Research Paper

India's Role In The UN Peacekeeping Operations

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Abstract:

India is undertaking a massive re-evaluation of its regional and global roles in the context of post-Cold War security arrangements. Participation in UN peacekeeping missions used to be a crucial way for India to display its Third World credentials as well as its unwavering commitment to the UN and the values and spirit of the Non-Aligned Movement. India has continued to participate in UN operations in various parts of the world and in various positions since its independence in 1947. Since then, India's attitude and approach to UN peacekeeping, and by extension, the entire UN apparatus, has been idealistic from the outset, taking strength and moral high ground from its one-of-a-kind freedom struggle. This reflected the values of internationalism and world peace that our first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, had. As a result, India's participation in a number of UN peacekeeping missions at the time reflected this idealistic mindset. India's position and attitude to peacekeeping operations has altered considerably in response to changing geopolitics. Our own geopolitical interests and ambitions influenced what began out as a moral imperative to safeguard global peace principles. At the same time, India was establishing itself as one of the world's most powerful democracies, with vast political and economic potential. This thought fuelled our desire to seek a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. It became obvious as India's perspective on the conflict in its own backyard, the Indian Subcontinent, diverged dramatically from that of the rest of the world. The United Nations (UN) formed UN Peacekeeping to restore international peace and security during its early years of existence. "UN Peacekeeping continues to play a vital role in ensuring peace and security by protecting people and preventing human rights violations as a result of violence and war, as the international body celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2015". Under the aegis of the United Nations, India has emerged as a leader in the shared task of establishing world peace and security. It has upheld UN objectives and taken on responsibility for delivering soldiers, financial assistance, and other peacekeeping needs. As a result, we can see how India's much-publicized participation in the UN Peacekeeping mission mirrors India's own aims and goals. The primary factors hindering India's ability to attain parity and raise its political opinions

without relying on others are summarised in this essay on "*India's Role in UN Peacekeeping Operations*". Our study comprised a fact check and predictive analysis of key records and data relevant to our study's goal, which helped us form conclusions about UN peacekeeping operations, growth opportunities, and potential problems.

Keywords: - UN Peacekeeping; Intervention & Conflicts; India; Operation; Policies.

1.   Hypothesis:

"This research paper on India's role and posture in UN peacekeeping missions tries to identify areas where India's role and posture in UN peacekeeping deployments might be improved. It also looks into the reasons behind India's recent re-commitment to UN peacekeeping. The study looks at current political and economic events, as well as the dangers and opportunities that may affect them and other countries around the world".

2.   Introduction:

The central thesis of this article is India's contribution and participation in United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions. India contributes the most to UN peacekeeping deployments around the world among developing countries. As a result of these major contributions, as well as the country's expanding economic strength, the country has gained greater international prominence. Thousands of military and civilian personnel have been despatched by India practically since the start of UN peacekeeping activities in 1948 to monitor ceasefires, arbitrate between conflict parties, and assist in the transition of war-torn civilizations and regions into a hopefully stable and enduring peace. Despite facing all of the problems of nation-building at home, including the alleviation of widespread poverty, the stabilisation of frail political institutions, and the resolution of numerous social, ethnic, and religious conflicts, it has managed to accomplish so [1].

India's rising influence corresponds, strangely, with the country's desire for permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council. However, India's previous term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council offers a bleak image of the country's progress toward realising its goals. This raises a few issues that need to be addressed in order to better comprehend India's position in such peacekeeping missions and how far it needs to go in order to achieve its objectives. The following questions are addressed by this paper: What has India's role in UN peacekeeping deployments been like? How should India's position on such UN peacekeeping deployments be seen in the context of the UN's larger interventions?

In January 2014, around 6,800 Indian troops, 900 Indian police officers, and a smaller detachment of experts were sent to eleven UN operations spanning Haiti to the Golan Heights, Cyprus to Liberia. A total of 7,849.000 people has been deployed. Only Bangladesh (7,918) and Pakistan (7,918) are more committed to UN peacekeeping than India (8,266) [2]. It's also worth noting that India has incurred more casualties than any other country that contributes troops, with 156 deaths [3].

