

# Tech to help protect UN peacekeepers: Jaishankar

## Platform used in four UN missions

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

Presiding over a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) open debate on technology and peacekeeping, his first as External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar announced the rollout of a technological platform in partnership with the UN – ‘UNITE Aware’ – to help enhance the safety of UN peacekeepers. India, as a major contributing nation to UN peacekeeping activities, has been keen on using its month-long UNSC Presidency to prioritise peacekeeping. The platform has been used in four UN missions, an Indian official told *The Hindu*.

On Wednesday, the Security Council adopted a resolution that paid tribute to peacekeepers and asked member-states that had hosted them to bring to justice those who had killed or committed acts of violence against them. “The international community must come together better to govern the digital space for good, while addressing its many challenges,” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said at the debate.

Mr. Jaishankar outlined a four-point framework for securing the peacekeepers at the debate. First, he called for the deployment of proven, cost-effective and field-serviceable technologies that were environmentally friendly in their construction. Second, peacekeepers needed sound information and intelligence, he said, and this would require precise positioning and over-



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head visualisation.

“It, therefore, gives me great pleasure to announce that India is supporting the UN in the rollout of the ‘UNITE Aware’ platform across select peacekeeping missions. This initiative is based on the expectation that an entire peacekeeping operation can be visualised, coordinated and monitored on a real time basis,” Mr. Jaishankar said.

Finally, he called for investment in capacity building and training of peacekeepers with regard to technology, while announcing to the Security Council a Memorandum of Understanding between India and the UN in support of the “Partnership for Technology in Peacekeeping” initiative and the UN C4ISR Academy for Peace Operations (UNCAP).

The Security Council adopted a “Presidential Statement” underscoring the importance of peacekeeping, the complexities and challenges of the environment in which it occurs and the importance of existing and new technologies to protect peacekeepers.