**AIPPM**

**(All India Political Parties Meet)**

**RULES OF PROCEDURE**

**1.Birth of the Concept-**

The All India Political Parties Meet is a non-technical yet powerful committee introduced in order to emulate political realities by bringing to light various layers of polity and governance in India. It helps participants grasp the multi-layered processes that go behind policy-making and governance in India, providing them with a hands-on approach to the impediments and challenges that confront political parties in modern times.

**2. Procedural Construct-**

• Members have the liberty to speak either in English or Hindi
• However, all documentation will be only in English.
• Ethnic wear is recommended on all days of the meeting though formal western attire may be worn.
• At the beginning of each session, the executive board calls committee member in English alphabetical order to state their attendance with a clear present

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• It is mandatory for all committee members to vote.

• All the Committee members will be invited to give their Introductory Statements. The default time period, for the same will be 90 seconds. A motion to extend the time period will not be in order. Committee members are expected to list out their current Line of Policy and that of their political party, towards the Agenda at hand.

 The member, granted the right to deliver the Introductory Statement, may yield after his/her speech in one of the three ways:
Yield to Comments Such a yield can be used to invite comments from other fellow members, on the Line of Policy, presented by the speaking member.

Yield to Points of Information/Questions .The Executive Board, who has the right to call to order any member whose question is rhetorical and/or not designated to elicit information, may select questioners. Follow-up will be allowed only at the discretion of the Executive Board. Yield to the Chair, such a yield should be made if the Committee member does not wish to yield to questions/comments by other members. The Chair will then invite the next speaker, for delivering the Introductory Statement. Members must declare any yield by the conclusion of his or her speech. If the time runs out, the Chair will simply move to the next speaker

**4. Subject Discussions**

Once the Introductory Statements have been successfully delivered, the floor shall be made open for motions, leading to Formal Discussions called Subject Discussions. This shall be used by the Committee members to debate/discuss specific subtopics under the broader agenda, subject to stipulated time limits and the strict moderation of the delegate who raised the subject discussion. Every proposal for a subject discussion must be accompanied by the specification of the Topic to be discussed under the slot, framed concisely and holistically. Every speech made during a Subject Discussion will be subject to a specific time limit, not exceeding 90 seconds, which is to be specified by the Member proposing the motion. Speeches made during the Subject Discussions are NOT open to questions or comments by other committee members. Committee members are requested to behave in a parliamentary way, and show of disagreement should be kept at a minimum.

**5. Establishing the Sessions**:
These sessions can be established by proposing a motion to establish a particular session, which will be followed by a vote. The motion should be able to secure a simple majority.

**Public Session:**In order to discuss various sections of the agenda, a separate time frame is allotted for the members to put their views on the floor of the house. A public session can be of 15-30 minutes but the individual speaker’s time will remain 60 seconds. Everything in a public session is in public domain and is in the presence of the media.

**When the committee is in public session, every word that is spoken shall be enshrined in public record and hence might be subjected to public critique. Media and outside observers will be present during public sessions**

**Private Session:**
Private session is of two types:
**Moderated and Unmoderated.**
When the committee deems fit, it may motion for a private session. Au exchanges in private sessions shall not be put on record and will be privileged and confidential. Outside observers and media personnel shall not be permitted. It is during these sessions that members may discuss the “less savory” aspects of political functioning. This is to provide a protected forum for the members to consider political realities. Guidelines regarding the use of unparliamentarily language would be

communicated in the meeting itself. A Private Session has a time cap of 15 minutes which can be extended by five more minutes only by the discretion of the chair. In no case can the Private Session extend by more than 20 Minutes. 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 immediate suspension or in extreme cases, expulsion from the meeting or any other punishment as the Executive Board deems fit.

Nothing from the Private **Session** goes on record or In the public domain

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Unmoderated:
A Representative may move for an Unmoderated Session thereby suggesting a change from formal to informal debate. The Representative who makes this motion must suggest a length **and** justification for the Unmoderated Session. The Executive Board may suggest a more appropriate session length and put it to vote, or may rule the Unmoderated Session out of order without possibility of appeal. Once the Motion has passed, the Committee will departfrom tte formal discussion and will carry an informal discussion without leaving the conference room.

