INDIA :
Serving The Cause Of The World

Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Rajeev Chandrasekhar
Member of Parliament
rajeev.c@nic.in

Excellency,

2015 marks the centenary of World War 1 ! I hope you have had occasion to visit the Commemorative Exhibition at the Manekshaw Convention Centre, Delhi Cantt - on India's contribution to World War 1.

World War 1 was in the words of Winston Churchill "The hardest, cruellest, and least rewarded of all wars that have been fought".

I write to you to draw your attention about India's role in and contribution to this war and India's continuing contributions to conflict ridden regions of the modern world.

India contributed 1.5 Million men, of whom 74,187 lost their lives, and 67,000 were wounded.

Every sixth man on the battlefield was an Indian! Imagine men from the Garhwal and Meerut at the Battle of Neuve Chappelle in the Artois Region of France! India spent 250 Million Pounds and provided significant supplies and animals to this war effort. Indian brave-hearts won 11 Victoria Crosses and 9,800 other gallantry awards!

This therefore is the history and heritage of India's role in the world. It has deployed its men and resources for world's conflicts far from its borders, when called to do so.

In today's world, the same heritage of service by India to the cause of the world continues.

India has been the largest troop contributor to UN Peacekeeping Missions since its inception.

So far India has taken part in 43 Peacekeeping missions with a total contribution exceeding 160,000 troops and a significant number of police personnel having been deployed. In 2014 India has contributed 7,860 personnel deployed with ten UN Peacekeeping Missions of which 995 are police personnel, including the first Female Police Unit formed under the UN.

Recently, Indian Peacekeepers were lauded by the UN for their efforts in preventing a carnage in the South Sudan Conflict which resulted in the death of two of its soldiers.

On behalf of the countless men and families from India, who have sacrificed and continue to sacrifice for the cause of the United Nations and a conflict-less world, I ask you to pause and consider this – Does this history of service not emphatically qualify India to be a Permanent member of the Security Council of the United Nations?

Rajeev Chandrasekhar

India and World War 1 (1914 – 1918)

The Indian Soldiers contributed significantly in over Thirteen Military Campaigns

Western Front (France 1914 – 18)	Mesopotamian Campaign (1914 – 20)
Italian Campaign (1917 – 18)	South Arabian Campaign (1914 – 19)
Macedonian Front (Greece 1915 – 18)	North West Frontier Province (Afghanistan 1914 – 18)
Gallipoli Campaign (Turkey 1915 – 16)	Russian Operations (1918 – 19)
North African Campaign (1915 – 16)	East African Campaign (1914 – 18)
Sinai & Palestine Campaign (1915 – 19)	China Operations (1914)
Persian Campaign (1914 – 18)	

- Contributed – 1.5 Million Men.
- Economically – Approx 250 million pounds from 1914 – 19.
- Provided – 170,000 animals and 3,700,000 tons of supplies.
- Out of 1.5 million men 74,000 lost their lives and 67,000 wounded.
- Every sixth soldier on the battlefield was an Indian.
- Awarded – Victoria Cross and 9,800 other awards for conspicuous acts of Gallantry and sacrifice.

India-United Nations Peace-keeping Missions (1950 - Present)

India has been the largest troop contributor to UN missions since its inception. So far India has taken part in 43 Peacekeeping missions with a total contribution exceeding 160,000 troops and a significant number of police personnel having been deployed. In 2014 India is the third largest troop contributor [TCC] with 7,860 personnel deployed with ten UN Peacekeeping Missions of which 995 are police personnel, including the first Female Formed Police Unit under the UN. Recently Indian Peacekeepers were lauded by the UN for their efforts in preventing a carnage in the South Sudan conflict which resulted in the death of two of its soldiers.[2]

India has so far, provided one Military Advisor (Lt Gen R K Mehta), one Police Adviser (Ms Kiran Bedi), one Deputy Military Adviser (Lt Gen Abhijit Guha), 14 Force Commanders and numerous Police Commissioners in various UN Missions. Indian Army has also contributed lady officers as Military Observers and Staff Officers apart from them forming part of Medical Units being deployed in UN Missions.[3] The first all women contingent in peacekeeping mission, a Formed Police Unit from India, was deployed in 2007 to the UN Operation in Liberia (UNMIL).[1] Lt Gen Satish Nambiar, a former Indian Army Lieutenant General served as the United Nations Protection Force commander

from March 1992 to March 1993. He also served on the "High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change" of the Peacebuilding Commission.[4]

India was reappointed to the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission in December 2010, for a third 2-year term.[5] India is supportive of nationally-led plans for peace consolidation, while arguing for a constructive approach and a "lighter touch" by the Peacebuilding Commission in extending advice, support and in extending its involvement. India has also been contributing to the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.[1]

The following are the Indian contributions to the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions since 1950. Indian Army T-72 tanks with UN markings as part of Operation CONTINUE HOPE.

