



The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1957

Act 14 of 1957

Keyword(s):

Picture, Portrait, Mahatama Gandhi, Constitution

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[TAMIL NADU] ACT No. XIV OF 1957¹.

[THE PREVENTION OF INSULTS TO NATIONAL HONOUR
ACT, 1957.]

(Received the assent of the Governor on the 11th November
1957 ; first published in the Fort St. George Gazette
on the 18th November 1957.)

An Act to prevent insults to National Honour.

WHEREAS it is expedient and necessary to prevent certain offences against the Indian National Flag, pictures, effigies and statues of the Father of the Nation, or the Constitution of India ;

BE it enacted in the Eighth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

Short title. 1. This Act may be called the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1957.

Burning, etc., of any effigy, picture, portrait of Mahatma Gandhi an offence. 2. Whoever wilfully burns or desecrates or insults, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both.

Explanation.—In this section, “picture” includes any print, drawing, painting or other representation, of the figure of Mahatma Gandhi.

Destruction of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi an offence. 3. Whoever wilfully causes damage to, or destruction of, any statue or bust of Mahatma Gandhi or any such change in such statue or bust or in the situation thereof, as destroy or diminish its value or appearance or otherwise affects it injuriously, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both.

¹ These words were substituted for the word “Madras” by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws Order, 1969, as amended by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws (Second Amendment) Order, 1969.

²For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see *Fort St. George Gazette*, Part IV-A, Extraordinary, dated the 6th November 1957, page 132.

This Act was extended to the added territories by section 3 of, and the First Schedule to, the Tamil Nadu (Added Territories) Extension of Laws (No. 2) Act, 1961 (Tamil Nadu Act 39 of 1961) repealing the corresponding law in force in those territories.

4. Whoever wilfully burns or desecrates or insults the Indian National Flag shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both.

Burning
etc., of
Indian
National
Flag an
offence.

Explanation.—In this section, “Indian National Flag” includes any pictorial representation thereof.

5. Whoever wilfully burns or desecrates or insults any copy or a copy of a part of the Constitution of India, shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both.

Burning
etc., of the
Constitution
to be act
of offence.

6. Whoever attempts to commit any offence punishable under this Act shall be deemed to have committed that offence.

Attempts
to be
offences.

7. Nothing in this Act shall exempt any person from any proceeding which might, apart from this Act, be brought against him.

Savings.