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ROLE OF INDIA IN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS OF UNITED NATIONS

Dr. Joginder Singh Saklani

Associate Professor,
Department of Political Science (ICDEOL)
Summer Hill HPU SHIMLA
e-mail jogindersinghsaklani@gmail.com

Vijay Kumar

Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
ABV GDC TAKIPUR KANGRA H.P.
ranotvijay2@gmail.com

Abstract:

Peace has been a fundamental requirement of every state since ancient times, for development & flourishing of the country itself and of the universe as a whole. Development of a country itself and its relations with other states, by and large, are possible only during subsistence of peace.

For establishment of International Peace, many International Organizations have been formed at various times. In 1920, League of Nations had been founded after First World War. Due to failure of League of Nations, the Second World War took place. And with it came into existence the United Nations Organization, which had been founded on October 24, 1945, with its main objective to deploy its troops with the consent of the conflicting parties, to implement and monitor arrangements relating to control of conflicts and their resolution, and to ensure the safe delivery of humanitarian relief.

Even after the UNO came into existence, the world has faced many crisis, like-Cold War in 1945, Arms Race and its opposition, many Civil Wars, Syria Crisis, Migration Crisis etc. But qualifying its responsibilities, aims and objects, UNO has been successful in restoration of peace to a large extent, by negotiation or deployment of its Peacekeeping Troops in the field, as the case may be, which Peacekeeping Troops generally comprise of civilian and military personnel. It is pertinent to mention that no World War has taken place after the UNO came into existence.

India has been opposing the discrimination, racialism, imperialism etc. since beginning. It has been a stern supporter of Peace and World Harmony. To fulfill her commitments; India has actively been participating in the UN Peacekeeping Operations from time to time. India confides in the principle that non-existence of peace, disturbances, war, conflicts in any part of the globe are a grave threat to entire humanity in the world.

Introduction

While the expression 'Peace' does not occur in the United Nations Charter, it is often used to refer to the system for the maintenance of international peace and security under the UN Charter and the corresponding provisions of Regional Organizations.

According to the UN Charter the United Nations has the primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace (Article 1 (1) of UN Charter)

A Peacekeeping Operation is lead by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and it works to create the conditions for restoring peace in a country torn by conflict. UN Peacekeepers provide security and peace building support to help countries in early transition from conflict to peace. Peacekeeping has unique strength, including legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops and police from around the globe, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multidimensional mandates.

Today's multidimensional Peacekeeping Operations are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former combatants; support the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights and assist in restoring the Rule of Law in the affected country or region. Peacekeeping Operations is a flexible application, which, over the past two decades has been deployed in many configurations.

As a founder member of the United Nations, India strongly supports the purposes and principles of the UN and has made significant contributions to implementing the goals of the Charter, and the evolution of the UN's specialized programs and agencies India is a charter member of the United Nations and participates in all of its specialized agencies and organizations. India has contributed troops to United Nations Peacekeeping efforts in various Peacekeeping Operations. The Indian army, with a long history of overseas deployment. fits in all the three qualifications required for the UN peace keeping missions-consent of disputants, support from the international community, and deployment of impartial forces. Due to these advantages, India's participation in the international peace keeping Operations has been comparatively large. The country has an active role to play in peace-keeping efforts of the United Nations.

Concept of Peacekeeping Operations

The Charter of the United Nations was signed. in San Francisco, on 26 June 1945 and is the foundation document for all the United Nations work. The United Nations has been established to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" and one of its main purposes is to maintain

international peace and security. One of the ways in which the UN can maintain international peace and security is through Peacekeeping Operations.

The term "Peacekeeping" was first used by UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld to describe the first UN Emergency Force (UNEF-1), consisting of about 5,000 lightly armed observers who were sent to the Sinai in 1956 to be positioned between Egypt and Israel after the two countries had reached an agreement to end the war between them.

The UN defines Peacekeeping as "an operation involving military personnel, but without enforcement powers, established by the United Nations to help maintain or restore international peace and security in areas of conflict." Peacekeepers have become an indispensable tool in UN peace achievement efforts. Whether monitoring cease-fire agreements, separating the parties to a conflict, or, more recently, monitoring elections, UN Peacekeeping forces have served an important role from the very beginning.

