



सशस्त्र सेना झंडा दिवस



7 दिसम्बर – 7 DECEMBER
ARMED FORCES FLAG DAY

A Virtual Exhibition on **Armed Forces Flag Day**
Organized by Gujarat University Library

REMEMBERING AND HONOURING
THE RETIRED AND MARTYRED SOLDIERS OF INDIA



National Armed Forces Flag Day



All three branches of Armed Forces namely the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy on Armed Forces Flag Day organise various types of programmes to pay respect and tribute to the efforts of the soldiers in safeguarding the country's honour.

We can't forget that several soldiers from the Armed Forces have laid down their lives in the service of the country. Therefore, Armed Forces Flag Day is celebrated on 7 December to honour the martyrs and the men in uniform and also dedicated towards collecting funds from people for the welfare of the Armed Forces personnel.

On this day, the three branches of the Indian Armed Forces - Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy - organise a variety of programs to showcase their efforts towards national security.





What is the importance of the Armed Forces Flag Day in India?



Armed Forces Flag Day in India is celebrated annually in remembrance of the sacrifices of the personnel of Army, Air Force and Navy towards the nation. This event is arranged to place the common public active participation and support all over the country for the below-mentioned purposes:

To provide the availability of the rehabilitation to the families of war victims.

To take action on the welfare of the serving personnel and their families.

To assist in the resettlement and welfare of the ex-servicemen and their families.

At the time of the celebration of this event, the general public and volunteer collects donations by selling the coupon flags, stickers, and other items all over India. This helps to raise the fund collection from the common citizens in many ways. These funds are used for the welfare of the staff of the Indian Armed Forces



How is the Armed Forces Flag Day celebrated?



During the Armed Forces Flag Day, the staff from the Indian Military arrange various traditional and cultural programs, dramas, festivals, and other entertainment activities to show in front of the general public of the nation about their safety.

The Indian Military personnel participate in dispensing the Indian tricolour flags or vehicle flags (red, dark blue, light blue denoting the three divisions of Indian Army) across the nation. The brave and adventurous militant displays to the common people that how they have faced the encounter during battle and sacrificed their lives to safeguard and protect the lives of the nation.

In 1949, the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund was established by the committee of Defense Minister. All the associated welfare funds such as funds for war victims, Kendriya Sainik Board Fund, ex-servicemen's welfare fund, and other units, were united to make a single Armed Forces Flag Day fund in the year 1993 by the Defense Ministry of India.

The fund collection is managed by the local arms of the Kendriya Sainik Board in India, which is a part of the Ministry of Defense. It is controlled by the managing committee and monitored by both the official and non-official voluntary organizations.



Flag Day Fund



The original Flag Day Fund was set up in 1949, by the Defence Minister's Committee. In 1993, the Defence Ministry of India consolidated related welfare funds into a single Armed Forces Flag Day fund. Those funds include,

- Amalgamated Special Fund for War Bereaved, War Disabled and other ex-Servicemen/Serving Personnel
- Flag Day Fund
- St Dunstan's (India) and Kendriya Sainik Board Fund
- Indian Gorkha Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Fund.



Some Facts of Indian Armed Forces Flag Day



- **On August 28, 1949, a committee that was led by the then Defence Minister decided to observe December 7 as a Flag Day every year.**
- **The main purpose behind this celebration was to give the civilian population a chance to directly contribute to the welfare of the armed forces personnel. On this day, the general population would be distributed small flags in return for their monetary contributions that would go into the welfare of India's army, navy, air force personnel.**
- **The idea behind this day's observance is that it is the civilian population's responsibility to take care of the families and dependents of the armed forces, who sacrifice so much for the welfare and safety of the whole country.**
- **The men and women in the armed forces give their energies and talents, and their youth to the country. They give up all material comforts and toil hard to secure the country's borders against forces ready to spread terror and tragedy on the country's citizens.**



Some Facts of Indian Armed Forces Flag Day



- Many of their lives are cut short during the course of their routine work. Many others are severely and often permanently disabled while performing their duties. Then there are ex-servicemen who suffer from serious ailments like cancer and heart disease.
- Also, there are about 60000 service personnel who are compulsorily retired every year at the ages of 35 – 40 years. This is because of the necessity of keeping a young force.
- The country's citizens reap the advantages of the services offered by these personnel on the borders. The Flag Day offers an opportunity to citizens to give back to these forces as a token of their appreciation and gratitude.
- This is an entirely voluntary contribution towards providing care, rehabilitation, support and financial help to the disabled, non-pensioner, old and infirm ex-servicemen and their families, war widows and orphaned children.



Some Facts of Indian Armed Forces Flag Day



The Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF) is administered by the Kendriya Sainik Board. The Fund is headed by the Defence Minister at the Centre and by the Governors or Lieutenant Governors at the State or Union Territory level.

The three chief purposes behind the Flag Day observance are:

- **Rehabilitating battle casualties**
- **Taking care of the welfare of the serving personnel and their families**
- **Resettling and welfare of ex-servicemen and their families**
- **On this day, the three branches of the Indian armed forces namely, the army, the navy and the air force conduct shows, carnivals and other entertainment programmes for the public to spread awareness about their work. Small flags of the three services are distributed all over the country.**



Since 1949, 7th December is observed as the Armed Forces Flag Day throughout the country to honour the martyrs and the men in uniform who valiantly fought & continue to fight on our borders to safeguard the country's honour. 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.

It is our duty to not only show our admiration for the martyrs and the living heroes who were wounded while doing their duties but also their families who have been a crucial part of this sacrifice. 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. Flag Day brings to the forefront our commitment of looking after our war disabled Soldiers, Veer Naris and the families of Martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country.



Some Glimpse of Indian Armed Forces





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Source of Information References



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