

## **SPEECH OF THE HON'BLE GOVERNOR FOR ARMED FORCES FLAG DAY 7 Dec, 2017**

I am happy to be a part of Armed Forces Flag Day celebration today. The sacrifice, valour and dedication of our Armed Forces in the true sense cannot be glorified in words. This function is only an effort to express our gratitude to our War Heroes, War Veterans, War Disabled, Veer Naris (widows) and all serving Armed Forces personnel.

Heroic achievements of our Armed Forces during various wars and while combating cross border terrorism are commendable. In the line of duty many of our Armed Forces personnel have lost valuable lives. The trauma and tragedy that the family suffers from on demise of service personnel is heart-rending. Even the disabled feel tormented to lead a life of dignity. Acknowledging the unflinching valour of our Armed Forces personnel, we as a grateful society consider it our duty to take the responsibility of care and rehabilitation of the martyrs, disabled and their dependants.

I am also happy to know that our state has 34 thousand Ex-Servicemen, 5828 Veer Naris and 176 Disabled Veterans being looked after through 19 Zila Sainik Welfare Offices. It is also a matter of pride that Assam has 92 Gallantry Award winners.

The Directorate of Sainik Welfare is responsible and engaged in helping and reaching out to the War Widows, war Disabled and Ex-servicemen community.

I am happy that the Sainik Board has been providing educational scholarships to the wards of Ex-Servicemen right from Class 1 upto graduation and beyond for higher study in professional courses. Grants-

in-aid for various welfare schemes in professional courses, grants-in aid for various welfare schemes and rehabilitation is a continuous process including yearly financial assistance to the dwindling population of World War-II veterans and World War-II widows.

I am also happy to share with you that for the benefit of the Ex-servicemen community and war heroes, the Directorate of Sainik Welfare has provided following additional facilities like Sainik Rest Houses at Guwahati, Jorhat, Mangaldoi, Halflong, Diphu, Dhubri and Silchar. The widows can get their daughters married in these complexes free of charge.

Grievance Redressal mechanism has been set up in every district under the respective Deputy Commissioners to address the grievances of the veterans. The Govt. of Assam has also enhanced the ex-gratia payment to the martyrs of the defence personnel from Rs.5.00 lakhs to 20.00lakhs.

In spite of all, the Directorate of Sainik Welfare should lend its helping hands to skill development training to ensure employment in new avenues.

However, without taking much of your time once again, I am expressing my happiness to be amongst you today and rest assure that we will do everything possible for welfare and well being of War Heroes, War Disabled, Veterans and Veer Naris.

**Thank you and Jai Hind**