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**SP MP's bill to prevent
insult to Mahatma**

NEW DELHI, DHNS: At a time when controversial BJP MP Pragya Thakur has stirred a controversy with her repeated praise of Mahatma Gandhi's killer Nathuram Godse, Samajwadi Party MP Javed Ali Khan will be introducing a private members' bill in Rajya Sabha seeking a seven-year jail term for those insulting the Father of the Nation and eulogising his killers.

Khan will table the Prevention of Insult to the Father of the Nation and Other Icons of Freedom Movement Bill 2019 on Friday, days after the BJP MP from Bhopal ringed in controversy by referring to Godse as a patriot in Lok Sabha. Following the furore, she had to apologise twice in Lok Sabha.

The Bill seeks to "prevent insult to the Father of the Nation and other icons of Freedom Movement or showing of respect to assassins of the Father of the Nation".

Khan is proposing a jail term of seven years and fine for insulting the Mahatma and other freedom struggle icons by either spoken or written words or by acts and "shows respect to the assassins" of the Father of the Nation.

"We have seen several instances in the recent past where the Mahatma was insulted. There were reports about building temples for Godse and defacing statues and posters of the Mahatma. This Bill seeks to prevent such incidents that are insulting to our Father of the Nation and other freedom fighters," Khan told *DH*. In Statement of Objects and Reasons, Khan said instances of insult to Father of the Nation and other national icons have increased in recent years and existing laws have failed to check such repeated incidents.