

GUJARAT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(Gujarat Vepari Mahamandal)
AHMEDABAD

A Society Registered under the
Societies Registration Act, 1860
Registration No. GUJ/16093/AHD

RULES AND REGULATIONS

GUJARAT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(Gujarat Vepari Mahamandal)
AHMEDABAD

RULES AND REGULATIONS

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Contents Page No

INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction 6

DEFINITIONS, JURISDICTION, ETC.

2. Definitions 7
3. Jurisdiction 9
4. Dispute Resolution 9

MEMBERS

6. Types of Membership 11
7. Application for Membership 16
8. Scrutiny of the application form for membership 19
9. Rights of a Member 20
10. Resignation from Membership 21
11. Termination of Membership 21
12. Removal from Membership 22
13. (1) Register and Index 22
14. Changes in the membership, Registered address, etc. 24
15. Deletion of name 25

MEETINGS

16. Financial Year 26
17. General Meeting (Extra - Ordinary General Meeting) 26
18. Proceedings at Annual General Meeting 26
19. An Extra - Ordinary General Meeting 27
20. Requisition Meeting 27
21. Quorum of the Annual General Meeting and Extra-ordinary General Meeting 27
22. Chairperson in the absence of the President and Vice President 27
23. Demand for Poll in a Meeting 28

CONSTITUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

24. (1) Constitution of the Executive Committee 29
    (2) Term of Executive Committee 30
25. Co-option 33
26. Powers and Responsibilities of the Executive Committee 34
27. Meeting of the Executive Committee 36
28. Rules for functioning /proceedings at/of the Executive Committee 36
29. Minutes of the Proceedings and Copy of Minutes 38
30. Absence in the meeting of the Executive Committee 38
31. Absence of the President 38

32. Vacancy for the post of President, Sr. Vice President and Vice President 39
33. Tenure of the President, Sr. Vice President, Vice President and the members of the Executive Committee 39
34. Disqualifications of the member of Executive Committee 39

OFFICE BEARERS

35. Election and tenure of the President, Sr. Vice President and Vice President, the members of Executive Committee 41
36. Rights of the Office Bearers 42

ACCOUNTS

37. Accounts and Audit 46
38. Management of the Funds 46
39. Withdrawal of Funds 46

ELECTION

40. Election of President, Sr. Vice President Vice President and Members of Executive Committee 48
41. Procedures relating to Election
(1) Objection against candidature 50
(2) Date for withdrawal of candidature 50
(3) Election Procedures and Results 51
(4) Procedure for Election of Executive Committee Members 51
42. Procedure for counting of votes 52
43. Voting by Members to the candidates for the Executive Committee 52
44. Election by Ballot 54
45. Election Regulations 54
46. Declaration of uncontested election 55
47. Objection application for re-counting of votes 55
48. Objection Application for Election results 55
49. Election Board 56
50. Appointment of Election Officer 57
51. Authority of Election Officer 57

EXTRA ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

52. Provisions for a period when elections are not possible to be held in extra ordinary circumstances 59
53. Tenure of Empowered Apex Committee and its duties and responsibilities during the tenure. 59
54. Functions of the Empowered Apex Committee. 60
55. Amendments in the Constitution and Regulations 60
56. Dissolution 61

CONSTITUTION AND REGULATIONS, ITS TRANSLATION AND COMPLIANCE (POINTS 57-61) 62

GUJARAT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(Gujarat Vepari Mahamandal)

AHMEDABAD

A Society Registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860

Registration No. GUJ/16093/AHD

RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Approved at the General Meeting dated 06.04.1949)

And

(With the amendments on and up to 18.11.2004)

And

(With the amendments on and up to 31.03.2009)

And

(With the amendments on and up to 09.07.2010)

And

(With the amendments on and up to 11.06.2011)

And

(With the amendments on and up to 13.07.2013)

And

(With the amendments on and up to 03.05.2016)

And

(With the amendments on and up to 30.09.2019)

And

(With the amendments on and up to 18.09.2021)

And

(With the amendments on and up to 12.05.2023)

And

(With the amendments on and up to 26.05.2025)

And

(With the amendments on and up to 30.07.2026)

Introduction

1. Introduction

(a) **Name**: The name of the Society shall be Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Gujarat Vepari Mahamandal).

(b) **Registered Office:** The registered office of the Society shall be situated at Shri Ambica Mills-Gujarat Chamber Building, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad-380009.

(c) **Name of this document:** This document shall be considered as Rules and Regulations of Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Gujarat Vepari Mahamandal) and shall be considered to be effective from the date of EGM when resolved_i.e. 12.05.2023. The Society has a separate Memorandum of Association containing its Objects and Functions.

Definitions, Jurisdiction etc.

2. Definitions

(a) The Chamber: The Chamber means Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Gujarat Vepari Mahamandal), which can also be referred to, in brief, as GCCI or the Society.

(b) Regional Chamber: Regional Chamber means a trade and industry association as defined in Rule 6(b) hereafter.

(c) Business Association (Mahajan): Business Association (Mahajan) means an association consisting of persons or business establishments as defined in Rule 6(c) hereafter.

(d) Business: Business means any activity involving trade or industry of any nature and/or providing services of any nature and includes services provided to trade, commerce or industry, with the aim of earning profit. Business shall not include individuals giving any service as a medical practitioner, insurance or investment agent, and/or simply being employed in a trade, commercial, industrial or service organization.

(e) Businessman: Businessman means any Person, as defined hereinafter, involved in Business as defined above and representing in GCCI, such business, on behalf of a business establishment.

(f) Empowered Apex Committee: Empowered Apex Committee (EAC) (earlier known as High Powered Committee) means a committee of five members appointed only first time by the General Body Meeting. Once EAC is appointed by the Members of AGM, the constitution of and its functioning shall be as per Clauses 52, 53 and 54 of Constitution and Regulations, mentioned hereinafter.

(g) Member: The term Member includes Ordinary, Extraordinary, Life, Patron, Corporate, Honorary, Business Association (Mahajan), Regional Chamber, Foreign, Non-voting or any other category of members as defined from time to time under this Constitution and Regulations of GCCI.

(h) Local Member: Local Member means a business establishment or an association, consisting of one or more owners/shareholders/members, who is a member of GCCI, having its business address in the area falling within the limits of Ahmedabad District, prevailing from time to time and who has registered as a Local Member with GCCI.

(i) Out-Station Member: Out-station Member means a business establishment or an association, consisting of one or more owners / shareholders / members, who is a member of GCCI, but who is not a Local Member and who has registered it as an Out-Station member with GCCI.

(j) List of Members: List of Members means a list of members of GCCI, incorporating members' names, names of the business establishments, addresses and other contact details of all types as required by the Scrutiny Committee of GCCI.

(k) Office of the Chamber: Office of The Chamber means the Office of The Chamber, located on Ashram Road in Ahmedabad.

(l) Current Year: Current Year means the period starting from 1st of April of the relevant year to 31st March of the subsequent year, and shall mean the year for membership.

(m) Person: Person means an individual, a partnership firm (registered or unregistered), an association of persons (registered or unregistered), company incorporated under The Companies Act, 1956, limited liability partnership (LLP) and/or a specific or discretionary private non-charitable trust.

(n) Arbitration and Mediation Committee: Arbitration and Mediation Committee means a committee as referred in Clause 4 of this chapter under the heading "Dispute Resolution".

(o) Specific Category Members: Specific Category Members means Corporate Members, Regional Chamber Members, Business Association (Mahajan) Members, Patron Members and Lifetime Members.

(p) General Category Members: General Category Members means all the Members of the Chamber (including Specific Category Members but excluding Non-Voting Members).

(q) Executive Committee: Executive Committee means Executive Committee of The Chamber formed under the provisions of its Constitution and Regulations.

(r) Scrutiny Committee: Scrutiny Committee means Scrutiny Committee of The Chamber formed under the provisions of its Constitution and Regulations.

(s) Prescribed Fees: Prescribed Fees means all the applicable membership fees (including Entrance Fees and Annual Subscription Fees inter alia) decided and fixed by Executive Committee of The Chamber for various categories of Members from time to time.

(t) Registered Business Address: Registered Business Address means the place of business of a member as registered with the chamber at the time of applying for membership or as changed thereafter by providing acceptable documentary evidences as per provisions of the constitution.

(u) Professional means any person carrying on legal, medical, engineering, architectural, accountancy, technical/software consultancy, interior decoration, film artist, or any other profession which may be legally approved and recognized by Authority/ Body/ Government/Educational & Professional Institute.

(v) Youth Member: The representatives below the age of 35 years as on 1st April of the current year will be considered as the Youth members of GCCI and the committee of the Youth shall also be formed from the said Youth members, who have age less than 35 years.

(w) Date of Membership: Date of membership of every new member shall commence from the date of their enrolment as a member in the current year and their tenure shall be up to 31st March of the current Financial Year. As far as existing member is concerned the same shall commence from 1st April of the current year till 31st March of the next year. However, for contesting in the elections, it is mandatory for the member to complete a period of 12 months from the date of becoming a member.

(x) Year: A Year means a period between 2 (Two) successive AGMs.

(y) Business Woman: A lady who is either an Individual Member or as a representative of a member establishment will be considered as Business Woman.

(z) Honorary Secretary (Regional): Any elected Out-Station member, elected outstation business association member and nominated regional chamber member (by virtue of their position) of the executive committee will be eligible to become a Regional Secretary

3. Jurisdiction:

For initiating any legal proceedings against The Chamber, courts in the City of Ahmedabad shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

4. Dispute Resolution:

In case of any grievance against The Chamber and/or its office bearers and/or the Executive Committee and/or any other member of The Chamber and/or any staff of The Chamber, no such aggrieved member of The Chamber shall directly approach the Court for getting the grievance addressed, but shall be required to approach the Arbitration and Mediation Committee which shall follow the procedure prescribed under Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and as amended from time to time

4.1 Constitution of Arbitration & Mediation Committee:

The Arbitration & Mediation Committee shall be appointed by the Empowered Apex Committee. This committee shall comprise of 3 (three) persons, 1 (one) each to be nominated by the Member having grievance, and The Chamber, as well as an umpire with the concurrence of the two appointed Arbitrators.

4.2. Procedure for approaching for Arbitration:

a) If any Member has a dispute/grievance against any of the above, an official request for arbitration should be sent to The Chamber on letterhead with signature of the registered representative, clearly mentioning the grievance and the clause of GCCI constitution supposed to have been breached.

b) Such grievance shall be sent to The Chamber within 60 days of the date of arising of dispute/grievance and under no case grievance made late shall be entertained.

c) Such a request shall be forwarded by The Chamber within 15 days of receiving the request for Arbitration, to the Empowered Apex Committee for consideration to accept the Arbitration.

d) The Empowered Apex Committee shall on its own, if felt necessary, call and meet the grieved Member and the Member/Person against whom the grievance is addressed with an aim to resolve the dispute or primarily decide if there has been any breach of GCCI constitution.

e) If the Empowered Apex Committee, after due consideration, feels the need for Arbitration, it would convey to both parties within 45 days of the date on which it has received the forwarded request for Arbitration, to nominate their representatives in the Arbitration Committee.

f) Such nomination shall have to be made within 15 days of receiving the communication from the Empowered Apex Committee.

g) After receiving names of both nominees, the Empowered Apex Committee shall, in concurrence with both nominated arbitrators, nominate the umpire within 15 days of receiving nominations from both parties.

h) h. The Arbitration and Mediation Committee so formed shall be required to give its decision on the dispute within 90 days, and convey it to the Empowered Apex Committee which shall officially convey the decision to both parties involved in the dispute within 7 days after the decision.

Note: The Arbitration and Mediation Committee shall cease to exist automatically once the final decision on the dispute is conveyed to all parties.

Members

6. Types of Membership:

The members of The Chamber will be of the following types: -

(a) Corporate Member

Only companies incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, or a similar act in India earlier in the past or under the above act amended from time to time or replaced by any other similar act or any Limited Liability Partnership entities incorporated under the relevant law from time to time can become Corporate Member of GCCI. For becoming a Corporate Member, an incorporated company as mentioned above, will have to pay prescribed onetime fee as decided by The Chamber from time to time. All Corporate Members shall also be required to make payment towards annual subscription as may be decided by the Executive Committee of The Chamber from time to time, based on their turnover declared as Consolidated Total Revenue in their last finalized annual accounts, which are not older than 12 months from the date of application. Consolidated Total Revenue would be equal to Consolidated Total Income of the Corporate Member, net of excise duty, as reported in their last Consolidated Audited Annual Accounts. If Renewal subscription is not paid by 31st March, such member shall not have the voting weightage in the forthcoming Election of The Chamber for 1 year, but shall be eligible to only 1 vote.

