



Unite Aware Platform

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Why in News?

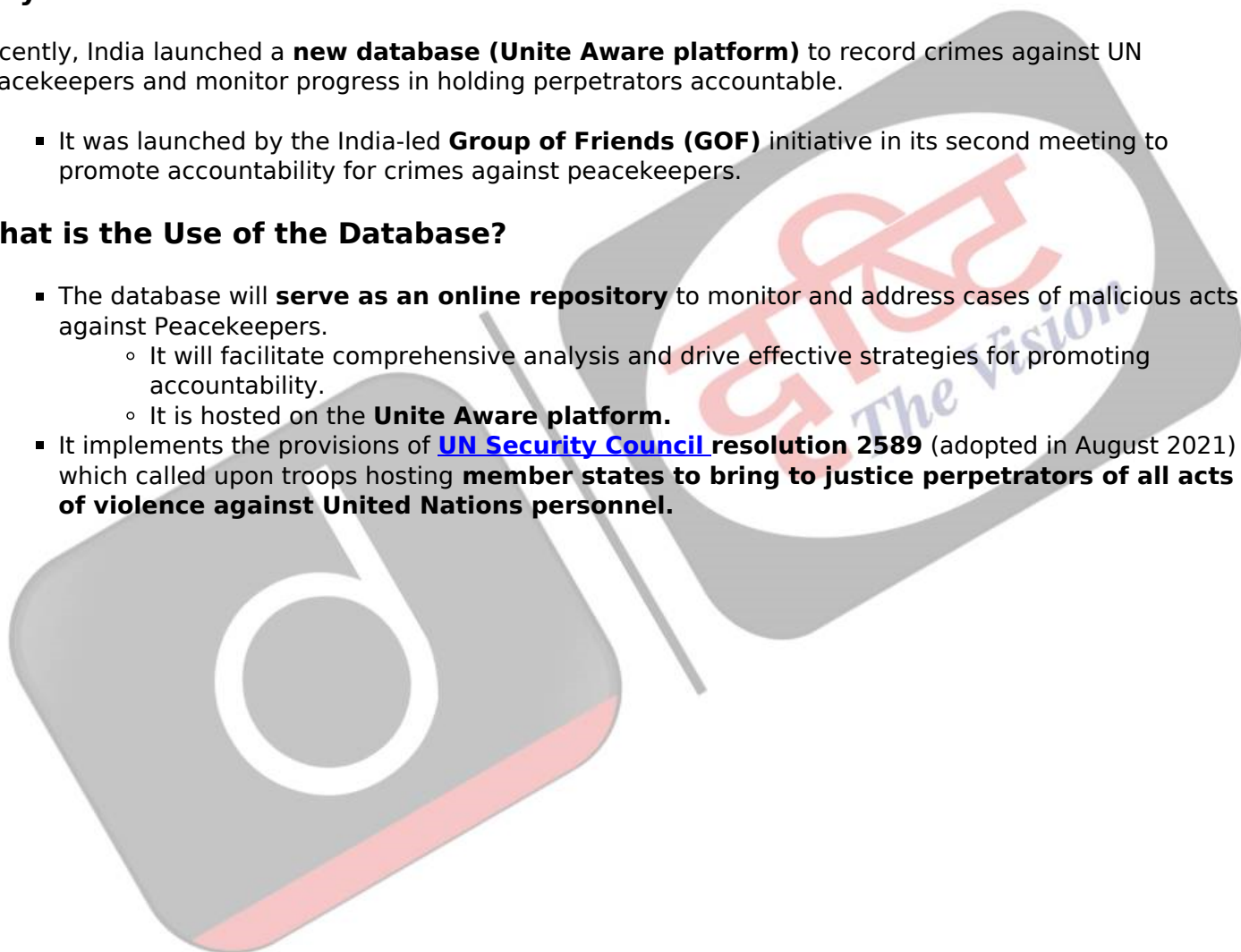
Recently, India launched a **new database (Unite Aware platform)** to record crimes against UN peacekeepers and monitor progress in holding perpetrators accountable.

- It was launched by the India-led **Group of Friends (GOF)** initiative in its second meeting to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers.

What is the Use of the Database?