A Peacekeeping Operation is led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and it works to create the conditions for lasting peace in a country torn by conflict. UN Peacekeepers provide security and peace building support to help countries in early transition from conflict to peace. Peacekeeping has unique strengths, including legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops and police from around the globe, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multidimensional mandates.

Objectives of Peacekeeping Operations

- To Prevent the resumption or escalation of violent conflict in conflict-prone societies and establishing a durable and self-sustaining peace
- To Address the underlying sources of conflict
- To Build or rebuild peaceful social institutions and values, including respect for human rights
- To Build or rebuild institutions of governance and the Rule of Law.

Principles Guiding Peacekeeping Operations

UN Peacekeeping Operations is guided by three basic principles: -

1. Consent of the parties: UN Peacekeeping Operations are deployed with the consent of the main parties to the conflict.
2. Impartiality: UN Peacekeepers are impartial in their dealings with the parties to the conflict, but not neutral in the execution of their mandate.
3. Non-use of force except in self-defense and in defense of the mandate: UN Peacekeeping Operations are not an enforcement tool. However, they may use force at the tactical level, with the authorization of the Security Council, if acting in self-defense and defense of the mandate.

The Peacekeepers try to the parties to reach and maintain a ceasefire, so that, a final settlement can be worked out. Their focus is always on protection of civilians, children & women in the crises area and to promote the human rights, restoration of Rule of Law and Humanitarian Relief. One of their main objects also is to monitor and observe peace process in post conflict areas.

If we see United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in its beginning era. it began in 1948 when the Security Council authorized the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East. The mission's role was to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors - an operation which became known as the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). Since then, the UN has deployed 69 Peacekeeping Operations, and 56 of them have been deployed since 1988. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of military personnel, as well as tens of thousands of UN police and other civilians from more than 120 countries have participated in UN Peacekeeping Operations. More than 3,326 UN Peacekeepers from about 120 countries have died while serving under the UN flag.

History of Peacekeeping Operations

We can study the history of Peacekeeping Operations into three phases: -

- 1). The Early Years:** How UN Peacekeeping Operations Started:- UN Peacekeeping was born at a time when Cold War rivalries frequently paralyzed the Security Council. Peacekeeping was primarily limited to maintaining ceasefires and stabilizing situations on the ground. Those missions consisted of unarmed military observers and lightly armed troops with primarily monitoring, reporting and confidence-building roles.
- 2). The Post-Cold War surge:** How UN Peacekeeping Operations has changed over time:- The UN shifted and expanded its field Operations from "traditional missions", generally involving observational tasks performed by military personnel, to "complex multidimensional enterprises". These multidimensional missions were designed to ensure the implementation of comprehensive peace agreements and assist in laying the foundations for sustainable peace, governance, monitoring of human rights, reform of security sector, for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants.
- 3). The Present: Where** UN Peacekeeping Operations is now: Presently UN Peacekeeping Operations have more than 1,24,000 military, police and civilian staff. Since 2010, UN Peacekeeping has entered a phase of consolidation. The numbers have, for the first time in a decade, started to decline slightly. However, this, by no means, indicates that the challenges faced by the UN are diminishing. While the numbers of military peacekeepers may be decreasing, the demand for field missions is expected to remain high, and Peacekeeping will continue to be one of the UN's most complex operational tasks.

There is also a "Department of Peacekeeping Operations". The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) is dedicated to assist the Member States and the Secretary-General in their efforts to maintain international peace and security. The Under-Secretary-General is head of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Up to the late 1980s, Peacekeeping Operations were operated through the UN Office of Special Political Affairs. The official "Department of Peacekeeping Operations" (DPKO) was formally created in 1992, when Boutros-Boutros-Ghali took office as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

DPKO provides political and executive direction to UN Peacekeeping Operations around the world and maintains contact with the Security Council, troop and financial contributors, and parties to the conflict in the implementation of Security Council mandates. The Department works to integrate the efforts of UN, governmental and non-governmental entities in the context of Peacekeeping Operations. DPKO also provides guidance and support on military, police, mine action and other relevant issues to other UN Political and Peace-Building Missions.

