

#FABRIC

Fusion of Eri Silk and Kota Doria

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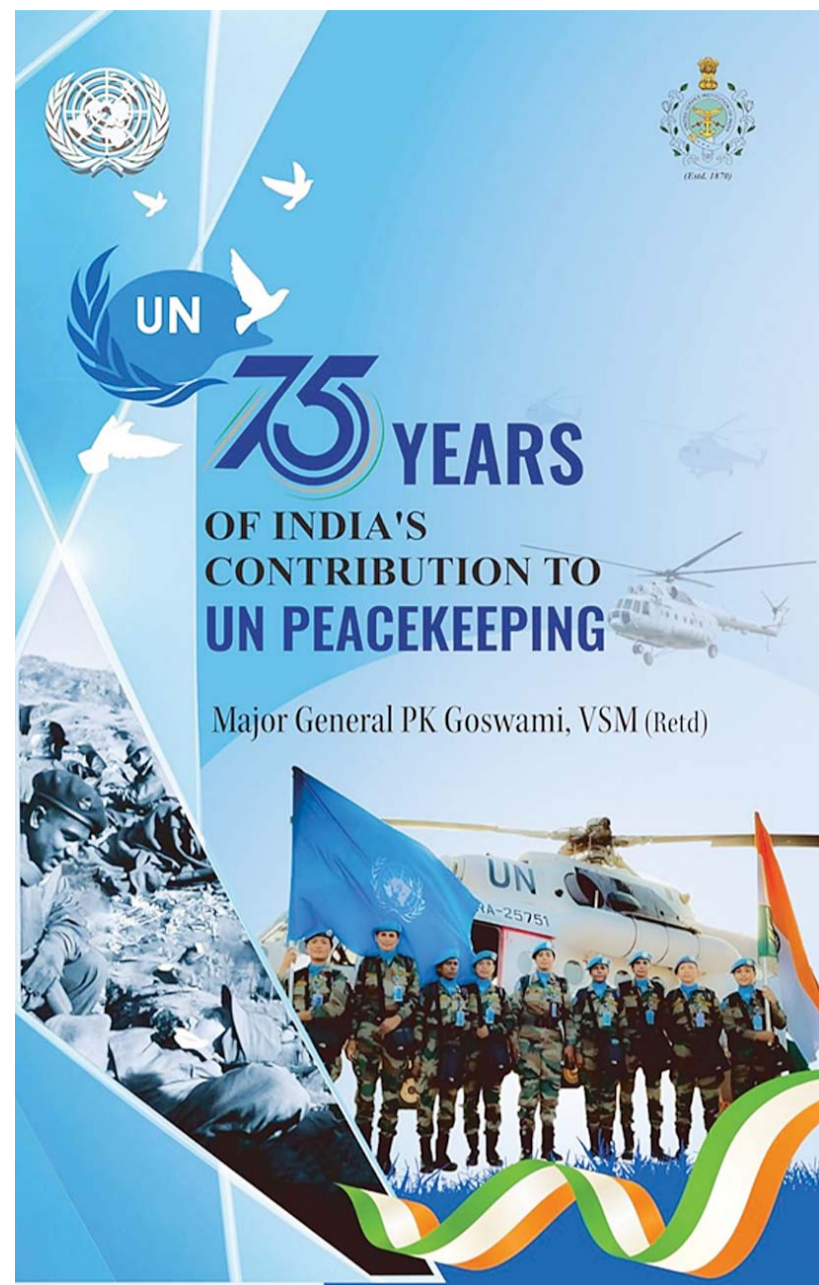


The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) is exploring a new initiative to combine Eri silk, popularly known as 'peace silk,' with the traditional Kota Doria weave of Rajasthan to develop a premium handloom fabric aimed at both domestic and international markets.

The proposed collaboration seeks to bring together the rich textile traditions of India's North Eastern states and Rajasthan, creating a sustainable and high-value product that reflects the country's diverse weaving heritage. Officials believe that the initiative could significantly boost livelihood opportunities for weavers, artisans, and designers associated with the handloom sector.

Eri silk is widely appreciated for its eco-friendly and ethical production process. Unlike conventional silk production, the Eri silkworm is not killed during extraction, earning the fabric the title of "peace silk." The fibre is known for its softness, durability, thermal properties, and natural appeal, making it increasingly popular among environmentally conscious consumers across global fashion markets.