It's no surprise that the country has been referred to in the past as the "backbone of peacekeeping"[4]. This is especially true in the years following the end of the Cold War,

when practitioners and analysts alike noted an increase in demand for UN peacekeeping missions and possibilities [5]. Simultaneously, Western countries that had previously been big contributors have become increasingly hesitant to participate in actual UN peacekeeping missions [6]. The term "peacekeeping" and its key ideas are briefly discussed in the introduction.

The report then goes on to discuss India's commitment to UN peacekeeping, the performance of Indian troops, and the contemporary issues that peacekeepers confront. The term "peacekeeping" is not used in the United Nations Charter. The founders of the United Nations, which was founded on October 24, 1945, did not see the UN sending armed forces into war-torn countries to restore peace and security [7]. Peacekeepers were tasked with civilian security, disarmament and demobilisation, election administration, and administrative service rebuilding. The terms "first-, second-, and third-generation peacekeeping" started to be used to describe the proliferation of peacekeeping goals [8]. Despite the entry of a number of new actors in recent years, the resulting resource–expectations imbalance highlights the importance of India's commitment to UN peacekeeping [9]. Peacekeeping was created in the 1950s as a tool to maintain international peace and security [10]. There is no precise definition of peacekeeping, although it is defined as follows in The Blue Helmets, a UN publication:

"A UN mission that uses military forces but lacks enforcement capabilities to help preserve or restore international peace and security in war zones. These surgeries are done on a voluntary basis and are based on cooperation and agreement. While peacekeeping entails the employment of military personnel, it does not entail the use of force or weaponry, as the United Nations' 'enforcement action' under Article [11]".

The parties' consent, impartiality, and non-use of force unless in self-defence were the three core principles that underpinned UN peacekeeping. For both burden-sharing and successful action, the UN peacekeeping mission provides an unbiased and widely respected vehicle. It also creates a safe climate in which peace efforts can continue and a peace process can flourish.

Contribution of India to UN peacekeeping
Peacekeeping was an important component of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru's global goal of peaceful coexistence. It has been an important aspect of India's UN relations ever since [12]. Through its involvement in the UN Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), established in May 1947, India was a member of UN peacekeeping operations even before it earned independence from British domination [13].

India has participated in every UN peacekeeping operation carried out in African countries, with the honour of leading a few missions. The largest contingent of Indian

troops took part in ONUC[1], with two infantry brigades totalling roughly 12,000 soldiers. India contributed a task force of three naval ships to UNITAF[2], marking India's first naval participation in US peacekeeping. Its contribution goes beyond simply deploying the most personnel to peacekeeping missions; it also takes into account professionalism, humanitarian concerns, and gender awareness [14].

Several times, Indian peacekeepers have been praised for their contributions to UN peacekeeping operations, particularly in African countries. During the United Nations Mission in Rwanda, Major General G.C. Tousignant, the force commander[3], lauded Indian Peacekeepers as one of the best warriors in the world during his parting address. Indian troops have been stationed as part of the UN-led Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 2000.

India has proven to be 'Reliable' peacekeepers by demonstrating easy adaptation, long-term deployment, readiness to take risks, and so on, especially when faced with contemporary security problems and complexities. Many countries, including the United States, France, and Belgium, have withdrawn their soldiers from peacekeeping operations because to the deteriorating environment of UN peacekeeper deaths and mounting human costs, particularly since the UN peacekeeping mission in Somalia in 1993.

India, on the other hand, has maintained its actions while such missions are being completed, and has also taken the lead in rescuing peacekeepers held captive by various rebel groups. Then-UN Secretary-General Kofi Anan praised them for their efforts. Such examples demonstrate the Indian Peacekeepers' capacity and capabilities.

"The contribution of India to UN peacekeeping is notable and commendable. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for India's important contribution to peacekeeping operations and praised Modi's commitment on boosting the country's socioeconomic well-being[4]. Ambassador Samantha Power, the United States' Permanent Representative to the United Nations, praised India's peacekeeping support and assistance. She also referred to Jawaharlal Nehru's worldview, specifically his belief that serving India entails serving the millions who suffer"[5].

India has made a significant and willing contribution to international peace and human welfare over the years. The first contribution made by India to the UN command in Korea was military hospitals and field ambulances. In 1956, Indian troops were sent to Egypt to help with a UN peacekeeping mission. Indian troops assisted in the supervision of the departure of French, Israeli, and British soldiers, as well as acting as a buffer between Egyptian and Israeli forces. "In 1960, Nehru personally toured one of the Indian troops' observation points in Suez. Following the approval of UNSC Resolution 1325 in 2000, which permitted women to

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[1] "The UN Operation in Congo, Organisation des Nations Unies Au Congo 1960-1963, was the first UN Peacekeeping mission in Africa began after an urgent request by Congo".

