India's vision for a Neutral and Independent Global Peacekeeping Bloc

Mohammad Afzaal Rashid
Student
Jamia Hamdard
afzaalrashid2004@gmail.com
+919873123442

Abstract

This paper examines the limitations of the current United Nations Peacekeeping Force (UNPKF) and advances India's offer for a neutral, independent global peacekeeping bloc free from the political influence of P5 members of the UN Security Council. It argues that structural issues similar as structural issues, biased intervention, and inconsistent authorizations undermine the UNPKF's credibility and functional effectiveness, frequently prioritizing national interests over humanitarian necessities. Through case studies including South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Palestinian crisis, the paper highlights systemic failures in guarding civilians, ensuring accountability, and maintaining equity. The study explores India's longstanding peacekeeping heritage, embedded in the motto of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and backed by decades of functional experience in over 50 UN operations. India's demographic diversity, popular stability, Cold War- period non-alignment, and military capability position it uniquely to lead a coalition of like- minded nations from both the Global South and Global North. Such a bloc could work alongside, but separately from, the UN, to ensure rapid deployment, humanitarian focus, and equitable representation. The proposed frame includes an Advisory Council of neutral countries, collaborative resource mobilization, coalition with regional associations, collaboration with civil society and peace exploration institutions. While challenges like legality issue, resource constraints, and collaboration mechanisms remain, the paper concludes that India's leadership in such an action could review global peacekeeping, strengthen the Global South's voice, and establish India as a humanitarian leader in international politics.

1. Introduction

The end of the Second World War marked a turning point in modern international relations. After enduring two disastrous global wars within the span of three decades, the international community was left with the immense loss of human life and materialistic costs of conflict. Millions were dead, cities were reduced to debris, and societies were torn due to the action of a few in power. These disasters lead to the understanding of critical need for a comprehensive global medium to maintain peace, support political conciliation, and help the future similar disastrous violence. In response, the United Nations was established in 1945, followed by the creation of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force (UNPKF) in 1948. Born out of necessity, peacekeeping was envisioned as a practical tool to help stabilize conflict zones and help in the transition from war to peace. Still, the birth of UN Peacekeeping coincided with the onset of the Cold War, a period marked by violent ideological contest and political rivalry between two superpowers -the United States and the Soviet Union. This contest constantly paralyzed the UN Security Council (UNSC), the primary body responsible for authorizing peacekeeping operations. Accordingly, early peacekeeping operations were limited in scope, substantially involving unarmed military spectators assigned with monitoring ceasefires and supporting diplomatic affairs. Despite these constraints, the foundational peacekeeping operations such as the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) set important precedents and continue their operations to this day. Deployment of First United Nations Emergency Force in 1956 during Suez Crisis predicted subsequent strong interventions by international bodies afterwards. Four years later UN Operation in Congo or ONUC became first large-scale mission involving nearly 20,000 personnel at its highest point eventually. Dag Hammarskjöld's tragic death and Loss Of 250 UN personnel starkly emphasized dangers and limitations of peacekeeping efforts. In the 1960s and 1970s, the UN sent peacekeepers to places like the Dominican Republic (DOMREP), West New Guinea (UNSF), Yemen (UNYOM), and maintained longer missions in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the Middle East (UNEF II, UNDOF, UNIFIL). These early operations, mostly short-term or for observation, helped set the stage for more complex missions later on. The UN Peacekeeping Forces received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988, showing acknowledgement for their work, at that time, the Nobel Committee cited "the Peacekeeping Forces through their efforts have made important contributions towards the

realization of one of the fundamental tenets of the United Nations. Thus, the world organization has come to play a more central part in world affairs and has been invested with increasing trust".