The Corporate member may be represented to the Chamber through its 2 representatives, who may be a Promoter/Director/CEO/ President/Vice President/ Senior Executive. In case of a listed company, the letter by Managing Director/ Chairman shall have to be presented to the Chamber informing of their choice and authority given to them for such representation and in case of an unlisted Company, a Board Resolution shall have to be presented to the Chamber informing of the choice and authority given to them for such representation. Out of the two names entered in the register as representatives of such Corporate Member, either one can vote in the elections of the Chamber. However only the Promoter-Director/Partner shall be eligible to contest as a candidate in the elections. A vote given by such representative shall be given the voting weightage as mentioned in clause 43 hereinafter.

(b) Regional Chamber Member

Regional Chamber Member means a member who is recognized by the Chamber as a Regional Chamber Member and who has registered itself as a Regional Chamber member with GCCI. Such Regional Chamber shall be an out-station member. To qualify for being recognized as Regional Chamber, such a member should be in existence for at least last 10 years (5 years in case of unrepresented District) and should have at least 500 direct members and 25 Business Association Members.

Out of the said 25 Business Association members, minimum 10 Associations should have more than 100 members and minimum 15 Associations should have more than 50 members.

A Regional Chamber has first to become Business Association/ Mahajan member and then apply to become a regional chamber member with the chamber, if the required conditions are fulfilled. Such an application shall first be vetted by the Office Bearers and thereafter the same shall be put up to Executive Committee for the consideration and decision. The Executive Committee may ensure only one regional chamber from one district, however, Executive Committee may review to replace the Regional Chamber on receiving another request from a given district.

This applies to all new Regional Chambers that may be recognized by the Chamber after this amendment is passed.

Existing Regional Chamber Members as on 18-09-2021 (the date when AGM passed this resolution) shall continue to be Regional Chamber Members irrespective of their fulfillment of above criteria.

A Regional Chamber Member can vote in the election. The entrance fees and annual subscription for the Regional Member of The Chamber shall be as decided by the Executive Committee from time to time. A vote given by a representative of a Regional Chamber Member shall be given the voting weightage as mentioned in Clause 43 hereinafter.

In case of any vacancy that may arise the same shall be filled from the same category.

A Regional Chamber member can be represented to the Chamber through its 2 representatives who shall be the only Office Bearers of the regional chamber as nominated by the current office bearers of the respective Chamber and shall replace the existing representatives of the said regional chamber. Whenever there is a change in the team of Office Bearers of a regional chamber the new Representatives shall be nominated and informed to GCCI.

Such a representative nominated on Executive Committee shall be required to be a member on behalf of his business entity within 60 days of being so appointed

(c) Business Association (Mahajan) Member

Business Association (Mahajan) Member: Business Association Member (Mahajan Member) means a member who is recognized by the Chamber as a Business Association (Mahajan) and who has registered itself as a Business Association Member (Mahajan Member) with GCCI. Such Business Association (Mahajan), if Government Registered, should have membership strength of not less than 25 members to be considered eligible for membership. Any unregistered Business Association (Mahajan) should have not less than 25 members and should have been at least 5 years in existence to be considered eligible to be a member of the chamber.

A Business Association (Mahajan) Member can be represented to the Chamber through its 2 representatives who shall be only from its current office bearers and whenever there is change in the office bearers, the existing representatives shall be replaced by the new ones on receiving a written intimation to the Secretary General from the Business Association (Mahajan) signed by its President. However, such a change cannot be made from the date of notice of election till the completion of election.

The entrance fees and annual subscription for Business Association member of The Chamber shall be as decided by the Executive Committee of the Chamber from time to time. Business Association member can contest and vote in the election. A vote given by a representative of a Business Association (Mahajan) member shall be given the voting weightage as mentioned in clause 43 hereinafter.

A Business Association can also choose to pay one-time fees equivalent to the fee for patron membership, instead of the usual yearly renewal fees. The Business Associations who pay one-time fees in such a manner will be termed as Business Association (Lifetime) members and shall be included within the specific category of Business Association members for all practical purposes.

Note: The Business Associations which have earlier been enrolled as Patron Members shall also be transferred to this specific category of Business Association (Lifetime) member and shall be considered henceforth as Business Association (Lifetime) members.

(d) Patron Member

To become a Patron Member of GCCI, a business entity will have to pay prescribed onetime fee (decided from time to time by the Executive Committee of GCCI) and such Patron Member shall not be required to make any payment towards annual subscription and can contest and vote in the election, if he is registered with GCCI as Patron Member.

(e) Lifetime Member

To become a Life Member of GCCI, A businessman will have to pay prescribed onetime fee (decided from time to time by the Executive Committee of GCCI) and such Lifetime Member shall not be required to make any payment towards annual subscription and can contest and vote in the election. Only an individual can become a Lifetime Member. A Lifetime Member can contest and vote in the election, if he is registered as Lifetime Member.

He will remain a lifetime member till he lives and thereafter his name will be deleted in consultation with the Scrutiny Committee.

(f) (i) Ordinary Member

Any Businessman can become Ordinary Member of GCCI. The entrance fees and annual subscription for Ordinary Member of The Chamber shall be as decided by the Executive Committee from time to time. He will be able to contest and vote in the elections of GCCI as per the rules of GCCI. Though the entrance fee shall paid by such members only at the time of becoming a member of GCCI, such members shall pay annual subscription fee for every Current Year, if they want to renew their membership for such Current Year. If they do not pay their annual subscription fees and apply for the renewal of their membership for a specific Current Year, their membership shall be terminated by GCCI.

(ii)Extraordinary Member

Past Presidents of The Chamber will be considered as extraordinary members of The Chamber; they will not be required to pay the annual fees and they will be entitled to all the rights available to an ordinary member of The Chamber. However, no extraordinary member shall be entitled to vote or contest in the elections unless he is a member of any other category.

(g) Foreign Member

If any Businessman of Indian origin, who is a citizen of a foreign country and/or is residing in a foreign country for a period of more than 12 months from the date of his expressing an intention of becoming a member of GCCI then such Businessman can be admitted as a Foreign Member and he/she will have to pay the necessary entrance fees and annual subscription (decided from time to time by the Executive Committee of GCCI) as may be applicable. He will not be allowed to contest election but will be allowed to vote in the election if he remains present personally. Such a member, whenever stays of more than 12 months in India, in any period of 24 months, his foreign membership will be terminated, and he will need to apply again for his membership to GCCI, for any other relevant category.

(h) Honorary Member

Persons who are well known for their Social and Educational Services, Experts in the fields of commerce, business and trade and reputed persons from other fields who are interested in the objects of The Chamber and its activities shall be admitted as Honorary Members on the recommendation of the Executive Committee and with the approval in General Meeting. They shall not be required to make payment of annual subscription. However, they will have no right to vote in any meeting of The Chamber or to become a member of the Executive Committee.

(i) Non-Voting Member

Any businessman can become a Non-Voting Member. However co-operative societies or Business Associations cannot become Non-Voting Members. Any person desirous of becoming a Non-Voting Member shall be entitled to register itself as a Nonvoting Member on payment of prescribed fees (decided from time to time by the Executive Committee of GCCI) for the year from 1st April to 31st March. Such membership shall have to be renewed at the expiry of the concerned financial year. Nonvoting Members shall have no right to contest election or to vote or to remain present in the General Meetings. Excepting these, they will be entitled to participate in all activities of The Chamber.

Note 1

Entrance fee and Annual Subscription Fees (all the fees covered under the prescribed fees) shall be paid in the following manner.

Payment can be made by cheque on behalf of the representative by the member or vice versa. However, every member shall be required to pay by cheque from the bank account or by a pay order from the bank account of the member and/or the representative of the member and send a copy of the cheque, pay order and covering letter duly signed on the letter head of the member by the member to The Chamber.

Moreover, if anyone desires to pay fees online, he/she may do so from the account of the Representative or the member and quote the unique transaction ID such as UTR No., while filing the form for required service to GCCI.

Note 2

Onetime fee received from Corporate Member, Patron Member and Life Member as well as entrance fee received from Ordinary Member shall be credited to the capital fund and such amount from this fund shall not be spent for the recurring expenses except with the permission of The Chamber in the Annual General Meeting or the Extra Ordinary General Meeting.

Note 3

Wherever applicable, every Member shall be required to pay annual subscription fee in advance i.e., between 1st November and 31st March of the relevant previous year in reference to the Current Year, or thereafter with late fee as enumerated in Rule 7 of this Constitution (Rules & Regulations). Thereafter subscription fee will not be accepted and the membership of such member shall stand automatically terminated.

Note 4 Membership Criteria

Every person covered under the definition of the term Businessman can become a member in the relevant category that he desires and in the category of membership he is eligible for.

(j) Any Institute/ Chamber /Association /Institute of Commerce may be admitted as a Reciprocal Member provided such body also reciprocates by giving such a status to GCCI in their organization. The Reciprocal Member will not be required to pay any fee nor will they have any voting right.

(1) Term of Reciprocal member shall be of one year.
(2) They will be considered at par with Special Invitee members.
(3) Maximum 10 Reciprocal members may be admitted during a year, of which maximum 3 from Gujarat State and rest from other than Gujarat state.

(k) Nominal Member

a. Any self-employed person carrying out any legal business activity can become a nominal member of GCCI.

b. A nominal member will have a tenure of 3 years.

c. Nominal membership fee can be decided by the Executive Committee from time to time and in case such a nominal member has been recommended by Regional Chamber then such a fee shall be shared by GCCI and the concerned Regional Chamber in the proportion as decided by the Executive Committee from time to time.

d. Nominal member will have a right to represent his/her business grievance related to any Govt. policy/Law/Circular/Notification. Such a representation will be examined by the Office Bearers with or without consultation of domain expert and shall decide whether the representation should be forwarded to an appropriate authority.

e. No other service /communication /right/voting right will be available to such Nominal members ever.

f. GCCI will establish a dedicated desk for this purpose.

7. Application for Membership:

(a) Every Businessman including Regional Chamber or Business Association desirous of becoming a member shall have to sign an application form prescribed by The Chamber and fill up the details of applicable fee and particulars of his business or activity like firm, partners of the firm, directors of the company, or names of two office bearers of the associations, whatever is applicable, who are to be registered as representatives. Such application along with three passport size photographs shall be submitted to The Chamber. The application shall also be proposed by a member (excluding non-voting member) and seconded by another member (excluding non-voting member), with signatures of the proposing and seconding member and such application shall be forwarded to the Secretary General of The Chamber.

Applications for new Memberships shall be open for the entire financial year. On receiving the duly filled application form with all prescribed documentary evidences, the scrutiny committee shall recommend the application to the Executive Committee for approval. All such applications approved by the Executive Committee shall be accepted as regular voting members of the chamber. Membership year will be considered same as the financial year of the chamber. Thereafter, for subsequent years the membership will have to be renewed on or before 31st March of the corresponding previous year, for every current year.

Member shall be allowed to renew their membership on late fee payment of Rs 500 plus applicable taxes till 31st May of the current year. Upon such renewal, the member shall be deemed to have continued membership with effect from 1st April of the current year and will have a right to vote but not to contest the election of the current year. (After amendment in 2025-26 AGM)

A member who has not renewed his membership and whose membership has expired, shall be allowed to renew their membership on payment of late fee of Rs. 1000 plus applicable taxes in addition to the applicable subscription in arrears within 2 years from the date of its expiry. However, such renewal will not be made during the period starting from issuance of notice of election till the completion of the election process.

Any member who has multi-locational business addresses falling in Local and Out-Station categories, shall have to specify a "Registered Address" supported by any government license like VAT/GST, SSI, MSME, Excise/Service Tax, Shops & Establishment Registration, APMC Registration, etc. for the records of The Chamber. Accordingly, he shall be considered a Local or Out-Station Member. Such Registered Address can be changed as per provisions in Clause 14.

Note:

1. Any Businessman can be a member only as the representative of his business as defined in 2 (d) & 2 (e). Under no circumstances can an individual who is either a Partner, Director, etc. of a business entity shall be given Individual Membership. Proprietors having their own business firm only shall be eligible for either Individual Membership or Membership under the name of their Business Entity.

2. Any Professional can be a member as defined in 2 (u).

3. A Business Entity with more than 2 partners/directors may be represented to the chamber by only 2 representatives to whom it has given such due authority through a resolution passed at a meeting of all partners/directors. A copy of such resolution shall have to be given as documentary evidence along with the application or in case of change in representative thereafter.