There are four main offices of Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)

(1) Office of Operations: The main role of the Office of Operations is to provide political and strategic policy and operational guidance and support to the missions.

(2) Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions:- Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) was established in 2007 to strengthen the links and coordinate the Department's activities in the areas of police, justice and corrections, mine action, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants and security sector reform.

(3) Office of Military Affairs:- Office of Military Affairs (OMA) works to deploy the most appropriate military capability to achieve objectives of United Nations, and to enhance performance and improve the efficiency and the effectiveness of military components in United Nations Peacekeeping Missions.

(4) Policy Evaluation and Training Division:- Policy Evaluation and Training (PET) Division provides an integrated capacity to develop and disseminate policy and doctrine: to develop, coordinate and deliver standardized training, to evaluate mission progress towards mandate implementation, and to develop policies and operational frameworks for strategic cooperation with various UN and external partners.

While the Security Council takes decisions about establishing, maintaining or expanding a Peacekeeping Operation, the financing of UN Peacekeeping Operations is the collective responsibility of all UN Member States. This is in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations. The approved budget for UN Peacekeeping Operations for the fiscal year 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 is \$7.87 billion. Many countries have also voluntarily made additional resources available to support UN Peacekeeping efforts on a non-reimbursable basis in

the form of transportation, supplies, personnel and financial contributions above and beyond their assessed share of Peacekeeping costs. India is on 25th number with 0.1332% contribution to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.

The UN has no military forces of its own, and Member States provide, on voluntary basis, the military and police personnel required for each Peacekeeping operation. Their own Governments, according to their own national rank and salary scale, pay Peacekeeping soldiers. The UN at a standard rate, approved by the General Assembly, reimburses countries volunteering uniformed personnel to Peacekeeping Operations. Police and other civilian personnel are paid from the Peacekeeping budgets reserved for each operation. The UN also reimburses Member States for providing equipment, personnel and support services to military or police contingents.

The Security Council determines the deployment of a new UN Peacekeeping operation. A number of steps have to happen before that decision is reached. For example: Initial Consultation, Technical Field Assessment. Security Council Resolutions). Appointment of Senior Officials, Planning & Deployment, etc After that. The Secretary-General provides regular reports to the Security Council on the implementation of the mission mandate. The Security Council reviews these reports and briefings, and renews and adjusts the mission mandate, as required, until the missions is completed or closed.

Role of India in Peacekeeping Operations of United Nations

Since Independence, India has played an important role in strengthening the United Nations capability in the maintenance of international peace and security and India plays a vital role in contributing to the Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations. The ideals of substantial and sustained contribution to UN Peacekeeping efforts were born with the vision of the first generation leadership of independent India. The first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, viewed Peacekeeping as a critical element in a global vision of peaceful coexistence. Since then, it has been an integral part of India's engagement with the United Nations. India has been standing firmly 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 1.80.000 troops, the largest number from any country, which has participated in more than 44 Peacekeeping missions out of 71 missions.

India began its contribution to Peacekeeping Operations even before its independence from British rule, through its participation in the UN Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) from May to August 1947. India's first assignment to UN peace keeping arose at the termination of war in Korea in 1950. Shortly afterwards, in 1956 the first United Nations Emergency Force was sent in response to the Suez Canal crisis and an Indian infantry battalion formed a vital component of it. The peace keepers' mission was to oversee the withdrawal of British, French and Israeli troops from the area

and act as a buffer between Israeli and Egyptian forces. In the mid fifties, India was also bestowed the honor of Chairmanship of the International Control Commission for Indo-china where India had one infantry battalion and supporting staff in order to implement the cease fire agreement between Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and France.

