

UP emerging as hub of defence manufacturing: Rajnath Singh

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has claimed: "India is no longer weak. We are manufacturing our own weapons, and Uttar Pradesh is leading the way."

He said: "This thinking, this hard work, and this path is what makes a country strong, and this is the path our government is following today."

Rajnath Singh, along with UP CM Yogi Adityanath and Union Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Minister HD Kumaraswamy, inaugurated the Ashok Leyland EV Bus Manufacturing plant in Lucknow on Friday.

The Defence Minister said: "In 2014, our domestic defence production was only ₹46,000 crore, meaning we were able to manufacture weapons and equipment worth only ₹46,000 crore in India. But today, that has increased to a record high of over ₹1.5 lakh crore. In 2014, India's defence exports were very low. We were able to sell weapons and equipment worth less than ₹1,000 crore to the world, but today that has increased to a record ₹25,000 crore. By 2029, our defence exports will go up to ₹ 50,000 crores."

Singh said: "I can say with



confidence that the path to a developed India will lie through a developed UP. Today, as we discuss electric vehicles, I would like to add that you too have experienced the network of roads and highways that have been laid across the country over the past 10-11 years under the leadership of our PM."

He said, "Today, work related to national security has begun in Uttar Pradesh. The government has built a defense corridor here where weapons, ammunition, and warship equipment for the armed forces will now be manufactured in our state."

He said, "This work is being done in six places: Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Agra, Aligarh, and Chitrakoot. So far, investments of more than Rs 34,000 crore have come here, where a large number of companies are setting up factories. The direct

benefit of this is that people from our villages will find work here."

Rajnath Singh said, "In addition, there is a BrahMos Aerospace factory in Lucknow, where the BrahMos missile is being manufactured. You must have seen the feat of BrahMos in Operation Sindoor. Now, this missile is not imported; it is manufactured in our own country, in our own Uttar Pradesh."

Singh said, "Our government has taken several important steps to strengthen industrial development. Today, we have launched the "Make in India" initiative. Many major products that were previously imported from abroad are now being manufactured in India."

The Defence Minister said, "In the coming years, we will see fewer oil-powered vehicles and more EVs."