The end of the Cold War really changed peacekeeping. With less political tension in the Security Council, peacekeeping missions became bigger and more ambitious. From 1989 to 1994, the UN started 20 missions, and the number of peacekeepers grew a lot, from 11,000 to 75,000. These missions, in countries like Angola, Cambodia, El Salvador, Mozambique, and Namibia, did more than just watch ceasefires. They became broad operations that worked to put peace agreements into action, support democratic change, and build institutions. This period brought a change in what conflicts looked like. Early UN work focused on arguments between countries. After the Cold War, missions dealt with conflicts inside countries and civil wars. These were complex and sensitive. Peacekeepers now did things like disarming fighters, helping them return to society, building institutions, watching human rights, and fixing security. The optimism of the early 1990s didn't last. Failed missions in Somalia, Rwanda, and Yugoslavia made people wonder if UN peacekeeping was working. They questioned if the missions were ready and clear about what they should do. In these cases, missions failed because of a lack of agreement, not enough support, and unclear rules. Sometimes, they even made humanitarian crises worse. These failures showed problems with the UN's peacekeeping system, like how much it depended on the Security Council's powerful members and how it sometimes chose when to enforce peace. Although peacekeeping missions and staff numbers are down, global conflicts are getting harder to deal with. The UN still has a key, though stressed, role in managing conflict worldwide, with 110,000 people working on 14 missions. Things like international terrorism, cyber warfare, regional conflicts, and insecurity from climate change mean we need a peacekeeping system that can adapt, is responsible, and is truly neutral. This raises the question: Can we create a neutral, independent peacekeeping system that isn't controlled by the P5's political games? More importantly, could India, given its history of not aligning with any major power, its focus on peaceful talks, and its big role in global peacekeeping, guide the way in rethinking how international peace is enforced in the future? This paper says that India is in a great spot, both in terms of its beliefs and its place in the world, to lead a fresh type of peacekeeping that focuses on including everyone, staying neutral, and working with nearby countries (United Nations Peacekeeping, n.d.)

2. Objective

- 2.1 To critically assess the structural and political limitations of the UNPKF and their impact on effective peacekeeping.
- 2.2 To estimate India's historical role, principles, and capabilities in peacekeeping as a foundation for global leadership.
- 2.3 To propose a policy frame for an independent, neutral peacekeeping bloc led by India, identifying key partners, operational mechanisms, and potential challenges.

3. Methodology

This paper adopts a qualitative approach, counting on case study analysis and policy evaluation. Primary and secondary sources were used, including UN reports, government publications and academic papers. Three case studies- South Sudan, the DRC, and the Palestinian crisis were used to illustrate structural failures in UN peacekeeping. India's peacekeeping record was examined through historical records and scholarly assessments to identify its strategic possibility. The policy frame was developed by synthesizing relative international models, global partner cooperation strategies, and India's global positioning, ensuring both practical connection and alignment with humanitarian principles.

4. The Structural Limitation and Power Politics in UN Peacekeeping Force

United Nations Peacekeeping, while intended to promote peace, often fails because of structural problems and global power politics. A major issue is the power of the P5- the Security Council's five permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States). Their veto power gives them too much influence which hamper the efficiency also this makes peacekeeping selective, inconsistent, and often biased, as the interests of these nations often prioritized over the goal of establishing peace. The UN's peacekeeping operations rely on mandates created and approved by the Security Council. When P5 members' national interests' conflict, which often occurs in global conflict zones, then the true nature of these nations came forwards by making mandates weakened, operations are delayed, or missions are blocked completely. This results in a slow response to humanitarian crises. Instead of being impartial, the UNPKF sometimes gets caught between competing geopolitical interests, which often harms civilians.

The event in Malakal, South Sudan, shows how institutional weakness and a lack of political will can be deadly. In the time 2016, fortified men in South Sudanese army uniforms attacked the UN-protected mercenary point in Malakal, where over 48,000 displaced people were living. This attack killed 40 civilians and injured numerous others. UN peacemakers were present but did not do enough to stop the violence; they left their posts and failed to help the massacre. An internal disquisition refocused to a "lack of a visionary mindset," poor collaboration, and confusion in command (Lynch, 2016). The core problem, however, was political. The connection between the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the South Sudanese government had gotten so much worse. rather of counting on using tactfulness, the South Sudanese government started a media campaign against the UN, criminating it of supporting revolutionists and interfering in its affairs. The UNSC did not address this bad political situation, and peacemakers had to work in an atmosphere of mistrustfulness and hostility, which greatly reduced their capability to act on their own (Madut Jok, 2014).

The situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), particularly under the MONUSCO charge, reveals another failure. After its establishment in 1999, the charge was sharply assigned with a list of liabilities which do include guarding civilians, overseeing choices, rebuilding institutions without the corresponding assets or strategic clarity. A striking illustration was the boundary in Bunia in 2003. As violence escalated, the UN Security Council demanded that Ugandan forces withdraw, despite their stabilizing part in the megacity. When the Ugandan army left, MONUSCO had smaller than 100 labor force in place substantially spectators and unarmed staff. The later violence needed an exigency deployment of 400, who managed to void civilians and save roughly 11,000 lives. Yet this reactive approach exposed the UN's usual unpreparedness, its incapability to anticipate conflict dynamics, and the lack of collaboration between field operations and Security Council opinions. Author Emily Rhoads has appertained to this period as one of" unresistant peacekeeping" a charge mired in bureaucracy and an, ill- equipped to manage the complications of a multi-faction civil war. It appears that the most damaging issue for UN peacekeeping's trustworthiness comes from its own ranks. There have been repeated claims of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers, notably in the DRC, which has damaged the mission's moral standing. Vulnerable women and children, who the UN was supposed to safeguard, have become victims of sexual abuse and rape at the hands of the forces that were meant to protect them. Since then, the UN has started a zero-tolerance policy, required training, and

promised openness. Still, some argue that the response has been superficial, not systemic. Investigations have been slow, disciplinary actions unclear, and prosecution rates very low. The fact that peacekeepers are under the legal authority of their home countries makes accountability harder. Many countries that send troops do not have political reasons to prosecute their people for crimes committed overseas (Stoney, 2023).

The continuing humanitarian disaster in Palestine shows a clear failing of the international community, specifically in peacekeeping and conflict resolution. Because the United States used its veto power, the United Nations Security Council recently could not pass a resolution for an immediate ceasefire, showing the deadlock caused by the P5 structure. Because of this, the war and actions many see as genocidal by Israel have continued without stopping. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordered Israel to take immediate and measures to stop genocide and protect Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied territories. However, Israel has openly ignored the ICJ's measures, which makes people wonder if international law can be enforced and if global institutions are trustworthy (Estafan, 2024). UN Secretary-General António Guterres said he deeply regretted that We have failed the people of Gaza, as the number of civilians and UNRWA staff killed broke all UN records (UN News, 2024). Even though the Arab League has asked for a UN peacekeeping force to be sent to the occupied Palestinian territories until there is a two-state solution, no action has been taken. This situation clearly shows how the major powers' geopolitical interests stop strong peacekeeping action, which hurts trust in the international system's power to support justice and protect those in need (Al Jazeera, 2024).

The structural problems in UN peacekeeping are connected to the power dynamics within the Security Council. The P5 nations often use peacekeeping mandates to exert influence, choosing to get involved based on their strategic interests instead of pressing humanitarian needs. This has caused mission creep, unclear goals, and a loss of faith from host states and local people. Also, the lack of fair representation and the dominance of Western views in peacekeeping strategy have led to a legitimacy problem, mostly in the Global South. As long as the existing peacekeeping approach is tied to P5 agreement and veto power, it will still face delays, weak mandates, and operational stagnation. Because of this, there is an increasing need to consider a more independent and fair system that is not controlled by the geopolitics of powerful nations.