During the period 1960-64, India had a large number of troops including an air force bomber detachment in Congo where UN faced one of its worst crises when war between the government and the secessionist forces broke out in the former Belgian colony. The performance of the Indian troops where the nation lost 39 brave men was distinguished by their discipline, self-restraint and humanitarian concern. Force commanders and observer groups were also provided in Yemen (1963-64), Cyprus (1964 onwards) and later on Iran-Iraq border (1988-89) to monitor the situation between the two warring nations. It was followed by observers and monitors in Namibia, Central America and El Salvador.

In 1993, the UN negotiated a peace treaty that included UN monitored elections to end the civil war in Cambodia. The two infantry battalions, field ambulance, observers, electoral supervisors, staff officers and mine training teams provided by India helped a great deal in restoring peace in that part of Indo-China. In 1993-94, brigade strength of Indian troops aided by IAF helicopters worked with different tribal clans in Somalia to recreate a legitimate government and establish social institutions. Indian Naval ships, too, were involved in patrolling duties off the Somali coast and in the transportation of men and material for the UN. The laudable achievements in Somalia cost the Indian army nine precious lives of officers and men who were ambushed and killed by rival Somali groups while on a humanitarian mission. Rwanda also had its share of one Indian infantry battalion and allied staff as part of UN forces. Our army contingents and military observers are still doing yeoman service in Kuwait and Lebanon where the quality of their performance has been widely acclaimed. Indian army has already deployed two infantry battalions, one company of engineers and one field hospital. In Sierra Leone, India has also offered one brigade of troops to the UN Standby arrangements for meeting contingencies.

India has provided the largest number of troops to UN Peacekeeping missions in the world. As of 2014, India has taken part in 44 Peacekeeping missions out of the 71 UN Peacekeeping Operations with a contribution exceeding 1,80,000 troops, with 158 casualties, the highest number among participating countries. India has so far, provided one Military Advisor (Lt Gen RK Mehta), one Police Adviser (Ms Kiran Bedi), one Deputy Military Adviser (Lt Gen Abhijit Guha), 14 Force Commanders and numerous Police Commissioners in various UN Missions. 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)." In 2014, India has been the third largest troop contributor with 7,860 personnel deployed with ten UN Peacekeeping Missions including the first Female Fog the largest troop contoindia also resisted domestic political pressure to serund 800 personnel deployed whuitors withdraw til their miss, political pressun with around ten In 2016, India has been a UN Peacekeeping Missions, including the first personnel troop contributor indargest Female Formed Polipe Loitunder the UN. The gh standard the informace maintained consistently by the Indian troops and policemen deployed on UN Missions under challenging circumstances have won them high regard worldwide. In the Post-Cold War period, Second Generation Peacekeeping Operations deal more with the struggles of weaker states suffering from civil wars, secessions and tribal unrest. India was one of the troop contributors to maintain its original strength till the end. It also resisted domestic political pressure to withdraw till their mission was complete. In 2016, India has been a third largest personnel troop contributor in UN Peacekeeping Operations after the Bangladesh (9,432) and Ethiopia (8.309) with 7,7adesh from which India deployed 1,027 police personnel, 51 military experts and 6,716 troops in 07 continuing missions out of 16 continuing missions. In present as on November 2017. India has been still a third largest personnel troop contributor with number of 6,700 troops contributing in 09 continuing peacekeeping operations after Ethiopia (8,387) and Bangladesh (7,240).

Table of India's Contribution in Continuing 09 UN Peacekeeping Operations (As up to November 2017)

S.No.	Name of Peacekeeping Operation	No. of Personnel
1.	United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUJUSTH)	280
2.	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)	03
3.	United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)	2,913
4.	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)	198
5.	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	4
6.	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)	898
7.	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)	5
8.	United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)	2,398
9.	United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)	01
	Total Number of Personnels	6,700

(Source-<https://www.peacekeeping.un.org/en/troop-and-police-contributors>)

India's unique combination of being the largest democracy in the world with a strong 2 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 peace building. India was reappointed as a member to the Organizational Committee of the Peace building Commission 3. (PBC) in December 2010, for a third 2-year term.

