

CONSTITUTION OF
PEOPLES RESURGENCE AND JUSTICE ALLIANCE
(PRJA)

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CONSTITUTION OF
PEOPLES RESURGENCE AND JUSTICE ALLIANCE
(PRJA)

ARTICLE -I: NAME OF THE PARTY

The name of the Party shall be “Peoples Resurgence and Justice Alliance” (PRJA)

ARTICLE -II: OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY

1. The peoples of Manipur and North Eastern States of India (NES), who are of multi-ethnic backgrounds, have been deprived of good governance for long. Combined with a weak politically conscious engagement by the public, the situation in the (NES) has caused a plethora of challenges such as unbridled corruption, drug/substance abuse, an ignored economy, impotent education, gender violence, undocumented immigration etc. Additionally, Human Rights Violations continue under the Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, 1958 (AFSPA), and militarization continues against the backdrop of a multi-facet conflict. We believe that the electoral participation is the best approach to addressing these challenges. On the 18th day of October 2016, (Eighteenth of October, the year two thousand and sixteen) we agreed upon to constitute a political party named as “Peoples Resurgence and Justice Alliance” (PRJA), to work towards addressing these challenges.
2. Vision: Of Manipur and North Eastern States of India where Justice Prevails in all aspects of people’s lives, where they enjoy a life of *Liberty, Equality, Dignity and Fraternity*, and with a *sense of responsibility* in a healthy natural environment. In pursuit of the above vision we will pursue the following objectives:
 - I. **ELECTORAL**: Inspire the people to participate in elections wisely. We will pursue this by imparting public information sharing, and education. Engage with the people to gain their mandate to formulate healthy and holistic public policies, and deliver good governance and rule of law when elected to power.
 - II. **SECURITY SECTOR**: To redefine security from the perspectives of the peoples, to protect their lives, physical integrity and against any psychological insecurity from all threats. This will include a non-violent struggle for the repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958; to engage with all stakeholders to transform and resolve these multi-facet conflicts.
 - III. **ECONOMIC SECTOR**: To ensure protection and promotion of indigenous peoples collective ownership rights over their lands, natural resources, while preserving ecological harmony. To overcome underdevelopment and all forms of injustice meted out to the people, imposed by any international financial institutions, corporate groups or powerful external market forces. To promote a self-sustainable economy by encouraging individuals, communities, and entrepreneurs, towards addressing unemployment and creating an economy that is based on the principle of proportionate development across regions, communities, and genders.
 - IV. **EDUCATION SECTOR**: To check the negative impact of increasing trend of commercialization of education, and its effect on the economically impoverished majority along with the rigorous improvement of the related policies, infrastructures, and learning materials.
 - V. **HEALTHCARE SECTOR**: To promote the principle of universal healthcare. To overcome the problems of deprivation and maltreatment as a result of commercialization in healthcare and medicines. To make use of the state apparatus to invest more in health sector, enabling adequate health facilities, at affordable costs across regions and across social classes.
 - VI. **SPORTS, ARTS, & CULTURE**: To promote games and sports and to preserve multi-ethnic arts and culture towards healthy and recreational society.
3. The Party Shall bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, and to the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy and would uphold the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India

ARTICLE-III: MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARTY

1. Eligibility for Membership

Any citizen of India of the age of 18 years or above who subscribes to the objectives of the Party shall be eligible to become a member of the Party, provided that he or she:

 - i. Is not a member of any other political party registered with the Election Commission of India;
 - ii. is not a member of any organization whose views, policies or actions are in conflict with the objectives of the party; and/or

iii. Has not been convicted of any offence involving moral character.

2. Categories of Membership

There shall be two categories of members:

- i. Ordinary member: Every person who becomes a member of the party as per the procedure prescribed shall be an ordinary member. An ordinary member shall not have any voting right.
- ii. Active Member: A person who has been an ordinary member for at least four months and who has followed the Code of Conduct for members and has actively participated in various programs of the Party shall be eligible for Active Membership of the Party. An Active Member shall have the right to vote.

