

IMMEDIATE

No. 15/2/2017-Public  
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar  
Ministry of Home Affairs/Grih Mantralaya  
Public Section

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North Block, New Delhi-1  
Dated the 02<sup>nd</sup> August, 2017

02 AUG 2017

To

The Chief Secretaries / Administrators of  
All State Governments / UT Administrations,  
Secretaries of all Ministries / Departments of Govt. of India.

Subject:- Strict compliance of the provisions contained in the 'Flag Code of India, 2002'  
and 'The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971' - regarding.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to say that the Indian National Flag represents hopes and aspirations of the people of our country and hence should occupy a position of honour. There is universal affection and respect for, and loyalty to, the National Flag. Yet, a perceptible lack of awareness is often noticed amongst people as well as organizations/agencies of the Government, in regard to laws, practices and conventions that apply to display of the National Flag. A copy each of 'The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971' and 'Flag Code of India, 2002' which governs display of National Flag, are enclosed herewith for strict compliance of the provisions contained in the Act and the Flag Code (copy also available on this Ministry's website [www.mha.gov.in](http://www.mha.gov.in)). You are requested to create mass awareness programme in this regard and also to give it wide publicity through advertisements in the electronic and print media.

2. Further, it has been brought to notice of this Ministry that on the occasions of important national, cultural and sports events, the National Flags made of plastic are also being used in place of National Flags made of paper. Since, plastic flags are not biodegradable like paper flags, these do not get decomposed for a long time and ensuring appropriate disposal of National Flags made of plastic commensurate with dignity of the flag, is a practical problem. It may also be noted that as per Section 2 of 'The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971' - Whoever in any public place or in any other place within public view burns, mutilates, defaces, defiles, disfigures, destroys, tramples upon or otherwise shows disrespect to or brings into contempt (whether by words, either spoken or written, or by acts) the Indian National Flag or any part thereof, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

3. You are, therefore, requested to ensure that on the occasions of important national, cultural and sports events, Flags made of paper only are used by public in terms of the provisions of the 'Flag Code of India, 2002' and such paper Flags are not discarded or thrown on the ground after the event. Such Flags are to be disposed of, in private, consistent with the dignity of the Flag. You are also requested to give wide publicity, for not using the National Flag made of plastic in the electronic and print media.

Yours faithfully,

Encl.:- As above.

(V.K. Rajan)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India  
Tel. 23094376