Moderated:
A moderated session will be a formal discussion which is regulated by the Executive Board.

**6. Points:**

 **1. Point of Personal Privilege:**
A Representative may rise to a Point of Personal Privilege if a matter impairs him/her from participating fully in council activities. The Executive Board persons shall try to effectively address the source of impairment. A Point of Personal Priviege may only interrupt a speaker if the Representative speaking is inaudible. Otherwise, the Representative rising on the Point of Personal Privilege must wait till the end of the speech to raise the Point.

**2. Point of Order:**
A Representative may raise a Point of Order if he/she believes that the rules are being violated. The Executive Board will then immediately rule on the Point of Order. This point can interrupt a speaker.

**3. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry:**
A Representative may rise to a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry requesting an explanation from the Executive Board on the Rules of Procedure. This point may not interrupt a Speaker.

 **4. Point of Information:**
This is a point which helps to clarify any factual inaccuracy in a representatives’ speech. This point can be raised after the completion of any representatives’ speech if one finds that the other representative may have misstated a particular fact. This point cannot interrupt a speaker.

**5. Right of Reply:**
A Representative whose personal integrity has been impugned by another Delegate’s comments may rise to a Right of Reply. Disagreement with the content of a Delegates speech is not grounds for a Right of Reply. The Executive Board will recognize the Right of Reply at his/her discretion as well as decide on how to resolve the motion. This point may not interrupt a speaker but should be addressed the moment he/she has finished his/her speech. Should the Executive Board rule the Right of Reply out of order, his/her decision cannot be appealed.
(No Representative may call for a Right of Reply on a Right of Reply.T0 BE DISCUSSED)

**Committee Documentation**

**Resolution:**
A written, Document, which is a set of Operative Clauses .Requires at least one sponsor and three signatories, to be considered. Dissent Notes: If any particular member or party is in disagreement with a specific clause of the Resolution, it may issue a Dissent Note in writing, addressed to the Executive Board.

**Communiqué:**
An official declaration or announcement in writing, non-binding in nature, which is drafted in joint consensus of the entire Committee and is passed without a formal vote. A communiqué is a more informal and non-binding alternative to a resolution, intended for common understanding of Committee and press members.

**Written Statements:**

Written statements shall be used to apprise the Executive Board, of any Policy Line, that could not be done through speeches1, due to the limited time available. The Executive Board may read out the statement to the Committee, if it deems fit to do so.

**Press Statements:**Statements, either written or in verbal, directly to the national press.

**Press Conferences**
Parties can hold their own press conferences during committee breaks but will have to inform

**Public Session (Moderated caucus)**In order to discuss various sections of the agenda, a separate time frame is allotted for the members to put their views on the floor of the house. A public session can be of 15-30 minutes but the individual speaker’s time will remain 60 seconds. Everything in a public session is in public domain and is in the presence of the media.

**Memorandums**

A memorandum (memo) is written communication between a member and the concerned branch of his or her political party ordering certain action to be taken. These shall be strictly confidential in nature. Ironically, the same might be read out aloud in the committee if the Chairs find it strategically or politically important at the given time and circumstances. Memos must be clear cut and decisively framed. They would be rejected if not found in the stipulated format or if the matter exceeds five lines. They should be used to create favourable circumstances and hence advance one’s political interests. It is important to use memos sensibly as they may backfire if not appropriately used.

They should not be detrimental to the political party the author belongs to or political parties that are allies of the author’s political party. It is important that members understand the internal organization/structure of their political parties to effectively use the same. Please note that for the purpose of this committee, it is recommended that memorandums be routed through the Executive Board.
A sample Memorandum has been enclosed at the end of this document.

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**Outcome**

The main purpose of this All India Parties Meet is to ensure that all the participating members come down to consensual solutions with respect to the issues at hand. For which the final document of this Meeting would be solutions in the form of recommendations to the Government to solve the existing issues for which all the political parties have arrived at a consensus. And for such document/s to be passed a 2/3rd majority of all the members present and voting is necessary. Unfortunately, Political Parties would not have an option to abstain, thereby requiring them to come up with alternative voting strategies.