

Rajnath, Yogi to flag off first batch of Lucknow-made BrahMos today

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LUCKNOW: Defence minister Rajnath Singh and chief minister Yogi Adityanath will flag off the first batch of BrahMos missiles manufactured at the BrahMos Aerospace unit in Lucknow's Sarojini Nagar on Saturday. The Lucknow BrahMos unit is the first facility in the UP Defence Corridor where the entire process, from missile system manufacturing to final testing, is carried out indigenously. Singh reached Lucknow on Friday on a three-day visit.

BrahMos Aerospace, the manufacturer of the supersonic missile system, has successfully produced the first batch of the missile system from its new Integration and Test Facility in the state capital. This state-of-the-art unit became fully operational after its inauguration on May 11, 2025. It houses all modern facilities for missile integration, testing, and final quality checks. After successful testing, the missiles are prepared for deployment by the Indian Armed Forces.

During the event, the defence minister and the chief minister will inaugurate the booster building and witness a demonstration of the booster docking process. Presentations will also be made on the airframe and avionics, the PDI (Pre-Dispatch Inspection) in the Warhead Building, and the BrahMos simulator equipment.

BrahMos Aerospace has started production and assembly of the BrahMos NG missile system at its Rs 300 crore facility. The unit in Sarojinagar stands on 80 hectares (200 acres) of land provided free of cost by the UP government.

BrahMos Aerospace was created as a joint venture between the Indian government's DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) and 'JSC' 'MIC' NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of the Russian government. The company was established in India after an agreement was signed between the two governments on February 12, 1998.

BrahMos Aerospace was set up with 50.5% Indian and 49.5% Russian ownership, and it is the first defence joint venture of its kind established by the Indian government with a foreign government, according to a government statement.



Defence minister Rajnath Singh with CM Yogi Adityanath, deputy CM Brajesh Pathak and others during Diwali Parivar Milan event organised by the RSS in Gomti Nagar on Friday.

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Rajnath Singh praises RSS, Yogi highlights importance of unity

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LUCKNOW: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is a shining example of selfless service and commitment to the country's development, defence minister Rajnath Singh said at the Diwali Parivar Milan event organised by the RSS in Gomti Nagar on Friday.

Chief minister Yogi Adityanath, Akhil Bharatiya pracharak pramukh of RSS Swant Ranjan, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai and others attended the event. Adityanath highlighted the importance of unity and togetherness in society. Addressing the gathering, Singh praised the RSS for its dedication to the nation and its people. "RSS is a shining example of selfless service and commitment to the country's development," said Singh.

"When I go on foreign tours and the Sangh is discussed, I explain that I am defence minister later, and first, I am a volunteer of the Sangh," Singh said.

"As I entered here, I was thinking that no one would have imagined that in its centenary year, the Sangh would become the world's largest organisation," he added.

"Sometimes, I wonder how such a large organisation could



"Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh is a shining example of selfless service and commitment to development"

RAJNATH SINGH,
defence minister

have been formed. Faith and belief have immense power. If mathematical problems can be solved on the basis of faith and belief, how can the problems of human life not be solved on the same basis?" he said.

Chief minister Yogi Adityanath said that events like these promote a sense of belonging and community. "I have seen Eid Milan events, but this Diwali Milan is a rare experience. Previously, Eid Milan and Ifar parties were held at the Raj Bhavan and the chief minister's residence," Adityanath said.

"After becoming chief minister, I ordered my principal secretary to inspect Ayodhya during the Deepotsav festival, and discovered that it was in darkness," he said.

"Later, the government began

celebrating Deepotsav in Ayodhya. People asked what would be achieved by holding this Deepotsav, and I said it would fulfill my resolve. We changed the name of Faizabad, a symbol of slavery, to Ayodhya. By God's grace, the Ram Mandir is now before us," he said.

"If you visit Ayodhya after November 25, you will witness the struggle of the Sangh Parivar and society in building the temple," he added.

"We urge everyone to buy only indigenous goods on Dhanteras. Also, pledge to deliver sweets, lamps, and idols of Laxmi and Ganesh to a poor family on Diwali," the chief minister said.

Swant Ranjan emphasised the importance of festivals in Indian culture, saying that they strengthen the roots of society. Champat Rai spoke about the significance of the Ram Mandir and its construction.

More than 60 million people have visited Ayodhya so far. This is a matter of pride for India, Rai added.

Prominent among those present on the occasion included deputy CM Brajesh Pathak, state BJP president Bupendra Singh Chaudhary, the party's state general secretary (organisation) Dharampal Singh, and ministers in the state government.

SWADESHI ESSENTIAL FOR INDIA'S ECO GROWTH, SAYS DEFENCE MINISTER

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LUCKNOW: Laying stress on self-reliance, defence minister Rajnath Singh on Friday stated that India's total defence production has reached approximately Rs 1.5 lakh crore.

Singh was addressing a traders' meet at Vishwasaraiya Hall organised by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) under the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign in Lucknow.

Recalling Mahatma Gandhi's emphasis on Swadeshi, he said it was essential for India's economic growth and development.

"India is currently progressing at an unprecedented pace. Today, trade and sales transactions with other countries in the defence sector are increasing. Whereas in the past, even the smallest items were manufactured abroad and imported from there."

"When I became defence minister, total defence production here was worth Rs 45,46,000 crore. Now, production has reached approximately Rs 1.5 lakh crore," he said.

He mentioned the inauguration of a third production line of Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1A at HAL's Nashik unit.

"Now, even fighter jets are being manufactured in our country," he said.

"We have more retail traders in India than the population of Australia," he said.

Deputy chief minister Brajesh Pathak emphasised the importance of promoting domestic products.

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Neeraj Singh appealed to traders to use and promote Swadeshi products.

Those present on the occasion included mayor Sushma Kharakwal, district president of Bharatiya Janata Party Anand Dwivedi, MLC Mukesh Sharma, Banwari Lal Kanchal, Amar Nath Mishra and a large number of party workers.