It was therefore most appropriate that in order to exploit our expertise and experience 4. in this arena, a Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping was set up in September 2000 under the aegis of the United Service Institution of India in New Delhi, with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India. This Centre besides overseeing the training of contingents earmarked for Peacekeeping Operations, has undertaken conduct of training courses for our sub-unit 6. commanders, military observers. officers. proposed for deputation on staff appointments, and police personnel. Officers, formally endorsed by the Department of Peacekeeping 7. Operations at UN Head Quarters, and from a number of friendly foreign countries are also attending these courses, now. In addition, the Centre conducts national and international seminars and conferences on the subject of Peacekeeping. As it matures, the Centre will also be a repository of our experiences in United Nations Peacekeeping.

Principles leading India's Policy on Peacekeeping Operations of the UN

India's Policy on Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations is governed by the following principles:

1. All means for the peaceful settlement of disputes chosen by the conflicting parties should be exhausted before commencing a Peacekeeping operation;
2. Peacekeeping Operations should strictly adhere to the principles of the UN Charter, in particular, the principles of full respect for the sovereignty of States, their territorial integrity and non- intervention in their internal affairs;
3. Peacekeeping Operations should be considered at the request of the Member States involved and should be under the command and control of UN;
4. The resources for Peacekeeping activities should not be at the exhaust of resources for developmental activities of the UN.
5. It is important to ensure that the distinction between Peacekeeping Operations and other activities of the UN, including Humanitarian Assistance, is maintained.
6. There should be no hesitation in ending those Operations, which have been overtaken by events or become inconsistent with their mandates.
7. The anticipated duration of a Peacekeeping mission should be tied to clear objectives and realistic criteria to end the mission and an exit strategy.

With large number of Personnel, India has participated in and contributed to the following Peacekeeping Operations and Missions of the United Nations :-

Accomplished Missions:

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

(b) Indo-China (1954-70): India and supporting comprising three provided an dall for control of Indo-China, states of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Tasks An 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): India was part of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), where for the first time armed troop 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 composed of 467 officers, 401 JCOs and 11354 other ranks participated and conducted Operations. A flight of six Canberra bomber aircraft of the IAF also participated in the 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 (1992-1993) (UNTAC): United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia was set up to supervise ceasefire, disarm combatants, repatriate refugees and monitor conduct of free and fair elections. A total of 1373 peacekeepers from all ranks of the Indian Army participated.

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

(g) Somalia (1993-94) (UNITAF & UNOSOM 11): The Indian Navy and Indian Army took active part in UN Operations. Indian Army deployed a Brigade Group composed 5000 personnel from all ranks and the navy deployed four battleships.

(h) Rwanda (1994-96) (UNAMIR): Infantry Battalion group, a Signal Company. Military Observers were provided. Focal of 956 from allranks took part. Brigadier Shiva Kumar of the Indian Army (Acting) was the third and final Force Commander of UN troops serving in Rwanda from December 1995-March 1996.

(i) Angola (1989-1999) (UNAVEM): Besides providing a Deputy Force Commander, an Infantry Battalion group and an engineer company comprising a total of 1014 from all ranks. India contributed 10 military observers for UNAVEM I. 25 for UNAVEM II and 20 military observers, 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 were provided.

(k) Ethiopia-Eritrea (2006-08) (UNMEE): Indian contribution comprised of one infantry battalion group, one construction Engineer Company and one Force Reserve Company, apart from staffing at various HQs and military observers. Continuing Missions:

The Indian Armed Forces are currently undertaking the following UN Missions:

