



Defence Forces given freedom & resources to respond decisively to threats: Raksha Mantri

“Clear distinction between peace & weakness, terror activities against India will be met with a befitting response”

India is moving forward with independent agency & strategic autonomy amid geopolitical uncertainties, says Shri Rajnath Singh

“Govt aims to make India a nation that develops advanced technologies indigenously”

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“The defence forces have been handed both freedom and resources to respond decisively to threats, including striking adversaries inside their own territory,” Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh said at an event in New Delhi on September 07, 2026. He stated that efforts were made by the adversary to undermine India’s security by all ill means including misleading the youth in Jammu & Kashmir, funding anti-India activities, spreading violence and terrorism, and attempting to create divisions within society. He asserted that the Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has foiled these nefarious designs and responded on all fronts by bringing misguided youth back into the mainstream, undertaking rehabilitation & de-radicalisation efforts, and creating employment & business opportunities.

Raksha Mantri added that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed unprecedented progress since the abrogation of Article 370, as new avenues and opportunities have been opened up for the youth. He emphasised that India adopted the strategy of eliminating terrorism through decisive military action such as Surgical Strikes, Balakot Airstrike and Operation Sindoor, which targeted terrorists and their handlers. “The suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty sent a clear message that blood and water cannot flow together”, he said.



Shri Rajnath Singh pointed out that attempts by the adversaries to sow discord among Indians have also been successfully thwarted. Referring to the attacks that targeted places of worship during Operation Sindoor, he stated that the people of India rejected such conspiracies and demonstrated unity and social harmony.

While Raksha Mantri reiterated that India believes in peace and it does not desire war or seek to occupy the territory of any nation, he stressed that there is a clear distinction between peace and weakness. “Peace born of the fear of war is to be condemned, while war fought for the sake of peace is worthy of reverence. We’ve made it clear that if any country promotes terrorism against India, there will be no dialogue; instead, our defence forces will deliver a befitting response,” he said.

On the rapidly evolving nature of warfare, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that space and cyber space, alongside land, air and sea, have emerged as new domains of conflict, with technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, drones, autonomous systems and precision weapons transforming the battlefield. The Government is focusing on making its defence strategy and security apparatus future-ready, he said, adding that the objective is to make India a nation that develops advanced technologies indigenously.

Stating that India’s defence policy has moved beyond reactive to being pro-active, Raksha Mantri stated that it was due to PM Modi’s diplomacy and leadership that India became a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime in 2016, which facilitated efforts to extend the range of the BrahMos missile, which proved pivotal during Operation Sindoor.

On the transformation of the defence sector, Shri Rajnath Singh stressed that the Government has worked towards enhancing border security, modernising the defence forces, boosting indigenous production and revamping ordnance factories. These efforts have made the nation self-reliant and self-confident in defence, he said, underlining that defence production, which stood at around Rs 40,000 crore before 2014, has risen to approximately Rs 1.80 lakh crore, with defence exports growing 56-fold to over Rs 38,000 crore.



Raksha Mantri emphasised that India has moved from an import-dependent approach to one focused on indigenous defence manufacturing and Aatmanirbharta. “Today, our defence forces possess the indigenous Air Defence Control System ‘Akashteer’ and the next-generation air defence missile ‘Akash’. We have the Pinaka Rocket Launcher, the air-to-air missile ‘Astra’, indigenous helicopters like ‘Prachand’ and ‘Dhruv’, the ‘Tejas’ fighter aircraft, the ‘Arjun’ tank, and modern drone and counter-drone systems. Furthermore, India’s first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, has been inducted into the Indian Navy. We’re now producing a wide range of defence equipment while pursuing the development of sixth-generation fighter aircraft. Our aim is to export defence equipment worth Rs 50,000 crore by 2029,” he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh also highlighted the turnaround of the defence manufacturing ecosystem, stating that all 16 Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) are now operating without losses and are increasing investments in research & development and exploring new export opportunities. “Over the last 12 years, India’s defence budget has risen from Rs 2.5 lakh crore to approximately Rs 8 lakh crore, and every rupee is being utilised to strengthen India’s security with complete transparency and accountability,” he added.

Raksha Mantri pointed out that India’s security, territorial integrity and cultural identity have strengthened in the last 12 years. “India has emerged as a civilisational leader through initiatives such as International Yoga Day, revival of Nalanda University, International Solar Alliance and Global Biofuels Alliance. We’re strengthening the voice of developing nations through initiatives such as the Voice of Global South Summit and MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions). India has emerged as a reliable ‘First Responder’ to crises in neighbouring countries,” he added.



Underscoring the link between economic and national security, Shri Rajnath Singh said a strong economy is essential for developing modern military capabilities and maintaining strategic autonomy. He emphasised that despite global economic uncertainties, India is marching ahead with a growth rate of 7.8% while strengthening supply chains, promoting self-reliance in critical sectors and expanding indigenous manufacturing. He cited the development of India's semiconductor ecosystem and the Production Linked Incentive scheme as examples of efforts to build economic resilience. "Amidst geopolitical uncertainties, many nations are being compelled to choose sides or are forced to align with specific blocs. However, India is moving forward with independent agency and strategic autonomy by focusing on its own priorities, which is why, today, when we speak, the world listens," he said.

Elaborating on the growing participation of the private sector and MSMEs in defence production, Raksha Mantri said: "Over 16,000 MSMEs are now engaged in the sector, with defence manufacturing expanding across the country. Investment proposals worth approximately Rs 70,000 crore have been received for the Defence Industrial Corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, of which nearly Rs 10,000 crore has already been invested." He added that the efforts are being made to promote defence innovation through initiatives such as iDEX and iDEX-Prime, highlighting that the number of defence start-ups has grown from a few dozen in 2018 to more than 2,000 today.

Shri Rajnath Singh called upon the youth to become job creators and innovators, assuring the Ministry of Defence's full support to promising ideas. He appreciated DRDO's efforts to bring together industry, academia, start-ups and scientists to bolster Aatmanirbharta in defence. He termed the successful testing of a Scramjet Combustor in May as an important step towards hypersonic missile development. He also made special mention of the Government's decision to transfer DRDO-developed missile technologies to Indian industry, enabling private companies to manufacture them and ensuring timely availability to the defence forces.

Raksha Mantri underlined that the Government's objective is to achieve Aatmanirbharta in defence and create a defence ecosystem that strengthens national security, drives economic growth and enhances the country's role in the global security architecture. He exuded confidence that by 2047, India will not only achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat, but also provide leadership to the world in technology, economy and defence.

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