



Armed Forces Flag Day

Source: BS

Armed Forces Flag Day (AFFD) has been held every year on **7th December since 1949** to honor the bravery and sacrifices of Indian Armed Forces personnel, especially veterans.

- The day recognizes not only the sacrifices of fallen soldiers but also the contributions of their families, especially the war-disabled soldiers and **War Widows (Veer Naris)**.
- **Support Initiatives:**
 - **AFFD Fund:** It was created by the **Ministry of Defence in 1949**. In 1993, it was unified with other welfare funds, including those for war victims and ex-servicemen, into a single fund.
 - The **Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB)** administers the **AFFD Fund (AFFDF)**.
 - KSB formulates and implements welfare and rehabilitation schemes for ex-servicemen and their families across India.
 - **Digital Solutions: SAMBANDH**, a WhatsApp-based chatbot, allows veterans to **easily report and resolve grievances**. The platform has helped address over 1,700 cases in less than a year.
 - **Skill Development for Women:** The **Nari Sashaktikaran** initiative focuses on empowering women, including widows of fallen soldiers, by providing job training and opportunities for economic independence.
 - **Project NAMAN:** It aims to **simplify pension services for veterans**, ensuring easier access to services such as life certificate submissions and pension disbursements.

Read more: [Advancing Defense Integration in India](#)

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