

महानिदेशालय
केन्द्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल
गृह मंत्रालय

13 केन्द्रीय कार्यालय परिसर
लोधी रोड नई दिल्ली -03

शाखा / Branch : प्रशासन /ADM

No.A-42099/Flag/Adm-II/2025- 1936

Dated 30 June' 2025

To,

The SDG/APS
The ADsG (South and North)
All Sector IsG including Director/NISA Hyderabad.

Subject :- Display of State Emblem of India

Kindly refer to MHA letter No. 13/5/2025-Public dated 16.06.2025 (copy enclosed for ready reference).

2. In this context, it is requested that the contents of the above letter may be circulated to all Units/Res Bns/Trg. Institution under your jurisdiction for strict compliance please.

Encl : As above


सहायक महानिरीक्षक / प्रशासन

Internal:-

1.PS to DG/CISF

For kind information of DG/CISF please.

2. PS to ADG/HQr

For kind information of ADG/HQr please.

3. PS to all IsG

For kind information please.

4. All DIsG of FHQ

For kind information please.

5. All AIsG of FHQ

For kind information please.

6.AIG/Tech

For information and upload the order on the CISF Website please.

7. All Branches of FHQ

For information please.

8. RI of FHQr

For information and necessary action.

9. I/C of Adm Store

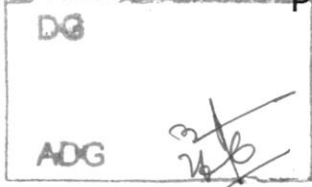
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File No. 13/5/2025-Public
 Government of India/भारत सरकार
 Ministry of Home Affairs/गृह मंत्रालय
 Public Section/ पब्लिक अनुभाग

1
25

North Block, New Delhi - 01.
 Dated the 16 June, 2025

To,



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

16 JUN 2025

Subject: Display of State Emblem of India.

2157

30/06/25

Sir/Madam,

The State Emblem of India is the official seal of the Government of India. The Emblem consists of the profile of the Lion Capital showing three Lions mounted on the abacus, with a Dharma Chakra in the Centre, a bull on the right, a galloping horse on the left and outlines of Dharma Chakras on the extreme right and left with the motto "Satyameva Jayate" - written in Devanagari script below the profile of the Lion Capital. Design of the State Emblem of India is provided in the Appendix I & II of the Schedule of the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005.

2. The Ministry of Home Affairs, from time to time, has been sending advisories to all the State Governments/UT Administrations, Ministries/Departments and all other concerned authorities for strict compliance of the provisions relating to the use and display of the State Emblem of India. Advisories had been issued on 04.08.2016; 05.02.2019 and 03.02.2025 to the concerned authorities including the State Governments with a view to create awareness about the provisions of the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005 and the State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2007 [as amended in 2010] and restrict its violation.

3. In a Writ Petition No. 4635 of 2024 (GM-RES-PIL), filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka regarding the misuse, illegal and unauthorised display of Symbols, Seals, Flags, Emblem and Names at various places in various manners, the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka vide order dated 04.04.2025 (copy enclosed), has issued the following directions:-

- (i) The respondent-authorities are directed that notice shall be issued by way of different public modes through print and visual media to remove all kinds of unauthorized Flags, Emblems, Names, Symbols, Stickers, Seals, Logos of any kind which are prohibited. There shall be instructions to all to remove such emblems and discontinue unauthorized use thereof within four weeks.
- (ii) The higher-ups of the respondents shall chalk out the methods and programmes to sensitise the officials and implementing authorities to see and ensure that the misuse of National Emblem and National Symbols in various forms do not occur, stopped and prevented.
- (iii) Where such conduct of using them unauthorisedly is noticed, they are dealt with sternly.
- (iv) The respondents shall instruct the implementing authorities to register the cases under the provisions of the relevant Acts and the Rules wherever the complaints with regard to the misuse of the National Symbols and Emblems are found correct. Necessary circulars in this regard should be issued.

