

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU IN ALL INDIA RADIO & DOORDARSHAN ON THE OCCASION OF
THE ARMED FORCES FLAG DAY – 2020 ON 07.12.2020**

Dear Brothers & Sisters,
Anaivarukum Vanakkam,

We commemorate the Armed Forces Flag Day every year on 7th December. I deem it a privilege to address on the Armed Forces Flag Day commemoration. The Armed Forces are the pride of our Nation. This is a day to remember the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces Personnel. On this day, we get a chance to salute their valiant deeds and remember the dedicated service by our Armed Forces in protecting our motherland from the enemies.

The Defence Forces are the shining examples of our national integration. They personify our nation's determination to protect our territory, integrity and sovereignty. The Armed Forces have come forward during natural calamities to help the affected people in carrying out rescue operations.

As the citizens of this great nation we also have an onerous responsibility to extend all possible support and help to the Ex-Servicemen and their families. We also get an opportunity to express our solidarity and gratitude by contributing to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund in honour of the brave martyrs for their supreme sacrifices.

History reveals that the British made use of the full potential and the Indian soldier came to be ranked among the best in the world. The Air Force and Navy came in the early 1930s. Today the Indian Armed Forces have strength of over 1.3 million, the third largest force and the largest standing volunteer army in the world. Be it in the Indo-Pakistan wars, the Portuguese-Indian war, the Sino-Indian war, the Kargil war, Valliant display of resistance to the enemy at Galwan valley or facing the inclement weather gallantly in siachen glaciers, our Armed Forces have proved their bravery and brought honour to our country. The youth of our nation should draw inspiration from our defence force personnel. They are known not only for their bravery and patriotism but also for their unity. Our Armed Forces are shining examples of unity and national integration. The observation of Armed Forces Flag Day is to show gratitude to those gallant men and women who had laid down their lives and who were disabled in protecting our motherland from external aggressions and in guarding border and frontiers from the intruding terrorists.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is very liberal and generous towards the welfare of the Armed Forces Personnel and Ex-Servicemen. Tamil Nadu is a frontrunner in Ex-Servicemen welfare by way of giving reservation for their children in various courses of studies, priority in employment, resettlement training,

self-employment ventures, educational scholarships, financial assistance for daughters' marriage, funeral expenses on the demise of Ex-Servicemen and also by providing incentives to the parents who have sent their son / daughters to the Armed Forces.

I congratulate the Government of Tamil Nadu for optimum utilization of the Prime Ministers Merit Scholarship Scheme. I am proud to inform that out of the all India quota of 5500 scholarships, 719 children of our Ex-Servicemen have secured scholarships and a total amount of Rs. 2.39 Crores has been received for the academic year. I am happy to learn that a sum of Rs. 34.42 crores was spent from the welfare funds on various welfare schemes and 14,636 Ex-servicemen and their widows have benefitted in the last financial year.

All these have been possible due to the kind and generous contributions made by the people of Tamil Nadu towards the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. I am happy to share that in spite of difficulty faced due to prevailing pandemic condition, the people of Tamil Nadu have generously donated to Armed Forces Flag Day to the tune of Rs. 24.15 crores.

Let us assure that the people of our nation are behind the Ex-Service personnel and their families in all their endeavors. I wish the Ex-Service personnel and their near and dear ones the very best in life. I, appeal to the people of Tamil Nadu, to express

their gratitude towards the invaluable services rendered by our Ex-Services population by donating generously to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund, which is dedicated for their welfare.

My Greetings to you all.

Jai Hind

Jai Tamil Nadu

Nandri Vanakkam