5. India's Legacy and Principles in Peacekeeping

India has a long history of supporting international peacekeeping through its beliefs and actions. It is the country that has sent the most troops to UN peacekeeping operations, with over 290,000 Indian personnel serving in more than 50 UN missions. India's involvement, from the Korean Peninsula in the 1950s to current conflict areas such as South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Lebanon, shows its commitment to non-violence, neutrality, and respect for human dignity. Thus, these values are based on root of the Indian concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which means the world is one family. India's commitment isn't just grounded on figures but it holds deep symbolic values. In 2023, Shishupal Singh and Sanwala Ram Vishnoi, two Indian peacemakers, together with Shaber Taher Ali, a UN staffer, were honoured with the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal, the UN's top award for peacekeeping, to recognize their courage & sacrifice while serving in the DRC. These acts highlight India's commitment that it is ready to pay the price to achieve and work towards the global peace. Indian peacemakers have taken part in important operations over the times, similar as UNAMA in Afghanistan, UNTSO in the Middle East, and UNISFA in Abyei. They've served as military spectators, police officers, UN support staff, and humanitarian workers. India has also helped make capacity by training original forces, assisting structure systems, and putting Civil-Military Coordination (CIMIC) plans into action. For example, Indian Veterinary Detachments in Africa have supported with the livestock management and bettered community relations, showing the numerous aspects of India's peacekeeping approach. Another defining point of India's approach has been the deployment of indigenously developed military outfit, designed for adaptability in extreme conditions. These deployments ensure functional effectiveness while showcasing India's technological- reliance and long- term commitment to peace operations. India's peacekeeping heritage is also distinguished by its leadership in gender addition. Since the 1960s, Indian women have been part of UN peacekeeping beginning with medical officers in the Congo. This commitment highlighted in 2007 when India transferred the first- ever batch of womanish Formed Police Unit (FPU) to Liberia, a move extensively hailed for not only enhancing security but also empowering women moment, over 150 Indian women peacemakers serve across six major UN operations. The recent recognition of Major Radhika Sen as the "Military Gender Advocate of the Year 2023" underlines India's part in breaking gender walls within the global peacekeeping structure (Ministry of External Affairs, 2025).

Nepal 5,951 5,897 Rwanda Bangladesh 5,677 India 5,375 Pakistan 2,808 2,752 Indonesia Ghana China 1,797 Morocco United Republic of Tanzania 1,548 Ethiopia 1.532 Senegal 1,298 1,205 Egypt 1,124 Cameroon South Africa 1,097 981 Zambia 935 Uruguay Tunisia 934 894 Mongolia

Fig-1 Ranking of contributions by country (as of 28 February 2025)

Source: https://thepolity.co.in/article/201

However, despite these hard work and uncountable contribution, the Global South's part in UN peacekeeping frequently remains uncredited. Countries like India, Nepal, Rwanda, and Bangladesh contribute over 80% of UN peacekeeping forces, yet they've little influence over charge design, accreditation expression, or strategy, opinions that are largely dominated by Global North powers (Raj, 2025). India has constantly argued for greater participation of troop-contributing countries in decision- making processes, not simply as a matter of prestige, but to ensure responsibility, effectiveness, and applicability on the ground. India's peacekeeping journey isn't just a literal record of participation it is a principled stage for a fairer, more balanced global order. As the global system continues to face crisis of legality and effectiveness, India's model of peacekeeping driven by ethics, inclusivity, and deep embedded humanism serves as a compelling design for new reforms in international conflict resolution.

6. India's Strategic Potential to Lead a Neutral Peacekeeping Bloc

Why India? When critics ask, "Why India?" the answer lies in a combination of demographic, cultural, tradition, political, and strategic factors that inclusively make India uniquely deposited to forefront a neutral peacekeeping bloc. India isn't simply a nation of 500 - 600 million; it's a country of 1400 million (1.4 billion), speaking hundreds of languages and thousands of dialects, and

representing nearly every major religion in the world alongside multiple religion, caste, and traditions. Managing this much diversity within a single political frame has made India capable with unequaled experience in conflict resolution, agreement- structure, and fostering skills directly transferable to the global peacekeeping domain.