3. Membership Process

- i. A person shall become an Ordinary Member of the Party on submitting the prescribed declaration and payment of the membership fee as prescribed from time to time.
- ii. A person seeking Active Membership of the Party shall apply to the office of the concerned District Unit in prescribed format. Each application should be supported by at least two existing Active Members.
- iii. The District Executive shall take the final decision on each application in its meeting held after the receipt of the application.
- iv. The Party shall maintain a register of its members in the manner as may be prescribed in the Regulations.
- v. The list of Active Members shall be frozen one month before the call for applications of candidates for any Party election. Pending applications, if any, for Active Membership shall be decided before freezing the list.
- vi. The State Executive and the District Executive shall have the power to directly admit new members or confer the status of an Active Member on any person.
- vii. Any person, who has been co-opted to a District Executive or in any body at the State Level, shall be deemed to have become an Active Member of the Party on submission of application form along with the requisite membership fee as prescribed from time to time.
- viii. If a District Executive decides to grant membership of the Party to a person who was a leader in another registered political party in the last ten years or is still a leader, such decision shall become operational only after approval by the State Executive. A leader here would mean either a State or National Level office bearer of another Party or someone who has contested parliamentary or Assembly or District Level elections on the symbol of another Party.
- ix. An Active Member shall pay membership fee and contribution as prescribed from time to time.
- x. A person can become a member of the Party either at his/her place of permanent residence or where he/she carries on his/her business but at one time he/she shall not be a member at more than one place.
- xi. If any active member changes his place of residence, he/she should get his address changed by giving intimation in writing to the concerned Units.

4. Term

The term of membership shall be 3 years. A member shall have to get his membership renewed after every 3 years. For the purpose of this clause a year shall be the period commencing from 1st of September of a calendar year or the date of enrolment of a member up to 31st of August of the succeeding year.

5. Cessation of Membership

A person shall cease to be a member of the Party in the event of:

- i. Death;
- ii. Resignation;
- iii. Expulsion/Removal; or
- iv. Non Renewal of Membership
- v. If he/she joins any other political party
- vi. On being convicted by a court of law for a crime involving moral digression.

6. Suspension from Membership

The State Executive may suspend an Active Member from the membership of the Party pending disciplinary proceedings.

ARTICLE-IV: ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

1. Organs of the Party

- a. The organizational structure of the Party shall consist of the following organs at the District, and State levels:
 - i. District Level
 - District Council
 - District Executive
 - ii. State Level
 - State Council
 - State Executive
- b. The area of a District Unit shall ordinarily be the same as that of an Administrative Block or District in a State. The area of State Units of the Party shall conform to the State/s mentioned in the Constitution of India.
- c. The term of each organ of the party, be at any level, including all party office bearers, shall be for a period of 3 years (three years). However, if elections are not held by the time of the expiry of the term, the term can be extended till the next elections subject to the conditions:
 - (i) That the elections are held not later than the expiry of a period of 4 years (four years) from the date of the beginning of the term;
 - (ii) That such proposal is approved by State Executive in case extension is granted to organs lower to the State Executive and/or State Council;

2. District Level:

a. District Council

Each District Council shall comprise of a maximum of 15 active members elected by active members of the party in their respective districts.

b. Powers and Functions of the District Council:

- i. The District Council will elect the District Executive.
- ii. The District Council will elect the District Convenor of the concerned district
- iii. The District Council shall have the powers to recall the District Convenors and/or the members of the District Executive.

c. District Executive:

Each District Executive shall organize and coordinate the activities of the Party at the District Level.

- i. The District Executive shall comprise of not more than 7 members, of whom at least 3 shall be women, selected by consensus from amongst the Active Members in that District Council failing which, it will be elected by a majority vote in the presence of a representative of the State Executive.
- ii. The District Executive may co-opt upto 2 members in order to give fair representation to disadvantaged social groups, such as SC, ST, Backward Classes and Minorities, in case any of these groups is under-represented. If the co-opted members are not already Active Members of

the Party, they shall be deemed to be Active Members of the Party as soon as they are co-opted and shall have all the rights of elected members of the Executive. All Co-opted Members must meet the qualification requirements laid down for Party Members and will need to be ratified by the State Council.