1574/In Adm
26/6/25

1669/14/Adm
28/6/25

3463/DG
25/06/25

D.35:16/ADG
25/06/25

Dish/Adm
26.VI
Arce/Adm

Adm-II

- (v) The school children or the law students shall also be involved in spreading awareness against misuse and unauthorized display of National Symbols and Emblems by any person, body or organization.
- (vi) The respondents should frame regulations for imposition of fine and for cancellation of driving licence by providing such penal measures in the relevant Rules for violating law on use of the National Emblems and Symbols.
- (vii) The traffic police should be educated by undertaking programmes and imparting training to keep observance and proper vigil to take penal action whenever they come across the violation of the kind and nature

4. It is therefore requested that suitable instructions may be issued to all concerned Government agencies to comply with the direction of Hon'ble Court and steps may be taken to create mass awareness in this regard among the common citizens of India through the electronic and print media. Action should also be taken against concerned officials (for incomplete display of the State Emblem of India) and individuals/organisations (who are using State Emblem of India unauthorizedly) for any violation of the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005 and the State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2007 [read with the State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Amendment Rules, 2010]. Any complaint of improper use of the State Emblem of India should be investigated thoroughly for taking action in the matter.

Encls: As above.

Yours faithfully,


(G. Parthasarathi)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

☎ 011-2309 2125

Copy to:-

1. President's Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Vice-President's Secretariat, New Delhi.
3. Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi.
4. Cabinet Secretariat, New Delhi.
5. Office of all Governors.
6. Election Commission of India, New Delhi.
7. Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi.
8. Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi.
9. Registrar, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
10. All High Courts.
11. Office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India, New Delhi.
12. The Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi.
13. Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi.
14. NITI Aayog, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi.
15. All attached & Subordinate Offices of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
16. 20 Spare copies.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 4TH DAY OF APRIL, 2025



PRESENT

THE HON'BLE MR. N.V. ANJARIA, CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.I.ARUN

WRIT PETITION NO.4635 OF 2024 (GM-RES-PIL)

BETWEEN:

HIGH COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY
SMT. KAVERI
HIGH COURT BUILDING
BENGALURU - 560 001

... PETITIONER

(BY SMT. SOHANI A. HOLLA, ADVOCATE)

AND:

1. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
GOVT. OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
No. 153, FIRST FLOOR
M.S. BUILDING
BENGALURU - 560 001
2. ADDL. CHIEF SECRETARY
GOVT. OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF HOME
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
VIDHANA SOUDHA
BENGALURU - 560 001
3. DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA/
BHARAT SARKAR
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS/
GRIH MANTRALAYA
PUBLIC SECTION

NORTH BLOCK
NEW DELHI - 110 001

4 . MINSITRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT
AND HIGHWAYS
ROOM No.310
TRANSPORT BHAVAN
1-PARLIAMENT STREET
NEW DELHI - 110 001

5 . DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
ROOM NO 54C, KRISHI BHAVAN
NEW DELHI - 110 001

... RESPONDENTS

(SMT. NILOUFER AKBAR, AGA FOR RESPONDENT NOS.1 AND 2
SRI H. SHANTHI BHUSHAN, DSGI FOR RESPONDENT NOS.3 TO 5)

THIS WRIT PETITION IS FILED UNDER ARTICLES 226 AND 227 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, PRAYING TO ISSUE WRIT OF MANDAMUS BY GIVING DIRECTION TO RESPONDENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMBLEMS AND NAMES (PREVENTION OF IMPROPER USE) ACT 1950, OF THE EMBLEMS AND NAMES (PREVENTION OF IMPROPER USE) RULES 1982, OF THE STATE EMBLEM OF INDIA (PROHIBITION OF IMPROPER USE) ACT 2005 WITH THE STATE EMBLEM OF INDIA (REGULATION OF USE) RULES 2007 AND 2010; ALONG WITH THE PROVISIONS OF RULE (145) (A) OF KARNATAKA MOTOR VEHICLE RULES AND RULES (50) & (51) OF CENTRAL MOTOR VEHICLES RULES & ETC.

THIS WRIT PETITION HAVING BEEN HEARD AND RESERVED FOR JUDGMENT, COMING ON FOR PRONOUNCEMENT THIS DAY, JUDGMENT WAS PRONOUNCED AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. JUSTICE
N.V. ANJARIA
and
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.I.ARUN

CAV JUDGMENT

(PER: HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
MR. JUSTICE N. V. ANJARIA)

National Symbols and National Emblems represent pride and honour of our nation and country. They signify sovereignty for the country. For instance, as the trio-colour does it.

