

# Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviews Passing Out Parade of 137<sup>th</sup> course at National Defence Academy in Pune

## India has been spreading the message of peace: Raksha Mantri

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Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviewed the Passing Out Parade of the 137<sup>th</sup> course at the National Defence Academy in Pune, Maharashtra today. A total of 284 cadets graduated from the academy as they passed through the portals of the prestigious Khetrupal Parade ground. There were 188 Army cadets, 38 Naval cadets, 37 Air Force and 20 cadets from friendly foreign countries. The foreign cadets belonged to Bhutan, Tajikistan, Maldives, Vietnam, Mauritius, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

Addressing the gathering, Raksha Mantri complimented the cadets for their immaculate turnout and excellent drill movements. He congratulated the parents of the passing out cadets and appreciated their decision of sending their children to the Armed Forces. Shri Rajnath Singh said, the grit and grime of the National Defence Academy makes cadets tough to face any challenge in their military career ahead. He said professionalism can only be attained by discipline which these cadets have imbibed.

Raksha Mantri added that India has been spreading the message of peace under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the country has shown that it can be tough and aggressive whenever required. He credited the jointness of all the forces including military and paramilitary to achieve this goal saying that the credit of India's strong fight against terrorism goes to the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces as well as Police.

"India has always believed in building peaceful and friendly relations with all countries. We have no extra-territorial ambitions and we do not interfere in the affairs of any other country. But if someone tries to disturb peace in our country, we will give a befitting reply," Shri Rajnath Singh said. He reiterated the Government's commitment to protect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country.

Raksha Mantri stressed on the need to remain prepared to deal with terrorism as well as the new threats of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, including cyber-threats and hate-filled ideologies.

Shri Rajnath Singh added that it is remarkable how the officers in uniform provide humanitarian assistance during natural calamities and help their brothers and sisters in distress without a thought for their own safety.

At the Passing Out Parade, the President's Gold medal was awarded to Academy Cadet Captain Majji Giridhar for being first in overall order of merit. The President's Silver medal was awarded to Battalion cadet captain Kushagra Mishra while battalion cadet captain NK Vishwakarma won the President's Bronze medal. 'Mike' Squadron bagged the Chief of Staff banner for being the champion squadron which was presented during the parade.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) Southern Command Lt Gen S K Saini also attended the passing out parade.

**ABB/Nampi/DK/Savvy/MTJ/ADA**

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