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# INDIAN LIBERAL GROUP

## CONSTITUTION

Adopted on March 4,2000

*Issued by:*

**Indian Liberal Group**

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## CONSTITUTION

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# INDIAN LIBERAL GROUP

## CONSTITUTION

### 1. Name

The Indian Liberal Group (hereinafter referred to as the ILG) founded in 1964 gives itself this Constitution as drafted by the Drafting Group (list attached Annexure A) on March 04, 2000. The members of the ILG Executive Committee (list attached Annexure B) shall be called the Founding Members of the ILG.

### 2. Objectives

The purpose of the ILG is to foster the values of freedom, responsibility, tolerance, social justice and 'equality of opportunity based on the liberal belief that

- liberty with individual responsibility are the foundations of civilised society.
- the State is the instrument of the citizens it serves.
- any action of the State must respect the principles of democratic accountability and the rule of law.

The primary objective of the ILG is to defend the fundamental liberal belief of

- the right of individuals to personal liberty, liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;
- the right of association;
- the right to private property;
- free choice of occupation;
- the right to information so as to enable the exercise of one's rights meaningfully.

While tolerance is integral to liberalism, the ILG will not tolerate intolerance.

The ILG believes that the business of government is governance, not business.

The ILG is opposed to any kind of monopoly.

The ILG believes that technology is needed to promote human development and draws attention to the fact that the growth of liberalism has been contemporaneous with the development of science and technology.

The ILG affirms that active and participatory citizenship at all levels is essential for sustaining a liberal and democratic society.

Above all, the ILG believes in the need to uphold values and excellence; character and integrity. To develop men and women with such faith and principles is the real task and goal before liberals.

### **3. Headquarters**

The National Headquarters of the ILG shall be located at Mumbai or any other location as may, from time to time, be decided by the National Executive. Similarly the Headquarters of the State branches of the ILG shall be located at the state capital or at any other location as may, from time to time, be decided by the State Executive concerned.

### **4. Organisation**

The following will constitute the elective bodies of the ILG:

- The National Council
- The National Executive
- State Councils
- State committees
- District Committees

## 5. Membership

Membership shall be open to individuals and like-minded organisations who are in agreement with the objectives and principles of the ILG as stated in Article 2.

### a) Categories

There shall be four categories of members:

Life Member, Active Member, Ordinary Member and Associate Member.

### b) Subscription

- i) Life Member : One-time fee of Rs.2,000 (Membership fee Rs.1,000; Entrance fee Rs.1,000) payable at the time of enrolment.
- ii) Active Member : Entrance fee of Rs.200 and an Annual fee of Rs.200
- iii) Active Student-Member : Entrance fee of Rs.100 and an Annual fee of Rs.100
- iv) Ordinary Member : An Annual fee of Rs.10
- v) Associate Member : Entrance fee Rs.1,000 and (for 'voluntary organisations) Annual fee of Rs.1,000
- vi) Notwithstanding the above all those who have been on the membership roll as on the day of the adoption of this Constitution shall be entitled to renew their membership without payment of an entrance fee. Life Members will be requested to pay the enhanced life membership fee.

**c) Enrolment**

- i) Applications for Life Membership and Active Membership and Active Student Membership, will be scrutinised and approved by the State Executive and **will have** to be proposed and seconded by a Founding Member initially and thereafter by a Life/Active Member/Active Student Member of the ILG.
- ii) Life/Active Members/Active Student Members have the right to enrol Ordinary Members.
- iii) Only the National Executive on the recommendation of the State Executive concerned can approve applications for Associate Membership. Such membership applications will have to be accompanied by a copy of the Constitution and Statement of Objectives of the voluntary organisation concerned.
- vi) Applications for Associate Membership from political parties will not be entertained.

