

Will set up joint theatre commands of tri-services: Rajnath at martyrs' event

Jammu:

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the Centre had decided to set up joint theatre commands of the tri-services to enhance coordination among the armed forces.

The defence minister also said India was moving quickly from being the world's largest importer of defence equipment to an exporter.

He was speaking during a programme organised by the Jammu Kashmir People's Forum at Gulshan Ground in Jammu to pay tributes to the martyrs of the Indian armed forces.

“Keeping in view (joint operations as seen in Operation Vijay in Kargil), we have decided to set up joint theatre commands (in the country),” Singh said.

Paying tributes to the Kargil martyrs, the minister said the country cannot forget their supreme sacrifice to safeguard the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. “It is the duty of the society and the people to give their utmost respect to the martyrs and their families,” he said.

“Whatever support you can offer, do it for their families. It is the responsibility of each citizen,” he added.

Referring to defence production, he said, “India was the world's largest importer (of defence products). Today, India is not the world's largest importer but is among the top 25 nations in defence exports.”

Singh also said those criticising the country's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru must remember not to question either his intention or integrity.

“I also belong to a political party. . . I do not want to criticise any Prime Minister of the country,” Singh said. “I also do not question the intention and integrity of any Prime Minister. There was no failure in their intention,” he said, in a reference to the 1962 India-China war.

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