4. Representatives of Member entities cannot apply for additional Membership in Individual capacity.

For the purpose of verification of membership, documentary evidence of the applicable category stated below shall have to be provided:

Category of Applicant	Document Requirement
1. Company	a. Certificate of Incorporation b. Resolution authorizing nomination c. Permanent Account Number (PAN) d. Certificate of Commencement of Business e. A copy of allotment of DIN Number of the authorized representative
2. An individual, a partnership firm (registered or unregistered), an association of persons (registered or unregistered), limited liability partnership (LLP) and/or a specific or discretionary private non- charitable trust.	a. Permanent Account Number (PAN) b. Certificate of Registration under Shops & Establishment Act, Or License under the Factories Act Or GST/ **VAT** Registration Certificate Or SSI or MSME or Udyog Aadhar Registration as applicable Or Specific License / Registration under body approved by Govt./Semi Govt/ or Local body. c. Partnership/LLP Deed (if applicable) Or CA /Bank Certificate confirming as Proprietor or Partner
3. Professional	a. Relevant Proof of membership of their professional body b. Permanent Account Number (PAN)
4. Regional Chamber or Business Association (Mahajan)	a. Constitution of Business Association/Mahajan b. Certified Membership List c. Authorization for Nomination

Note: - In all above categories nomination of representatives can be submitted. For each nominated person photo identification (copy of either Driving License or Election card or passport) should be furnished.

(b) Scrutiny Committee (Verification Committee)

The Executive Committee shall appoint Scrutiny Committee, consisting of at least 6 persons and not exceeding 9 persons in the following way: -

(1) Minimum 3 persons from the categories of extraordinary members and Executive Committee members (minimum 1 of which will be from Business Association Members category).
(2) Honorary Secretary (ex-officio)
(3) Secretary General or Deputy Secretary General.
(4) Up to 4 Elected Members of Executive Committee in any category (excluding non-voting members

Minimum 4 persons out of the aforesaid shall be required to be present in the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

Note:

1. When the Executive Committee is not in existence, the Empowered Apex Committee shall appoint Scrutiny Committee from the members of The Chamber.
2. Until the scrutiny of every applicant is done, the Committee appointed by Empowered Apex Committee alone shall scrutinize and it shall continue to do so till the ensuing election.

8. Scrutiny of the application form for membership.

(a) After receipt of the application for membership by the Secretary General, he shall forward the same to the scrutiny committee appointed by the Executive Committee for preliminary verification and the said committee, if required, shall call for necessary evidence from the applicant and shall forward the same to the Executive Committee for final decision with its recommendation. Upon approval of the applications by the Executive Committee, the names of all applicants shall be entered as members of The Chamber. If subsequently, The Chamber finds that any facts given or sought in relation to an application are incorrect then the membership of such member can be cancelled by the Executive Committee. If in context of such an application any member demands decision through ballots then the President of the meeting with the consent of the members of the Executive Committee present can take decision through ballots and any decision taken by majority shall be treated as final. The Executive Committee can reject any application for membership without assigning any reason, the applicant should be informed accordingly. Any person, whose application for membership is rejected in the above fashion, can make a fresh application for becoming a member only on expiry of two years from the date of such rejection.

(b) Applications for membership received, with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee shall be placed in the meeting of the Executive Committee, for approval. Applicants of applications approved in such a manner shall be considered as having become Members of the Chamber with effect from 1st of the next month after the approval of the Executive Committee. Membership year will be considered same as the financial year of The Chamber. Thereafter, for subsequent years the membership will have to be renewed for every current year, on or before 31st March of the corresponding previous year or with payment of late fee thereafter as stipulated in Rule 7.

(c) There cannot be more than two members, from the same address, unless the Scrutiny Committee is satisfied about the different and unconnected memberships involved and the address has an inherent characteristic, where historically such entities have been operating and there is no possibility of providing distinctively different addresses for such entities. In these regards, the Scrutiny Committee's decision shall be final and unchallengeable.

(d) Maximum 1000 new members can be admitted in the Current Year. In any case, maximum 25% new members shall be admitted in each specified category on first come first served basis.

Note:

1. The meeting of the Scrutiny Committee shall be held every month before the Executive Committee meeting to scrutinize the new applications. There shall be a relaxation of maximum 15 days for any unavoidable circumstances.
2. Deleted on 18th September, 2021.

9. Rights of a Member:

All members of various categories of The Chamber will have the following rights:

a. To receive the bulletin published by The Chamber.

b. To use the Library of The Chamber.

c. To give opinion on any matters on which common / general opinion of the members is sought in every meeting of The Chamber or through circular.

9(d)(i) To be elected or co-opted as a member of the Executive Committee, subject to and as per his/her eligibility defined in this Constitution and Regulations, and upon and after the completion of minimum of 2 years at any time in the past as an elected member of the Executive Committee, to be eligible as a candidate for Senior Vice President and/or Vice President.

9(d)(ii) notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Constitution and Regulations, where the candidate is the Promoter-Director/Owner/Partner of a member business organization having turnover exceeding Rs. 1000 crores in the immediate financial year preceding the year of election, duly certified by a Chartered Accountant, he/she shall directly be eligible as a candidate for Senior Vice President, provided such candidate shall have minimum 5 years of business experience in the same member business organization as Promoter-Director/Owner/Partner and his/her candidature is unanimously seconded by a committee of five Past Presidents of the Chamber appointed by the Executive Committee. The announcement of formation of such committee and the names of the Past Presidents included in the Committee shall be announced along with the announcement of Election Programme.

Note:

➢ In case the candidate is from a Registered Company, Promoter shall mean as defined in Sec. 2(69) of the Companies Act, 2013.

➢ In case a candidate is a Partner in a Partnership Firm/LLP, he must hold/own more than 25 % share in the member business organization.

9(d)(iii) Eligibility for submitting the candidature as President shall be as per clause 40 sub-clause (b) mentioned hereinafter. Explanation: A year means a period between two successive AGMs.

e. For the voting rights of a representative, representing more than one member, Rule 13(1)(e) shall apply.

10. Resignation from Membership:

A member desiring to resign from membership of The Chamber shall have to inform about his/her/its intention to do so in writing to the Secretary General

11. Termination of Membership:

The membership of any member of The Chamber shall automatically stand termination for the following reasons:

a. If a member becomes Insolvent.

b. If a member does not pay the annual subscription along with arrears and late fees within 2 years from its expiry as provided and contemplated in Rule 7.

c. If any Member entity goes into liquidation.

12. Removal from Membership:

a. If any member indulges in any activity or behaves in such a manner which would result into a breach of the rules of The Chamber and/or

b. If the reputation of The Chamber is affected or its interests are prejudiced by any act of a member and/or

c. If a member acts or behaves against the Constitution and Regulations of The Chamber and/or

d. If a member behaves impolitely with the office bearers or staff of The Chamber or Election Officer including election duty personnel or behaves impolitely in any meeting of The Chamber, then, in any one or more cases applicable, as mentioned above, the Executive Committee shall have a right to terminate the membership of such a member in GCCI. However, before such a step is taken, a member shall be given an opportunity of hearing before the Inquiry Committee. The Inquiry Committee shall have 3 members out of whom, there will be 2 Past Presidents and 1 from the current Office Bearers, all appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall convey its proposal for termination of membership to the Inquiry Committee, and the Inquiry Committee shall give its report within 30 days. The decision given by the Inquiry Committee shall be final and binding to all.

Such Inquiry Committee shall cease to exist after the decision as conveyed to the Executive Committee.

Members or such representatives of a member entity, who are removed from membership of The Chamber shall not be admitted as a member of The Chamber in their individual capacity or as representatives of the same or other member entities without the approval of the General Meeting.

13.(1) Register and Index

a) The Secretary General shall keep register of all members of The Chamber which will include all information about the names of all the types of members, the business entities they represent, their addresses, type of business etc. This information shall be serially entered in the index to be published by The Chamber.

b) Members will be provided a Bar Coded photo identity card (or any other new card issued from time to time) by the Chamber, which will be required for verification for contesting an election and for voting in an election. Applications for issuing of replacement of lost Bar- Coded Identity Cards (or any other new card issued from time to time) of membership shall be accepted up to One hour before the closing of voting on the date of election (for the purpose of casting a vote at the election of the Chamber) by payment of prescribed fee to be decided by the office Bearers from time to time.

c) Patron Members shall update their details every three (3) years in a prescribed form to be duly signed and submitted to GCCI and if such updating is not done in spite of three reminders from GCCI, then the Membership of such Patron Members shall cease to exist automatically. In such a case GCCI shall intimate to Members concerned on the address available on GCCI records, informing him/her that his/her/its Patron Membership has ceased.

Business Association (lifetime) /Patron /Corporate Members shall update their details every three (3) years in a prescribed form to be duly signed and submitted to GCCI. If such updating is not done in spite of three reminders from GCCI, then the Membership of such Business Association (lifetime) /Patron/ Corporate Members shall be Suspended by GCCI and an intimation to this effect will be given. Such Business Association (lifetime) Patron/Corporate Member and their Representatives shall be barred from using their Membership Rights under the Rules & Regulations of GCCI including 'Right to Vote' and 'Right to Contest Election'. Such suspended membership may be reactivated as per the following procedure within 30 days from the date of intimation of suspension:

(1) In order to Re-Activate their Membership, they will have to submit all the substantiating Documents to establish their uninterrupted Business Continuation to the satisfaction of the Scrutiny Committee.
(2) Scrutiny committee, in turn, may with the permission of the Executive Committee of GCCI restore and reactivate such Membership.

(3) If no request for reactivation of suspended membership is received within 30 days, then the membership will be terminated and their Name would be struck off from the Register of Members. In such a case GCCI shall intimate to such Business Association (lifetime) /Patron/ Corporate Members concerned by Regd. AD/email on the address available on GCCI records, informing that its Business Association (lifetime) Patron/Corporate Membership will be ceased, if any satisfactory response is not received within 2 weeks from the date of issuance of intimation.

d) Every three years entirely a fresh list will be prepared. The person whose name appears in the index of members, as a member only, will be considered eligible to contest as a candidate in the election and vote. Even if any person is registered as a representative of more than one member, in the register of The Chamber, he will not be entitled to contest as candidate for more than one post in the election among all the posts of President, Sr. Vice President, Vice President and as a member of the Executive Committee

e) Where two representatives of a member are entered in the members list then out of the two representatives, any one representative shall have the right to vote for all other memberships also where he /She is a representative provided the other representative(s) has/have not voted.

(2) Corporate members who are registered as members under more than one category in the register of The Chamber and if such corporate member's representative contests as a candidate for membership of the Executive Committee, then such member shall not contest as a candidate from other category.

14. Changes in the membership, Registered address, etc.:

a. The members will be required to intimate in writing to the Secretary General any change in the address, The Secretary General shall verify the information, and if required can ask for proof from the members. After being satisfied, the Secretary General should make such changes in the register of the members and shall place before the next scrutiny committee meeting for ratification.

b. In case of basic change or conversion in names of members, bye laws, constitution or structure of a member entity, such member entity shall cease to be a member of The Chamber, except that in circumstances mentioned hereunder, the Executive Committee can permit such change and allow to continue the membership without accepting any entrance fee and without requiring undergoing of the procedure prescribed for a new member:

- If the Executive Committee is satisfied that there is no material change in the nature of Business.

- Changed entity or institution is eligible to become a member of The Chamber under its constitution.

- If a partnership firm or proprietorship firm is being converted into a private or a public limited company or a private limited company is being converted into a public limited company, necessary changes can be made in all relevant records, on collection of the differential amount of Entrance and Subscription Fee.

- The entity or institution coming into existence after such change shall within 60 days or within such extended period as permitted by the Executive Committee apply for change. The decision of the Executive Committee in this regard shall be treated as final and binding. It shall not be obligatory for the Executive Committee to give reasons for its decision.

c. Whenever a Patron/Corporate Member applies for a change in name or change in name of the representative or for any other change, a fee of Rs. 20,000/- plus applicable taxes is to be charged for incorporating any change from a Corporate Member and Rs. 10,000 plus applicable taxes from a Patron Member.

15. Deletion of name:

In case of two representatives whose names have been published as representatives of a business entity and/or Regional Chamber/Business Association, subsequently cease to be the representatives of the member entity, and a written intimation in that regard is given to The Chamber before 15th May of the Current Year, then in that case the names of the outgoing representatives of such members can be replaced with the names of the new representatives, and they shall be eligible for voting in the election for that particular year as representative of such member entities.

Meetings

16. Financial Year: -

The financial year of The Chamber shall commence on 1st April and end on 31st March of the subsequent year.

