

Armed Forces Flag Day (Ministry of Defence)

December 07, 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 Day](#)² is celebrated in India every year on 7th December. Since 1949, this day is observed as the [Armed Forces Flag Day](#)³ 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>

Significance of Armed Force Flag Day

- Armed Forces Flag Day provides an opportunity to the citizens to express their gratitude towards the sacrifices made by our soldiers. 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 soldiers who have made the supreme sacrifice and disabled personnel. The Flag Day gives us an opportunity to contribute most generously to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. A concerted effort is made on this day to raise collections from the public.
- The [significance of the Day](#)⁶ is brought home through a popular nation-wide campaign by the citizens, students, NCC Cadets as well as through electronic and print media. Token Flags and Car Stickers in red, deep blue and light colours, representing the three Services are distributed to the public throughout the country.



[Source](#)

[Armed Forces Flag Day Fund \(AFFDF\)](#)⁷

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

⁶ [Armed Forces Flag Day Fund \(AFFDF\) - KendriyaSainik Board, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare \(ksb.gov.in\)](#)

⁷ <https://ksb.gov.in/armed-forces-flag-day-fund.htm>

Kendriya Sainik Board, under Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, MoD, administratively controls AFFDF. The benefits are disbursed with the aid of a nation-wide **network of 33 Rajya Sainik Boards (RSBs) and 403 Zila Sainik Boards (ZSBs) co-located in the Capitals of States/UTs and District HQs respectively.**

Instituted vide Gazette of India notification No 5(1) 92/US(WE)/D(Res) dated 13 Apr 1993, the fund is utilised for various welfare and rehabilitation schemes for veterans and their dependents like financial assistance to provide relief, including medical treatment, Children education, Widow remarriage etc. It also assists rehabilitation institutions/organisations for upkeep and expenditure on Ex-Servicemen their dependents who are inmates in such institutions.

In FY 2020-21 a Sum of around Rs 133 crore from the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund was disbursed to approx. 38000 beneficiaries through various welfare schemes and institutional grants.

- Contribution from public is received throughout the year. **Citizen can contribute the fund in following bank account.**

(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.



[Source](#)

- 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, provisionally extended up to AY 2026-27 vide clause 3 (i) of the first proviso to Clause (23C) of section 10 {for applicants covered under sub-clause iv of clause 23 of section 10} vide DS DIT (CPC) provisional approval number AACTA0965GA20214 dated 31 May 2021.

- 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). This fund is also registered with the Office of the Registrar of the Companies, Ministry of Corporate Affairs for undertaking CSR activities (CSR-1 Registration No CSR00011199)

Welfare Schemes Funded out of Armed Forces Flags Day Fund

- Penury Grant:**

To provide a small measure of financial relief by providing financial assistance to non-pensioner ESM in penury or his widow.

Rs. 8,000 paid annually.

- Education Grant:**

To provide financial assistance for education to Widows for Post-graduation degree, for dependent children of ESM up to the ranks of Havaldar and equivalent upto Graduation.

Rs. 12,000 paid annually @1,000 per month

- Widow/Daughter Marriage Grant:**

To provide financial assistance for Widow remarriage and for marriage of daughters of the ESM.

One time grant of Rs. 50,000/-

- Disabled Children Grant:**

To provide small measure of relief to 100% disabled children of ESM.

Rs. 8000 paid annually.

- Vocational training Grant for Widows:**

Providing financial assistance to a widow of ESM for undergoing a vocational training course.

Rs. 20,000/ - (one time)

Welfare schemes funded out of ARMED FORCES FLAGS DAY FUND

- 1. Penury Grant :**
To provide a small measure of financial relief by providing financial assistance to Non-Pensioner ESM in penury or his widow.
₹8,000 paid annually @₹4,000 per month
- 2. Education Grant :**
To provide financial assistance for Education to Widows for Post-graduation degree, for dependent children of ESM, up to the ranks of Havaldar and equivalent upto Graduation
₹12,000 paid annually @₹1,000 per month
- 3. Widow/Daughter Marriage Grant :**
To provide financial assistance for Widow remarriage and for marriage of daughters of the ESM
One time grant of ₹50,000/-
- 4. Disabled Children Grant :**
To provide small measure of relief to 100% disabled children of ESM
₹8,000 paid annually @₹4,000 per month
- 5. Vocational Training Grant For Widows :**
Providing financial assistance to a Widows of ESM for undergoing a vocational training course
₹ 20,000/- (One Time)

@SpokespersonMoD | @DefenceMinIndia

- **Medical Grant:**

To provide financial assistance to non-pensioner ESM or their widow for medical treatment.

