



INDIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

The United Nations was born as a successor to the League of Nations in the year 1945, with the idea to prevent future wars and establish international harmony. Since inception, UN has been actively developing multiple plans of action to promote solidarity, socio-economic cooperation, and justice at a global level.

Today, the UN stands tall as a prime inter-governmental organization that aims to promote peace and order in the anarchical international system of states. One of the most promising initiatives taken up by the UN as an international agency towards conflict resolution and peace generation is the Peacekeeping. The UN Peacekeeping evolved in the turbulent times of 1950's. Over the years, UN peace-keeping has been committed to its noble initiative of helping the countries to navigate the difficult path of conflict to peace. Since the UN as an organization takes a firm stance for the principle need of peace in the world order, its idea of peace isn't restricted to the peaceful co-existence of the states, rather UN also views acts of aggression within the sovereign boundaries of states as a threat to world peace.

Under the banner of Peacekeeping, the UN provides assistance to the conflict-ridden states to attain a peaceful and conducive environment to flourish. The primary aim of its Peacekeeping is to attain peace through the non-violent means of negotiations and deliberations while military deployment is the last resort. UN Peacekeeping showcases an exemplary global partnership, as it brings together the Security Council, the General Assembly, the secretariats, troops from across the world, and the host governments in a combined effort to maintain international peace. Peacekeeping has a unique combination of strengths, which includes legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops from around the globe yet remain empowering towards the conflict-ridden states. UN military deployment under Peacekeeping is to maintain stability and pave way for bilateral negotiations between the conflicting parties.

The UN's military Peacekeepers operate on a Triad of Principles:

- Consent of the parties to the conflict;
- Impartiality of the Peacekeepers;
- Use of force by the Peacekeepers only in self-defence and in defence of the mandate.

These principles, which remain at the core of UN Peacekeeping missions make it a legitimate and credible source of aid for the nations in times of turbulence.

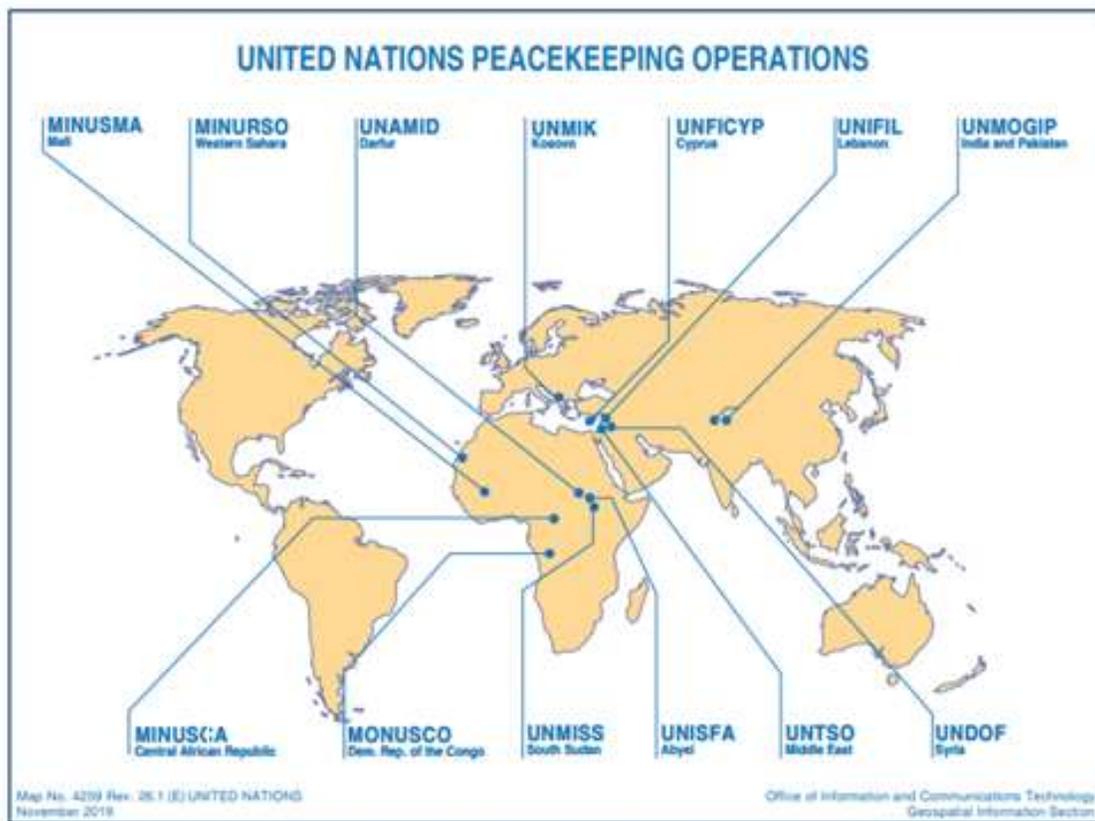
Over the years, the UN has garnered mixed reactions from the global community for its Peacekeeping, several Peacekeeping deployments have got accolades and cheers from across the globe, while some have been criticized for its failure in containing the conflicts. However, India can take pride in the fact that the undeterred commitment and participation of Indian Armed Forces personnel have received praise from the global community. Indian Armed



Forces personnel through their dedication and determination towards international peace have set a benchmark for the rest of the world.

In a world full of disparities, military means is not the only dimension of conflict resolution. With the passage of time, the UN has developed a multi-dimensional approach to Peacekeeping. This approach involves the inclusion of civilian staff to build support for the peace process and foster reconciliation processes by promoting rule of law. In the past few years, the UN has appointed more than 14,000 civilians who have served in UN Peacekeeping operations and actively promote human rights.