Kota Doria, on the other hand, is one of Rajasthan's most celebrated handloom traditions. Originating from Kaithoon near Kota, the fabric is recognised for its lightweight texture, transparent weave, and signature square-check patterns known as "khat." Traditionally woven

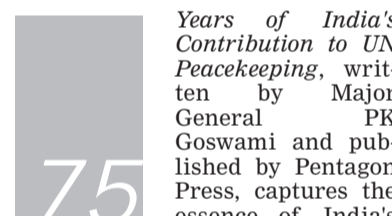


75 YEARS OF INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO UN PEACEKEEPING

Today, roughly 5,500 Indians are deployed in nine active missions. Over the years, India's peacekeepers have paid a high price as 182 have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. This blend of valour and sacrifice reflects India's traditions (often summarized as Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, "the world is one family") in action, aligning its non-violent philosophy with UN values. Indian women have also been part of the missions since the 1960s, in Congo. India was first country to deploy an all-women contingent for a peacekeeping mission, in 2007 in Liberia. Today, women are part of all missions where Indian troops are deployed. More women in peacekeeping means a more effective peacekeeping.



Maj Gen Jagatbir Singh, VSM (RETD)



The book, which has seven chapters with seven Appendices, is a detailed chronicle of India's rich and multi-faceted peacekeeping journey which analyses its impact, challenges and evolving role. It does this admirably by its historical and policy analyses, first-hand accounts and mission insights which provide a comprehensive understanding of India's role in UN peacekeeping operations over the last 75 years. As one of the founding members of the UN, India has consistently demonstrated strong commitment through its active cooperation and clear understanding of its obligations to UN activities.



Captain Gurbachan Singh Salaria.

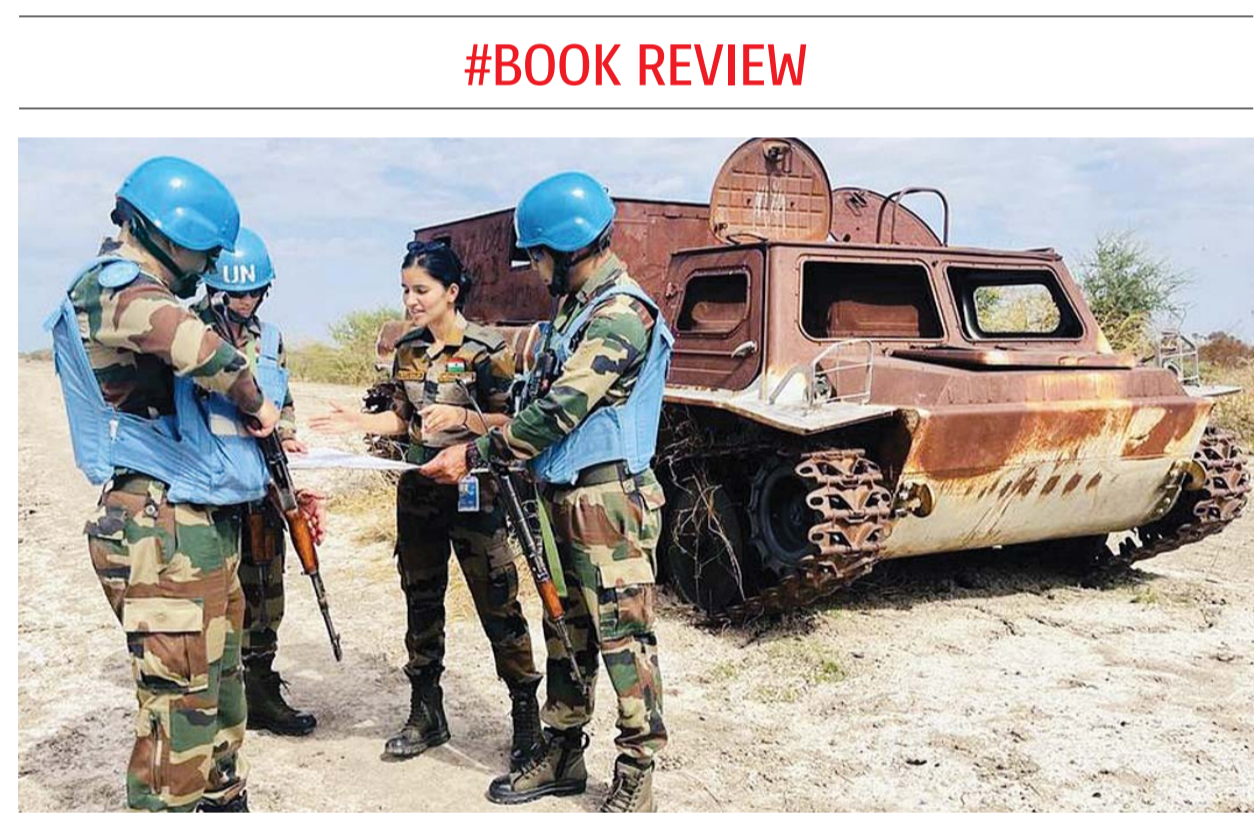
has also played a critical role in shaping the doctrines and policies of UN peacekeeping operations. It has consistently advocated for stronger mandates, better equipped forces and a more representative global security architecture. India also continues to call for a reformed and equitable UN Security Council, further reflecting its capacities, capabilities and contributions.

