Accountability For Safety UN peacekeepers

Prelims: *current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

In a recent high-level meeting of the Group of Friends (GoF) at the UN Headquarters, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, underscored the significant challenges that UN peacekeepers encounter in their work.

- **Established in** - Officially established in December 2022 during India's presidency of the UN Security Council, building on the historic Security Council Resolution 2589 (2021).
- **Co-chaired by** - India along with other key nations.
- **Dedicated to** - The group's mission is focused on advancing legal frameworks, promoting investigations, and supporting initiatives to ensure accountability for crimes committed against UN peacekeepers.
- **Primary goal** – To *deter future assaults and secure justice for peacekeepers and their families.*

- **India's expression** - India has reiterated its strong dedication to ensuring accountability for crimes against United Nations peacekeepers, describing this as a "***strategic necessity***" essential for global peacekeeping missions.
- **Need** - UN peacekeepers operate in increasingly perilous environments and face significant challenges, with many crimes remaining unpunished.
- This absence of accountability greatly undermines international peace initiatives by instilling greater confidence in perpetrators.
- **Critical imperative** - The emphasis is that accountability is more than just a matter of justice for individuals.
- It is fundamental for the effectiveness, credibility, and future of UN Peace Operations around the world.
- In a strong display of global unity, aim to discuss better strategies, operational frameworks, and increased international cooperation to ensure safety of peace keepers.
- **Emphasis** - Peacekeepers are facing rising threats in highly unstable conflict areas, with hostile attacks and fatalities increasing.
- **Indian contributions** - India stands as the largest troop-contributing country to the United Nations, having deployed over 300,000 peacekeepers throughout its history.
- **The Permanent Mission of India to the UN** – It has noted that "Indian peacekeepers have served with valor and honor in nearly every major UN mission, making significant sacrifices, with 182 Indian peacekeepers having given their lives in

service.

- **Significance** - Understanding these complex relationships is vital, necessitating a comprehensive approach along with a steadfast political commitment from all involved parties.

Reference

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