- (a) Lebanon (UNIFIL) (Since Dec 1998):** One infantry battalion group, Level II Hospital comprising 650 peacekeepers from all ranks and 23 staff officers have been deployed till date by India. The current situation in the Mission is tense and volatile due to the crises in Syria. UNIFIL's mandate is renewed by United Nations Security Council annually.
- (b) Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) (Since January 2005):** Extended Chapter VII mandate with Augmented Infantry Brigade Group (four infantry battalions with level III Hospital), Army aviation contingent with utility helicopters along with a large number of military observers and SOs have been contributed by India. In addition, two Formed Police Units (FPU) comprising of former BSF and ITBP personnel have also been deployed since 2009. Lt Gen Chander Prakash of India has, till recently been the Force Commander in MONUSCO.
- (c) South Sudan (UNMISS) (Since April 2005):** Two Infantry Battalion groups. sector HQ, Engineer company, signal company, Level-II Hospital and a large number of military observers and staff officers (SOs) have been deployed by India. The mission has a Deputy Force Commander Brig Asit Mistry (Indian Army) and until recently a Deputy Police Commissioner Sanjay Kundu (Indian Police Service) was also present there. The latest political developments in the Mission led to widespread inter-tribe violence and large displacement of locals. In the ensuing intra state conflict two Indian Peacekeepers lost their lives while ensuring Protection of Civilians. 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.

I.S. Singha is the Force Commander since July 2012. Current crisis due to Syrian conflict has impacted the mission and exchange of fire between the Syrian Forces and the armed groups have put the Peacekeepers in grave danger.

- (e) **Haiti (MINUSTAH) (Since December 1997):** Apart from three Indian Formed Police Unit (FPU) there, i.e. from CISF, CRPF and Assam Rifles, which have been successful, the mission has been supported by Indian Army staff officers since its inception. In addition to above this India has also contributed in the following continuing Peacekeeping Operations with minimal number of troops, as in: Western Sahara (MINURSO) 03, Cyprus (UNFICYP) - 04, Abyei (UNISFA) - 05, Middle East (UNTSO) - 01.

Benefits to India of its Participation in Peacekeeping Operations of the UN

India has gained considerable goodwill for being actively involved in peace-keeping Operations in the world. This opportunity has enhanced military and operational skills in handling the humanitarian aspects of war and conflict amongst the troops who are basically trained in the art of violence. The UN peace-keeping tenure also provides exposure to the state-of-art military hardware that is available with other armies. The military units also learn joint operational procedures while working along with other armies. Another benefit is the unique opportunity to interact with members of the armed forces of other countries and develop professional and personal rapport as happened in Somalia between the Indian and Pakistani military personnel. Our contingents have earned numerous accolades in the countries where they have served.

India has participated in almost all of the UN Peacekeeping Operations and has also successfully led many of them. It is very rare that any incident of indiscriminate or misbehavior or indecency by the Indian Participants to UN Peacekeeping Force has been reported. Successful participation and leadership of UN Peacekeeping Operations has further strengthened the claim of India for Permanent Seat in UN Security Council. **Obstacles & Criticism Faced During Participation by Indian Troops.**

While all peacekeepers have certainly led to peaceful transitions and the rebuilding of legitimate and functioning states in many places (from Cambodia to Liberia and Sierra Leone), still face many internal and external challenges that need to be addressed. Indian peacekeepers face many obstacles, criticisms, challenges and problems like Lack of Field Support, Problem of Orthodox and Religious Fundamentalists, less knowledge of New Technology, Diversity in PKO's Mandates. Racism, Lack of Coordination, Lack of Resources, Fake Allegations, Emerging New Norms, Protection of Civilians, New Peacekeepers. Intra State Conflicts, Multi Functional Nature of Mission, unknown Geographical conditions. Different Weather conditions of Host Countries, Problem of

Communication. Facing Unhealthy Environment and Diseases, Non-cooperative Host Governments in case of use of force, etc.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that India has played a key role through participation and leadership of UN Peacekeeping Operations. It has been a huge troop contributor to the Peacekeeping Operations and donor to funds to UN. By joining and supporting the UN, India has proved its commitment for international peace and humanity, against racialism, discrimination, and imperialism etc. India possesses the honor of deputing its first Female Troop to UN Peacekeeping Operations. These sincere contributions have accorded India a distinctive place in World Politics. With such remarkable contributions India has strengthened its claim for a Permanent Seat in UN Security Council. Indian peacekeepers are facing many hardships, challenges and problems and are also subject to unwarranted criticism due to various reasons beyond their control. Despite all limitations and criticism, Indian Troops contributing to UN Peacekeeping Operations, are performing well for achievement accomplishment of demarcated mens and objectives of UN Peacekeeping Operations, gaining India a repute and specific place in International Politics. The Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations have played significant role in maintaining International Peace and Security with humanitarian approach towards the global society, which corresponds to its objective of establishment. Revival and Maintenance of the Rule of Law, Promotion of Human Rights, Disarmament, and Reintegration of formal combatants, Assistance to Continuation of Political Process in the affected areas of the world are prime objectives of the United Nations, which have successfully been achieved by the UN through its Peacekeeping Operations.

