

Armed Forces Flag Day (Ministry of Defence)

December 06, 2021

"Armed Forces Flag Day is a day to express gratitude to our armed forces and their families. India is proud of their heroic service and selfless sacrifice. Do contribute towards the welfare of our forces. This gesture will help so many of our brave personnel and their families."

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi¹

Introduction

[Armed Forces Flag Day²](#) is celebrated in India every year on 7th December. Since 1949, this day is observed as the [Armed Forces Flag Day³](#) throughout India to honour the martyrs and the men in uniform who valiantly fought & continue to fight on the borders to safeguard the country's honour. Flag Day brings to the forefront India's commitment of looking after our war disabled Soldiers, Veer Naris and the families of Martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country.

Soldiers are one of the greatest assets of any country. They are the guardians of the nation and protect its citizens at all costs. To fulfil their duties, soldiers have sacrificed a lot of things in their lives. The country is forever indebted to these gallant heroes who lay down their lives in the service towards the motherland. Apart from Government measures at the Centre and the State level, it is the collective duty of every citizen of our country to make his/her unstinted and voluntary contribution towards providing care, support, rehabilitation and financial aid.



[Source](#)

¹ <https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/1335824796861362176>

² <https://www.mygov.in/armed-forces-flag-day/>

³ <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1554400>

Background

Immediately after India achieved Independence, a need arose for the Government to manage the welfare of its defence personnel. [On August 28, 1949](#)⁴, a committee set up under the then Defence Minister decided to observe a Flag Day annually on December 7. The idea behind observing a Flag Day was to distribute small flags to the general population and in return, collect donations. Flag Day gains more significance as it considers that it is the responsibility of the civilian population of India to take care of the families and dependents of the armed forces personnel who fight for the country.

During the course of [achieving victories](#),⁵ in the various wars the nation has fought and in combating the ongoing cross-border terrorism and insurgency, India's Armed Forces have lost and continue to lose valuable lives as well as leaving quite a few disabled. The trauma that the family suffers on demise of the head of the family is hard to fathom. Those of India's men who are disabled require care and rehabilitation so that they do not become a burden on their family and can instead lead a life of dignity. Furthermore, there are Ex- servicemen who suffer from serious diseases such as Cancer, Heart ailments and Joint Replacement etc. and who cannot afford the high cost of treatment. Hence, they too need the care and support.

The requirement of keeping India's Armed Forces young necessitates the release of our service personnel at 35-40 years of age when they are still young, physically fit and have qualities of discipline, drive and leadership. Every year about 60000 Defence personnel are compulsorily retired. Caring for these ex-soldiers and their families is therefore a national responsibility.

Many brave and gallant heroes from the Armed forces have laid down their lives in the service of the country. Ongoing counter-insurgency operations have also left many broken homes without a breadwinner. Flag Day brings to the forefront our obligation of looking after our disabled comrades-in-arms, widows and dependents of those who have sacrificed their lives for the country.



[Source](#)

⁴ <http://www.sainiksamachar.nic.in/englisharchives/2018/dec01-18/h6.htm>

⁵ <https://ksb.gov.in/armed-forces-flag-day-fund.htm>

Purpose⁶

The Flag Day is mainly observed to serve **three basic purposes**:

- Rehabilitation of battle casualties.
- Welfare of serving personnel and their families.
- Resettlement and welfare of ex-servicemen and their families.

Significance of Flag Day

- ☐ A concerted effort is made on this day to raise collections from the public. The [significance of the Day](#)⁷ is brought home through electronic and print media. In some places, Armed Forces formations and units also arrange variety shows, carnivals, dramas and other entertainment programmes.
- ☐ Token Flags and Car Stickers in red, deep blue and light colours, representing the three Services are distributed to the public throughout the country by the Kendriya Sainik Board.
- ☐ On this day the services rendered by personnel of Army, Navy and Air Force are remembered. It is the collective duty of every citizen of our country to ensure rehabilitation and welfare of the dependents of our brave martyrs and disabled personnel.
- ☐ The Flag Day gives us an opportunity to contribute most generously to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.



[Source](#)

⁶ <http://www.sainiksamachar.nic.in/englisharchives/2018/dec01-18/h6.htm>

⁷ [Armed Forces Flag Day Fund \(AFFDF\) - Kendriya Sainik Board, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare \(ksb.gov.in\)](http://www.ksb.gov.in)

Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF)⁸

Kendriya Sainik Board is responsible for administration of AFFDF. The AFFDF is operated by a Managing Committee, headed by Raksha Mantri at the Centre and Hon'ble Governor / Lt Governor at the State / UT level. Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB), an apex body of the Government of India, formulates and operates various welfare and rehabilitation schemes for Ex Servicemen (ESM) and their dependents through a network of 32 Rajya Sainik Boards (RSBs) and 385 Zila Sainik Boards (ZSBs) co-located in the State Capitals and District HQs respectively, across the country. These welfare schemes are funded from Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF) which was instituted vide Gazette of India notification No 5(1)/92/US(WE)/D(Res) dated 13 Apr 1993, by amalgamation of the following into one fund named as "Armed Forces Flag Day Fund."

