

Raksha Mantri interacts with global women peacekeepers taking part in UN Women Military Officers Course 2025 in New Delhi

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Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, on August 22, 2025, interacted with the women officers of 15 countries alongside India, who are participating in a nearly two-week long United Nations Women Military Officers Course (UNWMOC-2025) being held at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. Organised by the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping under the aegis of Ministry of Defence and Ministry of External Affairs from August 18-29, 2025, the course aims to build professional capacity of women military officers for effective participation in multidimensional UN missions.



Addressing the officers at South Block, Raksha Mantri stated that, as the largest contributor to UN peacekeeping missions, India has been a strong supporter of women's participation & their integration into these missions, and through initiatives such as UNWMOC, it prepares women officers for complex

peacekeeping environments.

“We are strengthening policies to encourage women’s participation in our Armed Forces and peacekeeping contingents, ensuring they have equal opportunities to lead & serve. We will continue to work with the UN and troop-contributing countries to advance gender parity, foster inclusive leadership, and create a world where peace is not just sustained but thrives through diversity and equality,” added Shri Rajnath Singh.

UNWMOC-2025 has brought together participants from Armenia, DR Congo, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uruguay and Vietnam, alongside 12 Indian women officers and five interns, making the course a vibrant international platform for training and exchange.

Raksha Mantri described the presence of officers from 15 countries as a reflection of a microcosm of the UN and its enduring spirit of unity & cooperation. You are the torchbearers of change. Your dedication strengthens not only peacekeeping but also the very fabric of global security. India stands with you, proud of your contributions and steadfast in its commitment to support your journey,” he told the officers.

On the vision of UN to increase the participation of women officers in peacekeeping missions, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that this commitment stems from the recognition that women peacekeepers are essential to making missions more effective, inclusive, and sustainable. “Women officers bring invaluable perspectives and approaches to peace operations. They are often able to foster deeper trust with local communities, particularly with women and children, whose voices are vital in rebuilding societies torn by conflict. Their presence has been shown to help prevent sexual violence, improve access to humanitarian assistance and increase gender equality on the ground. Moreover, women peacekeepers serve as powerful role models, inspiring local women and girls to see themselves as active participants in peace and security,” he said, adding that India’s own journey in peacekeeping reflects this very belief in the power and potential of women officers.



During the event, Raksha Mantri also unveiled the UN Journal 2025 - *‘Blue Helmet Odyssey: 75 Years of Indian Peacekeeping’* - a Platinum Jubilee edition which captures India’s legacy, innovations, and future vision in UN Peacekeeping. Reflecting on the blue colour of the helmets, he stated that, like the sky, the UN Peacekeepers offer protection and a sense of security, and like the oceans, they build connections across borders and cultures. Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi and other senior officers were present during the interaction.



The curriculum of UNWMOC-2025 includes key aspects of modern peacekeeping such as International Humanitarian Law, Refugees and Internally Displaced People, Protection of Civilians, Conduct and Discipline, Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Child Protection in conflict. Distinguished speakers from the United Nations, the Ministry of External Affairs, international organisations and senior Indian Army veterans are addressing the participants. A field demonstration by an Infantry Battalion nominated for UN will further enhance practical understanding.

VK/Savvy

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