About the Book

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Besides troops, India has regularly contributed senior leadership to include three Special Representatives of the Secretary



India's Initiative for ASEAN Women in UN Peacekeeping.

General and a Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, fifteen Head of Missions and Force Commanders, two Divisional Commanders, and nine Deputy Head of Missions and Deputy Force Commanders so far, along with several Police Commissioners in various UN missions. In addition, two Military Advisors, two Police Advisors, which include one woman, and two Deputy Military Advisors to the UN Secretary General. There is also an instance where the Secretary General had to write to the Prime Minister J.L. Nehru for Ambassador Rajeshwar Dayal for Congo.

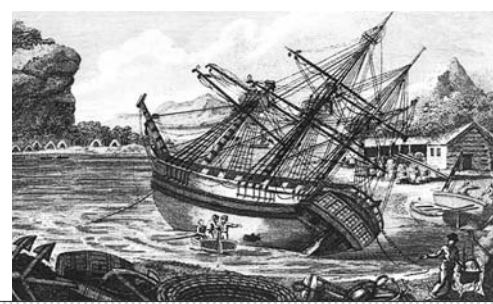
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#BOOK REVIEW

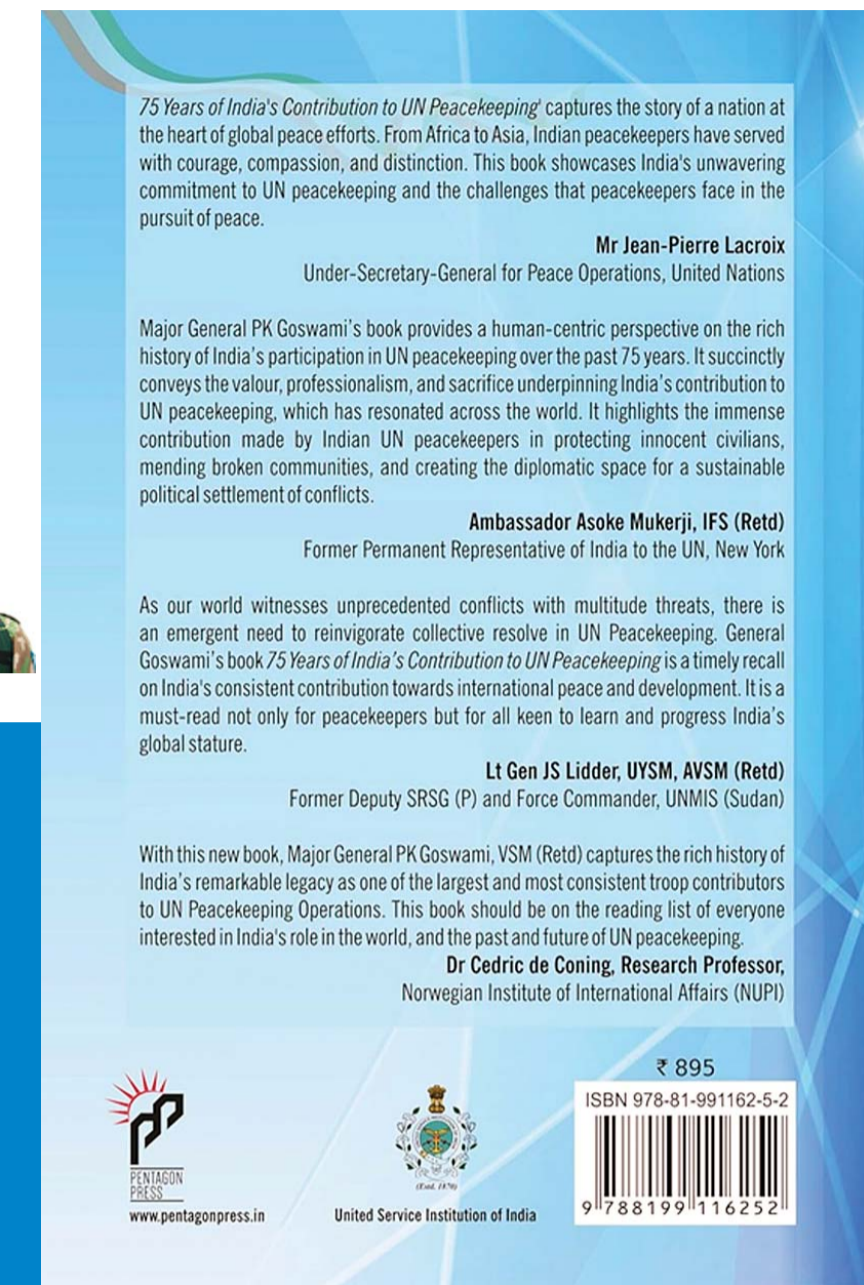
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and cultural values, ethical foreign policy and commitment to global peace and security aimed at fostering harmony, cooperation and a stable international order.' It is therefore evident that India's contribution is both sought and val-