- iii. The District Executive may, through consensus, invite anyone from within or outside the Party to attend its meetings as a 'Special Invitee' for one or more meetings. However, Special Invitees shall not enjoy any voting rights.
- iv. All elected members of the District Executive shall be available for the Party work on regular basis.

d. Powers and Functions of District Executive

The District Executive shall:

- i. Form as many operational teams as are required to carry out the objectives of the Party.
- ii. Elect one person as Secretary and one person as Treasurer for that District from amongst the members referred to in sub-clause [c(i)] above.
- iii. Monitor and supervise the activities of Party functionaries in that District.
- iv. Undertake all such activities as are needed to meet the objectives of the Party in that District.
- v. Undertake activities related to public issues affecting that District.
- vi. Maintain the Register of Active Members of the Party of that District.
- vii. Maintain and keep accounts of District Level Finances
- viii. Settle the internal disputes, grievances and take up disciplinary actions in consultation with District Council.

2. State Level:

a. State Council

State Council shall comprise of a maximum of 21 active members elected directly by active members of the party in their respective states.

b. Functions and Powers of the State Council:

- i. It shall elect the State Executive.
- ii. It shall elect the State Party Convenor, and Co-convenor
- iii. It shall have the power to recall the one or more of the members of the State Executive, including the State Party Convenor, and Co-convenor
- iv. It shall decide the stand and policy of the Party on issues concerning the state in such manner as may be prescribed.
- v. It shall meet at least twice every year.

c. State Executive:

State Executive shall organize and coordinate the activities of the Party at the State Level.

- i. The State Executive shall comprise of not more than 7 members, of whom at least 3 shall be women, selected by consensus from amongst the Active Members in the State Council failing which, it will be elected by a majority vote
- ii. If the Convenor of any District is elected to the State Executive, he/she shall resign as the Convenor of the concerned District.
- iii. The State Executive may co-opt up to 2 members in order to give fair representation to disadvantaged social groups, such as SC, ST, Back-Ward Classes and Minorities, in case any of these groups is under-represented. If the co-opted members are not already Active Members of the Party, they shall be deemed to be Active Members of the Party as soon as they are co-opted and shall have all the rights of elected members of the Executive. All Co-opted Members must meet the qualification requirements laid down for Party Members
- iv. The State Executive may, through consensus, invite anyone from within or outside the Party to attend its meetings as a 'Special Invitee' for one or more meetings. However, Special Invitees shall not enjoy any voting rights.

v. All elected members of the State Executive shall be available for the Party work on regular basis.

(d) Functions and Powers of State Executive:

The State Executive shall:

- i. Form in consultation with State Council as many operational teams as are required to carry out the objectives of the Party.
- ii. Elect one person as Secretary and one person as Treasurer for State from amongst the members referred to in sub-clause [c (i)] above.
- iii. Monitor and supervise the activities of Party functionaries in the State.
- iv. Undertake all such activities as are needed to meet the objectives of the Party in that State.
- v. Undertake various activities related to public issues affecting that State.
- vi. Maintain and keep accounts of State Level Finances.
- vii. Settle the internal disputes, grievances and take up disciplinary actions in consultation with State Council.

ARTICLE V: OFFICE BEARERS OF THE PARTY

1. The following shall be the Office Bearers of the Party at various Levels :

a. District Level

- District Convenor
- District Treasurer
- District Secretary

b. State Level

- Party Convenor
- Party Co-convenor
- Party Treasurer
- Party Secretary

2. Powers & Functions of the Office Bearers

a. Convenor

The Convenor shall be in charge of functioning of the Party at the concerned Level

b. Party Convenor/District Convenors at concerned level shall:

- i. Facilitate and organize the meeting
- ii. Chair the meeting of the respective Executive
- iii. Implement and execute the decisions of the Party and carry out all such work as assigned from time to time in consultation with Council.

c. Secretary

The Secretary at the concerned level shall be responsible:

- i. For managing the day to day affairs of the Secretariat.
- ii. For maintaining records and keeping minutes of the meetings.
- iii. Carrying out all such work as given to him/her by the Party from time to time.
- iv. The Secretary at concerned Level shall represent Party for all legal purposes.

d. Treasurer

The Treasurer at the concerned level shall be responsible:

- i. For maintaining the accounts.
- ii. Follow all guidelines and instructions issued from time to time with respect to maintenance of accounts etc.
- iii. Ensuring that the accounts of the Party are properly maintained and are audited by an Auditor

on the panel of CAG.