Rs. 30,000/- (Max) per year

- **House repair grant:**

To provide financial assistance for repair of house to an orphaned daughter of all ranks and 100% disabled ESM/widow whose house has been damaged in natural calamities.

Rs. 20,000/- (one time)

- **Officer Cadet Grant (for cadets of NDA only)**

To provide incentive to the children of an ESM or widow up to the rank of who have joined the NDA course.

Rs. 1000/- pm for the duration of training at NDA.

- **Funeral Grant:**

To provide financial assistance to a widow for the last rites of her ESM husband.

Rs. 5,000/-

- **Orphan Grant:**

To provide a small measure of relief from total penury to an orphaned child of an ESM.

Rs. 12,000 paid annually @1,000 per month.

- **Financial Assistance for Treatment of Serious Diseases**

Assistance to non-pensioner ESM and widows to meet Medical Expenses related to treatment.

For treatment of cancer/dialysis Rs. 75,000/-per annum

Rs. 1,25,000/- (one time)

वसा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

वसा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

Welfare schemes funded out of
**ARMED FORCES
FLAGS DAY FUND**

6. Medical Grant :
To provide financial assistance to Non-pensioner ESM or their widow up to the for medical treatment
₹ 30,000/- (Max) per year

7. House Repair Grant :
To provide financial assistance for repair of house to an orphaned daughter of all ranks and 100% disabled ESM/widow whose house has been damaged in natural calamities.
₹20,000/- (One Time)

8. Officer Cadet Grant (for Cadets of NDA only) :
To provide incentive to the children of an ESM or widow upto the rank of who have joined the NDA course
₹ 1,000/-pm for the duration of training at NDA

9. Funeral Grant :
To provide financial assistance to a widow for the last rites of her ESM husband
₹5,000/-

10. Orphan Grant :
To provide a small measure of relief from total penury to an orphaned child of an ESM
₹12,000 paid Annually @₹1,000 per month

- **Financial Assistance for Procurement of Mobility Equipment**

For procurement of Modified Scooters for ESM Disabled after their retirement from service with disability of 50% or more.

Rs. 57,500/ - per ESM/widow

- **Financial Assistance as interest Subsidy on Home Loan**

Reimbursement of interest on loan taken from banks for construction of house.

Rs. 1,00,000/-

Up to 50% of the interest charged by the banks

Welfare schemes funded out of ARMED FORCES FLAGS DAY FUND

- 1. Financial Assistance for Treatment of Serious Diseases**
Assistance to non-pensioner ESM and widows to meet medical expenses related to treatment
For treatment of cancer/dialysis ₹ 75,000/- per annum
₹ 1,25,000/- (one time)
- 2. Financial Assistance For Procurement of Mobility Equipment**
For procurement of modified scooters for ESM disabled after their retirement from service with disability of 50% or more.
₹ 57,500/- per ESM/widow
- 3. Financial Assistance As Interest Subsidy On Home Loan**
Reimbursement of interest on loan taken from banks for construction of house
₹ 1,00,000/-
Upto 50% of the interest charged by the banks

Video References

- [PM's address in the 83rd Episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', dated Nov 28, 2021](#)
- <https://twitter.com/rajnathsingh/status/1468049615836487681?t=cYnT903oromNTVzFUiyHVA&s=08>, dated Dec 07, 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
- [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.mod.gov.in>
- <https://twitter.com/rajnathsingh/status/1468049615836487681?t=cYnT903oromNTVzFUiyHVA&s=08>
- <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