



## UN Peacekeeping Forces Fatalities

**For Prelims:** UN Peacekeeping Forces, UN Security Council, Blue helmets.

**For Mains:** UN Peacekeeping forces and related issues like rise in the number of fatalities of soldiers in UN Peacekeeping Forces.

### Why in News?

According to the **United Nations Undersecretary General**, the number of fatalities among **United Nations Peacekeeping Forces (UNPKF)** in direct attacks is growing.

- Strong requirements for better **training, technology, and equipment** were highlighted.

### What are UN Peacekeeping Forces?

#### ▪ About:

- When the **UN Security Council** approved the deployment of UN military observers to the **Middle East in 1948**, the **UN Peacekeeping Forces** were established.
- UN peacekeeping forces aid nations in negotiating the perilous transition from **war to peace**.
- To carry out several missions approved by the **UN Security Council (UNSC)** and the **UN General Assembly**, it deploys soldiers and police from all over the world and combines them with civilian peacekeepers.
- **International Day of UN Peacekeepers** is celebrated on date **29<sup>th</sup> May** every year.
  - **2022 Theme:** People. Peace. Progress. The Power of Partnerships.

#### ▪ India and UNPKF:

- India is among the nations that send the most troops to the **United Nations Peacekeeping Forces**.
  - Example: India is the **second-highest military** and **fifth-highest police** contributing country to the **United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)**.
- Over **2,60,000 Indians** have served in **49 U.N. Peacekeeping missions since 1948**.
- In 2007, India became the first country to deploy an **all-women contingent** to a UN Peacekeeping mission.
- In the last six decades, **179 Indian soldiers** have died in **UN Peacekeeping operations**.
- Among **"blue helmets"** it has the greatest death toll of any nation.
  - **Blue Helmets** are the **military personnel of the UN** that work alongside the UN Police and civilian colleagues to promote **"stability, security, and peace processes"**.

### What are the most probable reasons for Fatalities?

- The **atmosphere** in which **peacekeeping operations** are taking place is getting worse from both a political and a **security point of view**.

- Many operations, especially large operations like those in **Africa**, engage soldiers against **criminal or terrorist organization** who prefer turmoil over peace and stability.

## How can these fatalities be controlled?

- **Geographical equilibrium** and **evenness** must be maintained in **peacekeeping operations**.
- It will necessitate a great deal of effort to increase the **geographical diversification** of the nations providing police and peacekeeping forces.
- India has presented a **10-point formula** to address **security** and **operational challenges** faced by **United Nations peacekeeping missions** around the world.
  - To accomplish the objectives of operations, the leadership of a **peacekeeping force** must build **confidence** and ensure **efficient cooperation** with the host state.
  - **Countries participating** in peacekeeping missions must **determine the agenda**, not the Security Council.
  - With a thorough **understanding of their limits**, peacekeeping missions should be deployed sensibly.
  - **Clearly defined objectives** that are supported by **adequate resources**.
  - **"All-out efforts"** should be made to prosecute those responsible for **atrocities against peacekeepers**.
  - It is essential for ending violent conflicts and constructing global security against external threats.
  - Using **cutting-edge technology** in peacekeeping operations can help overcome security issues.
  - The **military, civilians, and mission leadership** should all be considered while evaluating a mission.
  - An **"exit strategy"** should be considered for peacekeeping deployments from the beginning.
  - The primary duty to safeguard people against non-state groups operating on their soil shall rest with the host government.

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