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Indian Army Bolsters Border Defense with Rudra and Bhairav Units

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In a move to enhance its operational readiness, the Indian Army has introduced new integrated formations, Rudra Brigades and Bhairav Light Commando Battalions, aimed at strengthening border security and preparing for high-tech warfare. The announcement was made by Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi during the 26th Kargil Vijay Diwas ceremony in Drass.

The Rudra Brigades represent a modern all-arms structure, combining infantry, mechanized infantry, armored divisions, artillery, special forces, and unmanned aerial systems under

unified command. General Dwivedi confirmed that two brigades have already been reorganized under this format, with tailored logistics designed for rapid deployment in complex terrain.

Alongside these, the Bhairav Light Commando Battalions are being developed as fast-moving, specialized units for high-intensity operations, including border engagements, counterterrorism, and urban warfare. “Bhairav battalions are a lethal, fast-moving spearhead, always ready, always precise,” General Dwivedi said during his address.

To boost real-time battlefield capabilities, the Army has also equipped all infantry battalions with dedicated Drone Platoons, enhancing surveillance, reconnaissance, and target acquisition. Additionally, new Divyastra Batteries and Loiter Munition Batteries are being deployed, combining long-range precision strike capabilities with integrated intelligence systems.

These upgrades form part of the Army’s broader transformation under the Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) initiative, aimed at reducing dependence on foreign defense imports. Domestically produced air defense systems are now being inducted to counter modern aerial threats, including drones, cruise missiles, and low-flying aircraft.

General Dwivedi also referenced Operation Sindoor, a recent military response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed the lives of 26 civilians. On the night of May 6–7, Indian forces carried out precision strikes on nine terror-linked sites across Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK), reportedly avoiding civilian areas. India’s S-400 Air Defense System later intercepted drone and missile attacks launched in retaliation. A ceasefire was observed from May 10.

During the Kargil Vijay Diwas event, the Army Chief paid tribute at the Kargil War Memorial, honoring the soldiers who died in the 1999 conflict. Addressing their families, he stated, “Your sacrifice inspires us to remain prepared, vigilant, and unmatched in both resolve and capability.”

Through structural reforms and indigenous advancements, the Indian Army continues to modernize its force structure to counter evolving threats and safeguard national sovereignty.