

Lesson - 6

NATIONAL FLAG

National Flag is the symbol of culture and civilization of any independent country. (It is the honour and glory of a nation and a symbol of pride of a country). It is the prime duty of every resident of a country to maintain the honour and respect of this valuable property. Maximum possible respect should be given to it. If it is in danger of any kind, one should not hesitate to make any sacrifice for its protection. It may be war-time or peace-time, it is the duty of every citizen to struggle for maintaining its honour and glory. Every youngman and child should possess the sentiments for the honour of the National Flag. If need be, everybody should be prepared to sacrifice life for its protection.

In schools and colleges, the government has arranged to impart complete knowledge about the National Flag , The children are made aware of important knowledge about their National Flag in their textbooks. By celebrating Independence Day on 15th August and Republic Day on 26th January every year, much light is thrown on its significance.

History

After centuries of slavery in 1947, when India achieved freedom, a flag was also prepared for the Independent country. The Tri-colour was adopted by the constitution on 22nd July, 1947. It was hoisted from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the night of 14th/15th August, 1947. In 1950, an act was passed in the Parliament, according to which nobody can show disrespect to the shape

or the symbol of National Flag. The violation of this law can entail imprisonment of three years or fine, or both.

Shape

It is rectangular in shape. There are three stripes of different colours and of equal size. That is why it is called 'tri-colour'. In the middle stripe there is a round figure i.e. a wheel. There are three colours in the National Flag : Saffron, White and Green.

Colour

1. Saffron colour

Saffron colour has been taken from fire. Fire has two qualities. Offering sacrifice and destruction. So, the saffron colour is a symbol of chivalry and zeal. The poor, the needy and the weak should be looked after with zeal and zest. With the same strong sentiments, we should wage a war against evil deeds. This colour is on the upper part of the flag's cloth.



National Flag

2.. White Colour

It is the symbol of virtue truth and peace. The whole nation should be replete with such qualities. If it is there, the evil will die its own death. The stripe of this colour is in the middle of the flag. 'Ashoka Chakra' in dark blue colour is printed in the centre of this stripe.

3. Green Colour

It is the third and the lowest stripe in the flag. It represents the soil of the land. It is the symbol of the fact that 'the soil of our country is fertile and the fields are blooming.' It is the symbol of a leading agriculture country. On account of agriculture, our country is rich and prosperous.

4. Ashoka Chakra

In the centre of the middle stripe there is a wheel in a dark blue shade. It is the symbol of the wheel which was constructed at a place called 'Sarnath' by emperor Ashoka. It is a reminder of the then civilization and of freedom. The diameter of the wheel is almost equal to the width of the white stripe. There are 24 (twenty- four) spokes in it which inspire us to work round the clock. The wheel is also symbolic of action, movement and indefatigable hard work.

As a whole, we derive the following inspirations from the National Flag :

1. To be courageous.
2. To meditate and sacrifice, to maintain truth and peace.

3. To make the country fertile and prosperous.
4. To continue labouring hard and feel no fatigue.

The tri-colour can be made from cotton, woollen or silken cloth. Often it is made from cotton cloth.

Size

The ratio between the length and breadth of the National Flag is 3:2. It is of five sizes.

1. 6.40 mt x 4.27 mt
(21 feet x 14 feet)
2. 3.66 mt x 2.44 mt
(12 feet x 8 feet)
3. 1.83 mt x 1.22 mt
(6 feet x 4 feet)

For hoisting purposes, this size is appropriate

4. 90 cm x 60 cm
(3 feet x 2 feet)
5. 23 cm x 15 cm
(9 inches x 6 inches)

The size is suitable for cars. The smallest size of the flag is displayed on the vehicles of only President, Vice-President, Governor, Lieutenant- Governor, Prime minister, Chief-Justice, Chief Ministers and the Ambassadors of India in foreign countries.

Occasions for hoisting the flag.

The following are the occasions when national flag is hoisted:

1. **Republic Day :** The President of India unfurls the flag on Raj path in Delhi on 26th January. On the Government buildings of the country or wherever Republic Day is celebrated, the flag is hoisted.
2. **National Week (6th April to 13th April) :** In the memory of martyrs of Jalianwala Bagh, National Week is celebrated and National Flag is hoisted.
3. **Independence Day :** The Prime Minister of India hoists the National Flag on 15th August from the ramparts of the Red Fort. On all the Government buildings and on all buildings where this Day is celebrated, the flag is hoisted.
4. **On National Festivals/Conferences**
5. **On 2nd October ,** Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday.
6. If any state celebrates its own day, as Punjab does the Punjab Day, National Flag can be hoisted.
7. In foreign countries where any Indian representative stays and when Indian teams participate in international matches, the Indian Flag is hoisted along with the flags of other countries, in the stadium.
8. The flag is hoisted everyday on the buildings of the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha, the Supreme Court, the posts of National boundaries, the Official Residences of the President, the Vice-President, the Governors and the Lieutenant- Governors.

Precautions Regarding the Use of National Flag

1. Saffron colour should always be on the top while unfurling the National Flag.
2. Flowers or petals can also be folded in flag so that it looks graceful at the time of unfurling.
3. At the time of conferences, the National Flag should be on the back of the hoist'er, higher than his head and the other ornamental things.
4. At the time of the functions and festivals the flag should be in the front, slightly on the right side of the dias and hoisted from there.
5. In a procession, the pole of the flag should be on the right shoulder.
6. Flag should be hoisted at sun-rise and lowered and properly folded at sun-set.
7. The flag should be raised fast and pulled down slowly.
8. The only flag which can be hoisted higher than the National Flag is that of the United Nations Organization (U.N.O).
9. Only one (not two) flag can be hoisted at one pole.
10. At the time of '*Salami*' (Guard of Honour) or salutation, the flag cannot be lowered.
11. The flag should never be touching the ground or fall in water.

12. The colours of the flag should never be used for decoration on curtains, bedsheets or clothes. Embroidery or printing the flag is not permitted on sheets, bags, cushions, handkerchiefs, boxes or walls. Nor should anything be embroidered on the flag itself.
13. If the National Flag is to be printed on a pamphlet or a hand-bill, only government can permit it.
14. A torn-flag or a flag with faded colours should not be hoisted. It should be burnt with proper respect.
15. On the demise of a great man only that flag should be displayed half-mast or lowered which is hoisted everyday. Flag can also be hoisted half-mast where the dead body of a great man is placed.

The National Flag is the symbol of love, glory and honour of all countrymen. We should wish to see it always in a hoisting way.

EXERCISES

1. Which are the three colours in National Flag? Throw some light on the significance of these three colours?
2. On what occasions can the National Flag be unfurled?
3. Write a note on the shape and size of the National Flag.
4. At what time should the flag be unfurled?

5. Which points should be borne in mind at the time of hoisting the National Flag?

6. Fill up the blanks with suitable words, selected from the following :

(President, Governors, Lieutenant-Governors, Prime Minister.)

A. unfurls the flag from the Red-Fort on 15th August.

B. unfurls the flag at Raj Path on 26th January.

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