



Government Issues Comprehensive Guidelines on National Song Vande Mataram

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What's New?

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued detailed guidelines for the **rendition of India's National Song, Vande Mataram** at official and public functions.

Whenever Vande Mataram is performed together with the National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana), the **national song must be sung or played first**.

The guidelines mandate that **all six stanzas** of the **original composition** by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** must be rendered — restoring the full version.

Key Protocols & Occasions

Official Ceremonies

To be sung/played on occasions such as:

Arrival and departure of the President and Governors at state functions

Unfurling of the National Flag

Civil investitures and award ceremonies

Before and after President's address on state media (All India Radio & Television)

Kamaraj IAS Academy

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Schools & Public Events

Schools are encouraged to begin the day with the national song to foster respect for national symbols.

The song is also to be sung at government-organised public events with decorum.

Standing Protocol

Persons present must stand at attention when Vande Mataram is played or sung.

Exception: Standing is not required if the song is played as part of a newsreel or documentary in cinemas or screenings.

Details of the Official Version

The official rendition comprises all six stanzas of Vande Mataram, returned to its original form, covering **approximately 3 minutes and 10 seconds in duration.**

Historical & Contextual Background

About Vande Mataram

Written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** in the late **19th century** in his **novel Anandamath**.

It was **adopted as the National Song of India** by the **Constituent Assembly** in **1950**, distinct from the **National Anthem (Jana Gana Mana)**.

The full six stanzas were not commonly used historically; only the first two were sung at many formal functions.

Significance in Freedom Movement

Vande Mataram was a **rallying cry in the Swadeshi Movement against British rule and symbolised patriotic fervour.**

Its reinstatement reflects **emphasis on national heritage and cultural identity** in state protocols.

Legal & Protocol Status

Unlike the **National Anthem**, the **national song does not yet have explicit constitutional or statutory protection**, though the **MHA's guidelines give it formal ceremonial status at official events**.

The **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971** currently applies explicitly to the **National Anthem**, but not to Vande Mataram.