

**Note****16**

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ARMED FORCES IN PEACE KEEPING

In the previous module we have learnt about the non-conventional warfare and weapons of mass destruction. The Indian Armed forces, apart from its regular duties of protecting the nation from external threat, are also involved in various other duties. Some of them are peace keeping, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and aid to the local government in handling internal affairs.

Peace keeping refers to activities intended to create conditions that favour lasting peace in a war torn country. Peace keeping missions prevent the risk of renewed conflict. United Nation (UN) is the largest international organization that is committed to establishment of world peace. The peacekeepers monitor and observe peace processes in post-conflict areas. They may also assist ex-combatants in implementing peace agreement commitments that they have undertaken. Such assistance may come in many forms, including confidence-building measures, power-sharing arrangements, electoral support, strengthening the rule of law, and economic and social development. India is one of the largest troops contributor to the United Nations for peacekeeping missions.



Objectives

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

- define peace keeping and types of peace keeping operations;
- appreciate the contents of the charter of UN peace keeping;
- explain the principles of peace keeping and
- describe the contribution of India Armed Forces in UN peace keeping.

16.1 Definition of Peace keeping Operations

"Peacekeeping" refers to activities intended to create conditions that favour lasting peace. Research has found that peacekeeping reduces civilian and battlefield deaths



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and reduces the risk of renewed warfare. Peacekeeping by the United Nations is a role held by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Peacekeeping operations are defined as "*a unique and dynamic instrument developed by the organization as a way to help countries torn by conflict to create the conditions for lasting peace.*"

It is distinguished from peacebuilding, peacemaking, and peace enforcement although the United Nations does acknowledge that all activities are "mutually reinforcing" and that overlap between them is frequent in practice.

16.1.1 Types of Peacekeeping Operations

There are various types of operations within peace keeping. The UN peacekeeping is governed by Chapter VI and Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Chapter VI missions are consent based, therefore they require the consent of the warring factions involved in order to operate. Should they lose that consent, Peacekeepers would be compelled to withdraw.

Chapter VII missions, by contrast, do not require consent, though they may have it. If consent is lost at any point, Chapter VII missions would not be required to withdraw. Chapter VII mission are peace enforcement missions.

Peace-Enforcement

Peace-enforcement meant to act with or without the consent of the belligerents in order to ensure any treaty or cease-fire mandated by the United Nations Security Council is maintained. This is done primarily under Chapter VII of the UN Charter and the forces are generally heavily armed as opposed to the unarmed, or lightly-armed personnel frequently deployed as observers.

Peace-Making

Peace-making intends to compel belligerents to seek a peaceful settlement for their differences via mediation and other forms of negotiation provided by the UN under Chapter VI of the UN Charter.

Peace-Keeping

Peace-keeping is deployment of a lightly-armed United Nations presence in the field with the consent of the belligerents involved in order to build confidence and monitor agreements between concerned parties. Additionally, diplomats continue to work toward comprehensive and lasting peace, or for the implementation of an agreed upon peace.

16.1.2 Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Post-Conflict Reconstruction is intended to develop economic and social cooperation to mend relations between the belligerents. Social, political, and economic infrastructure

would ideally prevent potential violence and conflict in the future and help to contribute to a lasting and robust peace.



Intext Questions

16.1

1. Define Peace keeping.
2. What is post conflict reconstruction?
3. Fill in the blanks:
 - (i) _____ is intended to develop economic and social cooperation.
 - (ii) For peace enforcement, the forces are generally _____ as opposed to the frequently deployed forces as observers.
 - (iii) Peace keeping force is deployed in order to _____ and _____ agreements.

16.2 The Charter of the United Nations Peace keeping

The Charter of the United Nations was signed in San Francisco on 26 June 1945 and is the foundation document for all United Nations work. The United Nations was established to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" and one of its main purposes is to maintain international peace and security. Peacekeeping, although not explicitly provided for in the Charter, has evolved into one of the main tools used by the United Nations to achieve this purpose.

The Charter gives the United Nations Security Council, a primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. To fulfill this responsibility, the Security Council may adopt a range of measures, including peacekeeping operations. The legal basis for such action is found in Chapters VI, VII and VIII of the Charter.

While Chapter VI deals with the "Pacific Settlement of Disputes", Chapter VII contains provisions related to "Action with Respect to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace and Acts of Aggression".

Chapter VIII of the Charter also provides for the involvement of regional arrangements and agencies in the maintenance of international peace and security. United Nations peacekeeping operations have traditionally been associated with Chapter VI.

In recent years, the Security Council has adopted the practice of invoking Chapter VII of the Charter when authorizing the deployment of United Nations peacekeeping operations into volatile post conflict settings where the State is unable to maintain security and public order. The Security Council's invocation of Chapter VII in these



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situations provide the legal basis for its action and can be seen as a statement of firm political resolve.

16.3 Principles of Peacekeeping

There are three basic principles that define UN peacekeeping operations. These three principles are inter-related and mutually reinforcing:

- (a) **Consent of the Parties:** UN peacekeeping operations are deployed with the consent of the main parties to the conflict. This requires a commitment by the parties to a political process. Their acceptance of a peacekeeping operation provides the UN with the necessary freedom of action, both political and physical, to carry out its mandated tasks.

The fact that the main parties have given their consent to the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation does not necessarily imply or guarantee that there will also be consent at the local level due to internal differences/conflicts.

- (b) **Impartiality:** Impartiality is crucial to maintain the consent and cooperation of the main parties and should not be confused with neutrality or inactivity.

A mission should not shy away from a rigorous application of the principle of impartiality for fear of misinterpretation or retaliation. Failure to do so may undermine the peacekeeping operation's credibility and legitimacy. It may lead to a withdrawal of consent by one or more of the parties.

