

ORDERS RELATING TO THE NATIONAL SONG OF INDIA

The National Song of India is played or sung on various occasions. The following instructions are being issued for general information and guidance on the official version of the National Song, the occasions on which the Song is to be played or sung, and about the need for paying respect to the National Song by observance of proper decorum on such occasions:

I. THE NATIONAL SONG – OFFICIAL VERSION

- (1) The song 'Vande Mataram' written by Shri Bankim Chandra Chatterjee is known as 'National Song'. The lyrics of the National Song 'Vande Mataram' are as follows:-

Vande Mataram!
Sujalam suphalam malayaja-sitalam,
Sasya-syamalam Mataram!
Vande Mataram!

Subhra-jyotsnam pulakita-yaminim,
Phulla-kusumita druma-dala-sobhinim,
Suhasinim sumadhura bhasinim,
Sukhadam varadam Mataram!
Vande Mataram!

Koti-koti kantha kalakala ninada karale,
Koti-koti bhujair dhrta kharakaravale,
Ke bole Ma tumi abale!
Bahubaladharinim namami tarinim,
Ripudala-varinim Mataram!
Vande Mataram!

Tumi vidya, tumi dharma,
Tumi hrdi, tumi marma,
Tvam hi pranah sarire!
Bahute tumi Ma sakti,
Hrdaye tumi Ma bhakti,
Tomarai pratima gadi mandire-mandire.
Vande Mataram!

Tvam hi Durga dasa-praharana-dharini,
Kamala kamala-dala-viharini,
Vani vidya-dayini,
Namami tvam namami kamalam,
Amalam atulam,
Sujalam suphalam Mataram!
Vande Mataram!

Syamalam saralam susmitam bhusitam,
Dharanim bharanim Mataram!
Vande Mataram!

- (2) The playing time of the National Song is approximately 3 minutes 10 seconds.

II. PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL SONG

- (1) The official version of the National Song shall be played on the following occasions: -

- i) Civil Investitures;
 - ii) On arrival of the President at formal State functions and other functions organized by the Government and on his departure from such functions;
 - iii) Immediately before and after the President addresses the Nation over All India Radio and Television;
 - iv) On arrival of the Governor/Lieutenant Governor at formal State functions within his State/Union Territory and on his departure from such functions;
 - v) When the National Flag is brought on parade.
- (2) The National Song shall be played on any other occasion for which special orders are issued by the Government of India.
- (3) When the National Song is played by a band, the Song will be preceded by a roll of drums to assist the audience to know that the National Song is going to be played, unless there is some other specific indication that the National Song is about to be played, as for example, when fanfares are sounded before the National Song is played. The duration of the roll, in terms of marching drill, will be 7 paces in slow march. The roll will start slowly, ascend to as loud a volume as possible and then gradually decreases to original softness, but remaining audible until the seventh beat. One beat rest will then be observed before commencing the National Song.

III. MASS SINGING OF THE NATIONAL SONG

- (1) The official version of the National Song shall be played accompanied by mass singing on the following occasions:-
 - (i) On the unfurling of the National Flag, on cultural occasions or ceremonial functions other than parades. (This could be arranged by having a choir of adequate size, suitably stationed, which would be trained to coordinate its singing with the band etc. There should be an adequate public audition system so that the gathering in various enclosures can sing in unison with the choir; printed lyrics of the official version of the National Song may be circulated amongst the participants, wherever required).
 - (ii) On arrival of the President at any Government or Public function (but excluding formal State functions) and also immediately before his departure from such functions.
- (2) On all occasions when the National Song is sung, the official version shall be recited accompanied by mass singing.
- (3) The National Song may be sung on occasions which, although not strictly ceremonial, are nevertheless invested with significance because of the presence of Ministers etc. The singing of the National Song on such occasions (with or without the accompaniment of instruments) accompanied by mass singing is desirable.
- (4) It is not possible to give an exhaustive list of occasions on which the singing (as distinct from playing) of official version of the National Song can be permitted. But there is no objection to the singing of the National Song accompanied by mass singing so long as it is done with due respect as a salutation to the motherland and proper decorum is maintained.
- (5) In all schools, the day's work may begin with community singing of the National Song. School authorities should make adequate provision in their programmes for popularising the singing of the National Song, National Anthem and promoting respect for the National Flag among students.

IV. GENERAL

- (1) Whenever the official version of the National Song is sung or played, the audience shall stand to attention. However, when in the course of a newsreel or documentary the National Song is played as a part of the film, it is not expected of the audience to stand as standing is bound to interrupt the exhibition of the film and would create disorder and confusion rather than add to the dignity of the National Song.
- (2) When the National Song and the National Anthem are sung or played, National Song will be sung or played first.