Captain Cook Encounters the Great Barrier Reef



In June 11, 1770, British explorer Captain James Cook made a dramatic discovery when his ship, HMS Endeavour, struck the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of present-day Queensland, Australia. While navigating the eastern coastline during his first Pacific voyage, Cook's vessel ran aground on the coral reef, forcing the crew to stop for repairs. This unexpected encounter led to one of the earliest recorded European observations of the world's largest coral reef system. Cook's journey later helped map Australia's eastern coast, bringing global attention to the vast and fragile marine ecosystem, now recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Param Vir Chakra (the nation's highest military honour), the only Indian to earn it in a UN mission. Presently, Indian units often provide vital humanitarian aid. This year, Indian medical teams ran an outreach clinic in South Sudan that treated over 300 displaced people. Likewise, India operates a Level-III UN hospital in Goma, DR Congo, whose humanitarian outreach "aided FARDC (Congolese army) and civilians" and was praised by the UN's Special Representative for its professionalism.

In the Chapter, On the Way Forward, the author has stated that India's strength lies in its capacity to undertake peacekeeping operations in any terrain, social milieu, or adverse situations, and then sustaining such operations across the globe for prolonged periods. He further states that India's future peacekeeping approach should enhance its global standing and diplomatic influence by linking peacekeeping activities to its wider foreign policy objectives. For instance, the recently conducted Chiefs Conclave of UN Troop Contributing Countries in Delhi in October this year.

The Appendices, given in the book, give out various facts and data related to India's contribution such as the senior leadership from the Army which includes then Major General (later General) KS Thimayya, who was Chairman of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, the list of those who laid down their lives and those awarded honours and awards for their service to the UN including the names of Lieutenant Colonel Rangaraj and Major NB Banerjee of the Army Medical Corps amongst the five *Maha Vir Chakra* awardees. There are also vintage newspaper cutting of various international publications and a sonnet written by Brian Urquhart, the Executive Secretary to the Secretary General in December 1976, on the farewell of Maj General Dewan Prem Chand from Cyprus, decapulating his contributions.

Conclusion
The book undoubtedly provides a human-centric perspective on the rich history of India's participation in UN peacekeeping over the last 75

years and succinctly conveys the professionalism, valour and sacrifice underpinning India's contribution. Written at a time of unprecedented armed conflicts raging worldwide with peacekeeping forces facing multiple challenges, from proxy wars and terrorism to climate-driven crises, the book reminds readers that strong multilateral resolve is essential. The Blue Helmets play a vital role in preserving peace. India's remarkable and distinguished legacy, as one of the largest troop contributors, is admirable which not only reflects the growing global stature of India but also its commitment to uphold the values enshrined in the UN Charter. India's role has gone far beyond providing manpower: it has often led peace-enforcement efforts, protected civilians, and extended humanitarian aid under fire. The book is undoubtedly a must read for those interested in learning about India's consistent commitment and principled approach to global peace and its pivotal role in upholding the vision of a just world order. In an era of evolving security threats, India's continued engagement will be critical in strengthening peacekeeping mechanisms, promoting stability and upholding the vision of collective security as it marks 75 years of its peacekeeping legacy.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com



KS Thimayya.

