

RAKSHA BANDHAN FOR ARMY SOLDIERS

Date: 21 September 2024

Location: Golconda

Event: Raksha Bandhan Celebration

Organized by: J.B. Institute of Engineering Technology

Participants : 50 members



On 21st September 2024, the Indian Armed Forces celebrated the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, a traditional festival symbolizing the bond of love and protection between brothers and sisters. This day, observed by families across the country, also holds significant meaning for soldiers who are away from their loved ones while serving in various military installations, both within India and in deployed locations. Raksha Bandhan Traditions in the Military

Raksha Bandhan is traditionally celebrated by sisters tying a sacred thread (rakhi) on their brothers' wrists, accompanied by prayers for their safety, well-being, and long life. In military settings, the festival takes on a unique dimension, as soldiers often receive rakhis from their families via post, while many women in villages, towns, and cities also express their affection for soldiers who are stationed away from home.

Many army units in India observe the festival with heartfelt ceremonies, where sisters send rakhis to their brothers, and in some camps, soldiers have the opportunity to tie rakhis on the wrists of fellow comrades or even female military officers, symbolizing the strong bonds of camaraderie and mutual respect in the forces.

In border areas Mehdipatnam and soldiers were seen participating in Raksha Bandhan celebrations. While many soldiers were unable to travel back to their families, they received rakhis from their sisters, making the occasion more emotional. Army personnel at forward posts were observed exchanging rakhis, strengthening their brotherhood in the field.

On this day, in some military cantonments, special Raksha Bandhan ceremonies were organized. In places like the National Defence Academy (NDA) and Indian Military Academy (IMA), the event included cultural programs, where both male and female cadets participated. Sisters, who had traveled from various parts of India, tied rakhis on the wrists of their brothers and other soldiers, creating an atmosphere of joy and solidarity.



Several charitable organizations and local communities continued their tradition of sending rakhis to soldiers. These were often accompanied by heartfelt letters and messages of gratitude for their service. In a few cases, schools and colleges also organized "Rakhi for Soldiers" campaigns, encouraging students to send rakhis to Indian troops stationed in remote areas. This initiative serves to remind soldiers of their family bonds and offers emotional support during times of separation.

India's Defense Minister, in a message delivered on Raksha Bandhan, expressed gratitude for the dedication and sacrifices made by the soldiers. He emphasized that the courage of Indian forces has been a source of national pride and that the nation will always stand by its brave men

and women in uniform. He also acknowledged the sacrifices made by the families of soldiers, especially the sisters who, despite the distance, continue to support and love their brothers.

In some parts of the country, soldiers who were on leave or stationed closer to home had the opportunity to spend the day with their families. These emotional reunions highlighted the importance of family ties and the role that festivals like Raksha Bandhan play in bringing loved ones together, even if only briefly.



CONSULTATION:

Raksha Bandhan 2024 proved to be a poignant reminder of the deep emotional ties that bind families and the sacrifices made by soldiers to ensure the safety and security of the nation. For those stationed at the borders or in conflict zones, receiving a rakhi serves not just as a symbol of love but as a morale booster in the face of challenging conditions. The festival continues to serve as a reminder of the strength of familial bonds, which, for many soldiers, are a source of immense pride and motivation.

Expand initiatives like the "Rakhi for Soldiers" campaign to involve more communities, ensuring that soldiers feel connected with civilians during major festivals.

Continue support programs that allow for virtual Raksha Bandhan celebrations for soldiers stationed in remote or conflict zones, ensuring that they can participate in family traditions even from afar.

Encourage deeper integration of Raksha Bandhan celebrations within military communities, fostering unity and camaraderie among all ranks.

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