Further than its demographic diversity, India's worldview is shaped by its ancient civilizational morality, particularly the motto of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* -"the world is one family." This principle goes beyond man- made borders and boundaries, offering a moral foundation for a peacekeeping approach that prioritizes humanity over geopolitical interests. India's literal experience further reinforces its felicity. Having been a colony under British rule, India surfaced from the colony of imperialism with first-hand understanding of the legacies of colonial exploitation. Within just few years of independence, it faced wars with neighboring countries, internal mutinies, and indeed the emergency period of the 1970s a domestic political extremity that tested its popular adaptability. Overcoming such internal and external challenges has made India highly aware of the struggles faced by nations in political turmoil, post-conflict reconstruction, or under authoritarian pressure.

In the Cold War period, India adopted a policy of non-alignment-founding the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) alongside leaders similar as Yugoslavia's Josip Broz Tito and Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser (Ministry of External Affairs, 2012). This position wasn't one of nonparticipation but of principled impartiality, rejecting the double choice between contending superpower blocs. India's harmonious belief that wars isn't a result and its preference for tactfulness over militarism have remained keystones of its foreign policy. As the world enters a new period of great power competition, this tradition of impartiality paired with the legality gained from decades of popular stability could be India's topmost politic asset. Beyond philosophical logic, India possesses the material capability to lead a neutral peacekeeping bloc. It's the world's fourth- largest economy house (with growth rates constantly outpacing numerous advanced nations) (Press Information Bureau, 2025) and ranks among the top four military powers in the world (Global Fire Power, 2025). Its military force has decades of hands- on experience in United Nations Peacekeeping Forces (UNPKF), serving in some of the most complex and unpredictable conflict zones. This functional experience not only provides India with a deep understanding of peacekeeping logistics, rules of engagement, and civil-military collaboration but also strengthens its credibility as an able

leader in the field. Unlike permanent members of the UN Security Council, India is not a veto-wielding power, and thus is not seen as an enforcer of hegemonic interests. This absence of veto power can work to its advantage, enabling it to position itself as a genuine middleman unaligned with any one bloc. likewise, India has historically abstained from taking sides in major power conflicts, preferring realistic and case-specific engagement.

One of the less mentioned but critical reasons for India to assume this part is the identity gap it faces in global politics. Other major powers formerly have well- established global individualities

- 1. The United States is associated with its economic hegemony, dollar dominance, and technological leadership (Silicon Valley).
- 2. Russia is recognized for its military capabilities and energy reserves.
- 3. China is the global manufacturing hub and a major trade power.

Whereas, India, despite its demographic size and profitable growth, lacks a clear and influential global identity. This absence creates both a challenge and an occasion. By leading a neutral peacekeeping bloc concentrated on guarding humanity, upholding international law, and defying the weaponization of power, India could carve out a distinctive part in world affairs, expanding its soft power while strengthening its claim as a responsible global actor.

The current international order leaves a strategic gap no major power is committed to truly neutral peacekeeping untainted by great power contest. India, by filling this gap, could review its image from an indigenous player to a global humanitarian leader. still, India's path toward this leadership part isn't without obstacles. Its recent politic responses to the Israel – Gaza conflict illustrate the difficulty of balancing impartiality with humanitarian responsibility. Since 2023, India has supported several UN judgments calling for an immediate ceasefire, including in December 2024, but has also abstained from judgments seen as exorbitantly critical of Israel or rightly condemning Hamas's 7 October attacks (Haidar, 2025). While this balancing act reflects diplomatic caution, it risks transferring mixed signals. However, prioritizing diplomacy at the expenditure of moral clarity could undermine its credibility, If India aspires to be recognized as a humanitarian power. A humanitarian leader must be prepared to condemn violations of mortal rights and international law, anyhow of whether they're committed by allies or adversaries. Failing to borrow this principled depth would place India on the same path as other major powers that have faltered in

meeting the moral responsibility of their influence. The essence of neutrality isn't silence it is the fair operation of principles to all parties in a conflict. To rise above its identity extremity, India must take bold, exacting stations on humanitarian issues, ensuring that its impartiality is embedded in justice, not in political convenience.

