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03 July 2019

Respected Rajnath Singh ji

Sub: Marking the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas

On 26 July 2019, the Nation will mark the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, a day when our Armed Forces successfully completed Operation Vijay and delivered a crushing defeat yet again on Pakistan Military misadventure.

This Day and the 20th Anniversary of this victory of India's Armed Forces and its collective will over its enemies deserve befitting celebration. I request that the Government and Ministry of Defence commemorate the occasion grandly to honour the 527 Bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the Kargil conflict, the families of these Bravehearts, the soldiers those who fought and continue to serve today, and those that have retired since.

You may be aware that under the Congress-led UPA Government, from 2004 to 2009 the Kargil War victory was not celebrated at all. It was after my persistent demand that finally then Defence Minister A K Antony started the tradition of laying a wreath on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas from 2010. Since then, Kargil Vijay Diwas has been observed and celebrated by the Government of India officially.

Now that we are upon the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, I would like to suggest the following to mark two decades of the victory. I am sure you and the ministry would add to this list and make it a more impactful celebration of this very important day in our Nation's history - second only to the stinging defeat inflicted in 1971.



1. Inviting Kargil War gallantry award recipient veterans and families of the Bravehearts of Kargil for an at-home by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri.
2. This at-home reception would serve as a befitting occasion not only to the Bravehearts and heroes who laid down their lives for the Nation, but more to convey the gratitude to the families of the Bravehearts and the War disabled for their sacrifices.
3. Showcasing stories of valour and courage of our gallant soldiers from Kargil in a sound and light show at the National War Memorial to inspire the younger generation to serve the Nation.
4. Hosting celebratory functions to honour Kargil War Veterans and their families at every Zila Sainik Board across the country
5. Nationwide celebration of Kargil Vijay Diwas

Kargil Vijay Diwas is a proud day for the entire Nation and this 20th anniversary, is backed by the support of every Indian for our men and women in uniform, and families of our Bravehearts. This day should commemorate and honour the valour and sacrifices of our Armed Forces across the country with grandeur and mark our collective thanksgiving for all those who served and sacrificed in that conflict, and their families

Yours Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Rajnath Singh,
Hon'ble Minister of Defence,
Government of India
New Delhi