1.1 Not only that, these Symbols, Emblems and Names, disseminate nation's illuminating stories and preach ideals of our glorious history, essentials of culture, fundamental values and national ethos. They in their style, projection, make and mould, often carry landmarks of Indian civilization and history. The National Symbols and Emblems are identity in themselves which stand to elate and embellish the status and dignity of the country.

1.2 An honour ensured to the National Symbols, Emblems and Names is also an honour accorded and extended to our country. The misuse, misprojection and misstatement of these Symbols, Emblems and Names have to be prevented resolutely.

2. The present is a public interest petition filed by the High Court Legal Services Committee.

2.1 The prayer made is to direct the respondent-authorities to implement the provisions of the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 and the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Rules, 1982. It also seeks to implement the provisions of the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005 with the State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2007 and Rules of 2010. The petition along with the aforesaid prayers further prays for implementation of the provisions of the Rule 145 (A) of the Karnataka Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 and Rules 50 and 51 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989.

3. In the backdrop of the institution of this petition as public interest petition, was an order dated 09.06.2023 passed by this Court in **Sri Ananda Shetty Vs. The State through the Police Inspector and another**, which is **Criminal Petition No.1850 of 2017**. The issue involved in the said criminal petition was regarding use and misuse of the name-"Human Rights Commission".

3.1 The extraction of the said order dated 09.06.2023 is relevant,

"During the course of the proceedings, having regard to the submissions made at the Bar, this Court found that the names of "Human Rights Commission" and many other such statutory and constitutional authorities were being misused by many persons. It was found that various NGOs/Organisations/Societies and individuals have been misusing such names on the number plates of private vehicles. It was found that the name of the State Government was being used on the number plates, which again would be in contravention of the provisions contained in the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules. Consequently, various directions were issued by this Court to the respondent-State Government, through Home Department and Transport Department to ensure that the names of the State Government, the Central Government, Statutory Authorities and Commissions shall not be used on the number plates of the private vehicles. The directions were given to ensure that all such unauthorized number plates are removed and penalty be imposed.

In spite of the efforts at the hands of the respondent-State, this Court find that such unauthorized number plates are still being found on the vehicles plying on the roads, especially in the city of Bengaluru."

3.1.1 The Court further observed that as it was a criminal petition, the Court had limitation and could not keep the matter pending only for implementation of various orders issued by the Court to the State Government and its State authorities to remove unauthorized number-plates and to prevent the misuse of official symbols by the

individuals and organizations. Learned Single Judge, therefore, requested the High Court Legal Services Committee to register a public interest litigation in the subject. Accordingly, the petition was filed moving the Court.

3.2 The issue flagged in this public interest proceedings is thus about misuse and unauthorised use of the names of the authorities, emblems and symbols on the registered number plates of the vehicles as was found in the proceedings of the criminal petition in **Sri Ananda Shetty** (*supra*) where the name of Human Rights Commission and other statutory authorities were mentioned on the number plates misusing the same. It appears that during the pendency of the aforesaid criminal petition, the Court issued various directions from time to time requiring the authorities to ensure that the names of the state governments, the central government, statutory authorities or commissions are not mentioned on the number plates of the private vehicles.

3.2.1 The petitioner-Legal Services Committee highlighted the issues which were identified by the Court while dealing with the said criminal petition, to be,

- (i) Names of "Human Rights Commission" and many such other statutory and constitutional authorities are misused by public.
- (ii) Various Non-Governmental Organizations, organizations, societies and individuals have been misusing such names on the number plates of private vehicles.
- (iii) Corporators/ex-corporators of various municipal corporations, municipal councils etc., and members/ex-members of various Panchayats use their designations on private vehicles in violation of provisions of Acts and Rules.

3.2.2 The petition pleaded about the Karnataka State Emblem, its kind, nature and character to submit that it stands on the lofty principles. Paragraph 13 is extracted herein,

"That the Karnataka State emblem has a red shield charged with a white two-headed bird, Gandabherunda bordered in blue. The crest depicts the Lion Capital King Ashoka (also used as the emblem of the Government of India) on a blue circular abacus with a blue frieze carrying sculptures in high relief of a galloping horse on the left, a Dharmachakra in the center, a bull on the right, and the outlines of Dharmachakras on the extreme left and right as part of Sarnath's Ashoka pillar. The shield is flanked on either side by red-maned, yellow lion-elephant indicating the auspicious mythological character "Gajakesari" a hybrid form of two wise and powerful animals Lion and Elephant- a mythical creature believed to be conquering the world, same referring to a kingdom which justifies all characteristics of a conqueror

standing on a green, leafy compartment. Below the compartment is written in stylized Devanagari script, the national motto of India. "Satyameva Jayathe" for "Truth alone Triumphs". The concept of Sathya and Dharma was so ingrained in the people of this Nation that the whole edifice of this country and its people stood on those two principles and that is the reason why it was taken as an emblem for the State and the Nation. Thus, reminding the people of this country that the lofty principles of Sathya (truth) and Dharma (universal order) has to be upheld at all times and under all circumstances."

