



Women In Peacekeeping

For Prelims: United Nations Peacekeeping mission, United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Global Effort Initiative, UN Action for Peacekeeping (A4P)

For Mains: Important International Institutions, Women In Peacekeeping

Why in News?

Recently, many women soldiers were training to be a part of a [United Nations Peacekeeping mission](#).

- For more than a decade, the [United Nations \(UN\)](#) has called for more participation from women in **conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and peacekeeping**.

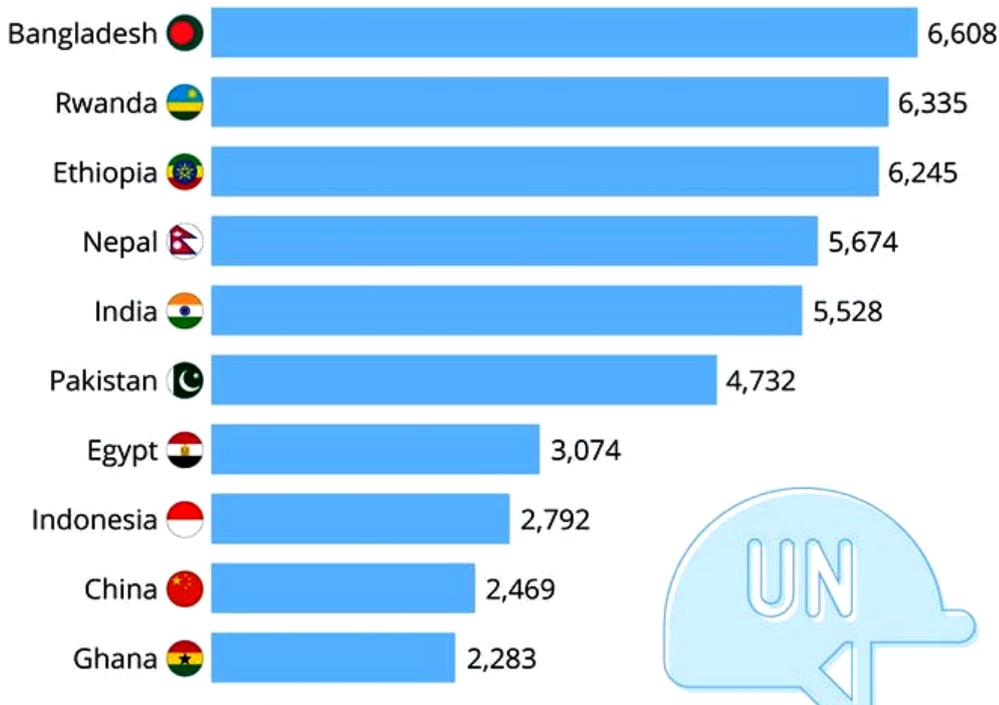
What is UN Peacekeeping?

- UN Peacekeeping began in **1948** when the UN Security Council authorised the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East.
- UN Peacekeeping **helps countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace**.
- It deploys troops and police from around the world, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to address a range of mandates set by the [UN Security Council \(UNSC\)](#) and the [General Assembly](#).

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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 Background of Indian Women in Peacekeeping Forces?

- **Background:** For the first time in the history of UN peacekeeping, India sent an **all-female Formed Police Unit (FPU) to be deployed in Liberia in 2007** after a civil war ravaged the African nation.
- **Intent:** Recently, at the **UN Security Council (UNSC)**, Indian officials called for **more female participation in public life** and the **elimination of violence against them** as a prerequisite for promoting lasting peace around the world.
- **Significance:** In a profession that continues to be **heavily dominated by men**, and in a nation that is **riddled with gender violence**, these female police officers from India are **breaking stereotypes** to represent their country on the world stage.

What is the current status of Women in UN Peacekeeping forces?

- **Multi-Role:** Women are deployed in all areas – **police, military and civilian** – and have made a positive impact on peacekeeping environments, including in supporting the role of women in building peace and protecting women's rights.
- **Current Numbers:** According to the UN, in 2020, **out of approximately 95,000 peacekeepers, women constitute 4.8% of military contingents and 10.9% of formed police units and 34% of justice and corrections** government-provided personnel in UN Peacekeeping missions.
- **Global Effort Initiative:** UN Police Division launched '**the Global Effort**' to recruit more female police officers into national police services and into UN police operations around the world.
 - The 2028 target for women serving in **military contingents is 15%, and 25% for military observers and staff officers.**
- **UNSC Resolution:** **UN Security Council resolution 1325 (UNSCR1325)** has called for an expansion of the role and contribution of women in its operations, including uniformed women

peacekeepers.

- **Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative:** The **UN Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative** views the Women, Peace and Security agenda as critical to enhancing peacekeeping operations' performance.
 - This can be achieved through supporting women's full participation in peace processes and making peacekeeping more **gender-responsive**, including through increasing the number of civilian and **uniformed women in peacekeeping at all levels and in key positions**.

Why is it important to have women peacekeepers?

- **Improved Operations And Performance:** Greater diversity and a broadened skillset means improved decision-making, planning and results, leading to greater operational effectiveness and performance.
- **Better Access:** Women peacekeepers can better access the population, including women and children - **for example**, by interviewing and supporting survivors of gender-based violence and violence against children - thereby generating critical information that would otherwise be difficult to reach.
- **Building Trust and Confidence:** Women peacekeepers are **essential enablers to build trust and confidence with local communities and help improve access and support for local women**.
 - For example, by interacting with women in societies where women are prohibited from speaking to men.
- **Inspiring and Creating Role Models:** Women peacekeepers **serve as powerful mentors and role models for women and girls** in post-conflict settings in the host community, setting examples for them to advocate for their own rights and pursue non-traditional careers.

PYQ

Q. Which one of the following is not related to United Nations? (2010)

- (a) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- (b) International Finance Corporation
- (c) International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
- (d) Bank for International Settlements

Ans: (d)

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