#THE KHADA PARSII STATUE

Mumbai's Forgotten Monument of Reform, Education, and Heritage

The statue is believed to be made of cast iron with bronze elements and stands as an example of 19th-century colonial-era monument construction techniques

The statue, popularly known as "Khada Parsi" or "Standing Parsi," is one of Mumbai's most iconic yet widely neglected heritage structures. Standing tall at one of the city's busiest junctions, this almost 40-foot-high cast iron and bronze monument has silently witnessed the transformation of Mumbai from a colonial port city to a modern metropolis. Yet, despite its historical and cultural significance, it remains overlooked by most citizens rushing past it every day.

A Monument Dedicated to Seth Cursetjee Manockjee

The statue commemorates Cursetjee Manockjee, a prominent Parsi philanthropist and reformer of the 19th century. It was commissioned by his youngest son, Manockjee Cursetjee, in the 1860s, at an estimated cost of nearly one lakh rupees, a massive sum at the time.

The monument was not just a tribute to a father, but also to a legacy of social reform, education, and community service that the Parsi community contributed significantly to Mumbai's development. Manockjee Cursetjee is remembered as a reformer, especially in the field of education. One of his most important contributions was the establishment of one of Mumbai's earliest schools for girls in 1863. This institution later evolved into the Alexandra Girls' English institution, located in South Mumbai. At a time when female education was rare and often discouraged, this initiative represented a progressive shift in social thinking and laid the foundation for modern girls' education in the city.

A Pioneer in Women's Education

The Khada Parsi statue is also remarkable for its engineering and construction. It was fabricated in parts in London, reflecting the industrial capabilities of the era. These components were then transported to India by sea and assembled on-site in Mumbai. The statue is believed to be made of cast iron



Design and Construction from London

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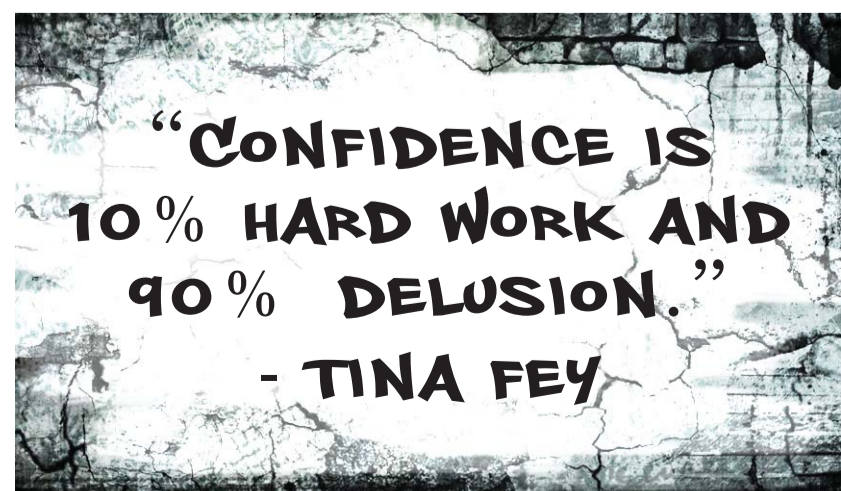
The Statue and the Urban Landscape

Old photographs and local recollections from the 20th century, especially around the 1970s, often show busy junctions where the Khada Parsi statue stood amidst shops, traffic, and everyday life. Nearby, small businesses such as stationery shops, fabric sellers, and vendors dealing in materials like resine (a synthetic leather used in bags and upholstery) formed part of the surrounding commercial landscape. These ordinary details became part of the visual memory of the area.

A Symbol of Parsi Contribution to Mumbai

The Parsi community has played a crucial role in shaping Mumbai's infrastructure, industry, and educational institutions. The Khada Parsi statue stands as a symbolic representation of that contribution. It was intended not only as a memorial but also as a public reminder of philanthropy, reform, and civic responsibility.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman