

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION

UPSC 2017 · 10 marks

“India has been the largest and consistent country contributing to the UN peacekeepers worldwide.”
Examine India’s role in this perspective. (2017/10 marks)

FLOW SNAPSHOT — how the answer moves

Intro routes

R1 field is where India’s commitment shows most → **Nambiar** “second to none” / Korea 1950 → claim rests on two unequal legs
R2 founding member, non-permanent, punches above weight → weigh the two halves: “largest” vs “consistent”

Body flow

consistency = sounder leg → 2,90,000 personnel / 50+ missions / highest fatalities / every African operation → **Thakur**: steady involvement → operational success → qualify “largest”: cumulative-largest over seven decades, not single-largest in current deployment

Counter-view

Bahadur: goodwill in UN circles ≠ influence → power play driven by funding + permanent-member interests

Conclusion routes

R1 India reworking numbers into governance → sustained Security Council + committee work, voice for TCCs → 2025 UNTCC Conclave, Jaishankar: field-driven, tech-enabled mandates, peacekeeper safety → convert field credibility into agenda-setting voice **R2** field credibility = moral standing + policy content of the reform case → close the contribution-recognition gap by strategy, not merit alone

India's commitment to global peace has shown clearly in the field. Satish Nambiar holds that its contribution has been second to none, from Korea in 1950.

India's participation has been unbroken across every phase, over 2,90,000 personnel in more than 50 missions. The highest fatalities of any contributor, and a presence in every UN operation in Africa. Ramesh Thakur argues this steady involvement has been critical to the mission's success.

India is the largest cumulative contributor over 7 decades, but no longer the single largest in active deployment.

The sharper concern, as Manmohan Bahadur argues, is that good-will in UN circles has not converted into influence over a power play driven by funding & permanent-member interests.

India is reworking members into a governance role. Sustained work in the UNSC and its committees presses for a decisive voice for troop-contributing countries. At the 2025 Troop Contributing Countries' conclave in New Delhi, S. Jaishankar sought field-driven, technology-enabled mandates & better protection for peacekeepers.

Therefore, the task is to turn credibility into agenda-setting voice.