

# History and evolution of the Indian national flag

July 23, 2022

**In news**– It was on July 22, in 1947 that the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the National Flag and now it marks the 75th anniversary of the historic day.

## History of Indian National Flag-

- **The first version of the Indian flag came in the year 1904 when Sister Nivedita**, more fondly called as Bhagini Nivedita, **a disciple of Swami Vivekananda designed a yellow and red flag with a 'Vajra' in the centre and 'Vande Mataram' written in Bengali in the centre.**



- **The Unofficial national flag in India is said to have been hoisted on August 7, 1906, in the Parsee Bagan Square (Green Park) in Calcutta now Kolkata.** The flag was composed of three horizontal strips of red, yellow and green.

## History of Indian flag



India

- During the **session of the All India Congress Committee which met at Bezwada in 1921** (now Vijayawada) an Andhra youth prepared a flag and took it to Gandhiji.
- It was made up of two colours-red and green-representing the two major communities i.e. Hindus and Muslims. Gandhiji suggested the addition of a white strip to represent the remaining communities of India and the spinning wheel to symbolise progress of the Nation.
- **The flag was adopted in 1931.** This flag was also the battle ensign of the Indian National Army.
- The year 1931 was a landmark in the history of the flag. **A resolution was passed adopting a tricolour flag as our national flag.** This flag, the forebear of the present one, was saffron, white and green with Mahatma Gandhi's spinning wheel at the centre.
- **On July 22, 1947, the Constituent Assembly adopted it as the Free India National Flag.** After the advent of Independence, the colours and their significance remained the same.
- Only the Dharma Charkha of Emperor Asoka was adopted in place of the spinning wheel as the emblem on the flag.

## What happened in the Constituent Assembly on July 22, 1947?

- According to the official record of the proceedings, the

Constituent Assembly met in the Constituent Hall in New Delhi on July 22, 1947, with Dr Rajendra Prasad in the Chair.

- The Constituent Assembly had been meeting since December 9, 1946, and had by then discussed a range of subjects.
- The Chair announced that the first item on the agenda was “a **Motion by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru about the Flag**”. Thereafter, Nehru rose to move the following Resolution: “Resolved that the National Flag of India shall be **horizontal tricolour of deep Saffron (Kesari), white and dark green in equal proportion**. In the **centre of the white band, there shall be a Wheel in navy blue**( symbolised the common man) to represent the Charkha. The design of the Wheel shall be that of the **Wheel (Chakra) which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Asoka**.
- He had said that the diameter of the Wheel shall approximate to the width of the white band and **the ratio of the width to the length of the Flag shall ordinarily be 2:3**.
- At the end of the day, the record says, “The motion was adopted, the whole Assembly standing.”
- The **Flag defined by the Resolution, Nehru said, “was adopted, not by a formal resolution, but by popular acclaim and usage**, adopted much more by the sacrifice that surrounded it in the past few decades”, and that the Constituent Assembly was “in a sense only ratifying that popular adoption”.
- He clarified that the Flag must not be thought of in communal terms, and that when the Flag was devised, **there was no communal significance attached to it**.

### **Note:**

The government has envisioned the ‘**Har Ghar Tiranga**’ (**tricolour at every home**) exercise in the run up to the 75th anniversary of India’s independence.

Further reading:  
<https://journalsofindia.com/amendment-to-flag-code-of-india-2022/>