3.2.3 In paragraph 14, the National Emblem of four roaring lions was mentioned. It was adopted by the Government of India on 26.01.1950 to highlight that it is a symbol representing the sovereignty of the country.

3.2.4. Paragraph 14 is extracted herein,

"The four roaring lions as National Emblem is adopted by the Government of India on 26th January 1950 is regarded as a symbol of sovereign power of Government of India. It is based on the Lion Capital of Ashoka, a sculpture that was originally erected at Saranath, a place where Goutama Buddha first taught Dharma. The emblem four Asiatic lions standing back to back symbolizing power, courage, confidence and faith. The lions are mounted on a circular abacus and the abacus is mounted as a lotus. The wheel of law, Dharmachakra, in the center having 24 spokes (symbolizing the progress and evolution of human civilization, a bull on the right, a galloping horse on the left. The motto "Satyameva Jayate" ("Truth alone Triumphs") is inscribed below the abacus in Devanagiri script."

3.3 Noticing the applicable statutes, the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 regulates use of the National Flag, the Names, the Emblems, the Official Seals or any other insignia or coat-of-arms used by the Governments or their Departments. The rules called the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Rules, 1982 are framed in exercise of the powers under the Act.

3.3.1 The Statement of Objects and Reasons of 1950 Act is as under,

"Statement of Objects and Reasons.- The General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation recommended in 1946 that members of the United Nations should take necessary legislative or other appropriate measures to prevent the use, without proper authority, and in particular for commercial purposes, of the emblem, the official seal and the name of the United Nations and of the abbreviations of that name. A similar recommendation has since been received also from the World Health Organisation."

3.3.2 'Emblem' is defined in Section 2(a) to mean any emblem, seal, flag, insignia, coat-of-arms or pictorial representation specified in the Schedule. Section 3 contains Prohibition of improper use of certain emblems and names to provide that notwithstanding anything contained in law for the time being in

force, no person shall, except in such cases permitted and under such conditions prescribed, use for the purpose of any trade, business, calling or profession, etc. as also for the purpose of any trade mark or design, etc. any name or emblem specified in the Schedule. Even any colourable imitation thereof cannot be done without previous permission of the Central Government or of such officer authorised for the purpose.

3.3.3 The aforementioned Rules of 1982 came to be framed in exercise of powers conferred under Section 9 of the Act. The said Rules contemplates appointment of designated officer and Rule 8 deals with the use of Emblems and Names contained in the Schedule. The Schedule referable at Section 2(d) contains description and designs including pictorial depictions.

3.4 Another Act called the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005 came to be enacted by the Parliament. It is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Act *inter alia* that the use of State Emblem is governed presently by a set of executive instructions with regard to standard design of the State Emblem of India, its adoption by the State Government, its use in official seals and on stationery, design of official seal, display on

the vehicles and on public buildings and for various other such purposes.

3.4.1 It is stated that the State Emblem of India being the official seal of Government, its use in any manner and in any document or anything leads to create an impression that it is an official document or thing of the Government. Therefore, it is considered appropriate to prevent its misuse by unauthorised persons. It is stated that use of emblem, unless authorised, by the Central Government cannot be permitted by the member of public including retired government officials and public servants as also it cannot be permitted to be used and its improper use has to be prohibited for professionals and commercial people who use such emblem for such private projection.

3.4.2 The prohibition of use of emblem for wrongful gain is Section 4 of the 2005 Act. Under Section 3 of the 2005 Act, it is clearly provided that no person shall use emblem or any colourable imitation in any manner which tends to create an impression that it relates to the Government or that it is an official document. In this Section "person" includes a formal functionary of the Central Government or the State Governments. Section 8 is about the prosecution and previous sanction for prosecution to provide that

no prosecution for any offence punishable under the Act shall have to be instituted with the previous sanction of the Central Government.

