly researched & aware of their characters' affiliations & interests. Members will be duly updated, in case any developments outside committee take place and shall be expected to respond to dynamic circumstances while keeping their characters' and political parties' interests in mind.

CODE OF CONDUCT

DECORUM: As the representatives of the nation in different aspects, members are expected to conduct themselves accordingly at all times. Members shall be courteous towards other leaders, the Organising Committee members, the International Press members, the Executive Board and the Conference Staff of the venue. Any member found to be violating this rule, shall be suspended the committee by the Executive Board.

ATTENDANCE: At the beginning of every opening session or any other session, at the discretion of the Board; the Board may call on the members in order for attendance. Members shall reply in a 'Yes' or a 'हाँ' or any other suitable answer. It is advised for all members to vote in all substantial matters or documentation related matters.

POWERS OF THE BOARD: Committee session shall be announced open or closed by the Board which may also propose adoption of any procedural motion, to which there is no significant objection. The Speaker, in this case, shall have complete control over proceedings and may direct the flow of debate, grant the right to speak, ask questions, announce decisions, rule on points, & enforce adherence to the rules. If necessary, the Speaker may choose to suspend rules so as to clarify a certain substantive or procedural issue. All procedural matters are also subject to the discretion of the Speaker. He may choose to temporarily transfer his duties to another member of the Executive Board; or advise the members on the possible course of debate.

PROCEDURAL NORMS

Committee shall proceed in both public and private domains, as per the wishes of the political leaders at the meet. The leaders may speak in either English or Hindi. However, all documentation (written work) must be in English.

The session that the meet will commonly function in is the 'Public session' or the 'Lok Satra'. During this session, the exchanges or information is put on record & in the public domain & therefore, might be subject to public critique. These may be used to send a particular message across to the public domain about any specific decisions or deliberations on an issue. During this time, presence of all media shall be allowed and they shall be free to report all proceedings of the meet.

The meet may shift to a 'Private Session' or the 'Niji Satra' where no exchanges can be put to record in the public domain & no outside observer is present to reside in the committee premises. It is during these sessions that members may discuss the less savoury aspects of political functioning. This is to provide a moral-free, protected forum to consider political realities.

NOTE: Members cannot refer to anything that might have been said/done during the private sessions in public debate. If this cardinal rule is violated, it may lead to suspension or in extreme cases, expulsion from the meeting.

The committee shall work as per the following:

- (i.) Following the start of the committee proceedings, a round-robin format will take place, wherein all members will inform the committee of their views (keeping in mind their political alignment), problems & suggestions for the particular agenda. Members may be subject to questions from the committee or the Board, after completing their speech, however, at the discretion of the Executive Board only.
- (ii.) After the completion of the necessary round-robin format, the members may raise a motion for a 'Moderated Discussion', clearly specifying a 'Karya Suchi' or 'agenda' with a total time period & limited speaker's time (by default, 60 seconds which may be changed as per the wishes of the committee). Members may be recognized, as per the discretion of the Board,

and may speak to express their views. Once raised, the motion shall be voted upon immediately & requires a simple majority to pass.

In case of multiple valid motions, the Executive Board shall rank motions in order of precedence & vote accordingly. A moderated discussion is extendable but only after the total time has elapsed, and for as much time as per the discretion of the Board.

(iii.) Members may raise a motion & opt for an ‘Unmoderated Discussion’ with only a specific time period. An unmoderated discussion shall allow members to have informal discussions (pertaining to the agenda), wherein members may move freely in the committee premises.

Once raised, the motion shall be voted upon directly, with the requirement of a simple majority to pass. An unmoderated discussion may be extendable as per the discretion of the Executive Board, but only twice.

(iv.) The committee must take note of the motion to opt for a ‘Classified Discussion’, with a specified time period. A few leaders may send in a request via a chit, to the Executive Board for such a discussion. The committee shall proceed with normal debate, but the leaders opting for such a discussion shall be allowed to discuss any important issue outside the committee premises. This is to let the backroom negotiations take place, between members of the committee.

RIGHTS AND POINTS

(i.) RIGHT TO REPLY

A member, whose personal or public integrity has been impugned by the comments of another member, may submit a Right to Reply in writing to the Board. The Board, if deems so necessary, shall grant the Right to Reply to verbally reply to the comments of the particular member.

(ii.) POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

During discussions, whenever a member experiences any personal discomfort, the member may raise a Point of Personal Privilege which the Board shall address immediately. But the Point must only refer to a matter of physical discomfort, safety or well-being of the members of the committee. However, the Board may refuse to recognize it, if the member has used it to dilute the flow of debate intentionally or violated the decorum of the committee.

(iii.) POINT OF ORDER

During the discussion of any matter, a member may rise to a Point of Order, to indicate an instance of any factual inaccuracy in another member’s

speech, after its completion. The Point of Order will be immediately decided by the Speaker in accordance with these rules of procedure. The Speaker may rule points that are improper as ‘out of order’; and shall ask for facts about the particular inaccuracy pointed out.

(iv.) POINT OF PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

When the floor is open, a member may rise to a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry regarding the Rules of Procedure. Any doubt regarding the procedural conduct of the committee, shall be resolved by the Board, after the raising of this point.

(v.) POINT OF INFORMATION

After the conclusion of a member’s speech, the floor shall be open to other members, who may rise to a Point of Information to ask any question to the former one, pertaining to his/her speech, at the Executive Board’s recognition.

KARYA YOJANA

After elaborate discussion on any matter of public interest or urgency, the members may formulate a ‘Karya Yojana’. This particular document is not only a summary of the preceding debate, but also comprises of the solutions, of the agenda at hand. In other words, it is the ‘Action Plan’ of the Committee. It is considered to be the official document of the All India Political Parties Meet, and requires the signatures of all members proposing it. There may be multiple Karya Yojana formulated on a particular agenda, and shall be discussed in the committee in the form of a ‘Speaker’s List’ or a ‘Moderated Discussion’, whichever way the Committee deems fit. After an elaborate discussion, the Committee may vote on particular clauses or the document in its entirety. The passed Karya Yojana shall then directly be sent to the Prime Minister’s Office to take urgent & necessary action.

A Karya Yojana will usually require a simple majority to be considered as ‘passed’ by the Committee. The voting may also take place as a ‘roll call vote’, if the Committee or the Board feels it is necessary. In a roll call vote, the Executive Board shall call the members in the alphabetical order. Members may vote with a ‘Yes/Haan’, ‘No/Nahi’ or ‘Pass’. Members who ‘Pass’ during the first sequence of the roll call vote shall be asked for their vote, after the voting of all other members.

MEMORANDUMS

A memorandum (MEMO) is a written communication between a member and the concerned branch of his or her political party ordering a certain action to be taken. They must be clear-cut and decisively framed. They should be used to create favourable circumstances (developments outside the committee) and hence advance one's political interests. It is important to use memos sensibly as they may backfire, if not appropriately used. It is also important that members understand the internal organization/structure of their political parties to effectively use the same.

NOTE: A memo will be treated as a public communication, unless specified as a Private one. However, even in the second case, it will be up to the discretion of the Executive Board to use it as a development, disclose it, etc.

Example of a Memorandum:-

MEMO

From: R. Gandhi, Vice-President of INC
To: Indian Youth Congress (Youth Wing)

I urge the volunteers to protest outside the headquarters of RSS in New Delhi and jam roads if necessary.

NOTE: The above mentioned is the conventional ROP for an AIPPM, however, it is very flexible and can be changed as per the Executive Board. In case of any query, feel free to contact the Executive Board via the Secretariat.