



सत्यमेव जयते

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Defence
Member of Consultative Committee on Defence
Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps
Co-Chairman, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, Bangalore Urban District
Vice Chairman, National Military Memorial Management Trust, Bangalore

Dear Raksha Mantri

06 April, 2016

Sub.: National Day of Remembrance / Sainik Smriti Divas

This is with reference to our meeting and discussion yesterday on renaming Armed Forces Flag Day on 07 December to **National Day of Remembrance or Sainik Smriti Divas**.

This idea of Institutionalizing a National Day of Remembrance has widespread support, including from the United Service Institution of India (USI).

I request you to kindly give your consent to the request and help take this initiative forward.

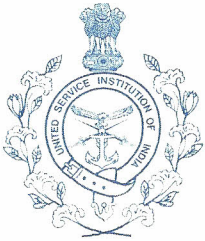
I am also enclosing herewith a copy of the letter that I have received in this regard, from Lt Gen P. K. Singh, Director USI, wherein he has made a request for this and some other issues that you may kindly wish to consider.

Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Manohar Parrikar
Hon'ble Minister of Defence
Government of India
New Delhi

Encl: Copy of letter and project brief received from Lt. Gen. P. K. Singh,
Director, USI, dated 17 March, 2016



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UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION OF INDIA

Founded : 1870

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PVSM, AVSM (Retd)
Director

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New Delhi-110 057

No.1059-A/USI/CAFHR/NRP

17 Mar 2016

'India Remembers' Project: Sainik Smriti Divas

Dear Shri Chandrasekhar,

Please refer to our discussion of 17 Mar 2016.

A project brief about the 'India Remembers' Project is attached as an appendix to this letter.

In order to institutionalise a culture of remembrance and imbed it in the national consciousness, the project must be supported by Government. Towards this end the following is sought to be obtained:

- Involvement of the Services and Govt (PMO, MOD, MEA, MHA). Representatives from each must be nominated to be a part of a nationally appointed Sainik Smriti Divas Advisory Group.
- Declaration of 07 December as the **National Day of Remembrance or Sainik Smriti Divas**.
- Consent of Hon'ble President of India to be the Chief Patron of the 'India Remembers' Project and institutionalising the laying of a wreath by the President at India Gate on the National Day of Remembrance every year.
- Consent of Hon'ble Raksha Mantri to be the Patron and the three Service Chiefs to be the Vice Patrons of the 'India Remembers' Project
- Setting up of Indian War Memorials in different parts of the world where Indian soldiers have fought and died; institutionalising the laying of a wreath by the head of the Indian mission at such Memorials on the National Day of Remembrance every year.

I would be grateful if you could kindly indicate whether we might be able to brief the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri about the objectives of the 'India Remembers' Project in the coming month.

I look forward to meeting you.

With warm regards,

yours sincerely
Rajeev

Mr. Rajeev Chandrasekhar, MP
211, North Avenue
New Delhi – 110001

'India Remembers' Project Brief

The recent sad demise of Lance Naik K. Hanumanthappa and his nine brave colleagues who lost their lives while serving on the Siachen Glacier has once again drawn the nation's attention to the price personnel of the Indian Armed Forces have to pay in the line of duty during war and peace.

It has been observed that whenever such an incident occurs public attention is focused on it for a few days and then it is again forgotten. However, many countries of the world have designated special days and symbols to honour the valour and sacrifice of their service personnel. The use of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance and commemoration is universally recognised in the UK and many other commonwealth countries with 11 November being the designated 'Remembrance Day'.

It is felt that there is a strong need for India to dedicate a specific day of remembrance which must also have a uniquely Indian symbol that can allow citizens, as well as the international diaspora, to acknowledge the valour and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces in the service of the nation.

The USI Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research (CAFHR) has already been working with the MEA towards an international recognition of India's role in the First World War in the form of the 'India and the Great War' centenary commemoration project. It has been encouraging partner nations and diaspora communities to participate in specific commemorative and remembrance activities that honour the sacrifice of Indian soldiers in battlefields around the world.

In order to institutionalise a national day of remembrance, the CAFHR is proposing the 'India Remembers' project which will have as its symbol a Marigold flower in place of the Poppy; and a **National Day of Remembrance** or **Sainik Smriti Divas**, which can coincide with the Armed Forces Flag Day held annually on 7 December.

A concerted action programme for community engagement through the development of education modules which can be used by schools, colleges, the NCC, etc. is being developed. On that particular day, citizens will be encouraged to identify a serving or retired serviceman or servicewoman and present them with a marigold flower and thank them for their service and sacrifice for the nation, as is the custom prevalent in the United States. This will inculcate greater respect for the values and ethos of the armed forces. It will also work towards a transformation in society by highlighting a national duty of remembrance and commemoration of the sacrifice of those who die so that others may live.

A Project Advisory Group comprising the following has been set up to take the initiative forward:

- Maj Gen Ian Cardozo, AVSM, SM (Retd)
- Mr Rajeev Chandrasekhar, MP
- Brig KP Singh Deo, AVSM (Retd)
- Lt Gen PK Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd) – Director USI
- Sqn Ldr Rana TS Chhina (Retd) – Secretary USI CAFHR

Apart from engaging with an Indian audience the project also aims to highlight the valour and sacrifice of Indian servicemen, including those who fell in the two world wars, before a global audience. Towards this end the project is collaborating with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) to integrate CWGC commemorative activities into the larger Indian Remembrance Project.
