

'BrahMos not just a weapon but a message of strength'

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Lucknow: Terming the BrahMos facility in Lucknow as a matter of pride for the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC), defence minister Rajnath Singh said the missile is a confluence of top defence technologies of India and Russia.

"BrahMos is not just one of the world's fastest supersonic cruise missiles, but a message of the strength of the Indian Armed Forces, a message of deterrence to adversaries, and a message of the nation's unwavering commitment to safeguarding its borders," he added.

"The inauguration of the BrahMos Integration and Testing Facility coincides with National Technology Day. On this day in 1998, under then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's leadership, India demonstrated its capabilities through nuclear tests in Pokhran, which was achieved through dedicated efforts of scientists, engineers, and defence personnel," Rajnath said.

The Lucknow MP said, "The inauguration of the facility holds personal significance as it fulfils my vision of Lucknow's contribution to India's defence sector. The project completed in 40 months by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's regime is commendable."

Rajnath said that the facility has already created around 500 direct and 1,000 indirect jobs, reflecting the state's growing



Defence minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurates the BrahMos Aerospace Integration and Testing Facility, on Sunday

stature as a defence manufacturing hub.

Spread over 200 acres, the Lucknow facility will roll out existing BrahMos missiles to meet increased demand, but its specific purpose is to manufacture BrahMos NG (next generation) missiles. On an average 70-100 missiles will be produced per year. The Lucknow facility will become a major integration centre for the missile and will require a robust supply chain. Tier 1, 2 & 3 suppliers are expected to move operations to Lucknow and join

in the defence corridor. Industries such as the PTC industry, and many more are expected to join. These industries are spread over Noida, Greater Noida, Kanpur and other places. The facility will create employment for at least 25,000 people over five years.

"BrahMos facility will strengthen India's efforts towards self-reliance in defence and contribute to the socioeconomic development of the region by generating significant direct & indirect employment," Rajnath added.

Quoting the Missile Man of India and former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam who had said, "Unless India stands up to the world, no one will respect us; in this world, fear has no place, only strength respects strength", Rajnath said that India is one of the most powerful nations today and the facility will help in further strengthening India's power.

"A total of 180 MoUs have, so far, been signed in UPDIC with a proposed investment of Rs 34,000 crore, and an investment of Rs 4,000 crore has already been made. Major investments have been made in aircraft manufacturing, UAVs, drones, ammunition, composite and critical materials, small arms, textile and parachute etc. The highlight is that the participation of both public sector and the private sectors are being witnessed. In Lucknow itself, titanium and super alloy material plants are being started by PTC Industries Limited. This would accelerate the pace of India's self-reliance in the defence sector," the defence minister said. "The launch of the BrahMos facility is a firm stride towards making India a significant player in the world's defence production ecosystem," he said.

He credited the state government for creating a strong development ecosystem and implementing initiatives such as setting up of UPDIC, establishment of DRDO's Defence Technology & Test Centre in Lucknow and hosting DefExpo in 2020.