United nations in its 77 years of contribution to building a global community has performed its role with aplomb and alacrity. It has truly helped the world in transcending the boundaries of a nation, class, tribe, and race. The towering efforts of United Nation Peacekeeping in promoting world peace has made them a recipient of the prestigious Nobel Peace prize in the year of 1988. The United Nations with its Peacekeeping efforts in the world has paved a map to global peace and harmony and continues to do so with every passing day.





MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara	established: 1991
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic	established: 2014
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali	established: 2013
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Rep. of the Congo	established: 2010
UNAMID	African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur	established: 2007
UNDOF	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force	established: 1974
UNFICYP	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus	established: 1964
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon	established: 1978
UNISFA	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei	established: 2011
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo	established: 1999
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan	established: 2011
UNMOGIP	United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan	established: 1949
UNTSO	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization	established: 1948

Above images highlight the data as per November 2019 on going UN Missions along with their dates of establishment

Source: DPKO-Directed-Missions_4259R26.1(E)_Nov19 (un.org)

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO UN PEACEKEEPING

In the midst of the most turbulent times, when the world was desperately searching for a way towards peace, a man was drafting the very idea of peace and non-violence in a country that was yet to gain its independence. Mahatma Gandhi remains the foremost philosopher to espouse the principles of peace and non-violence. He has not just theorized them but has lived by his principles of non-violence. Indians take immense pride in carrying forward his legacy of *Ahimsa (Non-Violence)* into this contemporary world by collaborating with the UN to promote peace and non-violence across the world.

Indians for ages have lived by the concept of *Vasudhavia Kutumbakam, (the whole world is my family)* propounded by the ancient sages of India. The principle of 'the entire world, a family' continues to remain a bedrock of the policies and practices of Independent India. The UN and India working hand in hand for the shared goal of global peace is one of the finest examples that blends India's commitment towards the modern demands of the world with its ancient principles. India has a long-distinguished history of serving at UN Peacekeeping. Since both the UN and India share a common approach of promoting global peace through non-violence, India has strengthened United Nations reinforcements by remaining among the prime contributors of troops to its Peacekeeping force. In 77 years of the UN's existence, India has served in 49 of 71 UN missions. Our soldiers have shown dedication and determination of the highest order by serving in the most physically demanding and harshest environments. This act of devotion has also brought our forces worldwide applause and recognition. More than 200,000 Indian nationals have contributed to the UN Peacekeeping, till date.



Source:https://colnect.com/en/stamps/stamp/158538-Indian_Army_in_UN_Peacekeeping_Operations-Military-India

Indian forces have provided their valued assistance to multiple conflict-ridden states. Indian association with UN Peacekeeping dates back to the year 1953. India's first UN Peacekeeping mission was deployed in Korea (1950-54), followed by Indo-China (1954-70), Middle-east (1956-67), Congo (1960-64), Cambodia (1992-93), West Asia (1980-88) and Somalia (1993-94) besides several others.

UN and India have been associated for multiple Peacekeeping Missions in the past, a few are listed below:

- Korea (1950-54)
- Indo-China (1954-70)
- Middle-east (1956-67)
- Congo (1960-64) (ONUC)
- Mozambique (1992-94) (ONUMOZ)
- Angola (1989-1999) (UNAVEM)
- Cambodia (1992-93) (UNTAC)
- West Asia (1980-88)
- Somalia (1993-94) (UNITAF & UNOSOM II)
- Rwanda (1994-96) (UNAMIR)
- Sierra Leone (1999-2001) (UNAMSIL)
- Ethiopia-Eritrea (2006-08) (UNMEE)



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Currently UN and India are involved in multiple Peacekeeping missions taking across the world. Some of the UN Peacekeeping Missions which are still in progress, are listed below:

- Lebanon (UNIFIL) (Since Dec 1998)
- Congo (MONUC/MONUSCO) (Since January 2005)
- Sudan (UNMIS / UNMISS) (Since April 2005)
- Golan Heights (UNDOF) (Since February 2006)
- Ivory Coast (UNOCI) (Since Feb. 2017)
- Haiti (MINUSTAH) (Since December 1997)
- Liberia (UNMIL) (Since April 2007)



Source: MEA | Photo Features: Photos



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India has awarded many of our brave Peacekeepers with gallantry awards for their acts of courage and heroism. However, with undiminishing glory comes sacrifices that often go unnoticed beneath the glitter. India has lost many of its resilient soldiers who sacrificed their lives for their duty. Our blue-uniformed have been achieving new milestones of gallantry by the display of supreme devotion to their duties.



Source: Release of Commemorative Postage Stamp on 75th Anniversary of United Nations (mea.gov.in)

Indian Government has issued a stamp for celebrating 75 years of United Nations in the year 2020. In past 75 years, Indian forces have served in 5 different continents. Our forces serving under the blue flag, are a source of inspiration, commitment and dedication to the cause of peace and harmony in the world.



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INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO UN PEACEKEEPING

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4. Troop and police contributors | United Nations Peacekeeping
5. Picture 2- Indian Soldiers at UN Peacekeeping Stamp Source- https://colnect.com/en/stamps/stamp/158538-Indian_Army_in_UN_Peacekeeping_Operations-Military-India
6. Picture 3- MEA | Photo Features: Photos
7. Picture 4- Commemorative stamp to celebrate 75 years of UN
Source: Release of Commemorative Postage Stamp on 75th Anniversary of United Nations (mea.gov.in)