

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

May 3, 2022

In news—Recently, around 1,160 Indian peacekeepers serving with the UNMISS were awarded UN medals, honouring them for their exceptional service in the strife-torn East African country.

About the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)-

- The UNMISS was initially **established for a period of one year from 9 July 2011**, under Security Council **Resolution 1996** (2011), with the intent to renew for further periods as needed.
- Since then, UNMISS has been renewed consistently with the Security Council determining that the situation in South Sudan continues to pose a threat to international peace and security in the region.
- Currently, under Resolution 2625 (2022), the Council **has extended the UNMISS mandate until 15 March 2023**.
- Almost 20,000 peacekeepers serve with the UNMISS to protect civilians and build durable peace in the conflict-affected country.
- The civilian, police and military personnel from 73 countries carry out many duties under the mandate provided by the United Nations Security Council.
- **Their work falls under the following four main pillars:**
 1. Protection of Civilians.
 2. Creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance.
 3. Supporting the implementation of the revitalized agreement and the peace process.
 4. Monitoring and investigating human rights.
- **India is one of the largest troop-contributing countries**

to UN peacekeeping missions. Currently, 2,385 Indian military personnel, the second-highest.

What is Peacekeeping by the United Nations?

- **Peacekeeping by the United Nations is a role held by the Department of Peace Operations** as an “instrument developed by the organization as a way to help countries torn by conflict to create the conditions for lasting peace”.
- It is distinguished from peacebuilding, peacemaking, and peace enforcement although the United Nations does acknowledge that all activities are “mutually reinforcing” and that overlap between them is frequent in practice.
- Peacekeepers monitor and observe peace processes in post-conflict areas and assist ex-combatants in implementing the peace agreements they may have signed.
- Such assistance comes in many forms, including confidence-building measures, power-sharing arrangements, electoral support, strengthening the rule of law, and economic and social development.
- Accordingly, UN peacekeepers (**often referred to as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets**) can include soldiers, police officers, and civilian personnel.
- The United Nations Charter gives the United Nations Security Council the power and responsibility to take collective action to maintain international peace and security.
- For this reason, the international community usually looks to the Security Council to authorize peacekeeping operations through Chapter VII authorizations

Further reading:
<https://journalsofindia.com/un-peacekeeping-forces/>