● Korea (1950–54):

Paramedical Unit composed of 17 officers, 9 JCOs and 300 other ranks was deployed to facilitate withdrawal of sick and wounded in Korea. Lt-Gen. K S Thimmayya was appointed as the Chairman of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission set up by UN. India also provided a custodian force under Major General S.P.P. Thorat comprising 231 officers, 203 JCOs and 5,696 other ranks.[1][6]

● Indo-China (1954–70):

India provided an Infantry Battalion and supporting staff for control of Indo-China, comprising three states of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Tasks included monitoring, ceasefire and repatriation of prisoners of war, among others. A total of 970 officers, 140 JCOs and 6,157 other ranks were provided during the period from 1954-1970.[1]

● Middle East (1956–67):

India was part of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), where for the first time armed troop contingents were deployed. India's contribution was an infantry battalion and other support elements. Over a period of 11 years, 393 officers, 409 JCOs and 12,383 other ranks took part in the operations.[1]

Congo (1960–64) (ONUC):

Two infantry Brigades composed of 467 officers, 401 JCOs and 11,354 other ranks participated and conducted operations. A flight of six Canberra bomber aircraft of the IAF also participated in the operations. 39 personnel of the Indian contingent laid down their lives. Capt GS Salaria was awarded posthumously the Paramvir Chakra for action in Katanga, Southern Congo.[1]

Cambodia (1992–1993):

United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia was set up to supervise ceasefire, disarm combatants, repatriate refugees and monitor conduct of free and fair elections. A total of 1,373 peacekeepers from all ranks of the Indian Army participated.[1][7]

Mozambique (1992–94) (ONUMOZ):

Two Engineer companies, HQ company, logistics company, staff officers and military observers were provided. In all 1,083 peacekeepers from all ranks participated.[8]

Somalia (1993–94) (UNITAF & UNOSOM II):

The Indian Navy and Indian Army took active part in UN Operations. Indian Army deployed a Brigade Group composed of 5,000 personnel from all ranks and the navy deployed four battleships.[1][9]

Rwanda (1994–96) (UNAMIR):

An Infantry Battalion group, a signal company, and engineer company, staff officers and Military Observers were provided. Total of 956 from all ranks took part. Brigadier Shiva Kumar of the Indian Army (Acting) was the third and final Force Commander of UN troops serving in Rwanda from December 1995-March 1996.[10]

Angola (1989-1999) (UNAVEM):

Besides providing a Deputy Force Commander, an Infantry Battalion group and an engineer company comprising a total of 1,014 from all ranks. India contributed 10 military observers for UNAVEM I, 25 for UNAVEM II and 20 military observers, 37 SOs, and 30 senior NCOs for UNAVEM III.[11]

Sierra Leone (1999-2001) (UNAMSIL):

Two Infantry Battalion groups, two engineer companies, Quick reaction company, Attack helicopter unit, medical unit and Logistic support in addition to sector HQ and Force Headquarters staff were provided.[12]

Ethiopia-Eritrea (2006–08) (UNMEE):

Indian contribution comprised one infantry battalion group, one construction engineer company and one force reserve company, apart from staffing at various HQs and military observers.[1][13] Indian Peacekeepers in Congo for MONUSCO.

Current Missions

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

Lebanon (UNIFIL) (Since Dec 1998):

One infantry battalion group, Level II Hospital comprising 650 peacekeepers from all ranks and 23 staff officers till date, have been deployed. The current situation in the Mission is tense and volatile due to the crises in Syria.[14] UNIFIL's mandate is renewed by United Nations Security Council annually. Current mandate expires on 31 August 2014.[15]

Congo (MONUSCO) (Since January 2005):

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. In addition, two Formed Police Units (FPU) ex BSF and ITBP have also been deployed since 2009. Lt Gen Chander Prakash of India, was, till recently the Force Commander in MONUSCO. MONUSCO's new mandate vide Resolution 2098 (2013) has been implemented with an Intervention Brigade provided by AU, deployed under UN Command. The FARDC along with the support of MONUSCO were able to destroy the M-23 Rebel Group, however the situation continues to

be volatile and uncertain due to the presence of other armed groups.[16]

● Sudan and South Sudan (UNMIS/UNMISS) (Since April 2005):

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. The mission has a Deputy Force Commander Brig Asit Mistry (Indian Army) and until recently a Deputy Police Commissioner Mr Sanjay Kundu (Indian Police Service) was also present there. The latest political developments in the Mission led to widespread 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.[17] The current situation continues to be highly volatile and sporadic clashes between the tribes are being reported regularly.[18]

● Golan Heights (UNDOF) (Since February 2006):

A Logistics battalion with 190 personnel has been deployed to look after the logistics security of UNDOF. Maj.Gen. I.S. Singha is the Force Commander since July 2012. 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.[18]

● Ivory Coast (UNOCI) (Since April 2004):

The mission has been supported by Indian staff officers (SOs) and military observers since its inception.[19]

● Haiti (MINUSTAH) (Since December 1997):

Apart from three Indian Formed Police Unit (FPU) there, i.e. from CISF, CRPF and Assam Rifles, which have been successful,[1] the mission has been supported by Indian Army staff officers since its inception.[20]

● Liberia (UNMIL) (Since April 2007):

India has been contributing both male and female Formed Police Units from CRPF and its Specialized unit RAF in Liberia. 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. Till recently, Mr Gautam Sawang of India was the acting Police Commissioner there.