

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 24TH JULY, 2026

Bill No. LIX of 2026

THE PREVENTION OF INSULTS TO NATIONAL HONOUR
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

A

BILL

further to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026.

Short title.

5 2. In the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, for section 3, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

Amendment of
Act 69 of 1971.

Preventing or
disturbing
singing of
National
Anthem or
National Song.

“3. Whoever, intentionally—

(a) prevents the singing of the National Anthem or the National
Song; or

(b) causes disturbance to any assembly engaged in such singing,

shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three 5
years, or with fine, or with both.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 (the said Act), *inter alia*, provides that any act of intentionally preventing the singing of the National Anthem or causing disturbance to any assembly engaged in such singing constitutes a punishable offence.

2. At the meeting of the Constituent Assembly held on the 24th January, 1950, its President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, stated that the song *Vande Mataram* composed by, Shri Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, which played a historic role in the Indian freedom struggle, shall be honoured equally with ‘*Jana-Gana-Mana*’ and shall have equal status with it.

3. Presently, there is no specific legal provision to prevent insults to the singing of *Vande Mataram*, which is honoured as the National Song. Therefore, in order to prohibit any person from intentionally preventing the singing of the National Song (*Vande Mataram*) or causing disturbance to any assembly engaged in such singing, it is proposed to amend section 3 of the said Act to include the National Song also within its ambit, so as to make such acts punishable.

4. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objectives.

NEW DELHI;

AMIT SHAH.

The 10th July, 2026.

ANNEXURE

EXTRACT FROM THE PREVENTION OF INSULTS TO NATIONAL HONOUR ACT, 1971

(69 OF 1971)

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Prevention of
singing of Indian
National
Anthem, etc.

3. Whoever Intentionally prevents the singing of the Indian National Anthem or causes disturbance 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.

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RAJYA SABHA

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further to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

(Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation)