



Ministry of Home Affairs Guidelines on Vande Mataram



Context

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued guidelines directing that the national song Vande Mataram be sung/ played before the national anthem when both are played at official events.

Key Guidelines



Occasions for Playing or Singing:

- ✓ Arrival and departure of the President at formal State functions.
- ✓ Before and after Presidential addresses to the nation.
- ✓ Arrival and departure of Governors/Lieutenant Governors at State functions.
- ✓ When the National Flag is brought on parade.
- ✓ Other occasions specified by the Government of India.



Protocol

- The official version of approximately 3 minutes and 10 seconds shall be used.



All six stanzas of Vande Mataram, including the four stanzas that were set aside by the Congress Working Committee in 1937, will be played.

Constitutional and Legal Framework



- **Status of National Symbols:** On 24 January 1950, the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram were adopted as India's National Song.



- While the Constitution does not explicitly define "National Song," its recognition flows from Constituent Assembly discussions and executive practice.



- **Article 51A(a) Fundamental Duties:** Mandates every citizen to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.



- Vande Mataram is not explicitly protected by any constitutional provision.

Additional information - Vande Mataram



Vande Mataram was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in Sanskrit and first appeared in the novel Anandamath in 1882.



Anandamath is set against the backdrop of the 1769-73 Bengal famine and the Sanyasi Rebellion.



First sung by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Indian National Congress session gave it national exposure.



During the Swadeshi Movement of 1905, Vande Mataram emerged as the anthem of civil resistance.



Vande Mataram, as a political slogan, was first used on 7 August 1905.