

Rajnath to launch 'smart border fence' on Monday

New Delhi: Two stretches along the international border in Jammu are set to get a first-of-its-kind, high-tech surveillance system that will create an invisible electronic barrier on land, water and even in air, helping the Border Security Force (BSF) detect and foil infiltration bids in the most difficult of terrain.

Home minister Rajnath Singh will visit Jammu on September 17 to launch two pilot projects, each covering 5.5 km border stretches in Jammu, under the comprehensive integrated border management system (CIBMS).

CIBMS involves deployment of a range of state-of-the-art surveillance technologies — thermal imagers, infra-red and laser-based intruder alarms that form an invisible land fence, aerostats for aerial surveillance, unattended ground sensors that can help detect intrusion bids through tunnels, radars, sonar systems to secure riverine borders, fibre-



Rajnath Singh

optic sensors and a command and control system that shall receive data from all surveillance devices in real time. "In India, this virtual fence based on an integrated border management system is a first of its kind," said a home ministry official.

The officer said CIBMS was designed to guard stretches where physical surveillance was not possible either due to inhospitable terrain or riverine border. The 'smart' fence solution is expected to address gaps in border security by integrating

human resources, weapons and high-tech surveillance equipment.

"The two stretches where CIBMS will be launched on Monday were chosen precisely for these reasons. Now, infra-red and laser-based intrusion detectors will mount an invisible wall on land and riverine stretches, sonar systems will catch riverine infiltration bids, aerostat technology will keep an eye on the sky and underground sensors will guard against tunnel intrusions," the official said.