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Resolution to establish a new Memorial Wall for fallen Peacekeepers

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Why is in news? UN General Assembly adopts Resolution to establish a new Memorial Wall for fallen Peacekeepers, piloted by India

The United Nations General Assembly has adopted by consensus a draft resolution piloted by India to **establish a memorial wall in the UN headquarters to honour fallen peacekeepers**.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj introduced the draft resolution titled 'Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers' on June 14 in the UN General Assembly Hall and it was adopted by consensus.

The resolution pointed out that **more than one million men and women from 125 countries have served in 71 peacekeeping missions worldwide**. Even today, over 80,000 peacekeepers serve in various conflict zones, enduring harsh conditions and risking their lives to keep the peace.

However, this has not been without its cost — **more than 4,200 peacekeepers have laid down their lives in the service of the blue flag**. These brave men and women — who came from different parts of the world, practice different faiths and follow different cultures — were united by the cause of peace, their spirit of selfless sacrifice, professionalism and resolve

The General Assembly welcomed the initiative to **establish a memorial wall at United Nations Headquarters in New York** honouring the memory of fallen peacekeepers.

UN peacekeeping forces:

UN peacekeeping (often referred to as **Blue Berets or Blue Helmets**) helps **countries torn by conflict create conditions for lasting peace**.

Peacekeeping has **proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the UN** to assist host countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace.

It is a **unique global partnership**. It brings together the **General Assembly, the Security Council, the Secretariat, troop and police contributors** and the host governments in a combined effort to maintain international peace and security.

The **first UN peacekeeping mission** was established in **May 1948**, when the UN Security Council authorised the deployment of a small number of UN military observers to the Middle East to form the **United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)** to **monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours**.

In the early years, UN Peacekeeping's goals were **primarily limited to maintaining ceasefires and stabilizing situations on the ground** so that efforts could be made at the political level to resolve the conflict by peaceful

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Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

means.

Those missions consisted of **military observers and lightly armed troops with monitoring, reporting and confidence-building roles** in support of ceasefires and limited peace agreements. Troops and police came from a relatively small number of countries and they **were mostly men**.

Over the years, UN Peacekeeping has adapted to meet the demands of different conflicts and a changing political landscape. Today's **multidimensional peacekeeping operations** are called upon **not only to maintain peace and security but also to facilitate the political processes, protect civilians, disarm combatants, support elections, protect and promote human rights and restore the rule of law**.

Peacekeeping has unique strengths, including legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops and police from around the globe, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multi-dimensional mandates.

Women peacekeepers today play an increasingly prominent role and are crucial towards improving the performance of the missions. They serve as **police officers, troops, pilots, military observers, and other uniformed and civilian posts**, including in command positions.

The **International Day of UN Peacekeepers is observed on May 29**. On this day in 1948, the first UN peacekeeping mission named the 'United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation', or UNTSO, began operations in Palestine.

In 2022, unanimously adopting **resolution 2668**, the Security Council recognized the **need to raise awareness of the importance of mental health and psychosocial support to United Nations peace operations personnel**. It encouraged troop- and police-contributing countries, including Member States and the Secretariat, to provide mental health services to support personnel during pre-deployment training and continue fostering a culture of well-being and care, during deployment.

India's role in UN peacekeeping:

Commencing with its **participation in the UN operation in Korea in 1950**, India has a long and distinguished history of service in UN peacekeeping, **having contributed more personnel than any other country, as well as the first-ever all-female force that helped to bring peace to Liberia** in the wake of that country's brutal civil war.

From 2007-2016, there were **nine rotations of all-female police units from India**, whose primary responsibilities were to provide 24-hour guard duty, public order management and conduct night patrols in and around the capital of Liberia, Monrovia, while assisting to build the capacity of local security institutions.

Hailed as role models, these female officers not only played a vital role in restoring security in the West African nation but also contributed to an increase in the number of women in the country's security sector.

More than 2 lakh Indians have served in peacekeeping missions established around the world.

Medical care is among the many services Indian peacekeepers provide to the communities in which they serve on behalf of the UN. They also perform specialised tasks such as veterinary support and engineering services.

India has also provided 15 Force Commanders to various missions, and was the first country to contribute to the Trust Fund on sexual exploitation and abuse, which was set up in 2016.

Over 160 Indian peacekeepers have lost their lives while serving with the UN.

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