[2] United Task Force, a mission began by the United States to flow humanitarian relief after the UN Operation in Somalia did not bore any successful result.

[3] United Nations Assistance Mission was the UN peacekeeping operation in Rwanda from 1994 to 1996.

[4] The Hindu, 'Ban Ki-moon Thanks India for Contribution to U.N. Peacekeeping Efforts', September 28, 2014, at http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/world/ban-kimoonthanks-india-for-contribution-to-un-peacekeeping-efforts/article6454415.ece (Accessed January 6, 2016).

[5] . Ambassador Samantha Power, US Permanent Representative to the United Nations, 'Remarks on Effective Peacekeeping in the 21st Century, New Delhi, India', November 20, 2015, United States Mission to the United Nations, at http://usun.state.gov/remarks/6991 (Accessed January 5, 2016).

participate in upholding international peace and security, India was the first of the TCCs to deploy female peacekeepers[6]. From 2007 to February 14, 2016, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)[7] deployed the first-ever all-female Indian-formed police unit, which performed admirably while empowering Liberian women. Despite security concerns in its own territory, India has contributed more to UN peacekeeping than any other country during the last 70 years"[8].

India was recognised in May 2015 for its contributions to international peace and security[9]. "Arun K. Singh, India's ambassador to the United States, was honoured at an event in Washington hosted by Better World, the United Nations Association of the United States, and the US-India Business Council Campaign. Ambassador Singh emphasised the role of peacekeeping in maintaining peace and security, as well as India's commitment to it"[10].

"India's commitment to the UN Charter is shown in its support and aid for UN peacekeeping operations. It sees the United Nations as a venue that could ensure international peace and security. India has worked to strengthen the UN system in order to address new challenges such as development, poverty eradication, climate change, terrorism, piracy, disarmament, human rights, peace-building, and peacekeeping in accordance with the UN Charter's spirit of multilateralism"[11].

Programme for Civil-Military Cooperation

Apart from defending civilians from direct force or violence, Indian forces have used humanitarian initiatives to help create good community relations as part of the Civil Military Cooperation Program. This entails using less force and focusing on capturing the hearts and minds of local residents through various activities such as community engagement, kindness, and so on. For example, Indian peacekeepers in Ethiopia and Eritrea carried out Operation Maitri (Friendship). They have provided water channels to drought-stricken communities, medical and health-care facilities through awareness programmes, and veterinary facilities to help animals live longer and healthier lives. They made a variety of initiatives in Congo to protect children from one of the most horrific phenomena in conflict zones: the proliferation of child soldiers.

All-Women Unit Takes a Step Toward Gender Equality

In the case of the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Liberia in 2007, India made the most substantial and unique contribution. It happened after the United Nations Security

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[6] 'Resolution 1325 (2000), S/RES/1325/2000', United Nations Security Council, October 31, 2000, at http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325(2000) (Accessed February 25, 2016).

[7] The Indian Express, 'Liberia Bids Farewell to Indian Women Peacekeepers', January 27, 2016.

[8] Ambassador Samantha Power, no. 15.

[9] "The Indian Express, 'India Honoured for Significant Contribution to UN Peacekeeping', May 14, 2015, at http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/india-honoured-forsignificant-contribution-to-un-peacekeeping/ (Accessed January 6, 2016)".

[10] 'International Day of UN Peacekeepers', Press Release, Embassy of India, Washington, DC, at https://www.indianembassy.org/archives_details.php?nid=2192 (Accessed January 5, 2016)

[11] Archis Mohan, 'India and United Nations: The Quest for Equity', Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, September 20, 2013, at http://mea.gov.in/in-focus-article.htm?22231/ India+and+the+United+Nations (Accessed January 19, 2016).

Council passed Historic Resolution 1325 in 2000, emphasising the role of women in peacekeeping missions. This was the first time a UN peacekeeping mission included an all-female contingent. This idea was lauded as the first step toward gender equality by breaking the glass ceiling by reforming UN peacekeeping missions. As a result, women's image began to transition from victim to mediator. India has the potential to become the "largest supplier of women in uniform to the United Nations," according to officers such as Kiran Bedi[12]. India has always advocated for women to participate fully, effectively, and meaningfully in peacekeeping missions. India has 98 female peacekeepers as of April 2020, which is less than other countries like as Ethiopia, which sends 631 female peacekeepers.

