

INDIA AND UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEBUILDING



India stands solidly committed to assist the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security with a proud history of UN peacekeeping dating back to its inception in the 1950s. India has contributed nearly 195,000 troops, the largest number from any country, participated in more than 49 missions and 168

Indian peacekeepers have made the supreme sacrifice while serving in UN missions. India has also provided and continues to provide eminent Force Commanders for UN Missions.

India is the second largest troop contributor [TCC] with 7,676 personnel deployed in 10 out of 16 active UN Peacekeeping Missions of which 760 are police personnel. The high standards of performance maintained consistently by the Indian troops and policemen deployed on UN Missions under challenging circumstances have won them high regard worldwide.

India is of the view that the international community must grasp the rapid changes that are underway in the nature and role of contemporary peacekeeping operations. The Security Council's mandates to UN peacekeeping operations need to be rooted in ground realities and correlated with the resources provided for the peacekeeping operation. It is critical that troop and police contributing countries should be fully involved at all stages and in all aspects of mission planning. There should be greater financial and Human Resources for peace building in post conflict societies where UNPKO's have been mandated.

India's unique combination of being the largest democracy in the world with a strong tradition of respect for rule of law and the successful experience in nation building makes it particularly relevant in the context of twenty-first century peacebuilding. India is a member of Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). India is strongly supportive of nationally-led plans for peace consolidation, while arguing for a constructive approach and a 'lighter touch' by the PBC in extending advice, support and in extending its involvement. India has also been contributing to the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS



General Information

1. Since 1948, UN Peacekeepers have undertaken 71 Field missions. Presently, there are approximately 96,477 personnel serving on 16 peace operations led by UNDPKO, in four continents. This represents a nine fold increase since 1999. A total of 124 countries have contributed military and police personnel to UN peacekeeping. Currently 84,533 of those serving are troops and military observers and about 11,944 are police personnel.

Indian Contribution

2. India has been the largest troop contributor to UN missions since inception. So far India has taken part in 49 Peacekeeping missions with a total contribution exceeding 1,95,000 troops and a significant number of police personnel having been deployed.



3. India has so far provided 15 Force Commanders in various UN Missions. Presently, Maj Gen Jai Shanker Menon, VSM is serving as the Force Commander in UNDOF (Golan Heights). Besides the Force Commanders, India also had the honour of providing two Military Advisors and One Deputy Military Advisor to the Secretary General of the United Nations, two Divisional Commanders and seven Deputy Force Commanders. Indian Army has also contributed lady officers as Military Observers and Staff Officers apart from them forming part of Medical Units being deployed in UN Missions. The first all women contingent in peacekeeping mission, a Formed Police Unit from India, was deployed in 2007 to the UN Operation in Liberia (UNMIL).

4. Many gallant Indian soldiers have laid their life to bring peace and harmony to the world. While serving under the blue flag, 168 Indian soldiers have, so far made the supreme sacrifice.



5. Past Missions: The following have been the missions in which India has contributed since 1950.

(a) Korea(1950-54): Paramedical Unit comprising 17 officers, 9 JCOs and 300 other ranks was deployed to facilitate withdrawal of sick and wounded in Korea. Lt Gen K S Thimmaya was appointed as the Chairman of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission (NNRC) set up by UN. India also provided a custodian force under Maj Gen SPP Thorat comprising 231 officers, 203 JCOs and 5696 other ranks.

(b) Indo-China(1954-70): India provided an Infantry Battalion and supporting staff for control of Indo-China comprising three states of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Tasks included monitoring, ceasefire and repatriation of prisoners of war, among others. A total of 970 officers, 140 JCOs and 6157 other ranks were provided during the period from 1954- 1970.

(c) Middle East (1956-67): United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), where for first time armed troop contingents were deployed. India's contribution was an infantry battalion and other support elements. Over a period of 11 years, 393 officers, 409 JCOs and 12383 other ranks took part in the operations.

(d) Congo(1960-64)(ONUC): Two infantry Brigades comprising of 467 officers, 401 JCOs and 11354 participated and conducted operations. A flight of six Canberra bomber aircraft of the IAF also participated in ops. 39 personnel of the Indian contingent laid down their lives. Capt GS Salaria was awarded posthumously the Paramvir Chakra for action in Katanga, Southern Congo.



(e) Cambodia(1992-1993) (UNTAC): Was set up to supervise ceasefire, disarm combatants, repatriate refugees and monitor conduct of free and fair elections. A total of 1373 all ranks participated from Indian Army.



(f) Mozambique(1992-94) (ONUMOZ): Two Engineer companies HQ company, logistics company, staff officers and military observers were provided. In all 1083 all ranks participated.

(g) Somalia(1993-94) (UNITAF & UNOSOM II): The Indian Navy and Indian Army took active part in UN Operations. Indian Army deployed a Brigade Group comprising of 5000 all ranks and the navy deployed four battleships.

(h) Rwanda(1994-96) (UNAMIR): An Infantry Battalion group, a signal company, and engineer company, staff officers and Military Observers were provided. Total of 956 all ranks took part.

(i) Angola(1989-1999) (UNAVEM): Besides providing a Deputy Force Commander, an Infantry Battalion group and an engineer company comprising a total of 1014 all ranks. India contributed 10 MILOBS for UNAVEM-1, 25 for UNAVEM-II And 20 MILOBS, 37 SOs, and 30 Senior NCOs for UNAVEM-III.

(j) Sierra Leone(1999-2001) (UNAMSIL): Two Infantry Battalion groups, two engineer companies, Quick reaction company, Attack helicopter unit, medical unit and Logistic support in addition to sector HQ and Force Headquarters staff.

(k) Ethiopia-Eritrea (2006-08) (UNMEE): Indian contribution comprised one infantry battalion group, one construction engineer company and one force reserve company, apart from staffing at various HQs and MILOBs.

6. Current Missions- Indian Contribution: The Indian Armed Forces are presently undertaking the following UN Missions (Out of total 16 Missions currently underway)



(a) Lebanon (UNIFIL) (Since Dec 1998): One infantry battalion group, and Level II Hospital comprising 892 all ranks and 07 staff officers, till date. The current situation in the Mission is tense and volatile due to the crises in Syria.



(b) Congo (MONUC/MONUSCO) (Since January 2005): Extended Chapter VII mandate. India has deployed an augmented Infantry Brigade Group (four infantry battalions) with level III Hospital, a large number of MILOBs & SOs and two Formed Police Units(FPU) ex BSF and ITBP. MONUSCO's new mandate

vide Resolution 2098 (2013) has been implemented with an Intervention Brigade provided by AU, deployed under UN Command. The FARDC along with the support of MONUSCO continues to conduct operations to reduce the influence of the armed groups like FDLR, ADF etc. The situation continues to be volatile and uncertain due to the presence of these armed groups.



(c) Sudan(UNMIS / UNMISS) (Since April 2005): India has contributed two Infantry Battalion groups, sector HQ, Engineer company, signal company, Level-II Hospital and large number of MILOBS and SOs.. The latest political developments in the Mission led to widespread inter-tribe violence and

large displacement of locals.. The current situation continues to be highly volatile and sporadic clashes between the tribes are being reported regularly.



(d) Golan Heights (UNDOF) (Since February 2006): A Logistics battalion with 190 personnel has been deployed to look after the logistics security of UNDOF. Maj Gen Jai Shanker Menon, VSM is the Force Commander since Mar 2016. Current crisis due to the Syrian conflict has impacted the mission. The mission had relocated along the 'A' line and our contingent is currently based in Camp Ziounai.

(e) Ivory Coast(UNOCI) (Since Feb. 2017): The mission is supported by Indian SOs and MILOBs since inception till Feb. 2017.

(f) Haiti (MINUSTAH) (Since December 1997): Apart from three Indian FPU's there, i.e from CISF, Assam Rifles and BSF, which have been hugely successful, the mission was supported by Indian Army staff officers since inception.

(g) Liberia (UNMIL) (Since April 2007): India has been contributing both male and female FPU's ex CRPF /RAF in Liberia. The Female FPU repatriated in Feb 2016 and was a inspiration for the women of the host nation and became trendsetters for other such female FPU's across the Globe and male FPU repatriated in Feb 2017.



(h) India has deployed Staff Officers, Experts on Mission and Military Observers in UNOCI, UNAMA, UNFICYP, UNTSO, MINURSO and UNISFA.

Roll of Honour

7. Indian Army in UN Missions: So far the following gallantry awards have been won by our gallant soldiers in UN Missions:



- Param Vir Chakra 01
- Mahavir Chakra 06
- Kirti Chakra 02
- Vir Chakra 20
- Shaurya Chakra 09
- Yudh Seva Medal 04
- Sena Medal 32



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