- ☐ Amalgamated Special Fund for war bereaved, war disabled and other ESM/serving personnel
- ☐ Armed Forces Flag Day Fund
- ☐ St. Dunstan's (India) and Kendriya Sainik Board Fund
- ☐ Indian Gorkha Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Fund.

Kendriya Sainik Board administratively controls AFFDF, which is utilised for providing financial assistance to **needy Ex-Servicemen, War widows and their Dependents; and the Institutions involved in rehabilitation of the Ex-Servicemen, War widows and their Dependents.** The management of the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund rests with the Managing Committee whose Chairman is Raksha Mantri, Vice Chairman is Raksha Rajya Mantri, and members include three Service Chiefs, Defence Secretary, Secretary, Ex-Servicemen Welfare / MoD and the other senior Central government officials.

Contribution from public is received throughout the year. During the Financial year 2019-20, over 47 crore rupees were raised⁹ through voluntary contributions of people.

There are more than 32 lakh ESM and around 60,000 ESM are added every year due to early superannuation.

Citizen can contribute the fund in following bank accounts:

- Contributions to Armed forces Flag Day¹⁰ Fund can be remitted through bank accounts. The details are as follows: i) Punjab National Bank (A/c No. 3083000100179875 IFSC Code PUNB308300, Branch Sewa Bhawan, RK Puram); (ii) State Bank of India (A/c No. 34420400623, IFSC Code SBIN0001076 Branch RK Puram) and (iii) ICICI Bank A/c No. 182401001380, IFSC Code ICIC0001824 Branch RK Puram)
- Contributions to AFFDF are exempted from Income Tax vide Government of India Notification No. 78/2007 dated 26 Mar 07 and under section 80 G (5) (vi) of Income Tax Act 1961 vide Director of Income Tax (E) letter No. NQ.DIT(E)|2010-11/DEL-AE22280-04012011/2186 dated 04 Jan 11.
- Corporate contributions to AFFDF are also eligible for fulfilling the CSR obligation under section 135 of Companies Act, 2013 as it adheres to "Measures for the benefit of Armed Forces Veterans, War Widows and their dependents" (Clause VI of Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013).

⁸ <https://ksb.gov.in/armed-forces-flag-day-fund.htm>

⁹ <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1677709>

¹⁰ [Armed Forces Flag Day 2020: Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh urges people to voluntarily contribute to AFFD Fund \(pib.gov.in\)](https://pib.gov.in/Armed-Forces-Flag-Day-2020-Raksha-Mantri-Shri-Rajnath-Singh-urges-people-to-voluntarily-contribute-to-AFFD-Fund)

- [In the last financial year](#)¹¹, more than 133 crore rupees were spent on more than 38,000 beneficiaries under this fund.
- A sum of 33.35 crore was collected during the last financial year.

Benefits or Concessions

- [Educational Concessions](#)
- [Admission into MBBS / BDS Colleges](#)
- [Priority Allotment of choice of stream in IIT](#)
- [Rail Travel Concession](#)
- [Air Travel Concession to ESM](#)
- [Canteen Facilities to ESM](#)
- [Telephone facilities](#)
- [MBBS / BDS Generate Receipt](#)
- [MBBS / BDS Nomination](#)

Video References

- [PM's address in the 83rd Episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', dated Nov 28, 2021](#)
- [Defence Minister appeals people to generously contribute to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund, dated Sep 22, 2021](#)
- [Hon'ble Defence Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh's message on Armed Forces Flag Day, dated Dec 6, 2020](#)
- [Shri Ravikant, Secretary, Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence urges everyone to contribute towards the welfare of our soldiers, dated Dec 6, 2020](#)
- [Bollywood Legend, Shri. Amitabh Bachchan shows his support towards for the welfare of the protectors of our Nation, dated Dec 7, 2021](#)
- [Bollywood Actor, Shri. Aamir Khan speaks on the significance of Armed Forces Flag Day, dated December 6, 2020](#)

References

- <https://www.mygov.in/armed-forces-flag-day/>
- PIB Press Release <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1554400> Dated 01 December 2018
- <http://www.sainiksamachar.nic.in/englisharchives/2018/dec01-18/h6.htm>
- <https://ksb.gov.in/armed-forces-flag-day-fund.htm>
- PIB Press Release <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1677709> Dated 02 December 2020
- <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Defence-Minister-appeals-people-to-generously-contribute-to-Armed-Forces-Flag-Day-Fund&id=426632>

AG/RN/DG

¹¹ [Defence Minister appeals people to generously contribute to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund \(newsonair.gov.in\)](https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Defence-Minister-appeals-people-to-generously-contribute-to-Armed-Forces-Flag-Day-Fund&id=426632)