3.4.3 The Rules are framed in exercise of powers under Section 11 of the 2005 Act known as the State Regulation of India (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2007. It provides adoption by States or Union Territories and further provides that the State Government may adopt the emblem as the official emblem of the State or Union Territory without obtaining the approval of the Central Government. Rule 7 of 2007 Rules provides for display on vehicles to state that the use of emblem on vehicles shall be restricted to the authorities specified in Schedule II. Similarly, Rule 8 deals with the issue of display on public buildings and Rule 9 is as regards use of the emblem for various other purposes.

3.4.4 The restriction of use of emblem is contemplated as per Rule 10 of the State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2007.

The Rule is as under,

"10. Restriction on the use of the emblem.-

(1) No person (including former functionaries of the Government, like, former Ministers, former Members of Parliament, former Members of Legislative Assemblies, former Judges and retired Government officials), other than those

authorised under these rules, shall use the emblem in any manner.

(2) No Commission or Committee, Public Sector Undertaking, Bank, Municipal Council, Panchayat Raj Institution, Parishad, Non-Government Organisation, University, other than those authorised under these rules, shall use the emblem in any manner.

(3) No association or body of persons, whether incorporated or not, shall use the emblem on their letterheads, brochures, seats, crests, badges, house flags or for any other purpose in any manner.

(4) No professional qualification or private profession shall be mentioned with the name of the person authorised to use the emblem under these rules on the stationery, including letter heads, visiting cards and greetings cards with emblem printed or embossed on it. "

3.4.5 Schedule I of the 2007 Rules with reference to Rules 5 and 6 enlists the constitutional and other statutory authorities who may use the emblem. Schedule II Part I and Schedule II Part II stipulates about the other dignitaries and authorities which may display the emblem on their cars and may display the Ashoka Chakra, which is an emblem of triangular metal plaques on their cars. Schedule III which is a context of Rule 9 deals with other purpose for which the emblem may be used.

3.5 The Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs has issued Circular dated 11.03.2016 to all the State Governments and

Departments regarding display of complete State Emblem of India (SEI) with the motto "*Satyameva Jayate*". The Government of Karnataka with reference to the aforementioned Circular of the Central Government, issued Circular dated 18.04.2016 directing all the Departments of the State to follow the directions issued by the Government of India.

3.5.1 Furthermore, the Karnataka Government through its Department of Electronics issued Circular dated 01.04.2022 prohibiting the use of State Emblem/logo by the State organization other than Government departments and even the State supported organizations. The Act of 2005 and Rules of 2007, referred to the above bars the use of State Emblem by any one other person than those authorised under the Rules.

4. While the above aspects are highlighted by learned advocate Smt. Sohani A Holla for the petitioner, learned Deputy Solicitor General of India Mr. H. Shanthi Bhushan who appeared for respondent Nos.3 to 5 and learned Additional Government Advocate Smt. Niloufer Akbar for respondent Nos.1 and 2 submitted before the Court that they do not have any objection for grant of the prayers made in the petition since they are for implementation of statutes with a purpose to prevent the misuse of

the National Emblems and National Symbols unauthorisedly by private persons.

5. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in **M/s. Sable Waghire & Company Vs. Union of India, [(1975) 1 SCC 763]** observed and analysed about the object and reasons for promulgating the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950,

"The General Assembly of the United Nation Organisation recommended in 1946 that the members of UN should take necessary legislative or other appropriate measures to prevent the use without proper authority and in particular for commercial purposes of the emblem, the official seal and the name of the United Nations and of the abbreviations of the name. A similar recommendation has since received also from the World Health Organisation for the prevention of the use of its name (and abbreviations, emblem and official seal). Instances have also come to light of the use in India (and abroad) of the Indian National flag and emblem and of the names or pictorial representations of Mahatma Gandhi and other national leaders for commercial and other trade purposes and in a manner likely to offend the sentiments of the people."

(para 15)

5.1 In **Sable Waghire** (*supra*), the Apex Court had occasion to consider the validity of Sections 3, 4 and 8 of the Act of 1950 wherein it was observed and held,

"There is also no merit in the contention that section 3 and 4 violate the provisions of Article 19 (1) (f) and (g) of the Constitution. The petitioners'