

National Anthem – Code of Conduct: UPSC

Polity Notes

The national anthem has recently been in the news. The Supreme Court of India has ruled that national anthem pride is unavoidable, and the Centre has allowed differently-abled persons to remain sitting during the national song. It has also made it compulsory for all Indian citizens to stand and listen to the National Anthem before watching a movie in a theatre.

The ruling is in accordance with Article 51(A) of the Indian Constitution, which states that all people must respect the National Anthem. In this regard, we've compiled a list of noteworthy facts regarding the National Anthem Code of Conduct.

In recent years, the National Anthem Code of Conduct has been in the news. In 2018, the Supreme Court changed its November 30, 2016, interim decision, making it optional for movie theaters to play the 52-second national anthem before each showing. The National Anthem Code of Conduct will be discussed here, which will be useful in UPSC Civil Service GS II preparation.

Indian National Anthem - Overview

The poem Jana Gana Mana was written by Rabindranath Tagore. The Hindi version of Jana Gana Mana was adopted as India's National Anthem on January 24, 1950. The poem was first publicly delivered on the second day of the Indian National Congress's annual session in Kolkata on December 27, 1911.

While rallying support for the Indian Independence Movement in Germany, Subhas Chandra Bose adopted the song as the national anthem. The Hamburg Radio Symphony Orchestra first performed Jana Gana Mana as the national anthem of an independent India on September 11, 1942, at the Hotel Atlantic in Hamburg, during the founding meeting of the German-Indian Society.

Code of Conduct for the National Anthem

The Indian National Anthem is sung at various times. Guidelines on the specific forms of the National Anthem, the events at which it is

to be sung or performed, and the necessity of treating the National Anthem with respect by preserving due decorum on such occasions have been issued from time to time.

The following events will feature the full version of the National Anthem:

- Civil and Military Ceremonies.
- When the President or the Governor/Lieutenant Governor of their respective States/Union Territories receives the National Salute (which consists of the command "Rashtriya Salute - Salami Shastr" accompanied by the National Anthem) on ceremonial occasions;
- During parades, regardless of whether any of the above-mentioned dignitaries are present or not;
- On the President's attendance to official State functions and other government-sponsored and mass functions, as well as his departure from such functions;
- Immediately before and after the President speaks to the nation on All India Radio;
- on the arrival and departure of the Governor/Lieutenant Governor at formal State functions inside his State/Union Territory;
- When the National Flag is carried in procession;
- The presentation of the Regimental Colours;
- In the Navy, for hoisting the colors.
- The abridged version of the National Anthem will be played at toasts in Messes.
- The National Anthem shall be sung on any occasion for which the Indian government has set proper legislation.
- The Prime Minister's Anthem is not normally played, though it may be on rare occasions.
- The National Anthem will be preceded by a roll of drums unless there is some other special indicator that the National Anthem is about to be played. This will help the audience know that the National Anthem is about to be played.

General Codes

- When the Anthem is sung or played, the audience must stand at attention. The audience is not obligated to rise when the Anthem is sung as part of a newsreel or documentary since doing so would break the film's presentation and add to the turmoil and confusion rather than contributing to the dignity of the Anthem.
- It is up to the people's good judgment, just as it is with the waving of the National Flag, to refrain from singing or playing the National Anthem indiscriminately.
- People with cerebral palsy, Parkinson's disease, muscular dystrophy, day blindness, hearing loss, autism, locomotive disability (wheelchair-bound), multiple sclerosis, and those who have been cured of leprosy, as well as those with intellectual disability (learning disorder), will be allowed to remain seated while singing the National Anthem.

Events Related to Code for National Anthem

- In 2003, the Maharashtra Assembly passed an ordinance requiring the national anthem to be played before a film starts.
- The most well-known case of someone being punished for not singing the national anthem was three children from Kerala. In *Bijoe Emmanuel vs. the State of Kerala*, students were expelled for not standing while singing the national anthem. "There is no provision of law requiring anyone to sing the National Anthem, and it is neither disrespectful to the National Anthem nor insulting to the National Anthem if a person who stands respectfully while the National Anthem is sung does not join in the singing," the Supreme Court said at the time.
- No one is penalized or forced to stand or sing the national anthem under current law. According to the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act of 1971, "whoever intentionally prevents the singing of the Jana Gana Mana or causes disturbances to any assembly engaged in such singing shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both."

- The Supreme Court reversed its interim judgment from November 30, 2016, making it optional for movie theaters to play the 52-second national anthem before each showing.

Conclusion

The national symbols of India represent the country's culture and spirit. They instill pride and patriotism in all Indians' hearts. Despite the fact that they were rounded up at different times, they brought Indians together in numerous ways.