- iv. Ensuring that all statutory compliances regarding accounts and Party funds are duly made.
- v. Ensuring that audited annual accounts of the Party are submitted to the Election Commission of India within six months from the end of the Financial Year.

3. Term of the Office Bearers

No member will hold the same post as an office bearer for more than two consecutive terms of three years each.

ARTICLE VI: CODE OF CONDUCT, DISCIPLINE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. Code of Conduct

a. Every member of the Party shall abide by the following Code of Conduct:

- i. A member shall not engage himself in any immoral, or illegal activity or such activity as would damage the party and/or tarnish the image of the Party and/or such conduct as would bring disrepute to it.
- ii. A member shall not undertake any activity, which is in violation of or is contrary to the objectives of the Party as set out in this Constitution or is contrary to the official policy of the Party.
- iii. A member shall not violate any Rule made by the Party or disobey any direction given by it.
- iv. Members, other than office bearers, shall be free to express their own opinion within and outside the party, unless there is a specific direction to the contrary by the Party for a specified period. Mere expression of difference of opinion will not be considered as violation of Code of Conduct unless it violates the Objectives of the Party.

b. Without prejudice to the generality of the above, an office bearer must also:

- i. Not involve himself/herself in any financial corrupt practices.
- ii. Not have any pending criminal case of a crime involving moral turpitude or should not have been convicted of any such crime in the past.
- iii. Not be a part of any organization which spreads disharmony on basis of religion or caste or promotes untouchability.
- iv. Not engage in exploiting or ill-treating woman.
- v. Not indulge in drug addiction or drunken behavior.
- vi. Make an annual declaration of his/her income and assets and that of his family honestly and correctly to the Party.

2. Authorities for Disciplinary Action

- i. Complaints in respect of alleged violation of Article VI-1 and any other matter including internal disputes, grievances etc. shall be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committees to be constituted by the State Executive with consultation with State Council at the State Level and District Level.
- iii. The Disciplinary Committee at the State Level and District Level shall comprise of three persons to be nominated by the Executive in consultation with Councils at the concerned Levels, as the case may be.

3. Penalties

Disciplinary action may result in penalties ranging from warning, suspension or expulsion from the Party. No disciplinary action shall be taken against a member without giving an opportunity to that member to explain and answer the charges against him/her.

In case disciplinary action is proposed against a member of District or State Executive, the penalty will be imposed only after approval by the Councils of the concerned Levels.

ARTICLE VII: RULES FOR CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

1. MEETING:

- i. The respective Convenors shall chair meetings of the State/District Executive. In the event of

the Convenor not being available, the concerned body may elect a person to chair the particular meeting

- ii. Councils at various Levels shall meet at least twice a year.
- iii. Executives at various Levels shall meet at least at the following intervals:
 - District Level: once a month
 - State Level: once a quarter
- iv. If required, a meeting of a Council/Executive may be requisitioned by 1/3rd of the members of the concerned Council/Executive.

2. QUORUM

Quorum for all meetings shall be one-third of the strength of the concerned body. If the Quorum is not complete at the appointed time, those assembled shall wait for a maximum period of 30 minutes. If the required Quorum is still not available, the meeting shall be adjourned. A new meeting shall then be convened and there shall be no need of a quorum for a meeting that was adjourned due to want of quorum.

There will be no requirement for a Quorum in case of Emergency or Extraordinary meetings. However resolutions passed in such meetings shall be required to be ratified in the next ordinary meeting of the concerned body.

3. NOTICE

i. The notice period for Ordinary meetings of the various bodies shall be as under:

<u>Body</u>	<u>Days</u>
District Council	10
District Executive	2
State Council	10
State Executive	2

ii. Emergency meetings of the District/State may be convened by the concerned Convenor by giving such notice as deemed fit. The above time periods would not be applicable for such meetings.

iii. Members may attend meetings of the District/State Executive either in person or via video/teleconference.