17. General Meeting (Extra - Ordinary General Meeting): -

The General Meeting (includes Annual General Meeting) or Extraordinary General Meeting of The Chamber shall be a meeting of all the members of The Chamber of every type who are registered as members in the register of The Chamber as members (excluding non-voting members, ***nominal members & reciprocal members***).

18. Proceedings at Annual General Meeting: -

The Annual General Meeting shall be convened anytime within 4 months from the end of the Accounting year and shall be held within 2 working days from the date of the election or after the results of election of President, Senior Vice President, Vice President and Executive Committee members are declared. In case of Force Majeure condition, Executive Committee will decide the date of AGM. Notice of the meeting shall be sent to the Members, by ***electronic communication /*** ordinary post/courier, 15 days prior to the date of such meeting along with the Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet for the financial year and agenda items to be discussed and approved by the members. The following business shall be transacted at the meeting.

a. To take note of the Annual Report, submitted by the President. This report should include a summary of milestones achieved during the financial year and the tasks that remained incomplete, which started during the year and need to be completed in the next year.
b. To approve the audited accounts and other financial statements of The Chamber, which are already approved by the Executive Committee.
c. To take note of Auditors Report and to take note of Executive Committee's financial report and explanations if any.
d. To take note of the results of the election of President, Senior Vice President, Vice President and Executive Committee members for the Current Year.
e. To discuss the issues concerning trade, industry or economy or concerning The Chamber, with regard to which, written notice has been received by the Secretary General of The Chamber from any Member, seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
f. To resolve matters presented with the permission of the Chairman of the meeting or any other agenda item put on the table by the Chairman of the meeting.
g. To take note of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.

19. An Extra - Ordinary General Meeting: -

The Extra - Ordinary General Meeting shall be convened whenever the Executive Committee deems fit to transact business that requires approval of the members in the General Meeting. The notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting shall be sent to the members at least seven days in advance, informing the date of the meeting, venue, time and the business to be transacted (agenda), by ***electronic communication***/ordinary post/courier.

20. Requisition Meeting

An Extra Ordinary General Meeting shall be convened within 15 days of The Chamber receiving a requisition in writing along with reasons, from 10% of regular members of The Chamber or 20 existing elected (excluding co-opted) members of the Executive Committee.

21. Quorum of the Annual General Meeting and Extra-Ordinary General Meeting

1. The quorum necessary for any Annual as well as Extra-Ordinary General Meeting shall be at least75 representatives present in terms of individual persons, irrespective of more than one vote that a representative may have (excluding Non-voting Members) If the requisite quorum is not present then such non-quorum meeting in which if at least 51 representatives present in terms of individual persons , irrespective of more than one vote that a representative may have, (excluding Non-voting Members) can transact the business after expiry of 30 minutes at the same place. No business other than those specified in the agenda can be taken up in such meeting. However, no amendments / additions / deletions or any type of changes in the Constitution and Regulations can be transacted in any General Meeting where less than representatives present in terms of individual persons, irrespective of more than one vote that a representative may have (excluding Non-voting Members) are equal to the number of 5% of the Members of the Chamber (rounded off to the nearest integer).

2. In any case, any General Meeting where less than 51 representatives are present in terms of individual persons, irrespective of more than one vote that a representative may have, (excluding Non-voting Members) shall be adjourned and on the same day the date of the adjourned meeting shall be decided by the President of GCCI.

22. Chairperson in the absence of the President and Vice President

The President of The Chamber shall chair every annual general meeting and extraordinary general meeting. In absence of President, Senior Vice President and in the absence of Senior Vice President, Vice Present shall chair the meeting. In absence of aforesaid three persons, the elected members of the Executive Committee present in the meeting shall nominate any one member, amongst the members of the Executive Committee who has been elected in an election of Executive Committee (and not Co-opted), as the Chairman of the meeting.

23. Demand for Poll in a meeting: -

Every resolution in an annual general meeting, extra ordinary general meeting and requisition meeting, shall be passed by show of hands unless a poll is demanded.

If the number of votes for and against the resolution is equal then in addition to one vote as a Member, the President shall have authority of casting one additional vote. If prior to the decision of counting of votes by show of hands or immediately after the declaration of results on counting of votes by hand, a demand for voting by ballot paper is made by at least 10% of representatives present in terms of persons, in the meeting then the President shall order fresh voting by ballot paper, where such counting of votes by ballot papers, shall be considered and declared as final result for the relevant resolution, over riding the result by show of hands for that resolution. Every voting member shall have right to speak or represent and to vote in any General Meeting. If more than one representative is registered for a member entity, and only one representative is present in the meeting, he can enjoy all the rights as a member during the meeting.

Note: All Notices to be sent to members either for General Meeting, Extra Ordinary General meeting or Requisition Meeting shall be sent from the office of The Chamber either by Post or Courier and email if email ID is provided by member or representative in membership application or renewal form.

Constitution of the Executive Committee

24.(1) Constitution of the Executive Committee

a. To achieve the objectives of the Chamber 6 persons from Corporate Members, 6 persons from Patron and Life Members and 6 persons from Business Association (Mahajan) Members thus total 18 members shall be elected in the Executive Committee. These candidates have to be registered members of the relevant category and shall be elected only by the members of that relevant category.

   "In addition to this each regional chamber will nominate 1 representative to the Executive Committee who shall be considered as an elected member".

b. Additionally, 25 members of General Category shall be elected in the Executive Committee. Any candidate in this category can be any Businessman/ Businesswoman but 1 out of these 25 shall be Business women who are members of GCCI (excluding non-voting members) and shall be elected by all members (excluding Non-voting Members) of the Chamber.

   However, this will not restrict Business woman members to contest in any of the General category.

c. From the General Category, all the members of GCCI shall also elect President, Sr. Vice President and Vice President, who shall also be part of the General Category of the Executive Committee.

d. Thus, the Executive Committee shall consist of the following 47 elected members.

Category		Election				Seats in EC			
	Local	OS	Common	Total	Local	Local	OS	Common	Total
President			1	1				1	1
Sr. VP			1	1		0	0	1	1
VP			1	1		0	0	1	1
Business Association	2	1		3		4	2	0	6
General	8	4		12		16	8	0	24
Life Patron	2	1		3		4	2	0	6
Corporate			3	3		0	0	6	6
Regional Chamber (RC)		As Many RC		0		0	0	0	0
Women (General)			1	1				2	2
Total	12	6+ RC	7	25	0	24	12	11	47 + RC

Note: Every year (except office bearers) 50% members shall retire by rotation as members of Executive Committee. Every such incoming Executive Committee member who shall retire by rotation shall have 2 years term. President, Sr. Vice President and Vice President will have a term of 1 year.

Note: Continuing term will be considered as completed term in the 2nd year of the term for the purpose of election.

(2) Term of Executive Committee

Term of office of 44 elected members (excluding the President, Sr. Vice President and Vice President) of the Executive Committee from the Specific Categories as well as the General Category shall be for 2 (two) years commencing from the next day of the Annual General Meeting and out of them every year 3 Corporate category members, 3 Business Association Category Members (2 Local Members and 1 Outstation Member), 3 Patron and Lifetime Category Members (2 Local Members and 1 Outstation Member) and 13 General Category Members (8 Local Members, 4 Outstation Members and 1 Women Member), shall retire in rotation and the vacancy so caused shall be filled up every year through an election.

The election for the Executive Committee Members in different categories shall be in the following way:

a) All the Corporate Members registered with GCCI on 1st April of the Current Year, shall elect every year 3 members to be on the Executive Committee from the candidates contesting such election, who are registered as Corporate Members of GCCI. The term of such elected members in the Executive Committee shall be of 2 (two) years.

b) As per para 6(b)-(3) regional chamber members will have their earmarked seats.

c) All the Business Association Members registered with GCCI on 1st April of the Current Year, shall elect every year 3 members (2 from Local Members and 1 from Outstation Members from the Business Association Members category) to be on the Executive Committee from the candidates contesting such election, who are registered as Business Association Members of GCCI. The term of such elected members in the Executive Committee shall be of 2 (two) years.

d) All the Patron Members and Life Time Members registered with GCCI on 1st April of the Current Year, shall elect every year 3 members (2 from Local Members and 1 from Outstation Members from the Patron and Lifetime Members category) to be on the Executive Committee from the candidates contesting such election, who are registered as Patron and Lifetime Members of GCCI. The term of such elected members in the Executive Committee shall be of 2 (two) years.

e) All the Members registered with GCCI on 1st April of the Current Year and are eligible to vote under any category, shall elect every year 13 members (8 from Local Members, 4 from Outstation Members and 1 Woman Member from all the Members categories who are allowed to contest the election) to be on the Executive Committee from the candidates contesting such election, who are registered as Members who are eligible to contest election of GCCI. The term of such elected members in the Executive Committee shall be of 2 (two) years.

f) All the Members registered with GCCI on 1st April of the Current Year and are eligible to vote under any category, shall elect every year President, Senior Vice President and Vice President from all the member categories who are allowed to contest the election of such posts of GCCI as per the Constitution and Regulations. The term in the Executive Committee of such elected President, Senior Vice President and Vice President shall be of 1 (one) year.

The Executive Committee shall consist of following:

a. Elected Corporate Members
b. Elected Business Association Members
c. Elected Patron and Life Members
d. Elected General Category Members
e. Regional Chamber Members
f. President, Senior Vice President, Vice President and IPP
g. Co-opted Members
h. Invited Members
i. Special Invitee

(3) Staff Steering Committee:

In order to ensure proper monitoring of staff rules, HR Policies and discharge of responsibilities entrusted to them, Staff Steering Committee has to be constituted and announced in the first meeting of the Executive Committee every year and the said committee shall consists of the President, the Sr. Vice President, the Honorary Secretary, 3 other members of Executive Committee, 1 woman representative and 1 Domain Expert (ex-officio).

(4) <u>Project Specific Committee/s</u>:

a. Project Specific Committee/s may be constituted for a specific project being undertaken by GCCI which is likely to have a tenure beyond one year so as to ensure that the conceived objects are consistently implemented. This Committee will be Empowered to manage, administer and organize the specific project along with the experts in the subject so as to have better, efficient and successful implementation of the project. The Project Specific Committees will take all decisions keeping in mind the long-term purpose of the project.

b. The said Project Specific Committee/s will consist of total 21 members (expandable in the subsequent years) including President, Sr. Vice President, Vice President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Secretary (R) and Hon. Treasurer, 3 past Presidents, 1 Immediate Past President (In the year when the committee is formed), 5 from Executive Committee Members, 2 GCCI members, 3 experts from the field (may not be a member of GCCI) of Specific projects being undertaken and Secretary General. The Chairman of the committee has to be a member of the Chamber who is proposed by Office Bearers and endorsed by the then Executive Committee. The President, Sr. Vice President and Vice President who are initial members of the committee shall continue to serve the committee throughout its tenure. The Hon. Secretary, Hon. Secretary (R) and Hon. Treasurer shall retire in the next year. All the current Office Bearers by virtue of their position will become the member of this committee every subsequent year. The Chairman of the committee shall continue to hold the position till the completion of the project. In case the chairman expresses his inability to continue to serve on the committee or is unavailable due to any other reason, the new chairman will be appointed by the majority members of the Project Specific Committee/s from the existing chamber's member of the committee. This should be informed to the Executive Committee. if any other member relinquishes his post then same may be filled up from the same category.

c. Out of 21 members so appointed in the Project Specific Committee/s, the Immediate Past President, the President, the Sr. Vice President, the Hon. Secretary, and the Hon. Treasurer (other than the President and Sr. Vice President and Vice President who have started the committee as well as person holding the post of Chairman of the committee) shall retire from the Project Specific Committee/s on their vacation of office/post and new member appointed to the said post shall be appointed by virtue of their post.

d. The term of the Project Specific Committee/s will be for a period of 3 years or till the completion of the Specific Project for which it is constituted, whichever is earlier. If for any reason, the specific project cannot be executed within the agreed term and time- frame, the then Executive Committee before the end of term can further extend the term of Project Specific Committee/s for a further period of 2 years.

e. Working guidelines for every specific Project will be made/issued by the members of the Project Specific Committee/s itself and the same will have to be approved by the Executive Committee of the GCCI.
The Project Specific Committee will have to submit a quarterly progress report to the Executive Committee
of the GCCI.

f. All the finances relating to the Specific Project being undertaken by the Project Specific Committee/s has to be approved by the Executive Committee.

