

Technological agility, strategic foresight & institutional innovation must for robust preparedness in today's uncertain world order: Raksha Mantri

“Aatmanirbharta is key to ensure national security on own terms”

“Op Sindoor sent clear message to terrorists that India won't compromise on security & sovereignty”

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Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has underscored the need for technological agility, strategic foresight & institutional innovation to maintain a robust preparedness amidst the uncertainties of present-day world order. Interacting with soldiers at the Eastern Air Command HQs in Shillong, Meghalaya on June 20, 2026, Raksha Mantri asserted that hybrid threats, cyber challenges, information warfare, logistics resilience, supply chain security, and drones are emerging as critical elements in the constantly-evolving nature of warfare, and in such a situation, traditional preparedness alone is insufficient for the defence forces.



Shri Rajnath Singh reiterated the need for India to achieve Aatmanirbharta to ensure national security on its own terms. He stated that Operation Sindoor proved to be a historic success due to the nation's self-reliance efforts, spearheaded by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. “Through Op Sindoor, we demonstrated to terrorists and their handlers that India will not compromise on its security and

sovereignty. The capability, vigilance, and firm resolve of our defence forces have once again showcased India's growing strength to the world. Formations like the Eastern Air Command have emerged as active partners in this broader national vision,” he added.



Raksha Mantri termed the Eastern Air Command as an essential pillar of security for India's eastern frontier, commending it for playing a pivotal role in strengthening national security. “Whether on the battlefield, during peacetime deployment, disaster response, high-altitude operations, or border management, the Eastern Air Command has consistently demonstrated professionalism, courage & commitment in every situation,” he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh praised the brave soldiers for efficiently discharging their duties amidst harsh and challenging conditions. “It is due to your sacrifices, dedication, and devotion to duty that the citizens are able to lead secure lives. Furthermore, whenever the nation faces a natural disaster or a crisis, you are always the first to step forward to provide assistance. This dedication to serving humanity and the nation defines your true identity. The nation will forever remain indebted to your service,” he said.

Underlining the importance of the Eastern Air Command's area of operations, Raksha Mantri stated that the North-East is not just a part of geographical boundaries; but is a crucial pillar of India's security, prosperity, and strategic power. He added that the region is a key component of India's Act East Policy. “Today, as India strengthens its role on the global stage, the importance of the North East has grown even further,” he said.



Shri Rajnath Singh concluded his address by describing the Defence Forces as a symbol of national unity. He stated that the soldiers embody a culture in which diverse ideas flourish, cherished values endure, and mutual respect takes root naturally. “The growing role of women in the defence forces represents more than just institutional advancement. It is a testament to the cultural values for which India is known around the world. It demonstrates that even as we embrace modernity, our culture remains firmly grounded in its core principles,” he added.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Air Command Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia and other senior officers of the Indian Air Force were present on the occasion.



Raksha Mantri will celebrate International Day of Yoga 2026 with troops at the Eastern Air Command HQs on June 21, 2026.

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