The rationale for such engagement is as follows:
o   It strengthens India's commitment to peace, which is one of our most cherished national ideals.
o   Strengthens global strategic footprints.
o   Improves the country's goodwill and puts diplomatic contacts in the spotlight, which will help India in the future.
o   The country's gender equality policies include sending all-women contingents to UN peacekeeping deployments.

Contributing by Troops

India has always contributed troops to UN peacekeeping missions. More than 200,000 Indians have served in 49 of the UN's 71 peacekeeping missions across the world since 1948. In 2007, India was the first country to send an entirely female troop to a UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia. Indian army assisted in the protection of civilians and the establishment of peace in countries. In addition, during the Korean War in 1950, India dispatched its paratroopers to provide medical support. India has participated in a number of UN peacekeeping deployments, notably Cambodia (1992-93), Sudan (2007), and Liberia (2007). (2007). According to UN data, India is the fourth largest troop contributor to UN peacekeeping missions, with 6700 troops and police currently deployed.

Current Situation

In recent years, India has helped peacekeeping efforts by donating 200,00 doses of Covid-19 vaccinations developed in India.

India is also collaborating with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations to launch UNITE AWARE, a mobile technology platform. This platform can offer peacekeepers on the ground with terrain-related information.

India's Struggles

The threats posed by non-state actors are one of the issues encountered by all countries participating in peacekeeping missions, including India. In the "United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)" deployed in Syria's Golan Heights, for example, Indian UN military troops faced numerous problems from Jabhat Al-Nusra terrorists.

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[12] "Kiran Bedi has served as Civilian Police Advisor in the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations from the year 2004 to 2006".

In addition, due to the Permanent Members of the Security Council's refusal, India is unable to participate in the Security Council's decision-making process over troop deployment.

3.   Objectives:

"India's Role in UN Peacekeeping Operations" is a study that identifies and analyses how India contributes to UN peacekeeping missions. We have examined India's situation in this article, as well as its problems and chances for becoming a world power.

4.   Related work:

Author/Year	Description
Thakur (2012) [15]	How 'peacekeeping' became a policy innovation, institutional adaptation, and organisational learning within the United Nations. He also gives an intriguing study of how the UN's entire peace-building process is based on the liberal framework of normative principles of peace, democracy, and justice. Thakur also emphasises the unforeseen and negative repercussions of such peacekeeping efforts. Locals on the receiving end of such missions must incur societal costs in the form of negative externalities like increased sexually transmitted diseases and rising prostitution rates as a result of outsider interventions.
Heywood1 (2011) [16]	argues along the same lines, pointing to a lack of ethical pluralism that could lead to cultural imperialism. He also discusses the numerous circumstances that have brought such peacekeeping missions into question. The most significant factor is developing countries' profound scepticism of "humanitarian interventions" by powerful countries. Humanitarian concerns are merely a shroud for powerful countries' deeply established imperialistic sentiments in poorer ones. Heywood also emphasises the negative aspects of such humanitarian interventions, stating that they may inflict more harm than good by replacing old dictators with new powers, particularly foreign ones, which may

	intensify conflicts and increase the possibility of civil war.
Mohan (2013) [17]	Despite its large participation, there appears to be a shortage of arguments about India's role in the UN Peacekeeping operation, according to the author. All of the discussions take place in the Indian Army's and Indian Ministry of External Affairs' closed chambers. He has gone into great detail about the dichotomy at the heart of India's humanitarian intervention policy.
Mukherjee and Malone (2011) [18]	provide a thorough examination of India's time as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. They show how India's position on various UN peacekeeping missions and humanitarian interventions has shifted throughout time. The 1950s, 1970s, 1990s, and post-1990s have been grouped into four large time periods. The period also coincided with India's membership in the United Nations Security Council. They also assessed India's claim to be a responsible leader, arguing that, despite some uncertain interfaces in India's position, the country has generally maintained territorial integrity and sovereignty.