**d) Allocation of Membership Fees**

- 1) Life Membership : To be capitalised (corpus) as follows:
  - i) National Executive - 50 %
  - ii) State Executive - **25%**
  - iii) District Committee - **25%**
- 2) Active Membership/ : To be allocated as  
Student Memberships follows:
  - i) National Executive - **50%**
  - ii) State Executive - **25%**
  - iii) District Committee - 25%**
- 3) Ordinary membership :
  - District Committee - **100%**

- 4) Associate membership - to be allocated as follows:
  - i) National Executive - Entrance fee: 100%  
Annual Fee 50%
  - ii) State Executive - 25%
  - iii) District Committee - 25%

**e) Termination of Membership**

On the recommendation of the State Executive or on its own initiative when required, the National Executive shall have the power to terminate the membership of a Life/Active/Student/Ordinary Member for actions that involve moral turpitude, or for expressing publicly, views that are contrary to the objectives of the ILG as laid down in Article 2 of this Constitution. The National Executive shall however give the member concerned an opportunity to explain before taking action.

- f) Similarly, on the recommendation of the State Executive or on its own initiative, the National Executive shall have the power to terminate the Associate Membership of an organisation for actions or statements that go contrary to the objectives and basic principles of the ILG.

**6. National Council**

- a) The National Council shall be made up of the Presidents and Secretaries of State Executives.
- b) The National Council shall elect
  - i) the National President from among the Life and Active Members of the ILG duly proposed and seconded by any two Members of the National Council respectively, and
  - (ii) not more than twelve members of the National



Executive from among members of the National Council.

- c) The National Council shall have the power to nominate Honorary Members of the ILG at its discretion
- d) The National Council will be responsible for all policy pronouncements and to interpret the policy of the ILG.

## 7. National Executive

- (i) The National President shall nominate the Secretary/ies and the Treasurer of the ILG from among members of the National Executive.
- (ii) The National Executive shall have the power to co-opt two members from among the Life Members and the Active Members/Active Student Members.
- (iii) The National Executive will conduct the day-to-day activities of the ILG and take policy decisions, when required, between meetings of the National Council.

## 8. State Councils

- (a) State Councils shall be made up of the President and Secretaries of District Committees of the State concerned
- (b) The State Councils shall elect
  - (i) the State President from among the Life and Active/Active Student Members of the ILG in the State duly proposed and seconded by any two Members of the State Council concerned respectively, and,
  - (ii) not more than twelve members of the State Executive from among members of the State Council.
- (c) The State Council will be responsible for all policy pronouncements vis-a-vis the State concerned.

## **9. State Executives**

- (i) The State President shall nominate the Secretary/ies and the Treasurer of the ILG in the State from among members of the State Executive.
- (ii) The State Executive shall have the power to co-opt two members from among the Life Members and the Active Members/Active Student Members in the State.
- (iii) The State Executive will conduct the day-to-day activities of the ILG in the State and take policy decisions, when required, between meetings of the State Council.

## **10. District Committees**

- (i) The District Committee will consist of a President, Secretary/ies, Treasurer and not more than twelve members.
- (ii) The President and the twelve members of the District Committee shall be elected by the Life/Active Members/Active Student Members in the District.
- (iii) The President shall nominate the Secretary/ies and the Treasurer.
- (iv) The District Committee shall have the power to coopt two members from among the Life/Active Members/Active Student Members in the District.

## **11. National Convention**

A National Convention of the ILG should be held at least once every three years or earlier if required to review the work of the ILG and, in the light of the situation then prevailing, take Liberal Positions on National and International issues that are of concern to us as citizens of India. Such Conventions can, if a majority of delegates so desire, recommend policy and organisational changes, including changes to the ILG

constitution for the consideration of the National Council of the ILG.

Attendance at this Convention shall be open to all members of the ILG. However, voting will be restricted to Life and Active Members/Active Student Members.

## **12. Term of Office**

No National/State and District Office Bearers can serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

## **13. Convening of Meetings**

All meetings of the various elective bodies and of the Convention shall be convened by the Secretary concerned in consultation with the President concerned.

