

**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 – 2018 ON 07/12/2018.**

**DEAR BROTHERS & SISTERS,  
ANAIVARUKUM KAALAI VANAKKAM,**

On the occasion of the Armed Forces Flag Day which is observed every year on 07<sup>th</sup> December, I deem it my sacred duty to address the people of Tamil Nadu, as the first citizen of the State.

The Armed Forces are the pride of our Nation. On this day we recall with gratitude the sacrifices made by them to protect our borders from external aggression and their selfless services during times of natural calamities and internal strife. The Armed Forces have consistently displayed the highest standards of professionalism and excellence in every task entrusted to them. Consequently the capabilities of our Armed Forces are being respected internationally.

The requirement of keeping our Armed Forces young necessitates the discharge of some service personnel at the age of 35-40 years. Out of the 60000 defence personnel who are thus retired annually, every year, about 1500 are from Tamil Nadu. They are physically fit, highly disciplined and possess admirable qualities of dedication to work and devotion to the nation. Taking care of them and their families is our responsibility.

There are 24 lakh War Veterans in our country of which Tamil Nadu has about of 1.25 lakh Ex-Servicemen. In addition there are 65,000 Widows of Ex-Servicemen also living in Tamil Nadu. It is important that these families of Ex-Servicemen are looked after well and enabled to live in society with dignity and honour.

The State and Central Governments have been extending all possible help to the Ex-Servicemen and their families.

The State Government have issued Orders equivating matriculate Ex-Servicemen with 15 years of service with graduates for employment purposes. Tamil Nadu is also a front runner in that it has ordered for reservation to be made for the children of Ex-Servicemen in various courses of study and in employment.

The families of martyrs are financially supported with an ex-gratia of Rs.20 Lakhs immediately followed by Annual Maintenance grant, with special reservation in matters of Education and employment. The State also honours gallantry award winners with cash prizes ranging from Rs 8 lakhs to Rs 25 lakhs.

For the wards of armed forces personnel who have been martyred or have suffered disabilities in battle, the Government of Tamil Nadu provides a grant of Rs.1,00,000/- along with 8 gms of Gold coin for Thirumangalyam for the marriage of their daughters. A Grant at Rs.50,000/- along with 8 gms of Gold coin is given to the daughters of Disabled Ex-Servicemen whose disability is less than 50%.

Women dependents are given free training in tailoring and those completing the training for 6 months are given a sewing machine free of cost.

Monthly financial assistance is being given to World War II veterans and their widows. In addition the Government of Tamil Nadu extends medical grants to the Ex-Servicemen and their dependents suffering from TB, Leprosy, Cancer and other serious ailments from the Welfare Fund.

The Indian Army, Navy and Air Force offer tremendous opportunities to serve the nation with glory and honour. A career in the Defence Forces is well regarded in society as a prestigious and respected one. I appeal to the youth to come forward to join the Defence Forces in large numbers.

Annually, nearly 2000 Tamil Youth join the ARMED FORCES. To encourage more number of them to join as Officers, the Government have taken a special initiative by introducing a training scheme to enable them to face Combined Defence Service entrance examination and the Services Selection Board Interview. 10 days of class room coaching is followed up by an online mode of coaching for six months.

A lumpsum grant of Rs.1.00 lakh is sanctioned to the children of Ex-Servicemen who join as permanent commissioned officers, Rs. 50,000/- to short service commissioned officers and Rs.25,000/- to junior commissioned officers and other ranks. In addition their parents are given a silver medal and a cash prize as a mark of recognition.

The Central Government provides compassionate appointment for upto two dependants of those martyred or those who have suffered serious disabilities, 10% reservation of jobs in group "C" posts and 20% reservation in group "D" posts.

During the year 2017-18, a sum of Rs.26.38 crores has been sanctioned to 11667 Ex-Servicemen and their dependents from the Tamil Nadu Ex-Services personnel benevolent fund and a sum of Rs.4.84 crores had been sanctioned to 3343 Ex-Servicemen and their dependents from the amalgamated fund.

All this assistance has been made possible due to the whole hearted contributions of the people of Tamil Nadu to the Flag Day Fund. I am happy to inform you that the state has been a topper in Per Capita collections for the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund at the National level.

I appeal to the people of Tamil Nadu to contribute wholeheartedly and generously to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. I am sure that the annual collections for the Fund commencing from this Flag Day will not only surpass all the achievements of previous years, but will also create a record about which all of us can hold our heads high with pride and honour.

Jai Hind.

Jai Tamil Nadu.

Nandri, Vanakkam.