

India's Role in UNO: An Analytical Study

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Abstract

In this paper is made an attempt to draw the role of India in UN. After the Second World War it came into existence on 24 October 1945 to save the future from scourge of war. India has been one of the 51 original members of the organisation. To preserve the world peace India recognised the principle of Panchasheel in her foreign policy. As a responsible country India Participated and sent the military forces in several countries for peacekeeping operation with UN. There is a cordial relation between India and UN from its origin. India acted positive role in origin of UN. India has a strong voice in the General Assembly against the imperialism, colonialism and apartheid. India took a leading role against racist regime of South Africa in 1954. She supported fully the UN sponsored economic boycott of Rhodesia. India also played an active role in setting up the UN conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and calling for the creation a NIEO. The important of India in UN is recognised by the organisation and other member countries.

Keywords

UNO, Peacekeeping, Security Council, Operations, Signed.

Reference to this paper should be made as follows:

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*RJPP 2018, Vol. 16, No. 1,
pp 1-7, Article No. 1,
Received on 11/11/2017
Approved on 31/01/2018*

Online available at :
[http://anubooks.com/
?page_id=2004](http://anubooks.com/?page_id=2004)

Introduction

India was the original member like other founder members of the UNO and the declaration by UNs at Washington on 1st January 1942 and participated in the United Nations Conference on International Organisation at San Francisco from 25 April to 26 June 1945. India is very much interested to maintain the principles and purposes of UNO from the very beginning. As a charter member India has been participating in all specialised agencies such as ILO, UNESCO. The UNCTAD and getting valuable assistance from World Bank, UNICEF, FAO, and WTO. Mrs. V. Pandit was the first lady to be elected as president of General Assembly; Dr. S. Krishnan had occupied the highest position in UNESCO. Mrs. N. Singh has served as chief of the Cabinet of the Secretary General. India contributed troops to UN Peacekeeping efforts in Korea, Egypt, Congo, Somalia, Angola, Haiti, Liberia, Lebanon and other countries in the world. India has been a member of the UN Security Council for a period of six terms i.e. 12 years and wants to join in Security Council as a permanent. The constitutional makers of India inserted part-III (DPSP) that the government of India shall promote international peace and peaceful settlement of international disputes.

India's role in UN Organs and Other Special Agencies

The India Agent-General Mr. Girija Shankar was represented and signed the Declaration by United Nations on 1 January 1942. On behalf of India Sir Arcot Ramaswamy Mudaliar signed the UN charter when United Nations Conference on International Organisation held in San Francisco, USA, on 26 June 1945. He also went to serve as the first president of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. As a founder member India played a crucial part when UNO was made on 24 October 1945. It is noticeable issue is that before independence India acted a positive role to making the UNO. India started movement against the colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination. A Gandhian political activist Dr. (Mrs.) Hansa Mehta took an active role on gender equality in Drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was elected as the first women president of the UN General Assembly in 1953. India supported the struggle towards global disarmament and the ending of the arms race and equitable international economic order.¹

India chaired the three international commissions for supervision and control for Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos established by the 1954 Geneva Accords on Indo-China. India had significant role in the Suez crisis in 1956. Under the chair of India the special committee on the implementation of the Declaration on Decolonisation was established in 1960 to bring an end to colonialism. The General Assembly was

setup a sub-committee against apartheid and India's had an active role during its formation. Convention on Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination was adopted to eradicate by several signatories and India was an important signatory. UN conference on the Environment and Development was held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. In this conference India prepared economic concerns of the developing countries. India has been an active member of the Core Group of the G-15. India Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru appealed to the UN Security Council to solve the boundary dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir conflict. The issues of Pakistan's intervention in Kashmir in 1948 Nehru sent this matter to UN Security Council.² Washington post reported that India was offered a permanent seat in the Security Council about 55 years ago in 1955. The USA and UK made to provide India as a permanent member, but Prime Minister Nehru denied this opportunity. Nehru stated that this report is factually incorrect. Under the leadership of Krishna Menon who was the India Ambassador to the UN from 1952-1962 stated that India's role was remarkable in UNSC. A large number of Indian personnel have rendered valuable services to different agencies of UN. For instance Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was appointed as the president of General Assembly. Moulana Abul Kalam Azad and Dr. Sarvapally Radhakrishnan and other were appointed as a chairman of UNESCO. Mrs. Rajkumari Amrity Kaur acted as a Chairperson of WHO and V.R. Sen acted as a president of FAO.³

