

# **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 more than 2,41,500 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 fourth largest troop contributor (TCC) with 6,453 personnel deployed in 09 out of 14 active UN Peacekeeping Missions of which 439 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 co-related 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 90,158 personnel serving on 14 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 80,927 of those serving are troops and military observers and about 10,765 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 2,40,000 troops and a significant number of police personnel have been deployed.



3. India has so far provided 15 Force Commanders in various UN missions. 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 missions, 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, 09 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 5,696 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 6,157 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 12,383 Other Ranks took part in the operations.



(d) Congo (ONUC) (1960-64). Two Infantry Brigades comprising of 467 officers, 401 JCOs and 11,354 participated and conducted operations. A flight of six Canberra bomber aircraft of the IAF also participated in operations. 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 (UNTAC) (1992-1993). Was set up to supervise ceasefire, disarm combatants, repatriate refugees and monitor conduct of free and fair elections. A total of 1,373 all ranks participated from Indian Army.



(f) Mozambique (ONUMOZ) (1992-94). Two Engineer companies HQ company, logistics company, staff officers and military observers were provided. In all 1,083 all ranks participated.

(g) Somalia (UNITAF & UNOSOM II) (1993-94). The Indian navy and Indian Army took active part in UN Operations. Indian Army deployed a Brigade Group comprising of 5,000 all ranks and the Navy deployed four battleships.

(h) Rwanda (UNAMIR) (1994-96). 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 (UNAVEM) (1989-1999). Besides providing a Deputy Force Commander, an Infantry Battalion group and an Engineer Company comprising a total of 1,014 all ranks. India contributed 10 MILOBs for UNAVEM-I, 25 for UNAVEM-II and 20 MILOBs, 37 SO, and 30 Senior NCOs for UNAVEM-III.

(j) Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) (1999-2001). 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 HQ staff.

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

(l) Haiti (MINUSTAH) (2004-17). India contributed three Formed Police Units (FPU) with approx 500 police personnel from BSF, CISF & Assam Rifles from June 2004 to October 2017 which have been hugely successful. The mission was supported by Indian Army Staff Officers.

**Background:** The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was established on 1 June 2004 by Security Council resolution 1542. The UN mission succeeded a Multinational Interim Force (MIF) authorized by the Security Council in February 2004 after President Bertrand Aristide departed Haiti for exile in the aftermath of an armed conflict which spread to several cities across the country.

Indian Participation: Apart from three Indian Formed Police Unit (FPU) there, i.e. from CISF, CRPF and Assam Rifles, the mission had been supported by Indian Army staff officers in the past. However currently there is no deployment of Indian Army officers in the mission since the mission was transitioned to a Police Mission MINUJUSTH with reduced deployment w.e.f. October 2017.

(m) Liberia (UNIMIL) (2007-16). India has been contributing both male and female FPUs ex CRPF/RAF in Liberia. An FPU of 125 all-women Police personnel served from 2007 to Feb 2016 as role models for Liberia's women & girls triggering a four-fold increase in the number of Liberian women applying to become police officers and became trendsetters for other such female FPUs across the Globe, and male FPU repatriated in Feb 2017.

(n) Ivory Coast (UNOCI) (February 2004 to February 2017). India had deployed two infantry battalion groups, Sector HQ, Engineer Company Level II Hospital and a large number of Military Observers and Staff Officers upto Feb 2017.



6. Current Missions - Indian Contribution. The Indian Armed Forces from September 2003 onwards :-



(a) Lebanon (UNIFIL) (Since December 1998). One infantry battalion group comprising 762 all ranks and 18 staff officers deployed in the mission. The current situation in the Mission is tense and volatile due to the crisis in Syria



(b) Congo (MONUC/MONUSCO) (Since January 2005). Extended Chapter VII mandate. India has deployed an augmented Infantry Brigade Group (three infantry battalions including RDB) 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 2,409 (2018) has been implemented with an Intervention Brigade provided by AU, deployed under UN Command. The FARDC alongwith 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 & Level-II Plus 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 168 personnel has been deployed to look after the logistics security of UNDOF. 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 & Camp Faouar.

(e) **MINUJUSTH (United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti)**. Mandated by the United Nations Security Council through Resolutions 2350 (2017) and 2410 (2018), an Indian FPU with 140 police personnel has been deployed in the Mission from 16 October 2017 after the gradual withdrawal of MINUSTAH by 15 October 2017.

(f) India has deployed Staff Officers, Experts on Mission and Military Observers and Independent Police Officers in United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) , United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

(g) India has deployed Staff Officers, Experts on Mission, Military Observers and Independent Police Officers 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.



(a)	Param Vir Chakra	-	01
(b)	Mahavir Chakra	-	06
(c)	Kirti Chakra	-	02
(d)	Vir Chakra	-	20
(e)	Shaurya Chakra	-	09
(f)	Yudh Seva Medal	-	04
(g)	Sena Medal	-	32



Capt Gurbachan Singh Salaria, PVC