(5) Code of Conduct Committee:

To ensure consistency, culture and to maintain the decorum of the chamber a set of guidelines should be prepared by a committee titled as "Code of Conduct Committee"][

1. This committee should be formed as provided below and announced in the second meeting of the executive committee
2. A 7-person Committee should be formulated consisting of President, Senior Vice President, Vice President, Secretary and 3 Executive Committee Members for preparing appropriate Code of Conduct for GCCI Members and the same thereafter has to be approved by the Executive Committee.
3. Until a revision is made the prevailing code of conduct shall continue to be in force.
4. Revision of guidelines should be placed before the EC for approval

The code of conduct shall consist of guidelines to be followed by the chamber for its working, protocol to be followed and systems of general administration. However, the President may use his discretion whenever he thinks appropriate.

25. Co -option:

Every Year the Executive Committee shall co-opt maximum 24 members from the representatives of the members registered in the register of the Chamber. Their term shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.

Such Co-opted members shall during the term of their office, be treated at par with the members elected to the Executive Committee, unless mentioned otherwise in this Constitution and Regulations. However, during their tenure, they shall not have the right to be elected to the post of President, Vice Presidents Honorary Secretaries or Honorary Treasurer.

Out of the 24 members to be co-opted,
1 shall be co-opted from corporate category
3 from Local Business Associations,
2 from Out-station Business Associations,
1 Business Woman,
10 from General Category
2 Youth Members and the remaining 5 Professionals.

Any Vacancy of co-opted member will be filled in only by co-option from time to time.

26. Powers and Responsibilities of the Executive Committee: -

1. To purchase office for the purpose of The Chamber.

2. To acquire property/properties in accordance with the rules and to manage them, to carry out changes or expansions in the property.

3. To take insurance of properties.

4. To appoint Secretary General, Joint Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General, if required, and to decide the overall budget for the total emoluments of the secretariat.

5. To regulate the affairs of The Chamber and to supervise the same.

6. To take steps to implement the resolutions passed in the general meetings and other meetings or to take appropriate measures in this regard.

7. (a) To appoint Committees and to appoint Chairman, Co-Chairman thereof. 10 of such Chairmen of the Committees appointed in this manner shall be invited as an invitee member in the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Chamber. They shall have a right to represent and give information about the matters relating to their committee in the proceedings of the Executive Committee, but they shall not have a right to vote. The Executive Committee can constitute maximum 25 such committees.

Provided however in addition to the constitution of said 25 committees, it shall be mandatory for the Executive Committee to constitute: 1) Business Women Committee and 2) Youth Committee and the chairperson of such committees should be appointed and announced in the first/second meeting of the Executive Committee every year.

Note: The maximum strength of the invitee members shall be 27 only, who should be GCCI Voting members. Out of which 10 shall be the chairpersons of the committees as appointed above and 17 GCCI voting members.

It is clarified that the Scrutiny Committee, the Constitution Committee, the Code of Conduct Committee, Project Specific Committee/s and the Staff Steering Committee will not be counted in the maximum number of committees to be appointed.

All Office Bearers will be ex-officio members of all the committees/taskforces of GCCI including those constituted under various provisions of the Rules & Regulations.

(b) A maximum of 10 representatives (may be non-members) of which 3 shall be Past President shall be taken in the Executive Committee as SPECIAL INVITEES (other than Reciprocal members), from different business sectors who the Executive Committee feels can contribute to the activities of the chamber. Such members shall only be in an advisory capacity and shall not have a right to vote in the Executive Committee. Their term shall end on the day of the next AGM of the chamber. The attendance rules as prescribed in clause 34 (vii) shall not be applicable to such Special Invitees.

(c) Member of any Committee/Task Force must be a voting member of GCCI and if he/she is not a voting member of the GCCI then he/she should be given a letter as a deemed member of the Committee/Task Force and with a condition to become member of GCCI within 60 days from becoming such deemed member of Committee/Task Force. In case where the deemed member of Committee / Task Force, unable to gain GCCI voting membership within 60 days, he/she shall be terminated from the committee/ task force.

Members from Government /Institutions / Special Invitees to the Executive Committee shall be exempted from this condition by the Executive Committee.

8. To maintain accounts and manage funds and administration of The Chamber. To place a report on the affairs and audited accounts before the Annual General Meeting for approval. To decide the names of authorized persons in accordance with the rules for withdrawing and managing funds of The Chamber.

9. To purchase necessary things and articles required for The Chamber and if and when necessary to dispose of the same.

10. To decide about becoming member of institutions who have similar or incidental objects that of The Chamber and when found necessary to decide about resigning as a member of such institution.

11. To decide about approving or rejecting applications received for new membership of The Chamber. To decide about change in the names of the partners of firm, directors of a company and existing Office Bearers of institution as representatives of such members.

12. To decide about the programmes of Annual General Meeting, other Extra Ordinary General Meetings and Elections.

13. To Co-opt, and appoint Special Invitee members to the Executive Committee every year as per the rules.

    Note: Any person who has submitted his nomination for election and subsequently withdrawn his candidature consecutively for 2 years in the Election of the Executive Committee shall not be eligible for Co-option or Invitee member for the same year.

14. The decision to mortgage the property shall have to be approved both by the Executive Committee and the Empowered Apex Committee.

15. To decide about organizing meetings, conferences, seminars exhibitions, discussions etc. by The Chamber either on its own or with the help of other institutions connected with The Chamber and government etc.

16. To decide about sending representative delegates within the country and to foreign countries.

17. The Executive Committee shall have right to perform all acts and duties and achieve objects which The Chamber is required to perform or achieve.

18. The chamber for the purpose of administration/ liaison can open a branch office at any other place so required but cannot start/give a chapter/ franchise of GCCI.

Note: Out of the above referred powers and responsibilities the powers and responsibilities mentioned in Sections no. 1) to 14) shall be available to the elected and Co-opted members of the Executive Committee only, while the powers and responsibilities mentioned in sub-sections no. 15), 16) and 17) can be performed by all members including invitee members.

27. Meetings of the Executive Committee: -

The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at least once in a month to discuss about important correspondence and other agenda. The said meeting can be held either physically/ virtually / both physically and virtually.

The decision of the mode of the meeting shall be at the sole discretion of the Office Bearers.

28. Rules for functioning/proceedings at/of the Executive Committee:

1. A meeting of the Executive Committee shall be convened within 15 days of its election.

2. The meeting of the Executive Committee shall be convened by the President or in his / her absence by the Secretary General with the consent of Senior Vice President or IPP (in the absence of Senior Vice President) or the Vice President (in the absence of IPP).

3. On receipt of written application, supported by the reasons, duly signed by 10 members of the Executive Committee, the Secretary General shall within a period of 10 days thereof give a notice 5(five) days in advance for convening an Executive Committee meeting.

4. Every member shall be informed in writing 5 days in advance about the meeting of the Executive Committee, its venue, day, time and purpose.

5. In extra ordinary circumstances the President can convene a meeting of the Executive Committee at a shorter notice of 72 hours.

6. The Quorum for the meeting of the Executive Committee shall be 20(twenty). If within 15 minutes of the time fixed for the Executive Committee Meeting the quorum is not present then the meeting shall be adjourned and shall reassemble for the same business after 30 minutes. However, if the strength of the members present is 10(ten) then the meeting shall be convened and if the strength is less than 10(ten) then the meeting shall stand adjourned and the next date shall be decided by those present on the same day.

7. The President of The Chamber, in his/her absence the Senior Vice President and in his absence the IPP and in his/her absence the Vice President and in his/her absence any member elected by the elected members of the Executive Committee shall preside over the meeting.

8. In ordinary circumstances counting of votes on a resolution proposed at the Executive Committee Meeting shall be by show of hands. However, on demand, the counting of votes shall be done by ballots. If there are equal votes on any resolution, the Chairman will have a right to cast an additional vote (Casting Vote).

9. Every year the Executive Committee shall complete the work of Co-option in its first two meetings.

10. The vacancy in the committee except that of President and Vice President shall be filled up by the committee within a period of two months of such vacancy.

11. For disposal of applications for membership, the same shall be placed for approval in the meeting of the Executive Committee convened after the verification of the applications by the Scrutiny Committee.

12. The written information about any business proposed to be transacted in the meeting of the Executive Committee shall be sent to the Office of The Chamber fifteen days before the date of the meeting. In ordinary circumstances no resolution can be passed on any item other than those covered in the agenda. In extra ordinary circumstances, such resolutions can be passed with the consent of the Chairman of the meeting. Any proposal involving expenditure of Rs. 10 (Ten) lakhs or more shall have to be covered in the Agenda.

13. Any business can be proposed in the meeting of the Committee with the permission of the President except those for which notice is necessary as per the constitutional provisions.

14. If deemed necessary by the Executive Committee and in anticipation of approval of the General Meeting or Extra Ordinary General Meeting it can take necessary decisions and implement the same. Such approvals shall be obtained within 2 (two) months from the date of passing such resolutions, failing which the decisions taken by the Executive Committee shall be reversed.

15. The minutes of the proceedings of the Executive Committee Meeting shall be sent after 15 days of the meeting or along with the agenda of the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

16. Any Commercial contracts (other than rent of property) entered into and executed by and on behalf of GCCI should not be made by Office Bearers/EC for a period of more than two years.

29. Minutes of the Proceedings and Copy of Minutes:

a. The important points of discussions and decisions taken in the meeting will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The decision of the Chairman will be final in this regard. While approving the minutes, if any member proposes to mention a specific item in the minutes, then the decision shall be taken by majority. If any member has specifically objected or has presented any specific point, which he insists to record in the minutes, and the Chairman has approved the same or the majority has desired for it, then the same will be recorded in the minutes.

b. The Secretary General of The Chamber shall provide a copy of the minutes of the proceedings of any meeting of the Executive Committee on receipt of written request from any elected or Co-opted member of the Executive Committee. If any member of The Chamber asks for a copy of minutes of the proceedings of the Executive Committee meeting, the Secretary General can provide the same after taking permission of the President.

30. Absence in the meeting of the Executive Committee:

Deleted and replaced by clause 34 sub-clause vii, of Constitution and Regulations, hereinafter.

31. Absence of the President:

The President can ask for leave from the Executive Committee for maximum four months at a time. During such leave of the President, the Senior Vice President will act as the President. During the absence of the President as well as the Senior Vice President, the IPP will act as the President. During the absence of the President as well as Senior Vice President and IPP, the Vice President shall act as the President. During absence of the President as well as Senior Vice President, IPP and the Vice President, the Executive Committee shall select one member from its elected members as the President.

32. Vacancy for the post of President, Sr. Vice President and Vice President:

a. If for any reason the post of President gets vacant, then the Senior Vice President shall take charge of the post of the President and the tenure of such post shall be till the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the concerned year.

b. If for any reason the post of Senior Vice President gets vacant, then the Vice President shall take charge of such post and the vacant post of Vice President shall be filled up from the elected members of the Executive Committee who have completed one term after election. If equal votes are cast in favour of the candidates for such post, then the President shall draw a lot and such member whose name surfaces on the lot so drawn, shall be declared elected. The replacing member occupying such post shall hold the office till the conclusion of Annual General Meeting of the concerned year.

c. If the Senior Vice President of the Current Year has assumed the charge of the President as an acting President, then he shall continue to be eligible for the post of President in the next year. However, when the President-in-charge/Sr. Vice President is not available and the current Vice President has been elevated to become the acting Senior Vice President/President in the current year then in that case he will not be automatically be eligible for the post of President for the next year and elections must be held for the post of President, Sr. Vice President and Vice President for the next year.

33. Tenure of the President, Sr. Vice President, Vice President and the members of the Executive Committee: -

The President, Senior Vice President, Vice Presidents and members of the Executive Committee shall retire on expiry of the determined term of their tenure, but they shall continue to hold the office till election of succeeding President, Sr. Vice President, Vice President and members of the Executive Committee. If for any reason whatsoever on expiry of the time limit for election, the President, the Sr. Vice President and/or Vice President continue to hold the office for maximum 2 (two) months, then the powers of three posts shall be taken over by the Empowered Apex Committee considering it as extra ordinary circumstances and it will complete the procedure for election in maximum 6(six) months. If for any reason, the elections are not completed within 6(six) months, then it will have to be compulsorily completed within 3(three) more months.