## **14. Notice of Meetings**

4 weeks for National Convention

3 weeks for National Executive

2 weeks for State Executive

1 week for District Committee

## **15. Quorum**

50% of the Life/Active Members/Active Student Members shall constitute the quorum for meetings of Executive/Council/District committees. If there is no quorum, the meeting will stand adjourned for 30 minutes from the time announced in the notice of meeting. Thereafter the meeting shall be called to order if at least three members are present of which one must be an office bearer.

## **16. Voting at Meetings.**

(i) Voting at Meetings shall be by simple majority on all matters other than amendments to this Constitution which

shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

- (ii) Presidents at the National, State and District levels shall preside over their respective meetings and have the casting vote in case of a tie.

## **17. Frequency of Meetings**

Meetings of all elective bodies shall be held at least once every six months

## **18. Bank Accounts**

Bank accounts can be opened by the National Executive/State Executive and District Committee to be operated jointly by any two office bearers or members of the elective body concerned.

## **19. Financial Year**

The Financial year of the ILG shall be April 1 of each year to March 31 of the following year.

## **20. Auditing of Accounts**

All elective bodies of the ILG shall ensure that proper accounts are maintained and audited by a qualified person who is not a member of the elective body concerned. The Accounts shall be open for inspection by any Life/Active member/Active Student Member. The National Executive shall frame rules for this purpose.

## **21. Affiliation**

The ILC can, by a decision of the National Executive, affiliate with any like-minded national or global organisation.

## **22. Interim Arrangements**

Elections to the Councils/Executives/District Committees listed

above shall take place as soon as possible. Meanwhile, an ad hoc National Executive shall carry on the activities of the ILG, comprising a President and members as per list attached (Annexure C). The President shall have powers to co-opt of members so that the total number of members of the National Executive shall not exceed 12. The ad-hoc National Executive shall ensure the completion of the process of organisational elections and the holding of a National Convention as soon as possible, and in any event, not later than December 31,2001.

**Annexure A to the Constitution of the Indian Liberal Group**

**Members of the Drafting Group**

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Naozer Aga           | 10. Mr. Giridhar Prabhu        |
| 2. Mr. Anand Amin           | 11. Mr. S. V. Raju             |
| 3. Mr. Sharad Bailur        | 12. Ms. Kashmira Rao           |
| 4. Ms. Anjali Patil Gaikwad | 13. Professor Suresh Shirodkar |
| 5. Mr. Pramod Kalyani       | 14. Professor V. K. Sinha      |
| 6. Dr. G. Krishnamurthy     | 15. Dr. Y. Sivaji              |
| 7. Mr. Ashutosh Mohan       | 16. Dr. R. Srinivasan          |
| 8. Col.(Retd) S. S. Oberoi  | 17. Dr. Mary Thomas            |
| 9. Mr. Sharad Patil         |                                |

**Annexure B to the Constitution of the Indian Liberal Group**

**FOUNDING MEMBERS**

**(Members of the Executive Committee of the Indian Liberal Group before the adoption of the Constitution of the ILG on March 4,2000)**

1. Mr. Naozer Aga.
2. Mr. Arvind Deshpande
3. Mr. C. R. Irani
4. Ms. Thangamma Jacob
5. Mr. Pramod Kalyani
6. Mr. D. N. Patodia.
7. Mr. S. V. Raju
8. Mr.Nitin B.Raut
9. Mr.Anil Saldanha
10. Dr. Y. Sivaji
11. Mr. G. K. Sundaram
12. Mr. Prakash Tandon
13. Dr. Mary Thomas

**Annexure C to the Constitution of the Indian Liberal Group**

**President and Members of the  
Ad-hoc National Executive of the ILG**

**President**

Mr. S. V. Raju

**Members**

1. Dr. Y. Sivaji
2. Mr. Anandbhai Amin
3. Mr. Giridhar Prabhu
4. Mr. Babu Joseph
5. Mr. Suresh Shirodkar
6. Prof. S. Radhakrishnan
7. Mr. Naozer Aga
8. Dr. Mary Thomas