To translate its possibility into reality, India should:

- 1. Institutionalize a Neutral Peacekeeping Framework Form an alliance of like- minded countries from the Global South and beyond, committed to humanitarian peacekeeping free from great power manipulation.
- 2. Borrow a Principle- Centered Foreign Policy Ready to commit a condemnation of all violations of international humanitarian law, irrespective of political alignments.
- 3. Influence service and Military expertise Use its UNPKF experience to train international brigades in conflict resolution, humanitarian relief, and post-conflict reconstruction.
- 4. Integrate Soft Power Tools- Pair military peacekeeping with creative strategy, experimental backing, and educational exchanges to foster long- term stability in conflict zones.
- 5. Fill the Global Governance Gap Voiced out for reforms in UN peacekeeping decision- making to give troop- contributing countries greater say in authorization and military strategy.

India's demographic diversity, ancient philosophical outlook, historical resilience, Cold War impartiality, popular stability, economic strength, and extensive peacekeeping experience combine to form an important case for its leadership in a neutral peacekeeping bloc. Yet the realization of its potential depends on moral clarity, strategic planning, and the courage to act decisively in global heads. By stepping into this part, India would not only resolve its own identity gap in world politics but also offer the international community a new model of leadership, which predicated in humanity, fairness, and the belief that peace is a collaborative responsibility. In doing so, India could rise not just as a global superpower, but as a protector of humanity in the rightest sense.

7. Policy Framework and Challenges

For India to successfully adopt this concept of a neutral peacekeeping bloc, broad-grounded cooperation with like-minded nations is essential. Potential partners could include countries like Japan, Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates, and the Nordic countries, all of

which have demonstrated harmonious humanitarian commitments. In addition, building strong alliances within the Global South would not only enhance India's leadership credentials but also empower developing nations by furnishing them with a greater platform in international politics. This would ensure that India's action is perceived not as a self- serving power but as a genuine attempt to strengthen the collaborative voice of underrepresented countries. Regional associations similar as the African Union (AU), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) could serve as critical pillars of this bloc. Their participation would ensure original legitimacy and functional reach. also, collaboration with nonstate actors similar as civil society associations, suppose think tanks, and peace exploration institutions could help bring realistic policy recommendations, strengthen functional designs, and ensure that humanitarian principles remain at the core of the bloc's charge. Still, several structural and functional challenges must be addressed. One major concern lies in the legal and institutional design of the bloc. Keeping it entirely independent of the United Nations, in order to avoid the influence of the P5 members, could produce legality issues, given that the UN remains the primary forum for international reflections. At the same time, excessive dependence on the UN might limit the bloc's autonomy. A balanced approach is necessary, one in which the bloc coordinates nearly with the UN but retains decision- making independence. This could be achieved through an Advisory Council of Neutral Nations, which would formulate strategies and ensure that the bloc's conduct isn't subject to great power politics. Another major challenge is resource mobilization. India, despite its growing economy, cannot unilaterally bear the fiscal and logistical burden of sustained peacekeeping operations. A cooperative funding mechanism, with equitable contributions from member states and possibly humanitarian foundations, would be essential. likewise, establishing a Rapid Deployment mechanism could ensure rapid intervention in arising conflicts, prevent escalation and reducing humanitarian casualties.

8. Conclusion

The evolving nature of global conflict demand a reimagining of peacekeeping beyond the structural and political limitations of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force (UNPKF). This paper has demonstrated that while the UNPKF has historically played an important part in managing conflicts, its functional effectiveness is constantly undermined by the disproportionate influence

