

# Rajnath to inaugurate BrahMos complex in Lko on May 11

People of PoK will demand integration with India, says defence minister

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**LUCKNOW:** Defence minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate the BrahMos Missile complex in Lucknow on May 11.

He made the announcement while interacting with people at the Prabuddh Jan Sammelan in Indira Nagar on Sunday.

"The BrahMos missile, manufactured in Lucknow, will not only be used in India but also exported to other countries," he said.

He also stated that the day will come soon when the people of PoK (Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir) will demand integration with India.

BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture of the Indian and Russian governments for manufacturing missiles.

The complex has come up in Sarojini Nagar area in Lucknow node of the Uttar Pradesh defence industrial corridor.

Initially, 100 missiles will be manufactured here and production will be ramped up to missiles worth Rs 900 crore in the next five to seven years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone of the Defence Corridor project on November 21, 2021 in Jhansi.

The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) is spearheading the defence corridor project.

India has increased its defence exports to Rs 24,000 crore and aims to take it to Rs 50,000 crore by 2029, the defence minister said.

Rajnath Singh further said, "From the open platform of Jan Samvad, the demand for merging PoK with India is being raised."

"The Muslim League had raised the demand for the creation of Pakistan from Lucknow itself and today the time has come to merge PoK with India."

Speaking about development work in his constituency, he said, "The construction of the 4-kilometer ring road has eased traffic congestion, with approximately two lakh vehicles passing through it daily."

"The surrounding areas have also seen rapid development. The Gomti Nagar railway station will be developed into one of Asia's most beautiful stations."

"Land prices in Lucknow are now among the top 10 cities globally. Additionally, 100 open gyms will be set up, and community centers, libraries, and old-age care centers are being constructed in all five assembly constituencies," Singh said.

"I accept the truth that more should have been done (for Lucknow). You elected me as MP for the third time and I



Defence minister Rajnath Singh hands over a key to a house to a PMAY beneficiary, in Lucknow. DEEPIK GUPTA/HT

have been performing the duties of home minister and defence minister for 11 years continuously."

When a demand was raised for the construction of a road in Keshav Nagar, Rajnath Singh directed the BJP's Lucknow North MLA Neeraj Bora to get it done.

Deputy chief minister Brajesh Pathak applauded Rajnath Singh's efforts in developing Lucknow.

Prominent among the others present on the occasion included BJP metropolitan president Anand Dwivedi, MLCs Mukesh Sharma, Ramchandra Pradhan and senior BJP leaders.

## 17 families get PMAY flats after Rajnath steps in

**LUCKNOW:** Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday handed over the keys to newly allotted flats under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) to 17 displaced families from the Lucknow Cantonment area. The allotment was facilitated by Lucknow Development Authority (LDA).

These families had been living on defence land without authorisation for the past 70 years and were recently served eviction notices. Upon learning about their situation, the minister directed immediate action for their rehabilitation. Following his intervention, the Cantonment Board reached out to the Lucknow Development Authority and the District Magistrate for support.

Thereafter, the LDA approved the Cantonment Board's proposal in its board meeting and sanctioned the allocation of housing units under PMAY to all 17 families. The ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including deputy CM Brajesh Pathak, MLC Mukesh Sharma, BJP metropolitan president Anand Dwivedi and the Lucknow MP's representative Divakar Tripathi.

## Bindeshwar Pathak transformed sanitation ecosystem: Defence min

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**LUCKNOW:** Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday described Sulabh movement founder the late Dr Bindeshwar Pathak as a missionary as he unveiled the social reformer's statue at Sector -C in Chetan Vihar, Alkapuri, Aliganj.

Singh, the Lucknow MP, also dedicated a road in Bindeshwar Pathak's name in Aliganj.

Speaking on the occasion, Singh urged people to adopt the principles and philosophy of Dr Pathak in their life.

"Dr Pathak transformed India's sanitation ecosystem and introduced cost-effective, eco-friendly toilets that contributed towards health and hygiene. His work furthered safe and hygienic sanitation as a pillar of human dignity and public health," the defence minister said.

The Sulabh founder strengthened the movement for sanitation and cleanliness with complete dedication, so he was himself as an institution, the defence minister said.

Dr Pathak was a beacon of compassion, innovation, and social justice, inspiring future generations, Singh added.

"He advanced Mahatma

Gandhi's vision of 'Cleanliness is Service' through the Sulabh International initiative. He transformed the cleanliness campaign into a social movement, building Sulabh toilets at various places as part of this movement," Singh added.

"He carried forward Gandhiji's slogans and vision. Pathakji was not just a social reformer but also a social entrepreneur," he said.

The defence minister also shared a personal story Pathak had once told him.

"I was with him at a programme where he shared that once, his grandmother made him eat cow dung to purify him because he had touched a so-called 'untouchable'. But after that incident, he started the Sulabh International movement," Singh said.

Sulabh International's Nitya Pathak, daughter-in-law of Bindeshwar Pathak, thanked Rajnath Singh for naming of the road and unveiling the statue of the Sulabh founder. She termed it as a tribute to the great soul.

Bindeshwar Pathak, a noted social activist, passed away at AIIMS in Delhi on August 15, 2023. He is widely respected for his work in sanitation and hygiene.

## TRADERS MEET MIN, VOICE CONCERN OVER POWER OUTAGES

**LUCKNOW:** A delegation of traders met defence minister Rajnath Singh here and submitted a memorandum to him to voice their growing concern over frequent power failures, saying the outages -- often three to four times daily -- had affected business operations across key markets in the state capital. The memorandum urged the minister to intervene and ensure that Lucknow becomes a power out-free city.

After receiving the memorandum, Rajnath Singh assured the traders that he would instruct officials from the electricity department to resolve the power issues at the earliest. The meeting was attended by trader representatives, local leaders, and administrative officials.

Pathak developed the Sulabh Shuchalaya system -- a low cost toilet technology -- and implemented it across India through Sulabh International