India's demands for the Reformation of Security Council and Permanent seats

India signed the Partial Test Ban Treaty (1963) and Chemical Weapons Convention (1993) and not signed the CTBT in 1996. India also a member of the special agencies like UNESCO, WHO, FAO, and UNICEF etc. ⁴ (India has believed for the democratisation of UN and effective implementation of its programmes and policies. India has suggested the under mentioned reform of the UN.

- I. Due to increasing membership of the UN, the increase of membership in Security Council is essential.
- II. To increase the number of permanent membership in Security Council who have fulfilled the all criteria for the peacekeeping in international relations.
- III. To grant membership to countries representing continents and having democratic institutions viz.; Nigeria, Brazil and India. Moreover, membership should also be granted to two vastly growing economics like Germany and Japan.
- IV. The Security Council should not be used only for an instrument of the big power interests.

- V. The Security Council is the soul organ of the UN. Its strengthening and democratisation are necessary for its vitality in the newly emerging world order.
- VI. To empower the new member with veto power the Security Council must be reformed.
- VII. India constitutes 16% of the world's population and now emerged as a major power of South Asia.
- VIII. India is also a chief exponent of the principle of non-alignment movement.
- IX. The total number of NAM members is 112 countries, but none has the permanent membership in the Security Council.
- X. India is a largest democracy of the world and cherishes the values of the UN charter.
- XI. To maintain international peace and security in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN.
- XII. To investigate the disputes or condition this might lead to international friction.
- XIII. To formulate the plan for arms and arms control.
- XIV. To safe India from external aggressions.

There are some justifications of India's claiming for permanent membership in Security Council like-

- i. India has been a founding member of the UN and performed duties for peacekeeping in international relations.
- ii. India is a largest democracy and vastly growing economy.
- iii. India has maintained the principles and purposes of UN.
- iv. India is strong supporter of disarmament, arms and arms control.
- v. India is against of racial discrimination.
- vi. India has been playing an active role from when the UNO was formed.

India's Role in UN Peacekeeping

India has taken in 43 peacekeeping operation with contributing exceeding 1, 60,000 troops and huge number of police personnel having been deployed. In 2014 India contributed troops with 7860 personnel deployed with 10 UN peacekeeping operations of which 995 are police personnel including the first Female Formed Police. India provided one Military Advisor (Lt Gen R. K. Mehta), one Police Advisor(Ms Kiran Bedi), one Deputy Military Advisor(Lt Gen Abhijit Guha), 14 Force Commanders and numerous Police Commissioners in several peacekeeping operation. The former Indian army Lt Gen Satish Nambia served as the United Nations protection

force commander from March 1992 to 1993. He served on the “High –level Pane on Threats Challenges and Change” of peacekeeping building commission.⁵

During the period of Korean Crisis the UNO set up ‘Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission’ under the chairmanship of Lt Gen K.S. Thimmaya. India also provided a paramedical unit to facilitate withdrawal of the sick at wounded in Korea. On e brigade group of the India Army participated in Korea, authorised by the Un General Assembly through uniting for peacekeeping resolution. India also provided a custodian force under Major General S.P.P. Thorat comprising 231 officers, 140 JCs and 5696 other ranks. India contributed to peace in the Middle East. In 1956 the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) was created and India provided an infantry battalion. India was a part of UNEF where India’s contribution was an infantry battalion and near about 393 officers, 409 JCOs and 12383 other ranks took part in the Middle East crisis (1956-67).⁶ Pursuant to the Geneva Accord, an International Control Commission was set up in 1954 for India-China. India was the chairman the same commission which implemented the ceasefire agreement between Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and France. India provided the personnel to control the India-china boundary disputes. A total of 970 officers, 140 JCOs and 6157 other ranks were provided during the period of 1954-1970. During the period of Congo crisis India provided the two infantry brigades consisted with 467 officers, 401 JCOs and 11354 other ranks officers were participated in the operation. Captain Gs Salaria was awarded the Paramvir Chakra for the action in Katanga, Southern Congo.⁷

