

## Kambhampati Sanjeeva Rao: About the Genesis of the Indian National Flag

At first Rao conveyed his best wishes to the participants of the XXII. ICV.



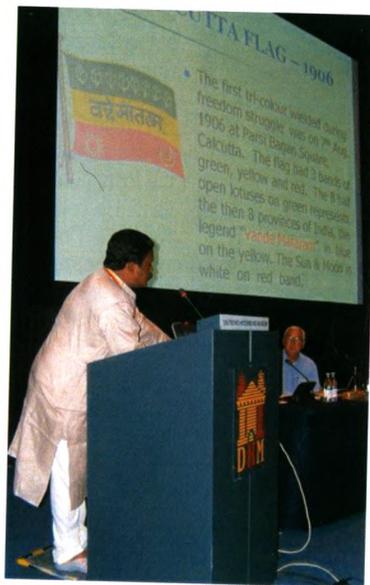
Then he gave a review of historical Indian flags. He showed the flag, that was first hoisted at the Parsee Bagan Square in Calcutta on August 7, 1806.

The flag was composed of three horizontal stripes of red, white and green. The stripe on the top had eight white lotuses embossed on it in a row. On the yellow stripe the words *Bande Mataram* were inscribed in deep blue Devanagari characters. The last stripe had a white sun near the hoist and a white crescent and a star on the fly.

The next flag, of 1807, was very similar, and carried on the top stripe only one lotus but seven stars.

In 1921 a project for a flag was presented to the All India Congress Committee, showing only two colours, representing the two major communities. Gandhi suggested to add a white stripe for the remaining communities and the Charkha to symbolize progress. Although it never was officially accepted, it was used at all Congress occasion.

In 1931 a resolution was passed, adopting a tricolour flag as the Indian national emblem. This flag, the forbear of the



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present national flag, was saffron, white and green – saffron for courage and sacrifice, white for truth and peace and green for faith and chivalry. It also carried a Charkha in blue on the white band.

With the independence of India in 1947 the Charkha was replaced by the Dharma Chakra of King Ashoka.

At the end of his speech Kambhampati Sanjeeva Rao expressed his desire to establish a flag museum in Hyderabad.

At the official dinner after the end of the congress Kambhampati Sanjeeva Rao presented to the President of the Organizing Committee an embroidered flag of FlagBerlin 2007..



### About the author



**Kambhampati Sanjeeva Rao**, born in 1963 in Khamman, Andhra Pradesh / India. Since 1981 accounts officer in the office of the Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Khamman; married, two children; interested in vexillology, notaphily, numismatics, philately etc.; founder of the Indian Vexillological Association.

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