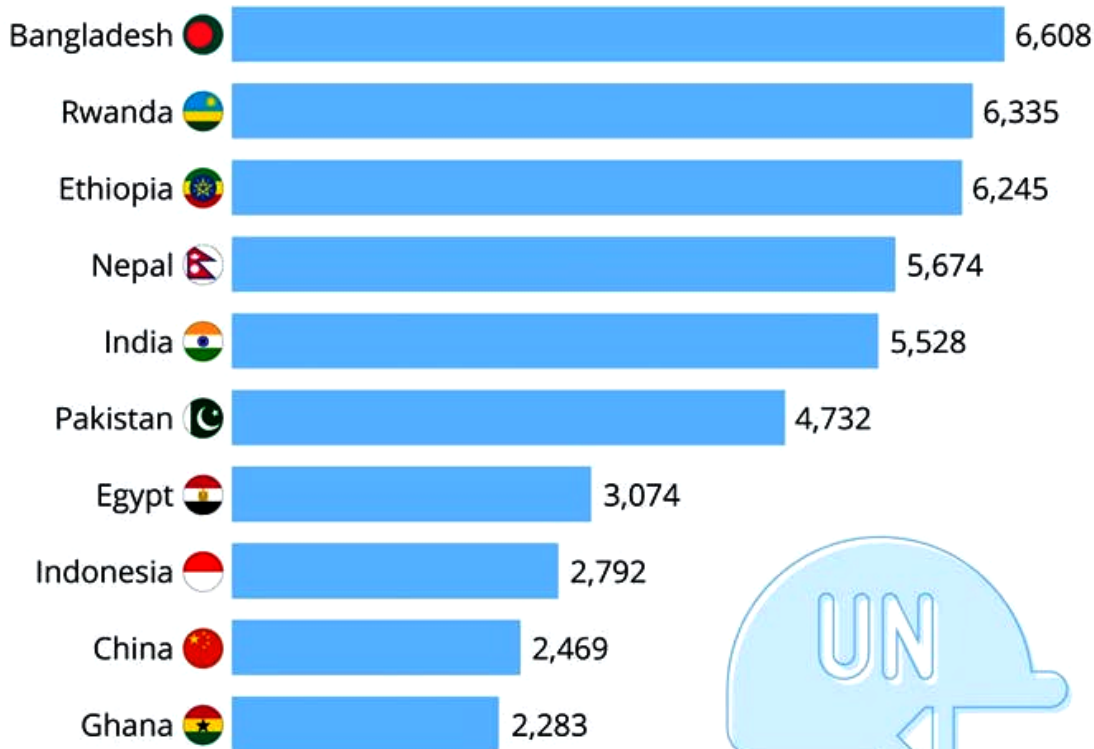
- The database will **serve as an online repository** to monitor and address cases of malicious acts against Peacekeepers.
 - It will facilitate comprehensive analysis and drive effective strategies for promoting accountability.
 - It is hosted on the **Unite Aware platform**.
- It implements the provisions of **UN Security Council resolution 2589** (adopted in August 2021) which called upon troops hosting **member states to bring to justice perpetrators of all acts of violence against United Nations personnel**.

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The Biggest Contributors To UN Peacekeeping Operations

Main contributors of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping operations as of March 31, 2021*



What is GOF?

- **About:** On 16th December 2022, **India launched a 'Group of Friends'** to promote accountability for crimes against peacekeepers. **It comprises 40 member states.**
 - It calls on member states to **investigate, arrest, and prosecute perpetrators** of crimes against **peacekeepers (Blue Helmets)** in line with international obligations, and to promote **accountability both within and outside the UNSC in practical terms.**
 - India has lost 177 of its peacekeepers in the line of duty, the largest by far from any troop-contributing country.
- **Co-chairs:** India, Bangladesh, Egypt, France, Morocco and Nepal.
- The GoF will convene **two meetings of its members per year**, organise and **host one event per year** to inform and galvanise support for promoting accountability for crimes against peacekeepers.

UN Security Council (UNSC)

The UN Charter vests the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the UNSC

About

One of the **6 principal organs** of UN; established in **1945** by UN Charter

Headquarters

New York City

First Session

17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London

Membership

- 15 members - 5 Permanent Members (P5), 10 Non-Permanent Members elected for two-year terms (5 elected each year)
- P5 - the US, the UK, Russia, France and China

Presidency

- Rotates every month among the 15 members
- India's Presidency for year 2022 - December

Voting Powers

- 1 member = 1 vote
- P5 have **veto power**
- Members of UN sans membership of UNSC participate without vote

UNSC Committees/Resolutions

Terrorism

- Resolution 1373 (Counter Terrorism Committee)
- Resolution 1267 (Da'esh and Al Qaeda Committee)

Non-Proliferation Committee

- Resolution 1540 (against nuclear, chemical and biological weapons)

India and UNSC

- Served **7 times** as non-permanent member, elected for the **8th time** for 2021-22; **advocates for a permanent seat**
- Arguments for a permanent seat:
 - 43 peacekeeping missions**
 - Active participation in **formulating Human Rights Declaration (UDHR)**
 - India's **population, territorial size, GDP, economic potential, cultural diversity, political system** etc.



G4

Group of 4 countries (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) which advocate each other's bids for permanent seats in the UNSC

Uniting for Consensus (UfC) Movement

- Informally known as the **Coffee Club**
- Countries **oppose the expansion Permanent Seats** of UNSC
- Prime movers of the club** - Italy, Spain, Australia, Canada, South Korea, Argentina and Pakistan
- Italy and Spain are opposed to Germany's bid; Pakistan - India's bid; Argentina - Brazil's bid and Australia - Japan's bid

Major Challenges in UNSC

- Usual UN rules don't apply to UNSC deliberations; **no records of meetings kept**
- Powerplay in UNSC; **anachronistic veto powers** of P5
- Deep polarisation** among P5; frequent divisions end up blocking key decisions
- Inadequate representation** of many regions among of the world



Drishti IAS

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims:

Q. The Security Council of UN consists of 5 permanent members, and the remaining 10 members are elected by the General Assembly for a term of (2009)

- (a) 1 year
- (b) 2 years
- (c) 3 years
- (d) 5 years

Ans: (b)

Q. With reference to the "United Nations Credentials Committee", consider the following statements:

- It is a committee set up by the UN Security Council and works under its supervision.
- It traditionally meets in March, June and September every year
- It assesses the credentials of all UN members before submitting a report to the General Assembly for approval.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (2022)

- (a) 3 only
- (b) 1 and 3
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 1 and 2

Ans: (a)

Mains:

Q. Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in UN Security Council.
(2015)

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