34. Disqualifications for the member of Executive Committee: -

Those who are existing members of Executive Committee as also those who are contesting election as a member of the Executive Committee, shall be considered disqualified as member or candidate for the following reasons;

i. If a competent court has declared him/her of unsound mind,

ii. If he/she is declared insolvent,

iii. If he/she is convicted for moral turpitude,

iv. If he/she is holding the post in Executive Committee or any other post as representative of the Company, Firm or Co-operative Society, etc., which has gone into liquidation,

v. If the behavior of any member with the office bearers is undisciplined or acts against the Constitution and Regulations of The Chamber [as per Article 12],

vi. If any member is sentenced to imprisonment for six months or more by any criminal court.

vii. **If any Executive Committee Member (including Elected, Co-opted and Invitee member) who has not attended at least 50% of the total Executive Committee meetings (irrespective of any number of leaves of absence obtained) in any given Current year of his tenure as Executive Committee member and such current year falls within the last two years, from the current year for which he/she is contesting or he/she is being co-opted/invited, shall be disqualified to contest or to be co- opted/invited as Executive Committee Member. However, the same is not applicable to Special Invitees only.**

For the purpose of determining eligibility, the "current year" shall should be considered for which individual is contesting for election and the term for which office is sought. It shall not refer to the preceding administrative year, financial year, or any other reporting period. (After amendment in 2025-26 AGM)

Note: The applicability of this amendment of 50% attendance shall only be effective from the next term i.e., 2023-24.

However, representatives of the regional chamber members shall be exempted from the requirement of minimum attendance in the Executive Committee. In case of Business Associations, the disqualification due to inadequate attendance shall be applicable only to the representative and not to the Business Association Member.

(Note deleted after amendment in AGM 2025-26)

Office Bearers

35. Election and tenure of the President, Sr. Vice President and Vice President, the members of Executive Committee

a. For managing the affairs of The Chamber, the following office bearers will be elected every year.

i. President,
ii. Senior Vice President,
iii. Vice President,
iv. Honorary Secretary
v. Honorary Secretary (Regional),
vi. Honorary Treasurer.

In addition to the above six elected office bearers, Immediate Past President (IPP) shall also be an office bearer at par having all rights like other office bearers.

Election of President, Senior Vice President and Vice President shall be by votes from all the categories of members [except Non-voting Members] of The Chamber.

Any Professional Member shall not contest or get appointed on any designation of the Office Bearers of The Chamber.

b. Out of above office bearers, election of the President, Senior Vice President and Vice President shall be held every year in accordance with the rules prescribed in Sections No. 40 and 41. Executive Committee for the Current Year shall, in its first meeting nominate the Honorary Secretary (Local), Honorary Secretary (Regional) and the Honorary Treasurer in accordance with Section No. 35(d).

c. Out of 47 elected members of Executive Committee including President, Senior Vice President and Vice President, 22 members shall retire by rotation at the conclusion of Annual General Meeting and vacancies arising due to retirement of retiring members shall be filled by elections as per other provisions of Constitution and Regulations. Accordingly, such newly elected members of Executive Committee shall become members of the Executive Committee after Annual General Meeting.

d. Immediate Past President shall be the member of Executive Committee of the Current Year, with voting rights.

e. If, during any year vacancy arises due to resignation or for any other reason of an Elected member(s) of Executive Committee, such vacancies shall be filled in by the Executive Committee by co-opting number of members equal to such number of vacancies. Such Co-opted Members shall be treated at par with other Co-opted Members and their term shall be terminated with the other Elected Members of the same term. If, during the year, a vacancy arises due to resignation or for any other reason of a Co-opted Member or Special Invitee, such vacancy may be filled in by the Executive Committee by co-opting / appointing new Special Invitees equal to such number of vacancies. Such members shall be treated at par with other members of the same category and their term shall expire with other existing members of the same category. For any such co-options to the Elected and/or Co-opted member vacancies, the new co-options shall have to be done from the same category in which the vacancy has arisen. For example, if there is a vacancy from the Business Association (Local) category, the new co-option has to be done from members of the same category. If no such member is available, such a vacancy shall not be filled at all till the time a member from the same category is found eligible for co-option. Filling in of such vacancies shall be done within 2(two) months from the date arising of such vacancies.

f. The tenure of the office of the President, Senior Vice President, Vice President and IPP shall be up to the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting after they occupy the post.

g. From elected members of Executive Committee, every year Honorary Secretary, Honorary Secretary (Regional) and Honorary Treasurer shall be elected by the Executive Committee in its first meeting after the AGM, and their tenure of office shall be up to the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting after they hold the office. However, if such members continue to be members of the Executive Committee, then they shall continue to hold their respective posts till the time new appointments are made.

   Note: No member shall be elected/ appointed as Office Bearers on the same designation for more than one year consecutively. **(THIS NOTE HAS BEEN DELETED AS PER THE RESOLUTION PASSED IN THE EGM HELD ON 26TH MAY, 2025)**

h. If, for any reason Honorary Secretary post is vacant in between, then the vacancy for the remaining period of the year shall be filled in from elected Local members of Executive Committee by calling an emergency meeting and if there is a vacancy for the post of Honorary Secretary (Regional) the same shall be filled in from elected outstation members of the Executive Committee. If there is a vacancy for the post of Honorary Treasurer then the same shall be filled from the elected members of the Executive Committee.

i. **(ADDED AS PER THE RESOLUTION PASSED IN THE EGM HELD ON 26TH MAY, 2025)** Notwithstanding anything contained in the present Rules and Regulations, in case the current President, Senior Vice President and Vice President are desirous of being re-elected as a President / Senior Vice President / Vice President, as the case may be, for one another year (beyond the present current year) and in case Senior Vice President whose term as Senior Vice

President has ended in the current year, and who, as per Section 40(b) is to be declared elected for the post of President for the next year on providing consent letter, decides not to submit consent letter to be elected as President, in that case, it will be open for the current President to be re-elected on the same designation for a further period of one year subject to the further approval of such re-election by the Empowered Apex Committee and subject to following the procedure for election of President / Senior Vice President / Vice President, as the case may be. Similarly, the current Senior Vice President and Vice President may also be re-elected for one more year subject to the prior approval of the Empowered Apex Committee.

However, no person shall be re-elected for more than one year after such re-election on the same designation i.e. President / Senior Vice President / Vice President, as the case may be. However, no Office Bearers other than the President, Senior Vice President and Vice President shall be elected / appointed as Office Bearers on the same designation for more than one year consecutively.

The above amendments shall take effect immediately after they are passed in the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 26th May, 2025.

36. Rights of the office bearers:

a. All the office bearers of the Chamber viz. President, Senior Vice President, Immediate Past President (IPP), Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Secretary (Regional) and Honorary Treasurer shall have the full authority to appoint heads of different departments and other staff members of The Chamber and they will inform Executive Committee about the same. The appointment of Secretary General shall have to be approved by the Executive Committee.

b. Any cases or legal proceedings made for or against The Chamber shall be in the name of the Secretary General of The Chamber or in the name of an officer appointed for the purpose by the office bearers of The Chamber. In case any legal proceedings are initiated against the office bearers of The Chamber in relation to the activities of The Chamber, then in such circumstances, The Chamber shall defend at its own costs. The officer bearers shall not be held personally responsible for any bona fide actions of office bearers to fulfil objectives of The Chamber or for the activities of The Chamber, but it will be treated as the responsibility of The Chamber and if on account of any judicial proceedings any actions are initiated against the office bearers of The Chamber or either of them, then The Chamber shall take full responsibilities for cost and damages, if any, caused to such member at its own cost.

c. To give instructions, directions and suggestions to the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and/or other staff members of the secretariat for the day to day activities of The Chamber.

d. Responsibilities of the President:

i. To Chair the following meetings;

1. Executive Committee,
2. Annual General Meeting, Extra Ordinary General Meeting and other meetings,
3. Summit, Seminar, Conference, Exhibition, discussions and other meetings.

ii. To lead the delegations of representatives,

iii. To make effective representations on the issues of the trade and industry, before the Government and other related authorities and organizations, for the growth and development of The Chamber and to express the sentiments of business community on implementation of laws and rules, and make necessary suggestions. To discuss and exchange ideas with the Government and other authorities on matters concerning trade and industry and, in such matters, to give memorandum.

iv. To head The Chamber, give guidance to the office staff, take their care and keep necessary control.

v. To perform the duties on other matters relating to office.

vi. To give statements in matters of emergency, urgency and other important matters.

vii. To request special invitees to remain present and take part in the discussions at meetings of the Executive Committee.

e. Responsibilities of Sr. Vice President, IPP & Vice President:

i. To act on behalf of the President in absence of the President.

ii. To chair the sub-committees assigned to them by the President

iii. To help the President to oversee specific missions, tasks and responsibilities assigned by the President.

iv. To guide specific heads of the departments in the secretariat as per the assignment given by the President.

f. Responsibilities of Honorary Secretaries:

i. To look after the day to day working of The Chamber

ii. To act on behalf of and represent The Chamber as per the guidance of the President

iii. To co-ordinate the working of various sub-committees of the Executive Committee

iv. To optimize the incomes of The Chamber and sanction routine expenses of day to day working of The Chamber

v. To plan and organize various events of The Chamber

vi. To co-ordinate the implementation and follow-up of the decisions taken by the Executive Committee

vii. To co-ordinate the meetings and agenda of the Executive Committee

g. Responsibilities of the Treasurer:

i. To keep accounts of The Chamber,

ii. **To deposit surplus funds in accounts as well as Fixed Deposits with nationalised Banks & public sector banks which is approved by Reserve Bank of India or approved Central/ State managed Companies and Government Securities under the directions of the Executive Committee, (After amendment in AGM 2025-26)**

iii. To get the accounts audited at the end of the year. To present the audited accounts with the recommendations of Executive Committee at Annual General Meeting for approval.

iv. To monitor all types of financial transactions of The Chamber under the directions of the Executive Committee.

h. Responsibility of Secretary General:

The Secretary General shall act as the chief administrator of The Chamber. The Secretary General shall be responsible for the total administration of The Chamber. Such responsibilities shall be performed by him according to the Constitution and Regulations of The Chamber under the directions of the Executive Committee. He will give guidance to the office staff, supervise them and keep requisite control. In accordance with the guidance of the President, the Secretary General shall be responsible to him for every matter pertaining to administration of The Chamber. Executive Committee of The Chamber shall vest authorities with the Secretary General from time to time and if necessary, will change or curtail the same.

Accounts

37. Accounts and Audit

The Secretary General shall maintain the accounts of The Chamber in accordance with the guidance provided by the Executive Committee, Office Bearers, and Treasurer. As decided by them, the surplus funds shall be deposited in accounts or fixed deposits with Nationalised and public sector banks approved by the Reserve Bank of India. The funds may also be invested in Government and State-managed companies, Government securities.

Such accounts shall be properly audited at the end of each year, and the same shall be approved at the Annual General Meeting of The Chamber.

Further, the Secretary General shall ensure, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Executive Committee, Office Bearers, and Treasurer, the availability of liquid funds amounting to Rs. One Crore, to be maintained in the form of a Nationalised Bank or Public Sector Bank Flexi Deposit, so that the funds are instantly accessible whenever required. (After amendment in AGM 2025-26)

38. Management of the Funds

If the General Meeting of The Chamber passes resolution authorizing the Executive Committee to borrow monies, then by virtue of the resolution the Executive Committee may borrow monies as may be necessary for the purpose of the objects of The Chamber. The rate of interest, nature of borrowing, terms and conditions and securities against which the borrowing is to be made etc. shall be mentioned in the resolution passed by Executive Committee. As per the aforesaid decision and direction of Executive Committee the Empowered Apex Committee shall deal with the property of The Chamber or any part thereof, and shall provide security in relation to the monies borrowed and interest thereon.

39. Withdrawal of funds

The Secretary General shall have the custody of cash and other financial instruments, deposits and funds of The Chamber.

Under the guidance of the Honorary Treasurer, he shall open current and/or other types of accounts in the name of The Chamber with such Nationalised and public sector banks or Private Sector banks approved by the Reserve Bank of India.

The cash and bank balance maintained in Current Accounts and and/or other types of accounts shall not exceed ₹50,00,000 (Rupees Fifty Lakhs only). Any amount in excess of ₹50,00,000 shall be invested in Fixed Deposits with Nationalised and public

sector banks approved by the Reserve Bank of India.

All monies and funds shall be deposited in such accounts and/or placed as deposit. For withdrawal of monies from bank accounts and/or for withdrawal of deposits, Cheques and/or other required instruments will be signed by the prevailing; (After amendment in AGM 2025-26)

i. President/Senior Vice President/ Vice President/Immediate Past President, one of the four, and any one of two Honorary Secretaries and Honorary Treasurer shall sign Cheques and documents and withdraw money from the banks.

   Note: Every Cheque and every withdrawal shall require the counter signature of Secretary General. During absence of Secretary General, Executive Committee by a resolution may empower Deputy Secretary General for such counter signature.

ii. Executive Committee may authorize Secretary General and/or Additional Secretary General/ Any other Officer appointed by the Office Bearers to sign such Cheques up to a prescribed monetary limit.

