



Modern-day warfare transcends borders, robust military supported by prepared citizens must to secure national interests: Raksha Mantri

“Youth need to develop Vision, Understanding, Courage & Adaptability to navigate modern challenges effectively”

“Girls passing out of Sainik Schools will soon become torchbearers of 'Nari Shakti'”

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“Present-day warfare transcends borders, with national security encompassing economic, digital, energy, and even food security,” said Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh as he underscored the need of a robust military supported by prepared citizens capable of standing shoulder-to-shoulder to protect the nation under any circumstances. Virtually addressing the Raising Day celebrations and the Diamond Jubilee of Sainik School, Ghorakhal in Uttarakhand on March 21, 2026, he asserted that the nature of conflicts has undergone a paradigm shift as a nation can today be weakened through economic, cyber, space and information warfare, which demands every citizen to remain vigilant & prepared at all times.

While the Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is leaving no stone unturned to equip the defence forces with niche weapons & technologies, Raksha Mantri emphasised that the citizens, especially the youth, need to develop mental toughness and intellectual clarity through discipline & determination to help the nation tackle any and every situation. Referring to the concept of VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous), he exhorted the students to develop their own version of VUCA *i.e.*, Vision, Understanding, Courage and Adaptability, to navigate modern challenges effectively.

Highlighting the steps taken by the Government towards ensuring that a larger number of youth imbibe the values essential for nation-building, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that recently a decision was taken to establish 100 new Sainik Schools across the country in the Public-Private Partnership model. He added that another initiative includes increasing the number of vacancies within the National Cadet Corps (NCC). “Earlier, the NCC had an intake capacity of 17 lakh cadets; this has now been expanded to 20 lakh,” he said.

Raksha Mantri described the decision of admission of girls into Sainik Schools as historic and revolutionary, which is bolstering the country’s 'Nari Shakti'. These girls will, in the times to come, become the torchbearers of 'Nari Shakti' and scale new heights across various sectors, he said.

Extending his greetings to students, faculty, alumni and their families on Sainik School, Ghorakhal completing 60 years of dedicated service to the nation, Shri Rajnath Singh expressed confidence that the students will continue to uphold the highest standards of discipline and dedication, bringing pride to their

families, institution and the nation. “Over decades, the school has sent more than 800 students to the National Defence Academy and over 2,000 candidates to the Armed Forces through various entry schemes such as Combined Defence Services Examination and Air Force Common Admission Test. He hoped that the institution will continue to produce leaders who contribute meaningfully to nation-building. The distinguished alumni of the school, including General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command Lt Gen MK Katiyar, are a source of inspiration to the students, he added.

Speaking at the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Sainik School Ghodakhal
(Uttarakhand). <https://t.co/4NU3AuQnKh>

— Rajnath Singh (@rajnathsingh) March 21, 2026

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