

CHIEFS OF DEFENCE CONFERENCE 2019

STATEMENT BY

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VICE CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF

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AGENDA 1 : SPECIALISED CAPABILITIES

As we understand that UN is facing shortage of critical enablers such as rapidly deployable forces, francophone troops, aviation assets, engineer companies and medical services.

India has already deployed four hospitals, one Engineer Company and a Signal Company in various UN missions. India has also pledged an Infantry Battalion at RDB, an Engineer Company and a Signal Company which is at Level 3 of Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS).

The issue of committing aviation assets is presently under consideration.

As regards UN training, India has been providing training facilities for conduct of UN courses, joint exercises and Mobile Training Teams. India has also incorporated jungle warfare qualified troops as part of contingents who are likely to induct in MONUSCO in August 2019.

AGENDA 2 : IMPROVEMENT IN PERFORMANCE, TRAINING, CAPACITY BUILDING & EQUIPMENT

As we understand UN is looking at improving the performance of peacekeeping and also for support in capacity building.

On this aspect A4P initiative provides an ideal platform. India is committed to support UN in this endeavor. CUNPK at India has been a flag bearer for imparting quality instructors in the field of UN peacekeeping training as per ITS promulgated standards. We have been conducting UN related courses like Female Military Officers

Course (FMOC), Senior Mission Leaders' Course (SMLC), Conflict related Sexual Violence (CRSV) as well as conduct of Field Training Exercise (FTX) / Tactical Training Exercise (TTX) / Command Planning Exercise (CPX) and Mobile Training Team (MTT). On the aspect of Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), India is funding the Pipeline for Peacekeeping Command Programme which is aimed at training the Commanders & Managers in Prevention of SEA.

India had conducted a Joint Field Training Exercise on UNPKO and Humanitarian Mine Assistance (HMA) with 19 countries as part of ASEAN Def Ministers Meet (ADMM) Plus in February 2016. This year we conducted the Joint Field Training Exercise on UNPKO and HMA with 17 African Countries in March 2019. We have also been conducting bilateral Army Exercises with Myanmar, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Cambodia and Kyrgyzstan.

As a co-deployment initiative, India also contributed towards capacity building by training & deployment of a Kazakh Coy along with INDBATT in UNIFIL in October 2018.

AGENDA 3 : WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

As we understand that UN is aiming at increasing participation of women peacekeepers in UN missions.

To this effect India is committed to the '**Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy**'. India had complied to the UN requirement of deploying 15% women Staff Officers and Military Observers in 2017. Presently, 21 women officers are deployed in UN missions and 26 women officers will be deployed by December 2019.

India has already deployed a Female Engagement Team (FET) as part of INDRDB in MONUSCO to increase women participation as part of contingents on 20 June 2019.