

Try India's defence equipment: Rajnath tells African countries

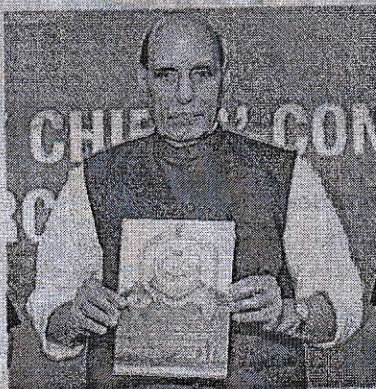
Our Bureau
New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Tuesday, said India will continue to work with African nations to promote regional security, foster stability and enhance the defence capabilities together.

Speaking at the first edition of the India-Africa Army Chiefs' Conclave at Pune, Rajnath Singh also reiterated India's commitment to support African partner countries in defence including capability enhancement of armed forces, economic growth and social development.

The conclave was attended by Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande and chiefs and representatives of 31 African nations, along with other civil and defence dignitaries.

Singh invited the African countries to explore Indian defence equipment and technologies for their security needs. "India has



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the India-Africa Army Chiefs' Conclave PTI

emerged as a leading defence exporter in recent years. With the aim to empower our African friends to indigenously meet their defence requirements, we are also committed to sharing our expertise and knowledge in defence manufacturing, research, and development," Singh said.

SKILLS TRAINING

The Defence Ministry quoting Singh stated that India has been at the forefront of training African armed forces. The training programmes cover a wide

range of areas, including counter-insurgency operations, peacekeeping, maritime security, and specialised training in new domains, such as cyber warfare and drone operations, the minister said at the conclave. It also encompasses training civilians in disaster management, humanitarian aid and medical assistance, the Minister stated.

He added the Joint Exercises between India and African nations provide an excellent opportunity for the armed forces to learn from each other and promote interoperability. The Minister termed 'AFINDEX' as a reflection of India's continued focus on African nations to develop capacities and enhance mutual capabilities. "As maritime neighbours linked by the Indian Ocean, our cooperation in maritime security and hydrography and countering terrorism and extremism will be essential for regional peace and prosperity," he said.