of the P5, inconsistent authorizations, slow responses, and politicized decision- hampering the efficiency. The consequences of these limitations seen in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Palestine highlight the critical need for an independent, neutral peacekeeping frame able of prioritizing humanitarian vision over geopolitical interests. India's track record, rooted in the principles of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and decades of practical engagement in over 50 UN operations, positions it uniquely to forefront. Its demographic diversity, adaptability against internal and external challenges, Cold War period non-alignment, democratic stability, economic growth, and military capability inclusively offer the credibility and capability to lead a neutral bloc. This bloc, independent of P5 manipulation yet cooperating with the UN, could fill a critical gap in the international order providing unprejudiced, rapid, and humanitarian driven interventions in conflict zones. Still, India's ambition must be matched by moral clarity. Cases similar as its mixed responses to the Israel – Gaza conflict emphasize the challenge of balancing diplomatic pragmatism with humanitarian consistency. To truly lead, India must uphold a principled stance that condemns all violations of mortal rights and international law, irrespective of political alliances. This moral consistency will distinguish India's leadership from that of great powers, numerous of which have failed in upholding the ethical responsibilities of influence. The proposed policy frame based on with like- minded nations, regional associations, civil society, and other peace institutions offer a practical approach for operationalizing this vision. Resource mobilization, legality issue, and collaboration mechanisms remain significant challenges, but these can be addressed through participated backing arrangements, an Advisory Council of neutral countries, and a rapid deployment system for timely interventions. Still, India's leadership of a neutral peacekeeping bloc could review global conflict resolution, if executed with strategic foresight and unwavering ethical commitment. It would not only empower the Global South with a stronger voice in international politics but also draft a distinctive identity for India as a humanitarian superpower. Such a move would emphasize a shift from power politics to peoplecentered tactfulness where peace isn't a honor mandated by a many, but a collaborative responsibility upheld by all. In doing so, India could set a new standard for 21st-century peacekeeping, attached in impartiality, inclusivity, and the participated pursuit of global justice.

References:

- United Nations Peacekeeping. (n.d.). Our history. United Nations Peacekeeping; United Nations. Retrieved August 4, 2025, from https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-history
- Lynch, J. (2016, June 22). UN failed to protect civilians in South Sudan: report. Al Jazeera. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/6/22/un-failed-to-protect-civilians-in-south-sudan-report
- Madut Jok, J. (2014, June 11). United Nations Mission in South Sudan: A Failed Mission or Hostage of Circumstances? UNMISS. https://unmiss.unmissions.org/united-nations-mission-south-sudan-failed-mission-or-hostage-circumstances
- Stoney, A. (2023, October 7). '24 Years of Missed Opportunities': How the UN Failed to Secure Peace in the DRC. UN-Aligned News. https://un-aligned.org/un-in-focus/how-the-un-failed-to-secure-peace-in-the-drc/
- Estafan, M. (2024, May 14). The Failure of the International Community to the Palestinians.

 Modern Diplomacy. https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2024/05/14/the-failure-of-the-international-community-to-the-palestinians/
- "We have failed the people of Gaza," Guterres tells ministers. (2024, September 26). UN News. https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154971
- Arab League calls for UN peacekeepers in occupied Palestinian territory. (2024, May 16). Al Jazeera. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/5/16/arab-league-calls-for-un-peacekeepers-in-occupied-palestinian-territory
- Ministry of External Affairs. (2025, March 9). India's Legacy in UN Peacekeeping: Leadership, Commitment, and Sacrifice. Pib.gov.in.

 https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2109587
- Raj, R. (2025, June 16). The saga of "Blue Helmets": India's glorious legacy as "peacekeeper." thepolity.co.in. https://thepolity.co.in/article/201

- Ministry of External Affairs. (2012, August 22). Sorry for the inconvenience. Mea.gov.in. https://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/20349/History+and+Evolution+of+NonAligned+Movement
- Press Information Bureau. (2025, June 16). India Becoming An Economic Powerhouse. Pib.gov.in. https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NoteId=154660
- Global Fire Power. (2025). 2025 Military Strength Ranking. Global Fire Power. https://www.globalfirepower.com/countries-listing.php
- Haidar, S. (2025, July 24). At UNSC, India says Gaza ceasefire is a "must", reaffirms support to Palestinian "brothers and sisters." The Hindu. https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-calls-for-ceasefire-in-gaza-says-intermittent-pauses-not-enough/article69849347.ece