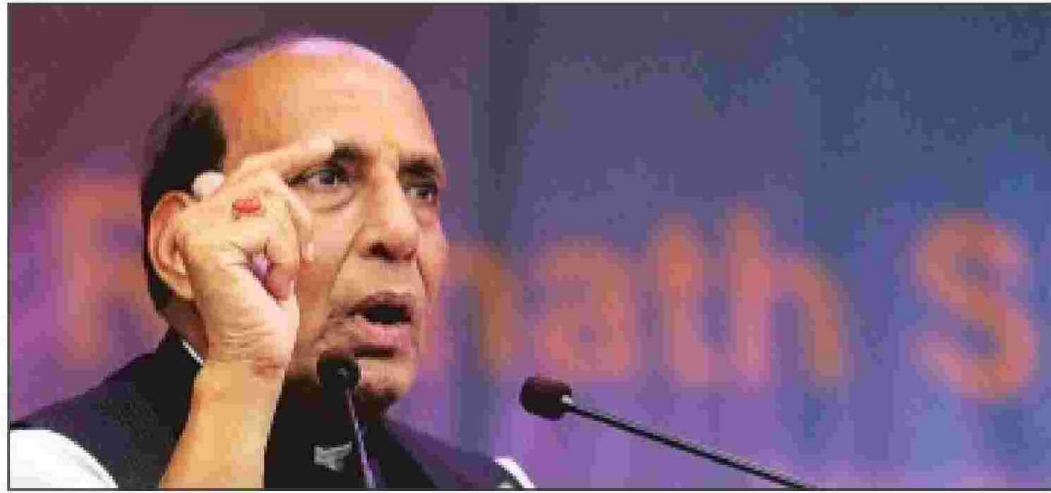


## VIJAY DIWAS CELEBRATIONS

# Internal security improved vastly in last 4 years: Rajnath



Rajnath Singh at Delhi Cantt on Sunday. Prem Nath Pandey

### EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 16

HOME MINISTER Rajnath Singh Sunday said the internal security scenario in the country has vastly improved ever since the NDA government came to power in 2014.

Addressing a 'Vijay Diwas' function here, Singh said the number of districts affected by Left-wing extremism has shrunk from 90 to just about 12, while there has been an 80 per cent decline in insurgency in the Northeast. "The internal security scenario has vastly improved during the last four years," he said.

The Home Minister said the BSF, which guards the India-Pakistan border, has been given complete freedom to retaliate effectively to ceasefire violations by Pakistan.

Singh also said that ex-servicemen can play a key role in inculcating a sense of national pride among the youth. Recalling the heroics of Maha Vir Chakra recipient Brigadier Mohammad Usman and Major Somnath

Sharma, the first recipient of Param Vir Chakra, Singh said some youth today have their idols in cricketers and film stars, but if someone asks them to name Param Vir Chakra recipients, they may not be able to name even one.

The Home Minister said martyrs like Chandrashekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh were all driven by passionate patriotism.

"Society has to stand up with the veterans today and an action plan needs to be framed to preserve individual honour and nation's integrity among the citizens," he said.

Singh said India's armed forces proved in 1971 that they have the capability to rewrite history and redraw maps. The Indian Army has since emerged as a professional model before the world, he said.

On the occasion, he honoured families of martyrs and released the first quarterly newsletter of Veterans India Association, an NGO. Singh also declared that he would contribute one month salary to the organisation's corpus for martyrs' welfare.