



UN Award to Indian Army Officer

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Why in News

Major Suman Gawani, an Indian Army officer who served as a **peacekeeper with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)** in 2019, has won the prestigious **“United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the year Award”**.

She **received the award** during an online ceremony being organised at the **United Nations (UN)** Headquarters, New York (USA) on the occasion of the **International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers**.

Key Points

- **United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the year Award:** It recognises the dedication and effort of an individual peacekeeper in promoting the principles within the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.
 - This resolution affirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction.
- **United Nations Mission in South Sudan:** It was established by the Security Council in 2011.
 - UNMISS objective is to consolidate peace and security, and help establish conditions for development in the Republic of South Sudan, with a view to strengthening the capacity of the Government of South Sudan to govern effectively and democratically and establish good relations with its neighbours.
 - South Sudan gained independence from Sudan on 9th July, 2011 as the outcome of a 2005 agreement that ended Africa's longest-running civil war.

- **International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers** is observed on **29th May** every year to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations.
 - **2020 Theme** - Women in Peacekeeping: A key to Peace
 - UN peacekeepers provide security and the political and peacebuilding support to help countries make the difficult, early transition from conflict to peace.

Source: PIB