Authority for signing any legal agreement for sale/purchase or documents for mortgage/lease may be given to Secretary General/ Additional Secretary General/ Any other Officer appointed by the Office Bearers along with one of the Office-Bearer of the GCCI, whereby the document will have to be signed and executed for and on behalf of GCCI by one of the Office Bearer as well as either by Secretary General or Additional Secretary General.

Election

40. Election of President, Sr. Vice President, Vice President and Members of Executive Committee:

Notice of election for the post of President, Senior Vice President, Vice President and Members of Executive Committee retiring by rotation shall be given by Secretary General to every member before 1st June, by way of electronic communication /circular/through the Bulletin of The Chamber.

a. The forms for candidature in election shall be available at the Office of The Chamber as per the election program decided by Executive Committee.

b. Form for candidature for Sr. Vice President and Vice President under clause 35(a) received from any candidate must be signed by him, must be proposed by any member (excluding a non-voting member) of GCCI and must be seconded by an elected Executive Committee member of the current Executive committee together with deposit of Rs. 10,000/- and should reach the Secretary General before 4.00 p.m. of the last date decided for receiving the applications for candidature. The amount of said deposit shall be forfeited in case the candidate receives less than 15% votes of total votes cast in the election, unless he is declared elected.

   Senior Vice President, whose term as Senior Vice President has ended in the current year, shall be declared elected for the post of President for the next Year on providing consent letter to the Secretary General on or before 31st May of the current Year.

   In case, the Senior Vice President as mentioned above, decides not to submit consent letter than in that case any other member who has completed 1 (One) term as an elected Executive Committee member and has been an Office Bearer of the Chamber will be eligible to contest as President in accordance with other provisions of this Constitution and Regulations and shall be able to file his candidature form for the post of President.

c. Form for candidature for the vacant positions in the Executive Committee under section 35(c) received from any candidate must be signed by him, must be proposed by any member (excluding a non-voting member) of GCCI and must be seconded by any member (excluding a non-voting member) of GCCI, together with deposit of Rs.10,000/- and should reach the Secretary General before 4.00 p.m. of the last date decided for receiving the applications for candidature. The amount of said deposit shall be forfeited in case the candidate receives less than 15% votes of total votes cast in the election, unless he is declared elected.

The candidate shall pay the deposit by Cheque or any online mode (where payee details can be verified) from the account of the Representative or the member. The Member will have to submit the proof of payment before 4.00 pm of the last date decided for receiving applications.

d. It shall be mandatory for all the members elected to the Executive Committee to register themselves as Lifetime member or Patron member and pay necessary membership fees within 60 days from the declaration of result. Such elected members originally registered in the individual category shall convert into Lifetime members while representatives elected on behalf of Business entities shall convert into Patron members and representatives of Mahajan/Regional Chamber/ Business Associations shall have to get themselves registered as an ordinary member with GCCI.

   If any such elected member fails to register for Lifetime/Patron Membership, he/she automatically gets disqualified from the Executive Committee for that term. His/her position will be declared vacant and filled in by co-option from the same category.

e. No member or a representative of a member entity will contest as candidate for more than one post in the above-mentioned election.

f. The candidate shall be required to declare in the candidature form his/her place of business for a period of 6(six) months immediately preceding the date of candidature form specifying whether he/she had his/her business address in the area falling within the limits of Ahmedabad district or outside thereof along with appropriate official proof thereof. Such business address can be the Registered Address or the Company's Office Address. However, such address provided should not be in contradiction to the member's category i.e. a local member cannot provide an outstation office address and vice-versa. The required evidence produced by the candidate along with the form for candidature should be acceptable to the Election Officer. If the proofs so produced by him/her are not considered appropriate then his/her form for candidature may be disqualified and such decision shall be binding to the candidate.

g. Additionally, the candidate shall be required to declare that "I have properly read the Constitution and Regulations of The Chamber and I agree to abide by and obey the same and I am contesting as a candidate according to Constitution and Regulations of The Chamber and I shall comply with the provisions and regulations of such election."

h. The Secretary General shall prepare a list of Candidates, which shall mention the date of election, and shall send the same to members so as to reach them at least five days prior to the date fixed for election.

i. Only a member who has his/her/its business address in the area not falling within the limits of Ahmedabad District for at least six months prior to his/her filling the form for candidature shall be considered as an out-station member.

j. Only promoters/owners or businessmen as registered as authorized representative of a member can be nominated as candidate for election of the chamber.

k. A person shall be allowed to contest as an out-station candidate at one time and as a local candidate during some other time but as far as the post of Honorary Secretary is concerned, no person shall be allowed to be elected as Honorary Secretary at one time and as Honorary Secretary (Regional) during the other time or vice-versa.

l. The Honorary Secretary (Regional) shall be an outstation member and also residing outside the limits of Ahmedabad District

Only a member who has his/her/its business address in the area not falling within the limits of Ahmedabad District for at least six months prior to his/her filling the form for candidature shall be considered as an out-station member.

41. Procedures relating to Election

Elections of General Category members as well as Specific Categories of members shall be undertaken by adopting the following procedure for the respective categories.

1. **Objection against candidature:**

Objections against any candidature by the candidates contesting the election, should be sent in writing to the Office of The Chamber latest by 11:00 a.m. on or before the date for scrutiny of the application forms for candidature, decided in the election program by the Executive Committee. Such date for scrutiny of the application forms shall be within 3 days from the last date of filing the candidature forms.

The Election Officer shall be empowered to deal with such objections and his decision shall be binding to all.

2. **Date for withdrawal of candidature:**

Candidature can be withdrawn within three days from the last date prescribed for submitting applications for candidature. The names of such candidates, who send intimation in writing to The Chamber by 4.00 p.m. of the last date prescribed for withdrawing candidature, shall be removed from the list of candidates and they shall be refunded the amount of deposit paid along with the application for candidature. Any candidate intimating withdrawal of his/her candidature after the aforesaid last date shall not be entitled to get refund of the deposit amount paid along with the application for candidature. The votes cast in favour of such candidates in the election shall be counted, but such votes will not be considered for declaration of election result.

3. **Election Procedures and Results**

a. Out of total candidates contesting election in the specified categories, the candidates who have received highest votes in descending order, shall be declared as elected in their respective categories in accordance with the number of available vacant seats for which election is being held.

b. If the number of candidates is less than the number of available posts, then such vacant posts shall be filled in by Co-option from members of the respective category at the first meeting of Executive Committee.

c. If the number of posts are equal to the number of candidates in the respective category then such candidates of the respective category shall be declared as having been elected uncontested.

4. **Procedure for Election of Executive Committee Members:**

After scrutiny of application forms for candidature to vacant posts of members of the Executive Committee and for the vacant post of the President, the Senior Vice President and Vice President, election for these vacant posts shall be held at the Head Office of The Chamber or at any other suitable place within the limits of Ahmedabad District.

All members of The Chamber, as per their eligible voting rights as specified in Clause 43 of this Constitution and Regulations, shall only vote for General Category Elections. In addition, thereto, Specific Category Members shall also be eligible to vote as per their voting rights, for their respective Specific Category.

(Paragraph deleted after amendment in AGM 2025-26)

Voting for election of members of all Categories of the Executive Committee shall be carried out by way of E-Voting.

The e-voting platform or agency shall be selected only from service providers who are duly approved by the Central Government and certified by the Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, or such other competent authority as may be notified by the Central Government from time to time.

The appointment of such e-voting platform shall be made by the Office Bearers of the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), in consultation with the Election Officer appointed for conducting the respective elections or voting process. (After amendment in AGM 2025-26)

(Deleted after amendment in AGM 2025-26)

42. Procedure for counting of votes:

After completion of counting of votes, election officer shall place the details of the results on the notice board of The Chamber under the signature of Secretary General or Deputy Secretary General and/or Secretary of The Chamber which shall be considered as having been declared in the Annual General Meeting. (After amendment in AGM 2025-26)

43. Voting by members to the candidates for the Executive Committee.

a. Every year election shall be held from the members of the following categories.

Category	Election			
	Local	**OS**	**Common**	**Total**
President			**1**	**1**
Sr. VP			**1**	**1**
VP			**1**	**1**
Business Association	**2**	**1**		**3**
General	**8**	**4**		**12**
Life/Patron	**2**	**1**		**3**
Corporate			**3**	**3**
Regional Chamber				**0**
Women (General)			**1**	**1**
Total	**12**	**6**	**7**	**25**

b. It shall be mandatory for every member to cast votes equal to the number of members to be elected in his/her category. If less or more votes are cast then it shall be treated as cancelled.

c. As regards, Corporate members and Business Association (Mahajan) members, votes cast by such members shall be considered with the appropriate voting weightage as for which such members are eligible in their respective category as mentioned in Clause 43(c)(I) and 43(c)(II);

i. **Voting Rights of Corporate Members**

The "voting weightage" of Corporate Member, whether an existing or a new member, shall be calculated on a slab system on the basis of its Consolidated Total Revenue during the last financial year in the following way:

CONSOLIDATED TOTAL REVENUE	**VOTES**
Not exceeding Rs. 100 Crores	1
Exceeding Rs. 100 Crores but not exceeding Rs. 250 Crores	2
Exceeding Rs. 250 Crores but not exceeding Rs. 500 Crores	3
Exceeding Rs. 500 Crores but not exceeding Rs. 1000 Crores	4
Exceeding Rs. 1000 Crores but not exceeding Rs. 2000 Crores	5
Exceeding Rs. 2000 Crores but not exceeding Rs. 2500 Crores	6
Exceeding Rs. 2500 Crores but not exceeding Rs. 3000 Crores	7
Exceeding Rs. 3000 Crores but not exceeding Rs. 3500 Crores	8
Exceeding Rs. 3500 Crores	9

Consolidated Total Revenue would be equal to Consolidated Total Income of the Corporate Member, net of excise duty, as reported in their last Consolidated Audited Annual Accounts.

The words "last financial year", contained in this Clause shall mean the last financial year of respective companies for their accounting purposes.

However, if a corporate member has not deposited his renewal fees for the current year with reference to the date on which the election is being held, till the 31st of March of the previous year, he will have no voting weightage but will have the right to cast 1 vote only.

ii. **Business Association (Mahajan) Member**

The "voting weightage" of Business Association (Mahajan) member whether an existing or a new member shall be calculated on a slab system on the basis of their number of Members as per their membership list as recommended by the Scrutiny Committee and as approved by the Executive Committee.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF MAHAJAN OR BUSINESS ASSOCIATION	VOTES
Not exceeding 49 Members	1
Exceeding 49 Members but not exceeding 200 Members	2
Exceeding 200 Members but not exceeding 300 Members	3
Exceeding 300 Members but not exceeding 400 Members	4
More than 400 Members but not exceeding 500 Members	5
More than 500 Members	6

Note: For establishing voting weightage, all the Business Association shall have to submit a certified list of its members as on 31st March of the previous year in reference to the current year along with the last Audited Balance Sheet not older than two previous financial years. If such a list is not submitted by 31st May of the current year, no voting weightage shall be allowed and they shall have the right of one vote only.

iii. A Regional Chamber member shall have a voting weightage of 6 (six) votes.

As per Rule 15, a Regional Chamber/Business Association shall have to intimate any change in their representatives by 31st May of the current year in reference to the date on which the election is being held. If no intimation of change in representatives is received from the Regional Chamber/Business Association till 31st May, it will be assumed by the Chamber that there is no change in representatives and voting right shall be given to the representatives registered with the Chamber as on 31st May.

44. Resolution in Case of Tie in E-Voting.

In case that two or more candidates receive an equal number of votes in the e-voting process for the posts of President, Senior Vice President, Vice President, and/or Members of the Executive Committee, and such tie results in a need to determine the elected candidate, the outcome shall be decided by draw of lots. Such draw of lots shall be conducted by the President in the presence of the candidates concerned. (After amendment in AGM 2025-26)

45. Election Regulations:

i. Deleted (18.09.2021)

ii. **Deleted (After amendment in AGM 2025-26)**

Note: (Deleted After Amendment in AGM 2025-26)

iii. If any candidate and/or his representative and/or any other person interferes in any manner whatsoever or tries to adopt any wrong means in connection with implementation of the aforesaid regulations and attention of election officer is drawn to these facts , then he/she can take necessary steps in connection therewith, including making the candidate, his representative and/or any other such person, vacate the premises and/or correcting the harm caused by the action of any candidate or his representative or any such other person

iv. Every candidate shall be given an identity card.

v. The results of elected candidates shall be declared in descending order of valid votes received, together with number of valid votes received in the respective category.

vi. If, the candidate who had contested in election makes a written application to seek information on votes received by him and by other candidates, then the details asked, shall be provided to him/her on or before the end of the next day.

