

Bill No. XLVI of 2019

THE PREVENTION OF INSULT TO THE FATHER OF THE NATION
AND OTHER ICONS OF FREEDOM MOVEMENT BILL, 2019

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BILL

*to prevent insult to the Father of Nation and other icons of Freedom Movement or
showing of respect to assassins of the Father of the Nation.*

BE it enacted by the Parliament in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Prevention of Insult to the Father of the Nation and other Icons of Freedom Movement Act, 2019.

Short title and commencement.

5 (2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:—

Definitions.

(a) 'Father of the Nation' means Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi *alias* Mahatma Gandhi.

(b) 'insult' means exhibiting contempt or disrespect to the Father of the Nation and other icons of Freedom Movement by words, either spoken or written, or by acts and includes showing respect to the assassins of the Father of the Nation; and

(c) 'other icons of Freedom Movement' means persons who fought for freedom of the country and monuments related to freedom movement.

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Penalty on Insult to the Father of Nation and other of Freedom icons movement.

3. Whoever in any public place or in any other place within the public view insults the Father of the Nation or other icons of Freedom Movement, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years or with fine or with both.

Enhanced penalty on second and subsequent convictions.

4. Whoever, having already been convicted of an offence under section 3, is again convicted of any such offence, shall be punishable for the second and every subsequent offence, with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years.

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STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

During the recent years, instances of insult to the Father of the Nation and other icons of Freedom Movement have increased. The existing laws have failed to check repeated insults to the Father of the Nation and other icons of Freedom Movement, miserably. In such scenario it is necessary to undertake measures to ensure respect owed to Freedom Struggle and its heroes, by providing and legislating harsh punishment to those who are trying to malign the image of the Father of the Nation and other icons of Freedom Movement.

Hence, this Bill.

JAVED ALI KHAN

RAJYA SABHA

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(Shri Javed Ali Khan, M.P.)