- (c) **Non-Use of Force Except in Self-Defence and Defence 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-defence and defence of the mandate. The Security Council may also authorize the use of force by UN peacekeepers to deter forceful attempts to disrupt the political process, protect civilians under imminent threat of physical attack, and/or assist the national authorities in maintaining law and order.

A UN peacekeeping operation should only use force as a measure of last resort. It should always be calibrated in a precise, proportional and appropriate manner, within the principle of the minimum force necessary to achieve the desired effect. The various factors that decide the measure of force to be applied include mission capability; public perceptions; humanitarian impact; force protection; safety and security of personnel; and the effect that such action will have on national and local level.



Intext Questions

16.2

1. Fill in the blanks.

- (a) The legal basis for UN peacekeeping operations is found in chapter _____, _____ and _____ of the Charter.
 - (b) The principles of UN peacekeeping are _____ and _____.
 - (c) The three principles of UN peacekeeping are _____, _____ and _____.
2. When and where was the Charter of UN signed?
 3. Mention any three factors that decide the measure of force to be applied in UN peacekeeping.

16.4 India Armed forces in UN Peacekeeping

As of 29 February 2016, 124 countries were contributing a total of 1,05,314 personnel to Peacekeeping Operations, with Ethiopia leading the tally (8,324), followed by India (7,695) and Bangladesh (7,525). So far India has taken part in 43 Peacekeeping missions with a total contribution exceeding 1,80,000 troops. Indian Peacekeepers have been lauded by the UN and host countries for their efforts in rebuilding the nations. The First Deployment of Indian Peacekeeping Operations was in the year 1950 in Korea.

16.4.1 Current Deployments

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

- (a) **Lebanon (UNIFIL):** One infantry battalion group, Level II Hospital comprising 650 peacekeepers from all ranks and 23 staff officers till date, have been deployed since Dec 1998. The current situation in the Mission is tense and volatile due to the crisis in Syria.
- (b) **Congo (MONUSCO):** 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 since January 2005. In addition, two Formed Police Units (FPU) ex BSF and ITBP have also been deployed since 2009. MONUSCO's new mandate vide Resolution 2098 (2013) has been implemented with an Intervention Brigade provided by AU, deployed under UN Command.
- (c) **Sudan and South Sudan (UNMIS/UNMISS):** 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 since April 2005. The latest political developments in the Mission led to widespread



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Armed Forces in Peace Keeping

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.

- (d) **Golan Heights (UNDOF):** A Logistics battalion with 190 personnel has been deployed to look after the logistics security of UNDOF since February 2006. 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) **Ivory Coast (UNOCI):** The mission has been supported by Indian staff officers (SOs) and military observers since its inception in April 2004.
- (f) **Haiti (MINUSTAH):** 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 December 1997.
- (g) **Liberia (UNMIL):** India has been contributing both male and female Formed Police Units from CRPF and its Specialized unit RAF in Liberia since April 2007. The Female Formed Police Unit (FPU) has especially become an inspiration for the women of the host nation and have become trendsetters for other such female FPUs across the globe.



Intext Questions

16.3

1. Fill in the blanks.
 - (a) India has participated in _____ UN peacekeeping missions.
 - (b) The first Indian UN deployment was in _____ in 1950 where India sent paramedical troops and custodian forces.
2. Name the countries where these UN missions are operating.
 - (a) UNIFIL
 - (b) UNDOF
 - (c) MONUSCO
 - (d) UNOCI
 - (e) UNMIL



ACTIVITY 16.1

Watch the documentary "Special Program - Shanti ke Sainik: India's contribution to peacekeeping operations". Follow the link:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpltI5UTc44>



ACTIVITY 16.2

Watch the documentary "Blue Helmets in Congo: Indian peacekeepers tackle multiple hurdles". Follow the link:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3w4DsCi9xU>



What You Have Learnt

- In this lesson, you have learnt that peace keeping activities create conditions that favour lasting peace which is achieved through peace keeping operations.
- These operations aim at peace enforcement, peace making and peace keeping.
- Peace keep activities are carried out as per the charter of the United Nations - which is divided into 8 chapters.
- All the peace keeping operations are based on three principles (a) consent of the parties (b) impartiality (c) Non use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate. You have also come to know the contribution of Indian Armed Forces in the U.N. Peace keeping operations.



Terminal Exercises

1. Explain the three principles of UN peacekeeping.
2. Describe any three operations to show Indian contribution towards UN Peacekeeping.
3. What is the difference between peacemaking, peace keeping and peace enforcement operations? Explain.

Answers to Intext Questions

16.1

1. Peacekeeping refers to activities intended to create conditions that favour lasting peace
2. Post-Conflict Reconstruction is intended to develop economic and social cooperation meant to mend relations between the belligerents.
3. (i) Post-conflict reconstruction



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- (ii) Peace enforcement
- (iii) Build confidence and monitor

16.2

1. (a) Chapters VI, VII and VIII
 - (b) Inter-related and mutually reinforcing
 - (c) Consent of the Parties, Impartiality and Non-Use of Force Except in Self-Defence and Defence of the Mandate
2. On 26th June 1945 at San Francisco
3. (i) Mission capability
 - (ii) Public Perception
 - (iii) Huminitarian impact
 - (iv) Force protection
 - (v) Safety and security of personnel
 - (vi) Effect of the action

(any three factors)

16.3

1. (a) 43
 - (b) Korea
2. (a) Lebanon
 - (b) Golan Heights
 - (c) Congo
 - (d) Ivory Coast
 - (e) Liberia