46. Declaration of uncontested election:

If the number of candidates for the concerned category of President, two Vice Presidents, Local candidates of Executive Committee, Corporate candidates and Regional candidates of Executive Committee are equal to the number of posts in their respective category, then such candidates shall be declared as having been elected uncontested prior to 48 hours of election.

47. Objection application for re-counting of votes:

Out of candidates who have contested election, those who have lost election may make a written application for re-counting of votes within one hour of the declaration of the result of election and Rs. 5,000/- shall be taken from him/her as a deposit. If re-counting of votes, changes the number of votes given to the candidate, his deposit amount will be refunded back to him, otherwise the deposit amount shall be forfeited by The Chamber. The result arising out of the recounting of votes shall be declared as final and no further recounting shall be allowed nor shall previous counting result be considered.

48. Objection Application for Election results:

Any candidate who has an objection against the results of election on any grounds others than counting and recounting of votes, shall within 3 days of the concerned yearly Annual General Meeting wherein election result is noted, make an application objecting the said results under his/her signature or with joint signatures of other candidates, along with deposit of Rs. 5,000/- by 6.00 p.m. of the last date so fixed for accepting such applications. The election board shall verify such applications and take appropriate measures considering the same and after the completion of entire process of election board if an application is rejected then deposit of Rs.5,000/- shall not be refunded. However, if election board approves such application the deposit amount shall be required to be refunded.

49. Election Board

The election board shall be constituted by the executive committee and the same shall be announced at the time of announcement of the election. The members of this Election Board shall be as under;

- Outgoing President
- Any one past President
- One elected member of Executive Committee from General Category
- One elected member from Corporate Member, Lifetime Member or Patron Member Category
- One elected member from Business Association Member or Regional Chamber Member Category.

The Election Board constituting of 5 (five) members as above shall hear objection applications and shall dispose of the same within one month from the last date fixed for receiving such applications. If under any circumstances, it appears that election board would be unable to give its decision within one month, then with the approval of the Executive Committee, the above period may be extended by a further period of one month.

If any member of the Election Board is connected directly or indirectly with the objection matter, he shall resign from the Election Board and shall be replaced with another member representing his category by the remaining members of the Election Board. The election board shall decide by a majority and its decision shall be considered as final.

If due to the decision of the election board, the election of all members of the Executive Committee is held unlawful then election officer shall within 45 days from the date of such decision of election board, hold a re-election according to the index of the members. Such election shall not require the approval of Annual General Meeting. Such election shall be considered as annual election according to the Constitution and Regulations. If the election board by its decision holds election of one or more members of Executive Committee as unlawful and declares such posts as vacant, then Executive Committee shall decide to fill in the vacancy by co-option of a member from the same category.

Election board may utilize the services of staff members of The Chamber for its functioning. No remuneration shall be payable to members of election board. All expenses pertaining to the functioning of election board shall be borne by The Chamber. The election board shall decide its own procedure for the disposal of objection applications received in connection with elections and it shall be vested with all powers. The vacancy caused on account of resignation or any other reason in the post of member of election board, shall be filled-in by the remaining members of the Election Board by replacing the vacancy with another member representing his category. Election Board so constituted with members appointed in such manner shall not be required to start its process afresh but shall continue the proceedings and take the decision.

(Paragraph deleted after Amendment in AGM 2025-26)

50. Appointment of Election Officer

For appointment of an election officer The Chamber shall, request the Empowered Apex Committee to appoint a competent and experienced election officer for election of The Chamber, and accordingly the appointment of Election Officer shall be made. The Election Officer shall be paid honorary remuneration as may be fixed by office bearers of The Chamber.

51. Authority of Election Officer:

Following shall be the responsibilities of the Election Officer

i. To sign after verification, applications for candidature received on the last day fixed for receipt of such applications for candidature by The Chamber and submit his/her report to the President and to take the final decision of rejection of any application for candidature.

ii. To prepare final list of the candidates contesting election after the last date fixed for withdrawal of applications for candidature.

iii. To ensure that all arrangements for election have been made.

iv. To obey rules of election.

v. To monitor election activities on the day of election.

vi. **(Deleted after amendment in AGM 2025-26)**

vii. **(Deleted after amendment in AGM 2025-26)**

viii. **(Deleted after amendment in AGM 2025-26)**

ix. **(Deleted after amendment in AGM 2025-26)**

x. **(Deleted after amendment in AGM 2025-26)**

xi. To sign on the report containing details of the total votes.

xii. **To sign on the short report containing the numbers of cancelled (invalid) votes and reasons thereof. (After amendment in AGM 2025-26)**

xiii. To handover the report of the results to President after verification of completion of counting of votes for announcement.

xiv. **After 6 months of the declaration of the results of election, active member reports and scrutinized voting results, can be destroyed. (After Amendment in AGM 2025-26)**

Extraordinary circumstances

52. Provisions for a period when elections are not possible to be held in extra ordinary circumstances:

52 (A):

(Deleted after amendment in AGM 2025-26)

52 (B):

i. Prior to the date fixed for election or on the day of the election, if extra ordinary circumstances arise and election officer believes that it is not possible to continue the election process, then in that case on the basis of his written recommendation, the President shall declare the cessation of remaining election process. The President shall call a meeting of Executive Committee and shall declare a new date for election which shall be within the period of 60 days from that day. Such new date of election as fixed by the Executive Committee shall be informed 15 days in advance to all members of The Chamber through monthly bulletin or circular sent thru ordinary post.

ii. In extra ordinary circumstances under Clause 52-B(i), if election of President, Sr. Vice President, Vice President and members of Executive Committee is not held, then until Executive Committee is formed, as per the provisions of the Constitution and Regulations, the Empowered Apex Committee shall manage the affairs of The Chamber.

53. Tenure of Empowered Apex Committee and its duties and responsibilities during the tenure.

a) The tenure of the Empowered Apex Committee shall be of 6 years from the date of Annual General Meeting in the year, when it was last constituted or elected, whichever is later. The tenure shall be shortened or extended automatically till the date of Annual General Meeting, in the year in which the tenure is expiring.

b) Empowered Apex Committee shall consist of 5 (five) persons of which 2 persons shall be pre-eminent businessmen and/or industrialists, 2 persons shall be ex-Presidents of the Chamber and 1 person shall be a citizen, renowned in public life. At the expiry of any tenure of EAC, the members of EAC, shall decide whether to reconstitute, partly or fully, or continue the next tenure with the existing members. A decision regarding the reconstitution of members of EAC taken by EAC itself, shall be binding to all the Members of the Chamber. Any one person out of the above 5 persons, shall be the Chairman of EAC and in case of any decision during a meeting of EAC, divided into equal votes, shall give his casting vote.

c) Members of Empowered Apex Committee will perform their duties as guardians of The Chamber. The Sale or purchase of land and property for or on behalf of the Chamber, other than from the Government should be done with prior written approval of Empowered Apex Committee. All decisions regarding renting/leasing of property of GCCI for a period not exceeding three years may be decided by the Executive Committee and anything beyond 3 years to be decided by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Empowered Apex Committee.

54. Functions of the Empowered Apex Committee: -

1. In event of any situation of constitutional difficulty or emergency wherein the current Executive Committee and the office bearers are not managing or are unable to manage the affairs of The Chamber as per the provisions of the Constitution and Regulations, then to undertake the responsibility of management and administration of The Chamber.

2. To enjoy all authorities of the Executive Committees under extra ordinary circumstances.

3. In the event that elections cannot be held under extraordinary circumstances, to manage affairs of The Chamber in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations, till the new Executive Committee is constituted.

4. In extraordinary circumstances, to complete the activities relating to election of new Executive Committee within maximum 6 months and if for any reason such activities are not completed within 6 months then compulsorily to complete the same within 3 months.

5. If any question relating to management of The Chamber arises then to take necessary steps by appointing an Arbitration Committee of 3 members from the members of the Empowered Apex Committee. If deemed necessary the Empowered Apex Committee shall take other external members in such Arbitration Committee. Any decision of the Arbitration Committee shall be binding to The Chamber and members.

6. If it is required to investigate and present report on any specific matter of The Chamber and any questions coming within the purview of its activities, then the Empowered Apex committee shall appoint an Investigation Committee of 3 members out of its members. If deemed necessary the Empowered Apex Committee shall take other external members in such Investigation Committee. The conclusions and recommendations of such Investigation Committee shall be binding to the Members.

55. Amendments in the Constitution and Regulations: -

The Executive Committee shall constitute a Constitution Committee to consider amendments to the Constitution and Regulations suggested by Members and/or office bearers of The Chamber and the Constitution Committee shall, after deliberating on the same, send amendments received along with its recommendations, to Executive Committee. Amendments along with the recommendations of the Executive Committee shall be placed in the General

Meeting of The Chamber. Notice calling such meeting shall be sent by the Secretary General of The Chamber, by ordinary post or by a courier, 10 days in advance to all members of The Chamber along with details of amendments to be placed in the meeting. At least representatives in terms of individual persons, irrespective of more than one vote that a representative may have, (excluding non-voting members) equal to the number of 5% of the Members of the Chamber (rounded off to the nearest integer) must remain present in such General Meeting to get such amendments passed. The amendments, additions or alterations shall be made with consent of minimum two third of votes from the total votes available from the Voting Members present at the meeting. If at least representatives in terms of individual persons, irrespective of more than one vote that a representative may have, (excluding non-voting members) equal to the number of 5% of the Members of the Chamber (rounded off to the nearest integer) are neither present at the decided commencement time of the meeting nor even after the expiry of 30 minutes from the decided commencement time of the meeting, then the same shall be passed by calling the meeting again. A copy of additions and alterations made to provisions of the Constitution and Regulations from time to time shall be noted in the register and maintained at the office of The Chamber.

56. Dissolution:

a) The Chamber may be dissolved by a Extraordinary General Meeting of the Chamber convened specifically for this purpose, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee or on requisition of not less than 100 voting members (without considering their voting weightage exceeding one vote). Provided that in such meeting three- fifths of the total number of voting members of the Chamber shall express their explicit consent for dissolution and approving a resolution for dissolution by votes in person or by their votes as proxy received through postal ballot. Ballots by post shall not be valid in any of the General Meetings of the Chamber, except an Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the Chamber convened specifically for the purpose of dissolution and no other agenda shall be taken up in such meeting.

b) The resolution passed under sub Rule (a) hereof may direct that if upon the dissolution of the Chamber there remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities of the Chamber any property whatsoever the same shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members of the Chamber but shall be given or transferred to some other society, institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Chamber to be determined by the members of the Chamber at the aforesaid Extra Ordinary General Meeting.

c) If the Chamber shall be insolvent, the liability of the members, who were members on the first day of the year preceding the commencement of the winding up shall be limited to contributing towards the deficit to the extent of year’s annual subscription payable by them.

Constitution and Regulations, its translation and compliance

57. If any amended provision of the Constitution and Regulations is not in accordance with the current provision of the Constitution and Regulations, then in such circumstances amended provisions of the Constitution and Regulations shall be considered as final and the same shall be binding.

58. On or after the date of this Constitution and Regulations amendments getting effective, all voting members of the Chamber, including the applicants who become members for the first time, shall be given a copy, in its original English version or its Gujarati translation, as desired, free of charge by the Chamber. On receiving any request for an additional copy, by any voting member, a copy of this Constitution and Regulations in its original English version or its Gujarati translation, as desired, shall be made available by the office of Secretary General of The Chamber. A member requesting a copy of the Constitution and Regulations in English or its translated copy in Gujarati shall pay Rs. 50 per copy to The Chamber. In a given financial year not more than 2 copies shall be made available to a member of The Chamber.

59. In case of any dispute in terms of interpretation between the original version in English, and its translation in Gujarati, interpretation in English shall prevail over Gujarati translation, in the court of law and for any other use.

60. If any of the terms mentioned in any chapter or part thereof, if found ultra virus under any specific law, then in such case such term shall be treated as null and void, without affecting the rest of the terms, chapters, clauses and parts thereof, forming part of this Constitution and Regulations.

Any provision contained in the Constitution or Election Rules relating to ballot paper voting, physical polling, ballot box procedure or manual counting, which is inconsistent with the E-Voting system introduced by this amendment, shall not apply and shall stand modified to the extent necessary for implementation of E-Voting. (After amendment in AGM 2025-26)

61. This Constitution and Regulations, along with amendments/ additions / deletions, if any, from time to time, shall be the Constitution and Regulations for Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) to get itself registered as a body under any act and/or get itself affiliated with any apex body at the national level and the same can be submitted for that purpose to the concerned authority and/or institution



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