Indian Army provided a Force Commander and observers for the Yeman in 1963-1964 (UNYOM). India participated in the UN operation in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Gen K.S.Thimmaya, Lt Gen P.S. Gyani and Lt Gen Dewan Prem Chand were the three Force Commanders in Syprus. A Monitor Observer Group was set up by UN to monitor the situation on Iran-Iraq border. India provided military observers during the period of 1988-1990. At the end of the Gulf War the UN established UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM). Lt Gen Prem Chand was the Force Commander in Namibia operation. The Un established ONUMOZ to restore peace and conduct election in Mozambique. India provided the staff officers, military observers, independent headquarters company, engineers and Logistics Company.⁸ The 1373 peacekeepers from all ranks of the Indian Army were participated in the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia in 1992-1993 to supervise ceasefire disarmament and monitoring for free and fair elections. Indian Army and India Navy including five thousands personnel were participated actively during Somalia issues in 1993-1994. Brigadier Shiva Kumar of the Indian army was the final Force Commander of UN troops serving in Rwanda in December 1994- March 1996.

India contributed both in UNAVEM-I (10 military observers) and UNAVEM-II (25 military observers) and 20 military observers, 37 SOs, 30 senior NCOs in UNAVEM-III. In Sierra Leone (1999-2001) and in Ethiopia- Eritrea (2006-2008) contributed the battle groups, engineers, military observers and other. India has been contributed both male and female formed police units from CRPF and its specialised unit RAF in Liberia in 2007 and Mr. Gautam Sawang of India was acting police commissioner in Liberia. India has also regularly sent military observers to various UN operations including ONUCA (Central America) in 1990-1992, ONUSAL (El Salvador) in 1991.⁹

India provided an infantry battalion to the UN interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). India provided police monitors for the UN International Police Task force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL), Western Sahara (MINURSO) and Kosovo (UNMIK). An Indian Police Officer Mr. O.P. Rathor was the Police Commissioner of MINURSO. India sent to Lt. Gen Satish Namibia as a Police Commission in former Yugoslavia in 1992-1993. An International Seminar on UN Peacekeeping organised by India in March 1999 in which over 70 countries were participated in the seminar. A Centre for UN Peacekeeping was set up under the aegis of USI in New Delhi in 2000. In March 2001 contemporary UN Secretary General Kofi Annan came in India and visited the centre. India has been participating in UN special agencies such as ILO, UNESCO, UNCTAD and also getting valuable assistance from World UNICEF, Food and Agricultural Organisation and WTO. Mr. V. Pandit was the first lady to be elected as president of General Assembly. Dr S. Krishna had occupied the highest position in UNESCO. Mrs. N. Singh has served as Chief of the Cabinet of the Secretary General.¹⁰

Conclusion

It has rightly been observed that India from the very beginning playing an important role on Peacekeeping operations with UN and has maintained the principles and purposes of the UN. From this background India may claim as a permanent membership in Security Council. But efficacy of such claims ultimately depends on how far Indians are able to garner the international support. The contemporary international politics especially France, Britain, Japan, Brazil and many other countries have fully acknowledged India's role and support her claim. The UN presently recognised India as member of the Security Council. India has to see that promises are maintained and reforms are not biased. The indications of non-allocation of veto power to new members need to be addressed firmly. India can lobby with other countries, either for time bound renunciation of veto power or allocation to all the members. The question was raised about the relevance of UN in view of KOSOVO

crisis and war in Iraq. But India remains committed to the world. India is optimistic with achievement of such an objective in the future.

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