5. Methodology:

This research paper about India's role in UN peacekeeping operations is based on a survey of the literature as well as factual studies that have been made available to the public all around the world. We gathered related relevant material that supports or contradicts the elements specified in the Introduction Section of this research and then did our analysis based on the background investigation. Our study incorporates fact observations from the following study areas:

- What has India's involvement in UN peacekeeping deployments been like?

- How would you characterise India's attitude toward such UN peacekeeping missions in the context of the UN's larger interventions?

- Given the numerous hurdles, how has India bargained its position on such interventions?

- How has India dealt with the difficulties that exist between its idealistic stance on humanitarian assistance and the realities on the ground?

- How does India's progress toward permanent membership in the UN Security Council compare to the human expenses it has incurred in previous peacekeeping missions?

6.   Data Analysis:

In this research, we have sorted (1) contribution of India (2) Permanent member of UNSC (3) Covid scenario (4) Challenges faced by India (5) Indian Women Participation (6) Involvement of military troops (7) some countries like Africa, Libya, Bangladesh etc involvement in UN peacekeeping mission.

Secondary data is employed in this study. As a result, data and information are gathered from verified official portals, research/survey/journal references in this field, opinion polls, and review reports formally released by the related agencies/institutions/functioning bodies/research organisations. The credibility of this data/information is confirmed using the credentials and methodology stated in those information sources, and they are thoroughly checked to ensure that they do not contain any conflicting or deceptive facts that could undermine social, political, economic, or other platforms.

7.   Conclusion:

India is one of the UN's peacekeeping mission's frontier states that works directly with the UN. India's contribution to peacekeeping missions is noteworthy as a peace-loving country. Given shifting world politics and the nature of warfare, India should review its UN peacekeeping policy. New strategies and well-equipped peacekeepers are needed to manage and control conflict zones. While participating in future UN peacekeeping missions, India's peacekeeping policies must be consistent with the UN mandate and the Charter. The policy must take into account the unique operational challenges that peacekeepers experience in high-risk and severe situations. India should also guarantee that its peacekeeping troops, the Blue Berets, serve as neutral forces under the UN's auspices and avoid playing a political role. Peacekeepers are not human shields, and they should not be stationed in regions where warring parties continue to engage in fire fights that endanger their lives. India should take swift action against any peacekeepers accused of violating human rights or sexual exploitation and abuse, as this is a major infraction of the Blue Helmet code of conduct. The TCCs are in charge of making peacekeepers aware of such delicate matters and, if necessary, disciplining or prosecuting them. In such cases, complacency allows wrongdoers to get away with it. As a result, the Government of India (GOI) must firmly adhere to the United Nations code of conduct and implement a zero-tolerance policy for such crimes. Strong measures will undoubtedly aid in the prevention of future tragedies.

Interventions and the UN's Responsibility to Protect remain important stumbling blocks between India and the UN. Despite taking a variety of positions, India continues to struggle to defend the concepts of sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of human rights violations and state-sponsored crimes. This has a lot to do with India's interpretation of "sovereignty," which is diametrically opposed to the Western concept of "contingent sovereignty." The post-colonial character of the country, its variety (geographical, cultural, political, and religious), and the fact that it is still a developing country with many threats to its authority all contribute to this disparity in sovereignty norms. Such interventions have the ability to cast doubt on a post-colonial state's legitimacy, so jeopardising the entire edifice upon which the state's authority is based.

India has the option of joining coalition operations outside of UN leadership, provided that the mandate for engaging in coalition missions is consistent with the UN Charter's essential principles. The host state and other parties involved in the conflict should support the coalition mandates, as well as the United Nations. The primary reason India should consider the Charter's core criteria for UN peacekeeping operations is to ensure the coalition mission's credibility and legality. . India, as a responsible UN member, should contribute to international peace and security by deploying its forces in accordance with the UN Charter's provisions, and it should place a heavy focus on peaceful dispute resolution. As a result, India must not overlook the UN Charter's conscience and sanction in any way. While deploying its forces for UN peacekeeping missions, India should uphold its neutral commitments, which serve as a critical asset for India's global standing and have aided in upholding the standard for our armed forces, who have worn the Blue Berets for the past 70 years and carried out the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security.

Given the necessity for the UN's help in managing and containing violence and aggression in the afflicted countries, India must help the UN.

India should act with maturity and ensure that its obligations are swiftly implemented in order to improve its international standing and, as a result, its national interests.

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