End Notes

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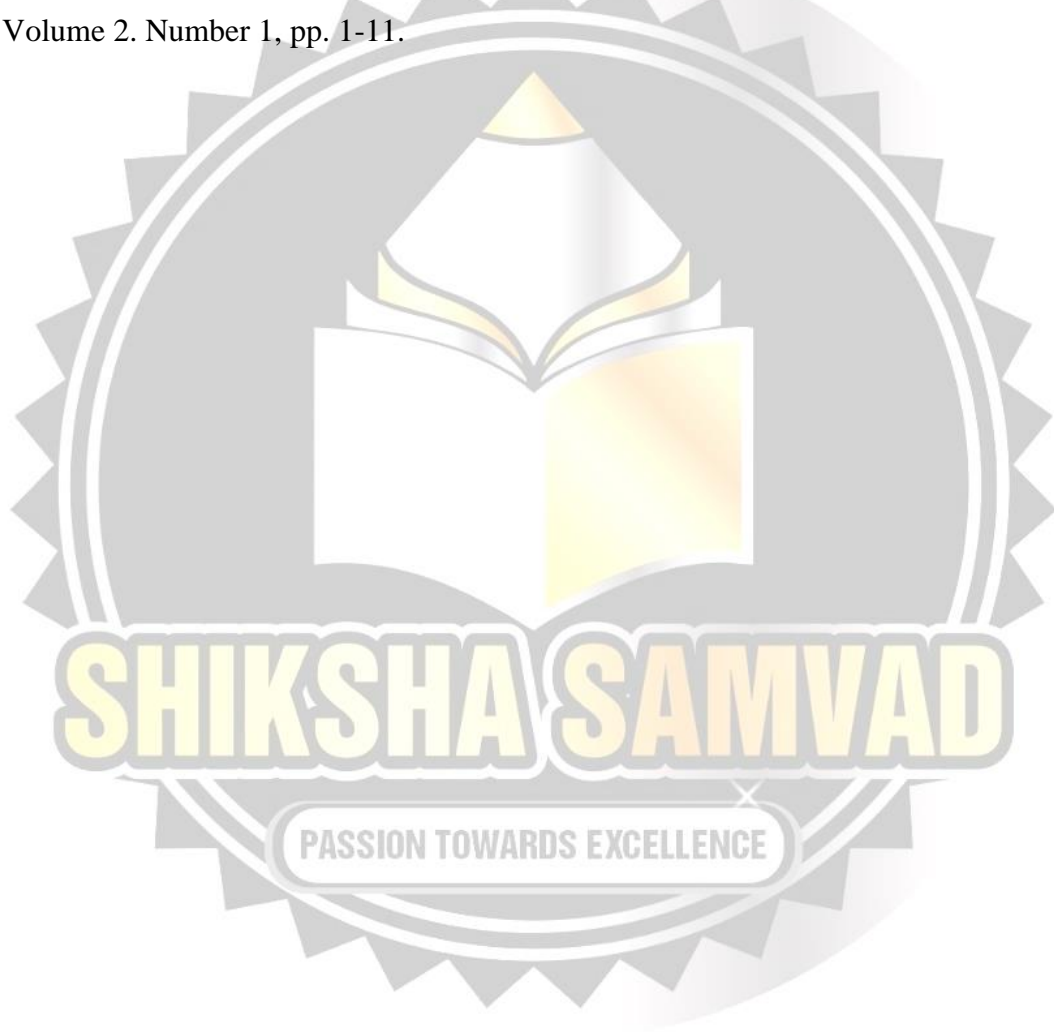
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