4. Decision Making

All decisions at all Levels in any meeting shall be taken by consensus, failing which by a majority vote. However, approval of 2/3rd of members, present and voting, will be required for a resolution for amendment of the Party Constitution and/or decision to merge, split or dissolve.

5. Minutes

The Party shall maintain Minutes of all the Meetings of all its Council/Executive/ Committees.

ARTICLE VIII: PARTY FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS

1. Collection of Funds

- i. Funds shall be collected by means of membership fee, voluntary donations, sale of party material, cultural programs etc.
- ii. Only such persons, as are authorized by the respective Executive, shall receive the funds.

2. Donation and Membership Receipts

- i. Fund collection receipts shall be printed at the State Levels only.
- ii. Each receipt shall be duly numbered and issued in books containing receipts as prescribed from time to time.

3. Bank Account

- i. The Party shall open such number of bank accounts and at such places as considered necessary.

- ii. There shall be three authorized signatories for each Bank account namely the Treasurer and two persons authorized by the State Executive. The account may be operated by any two of the three authorized signatories. However, one of them must be Treasurer.
- iii. All receipts shall be deposited in the bank accounts of the Party and all expenses shall be routed through such bank accounts.
- iv. Notwithstanding the above, in the event of special accounts being open for any parliamentary/assembly constituency elections, there shall be three authorized signatories for operating such accounts who shall be nominated by the State Executive.

4. Utilisation of Funds

- i. The funds received by the Party shall be utilized for meeting the political objectives of the Party.
- i. The funds shall be utilized by the concerned Executive. The State Executive may frame regulations governing the utilization of funds. The Accounts shall be maintained on accrual basis. The Details of all donations and expenses will be made transparent.
- ii. Every year, party must get its account audited during each financial year by a Chartered Accountant and submit its copy to the Election Commission within a period of 60 days after the end of each financial year.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution, barring Article II(3) thereof, can be amended by the State Council provided that the amendment has the approval of 2/3rd of its members present and voting after due notice to all the members. For this purpose a meeting of the State Council shall be convened within 30 days of a resolution for amendment bearing the signatures of at least 10% members of the State Council being received.

The State Executive shall also have the power to alter and amend this Constitution. Quorum for such State Executive meeting shall be two thirds of its strength. The amendment so made by the Executive shall become operative immediately subject to ratification in the next session of the State Council. However, the power of amendment cannot be exercised in a manner so as to bring the amended Constitution in conflict with the statutory provisions or guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India.

ARTICLE X: MERGER SPLIT AND DISSOLUTION

1. Decisions regarding merger, split and dissolution shall be taken at a Plenary Session comprising of all office bearers, members of all organs at every level and Members of Parliament, State Legislature, Corporations and Panchayats.
2. The quorum for the meeting of the Plenary Session shall be 50% of the persons entitled to participate in the Plenary Session.
3. A resolution in respect of merger or split or dissolution to be effective shall require the approval of at least 2/3 of the persons present and voting.

Article XI: INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

The State Executive alone shall have the power and authority to interpret this Constitution and the regulations framed there under. The Decision of the State Executive in respect of above shall be final and binding unless it is overturned by the State Council in its next meeting.

Article XII: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. No person shall be a member of two Executives.
2. If someone is a member of any Executive Committee of the Party, then none of his or her immediate family members can become a member of any Executive of Party.
3. Two persons from the same family will not be given nomination for contesting elections by the Party.
4. Any member who does not attend 3 successive meetings of any Council/Executive without prior intimation of his or her absence shall cease to be a member of the Council/Executive on passage of resolution to this effect.

5. The State Executive will frame Regulations for filling the vacancies caused by resignation, expulsion or death of a member of an Executive/Council.
6. The State Executive will lay down norms and special arrangements to be put in place for merger of new organisations or parties within the Party.
7. The Party will not in any manner promote or instigate or participate in violence.
8. The party will contest election conducted by Election Commission within 5 years of registration, and shall continue to do so thereafter.