



INDIA

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION

- India should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and clear all mined areas as a matter of priority.

CONTAMINATION

India is contaminated with mines, mainly as a result of large-scale mine-laying by government forces on and near the Line of Control (LoC) separating India and Pakistan during the 1971 war and the 2001–02 stand-off between the two states. Anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines were laid on cultivated land and pasture, as well as around infrastructure and a number of villages.

Despite occasional official claims that all the mines laid were subsequently cleared, reports of contamination and casualties have persisted. A media report in 2013 cited a government statement that about 20km² of irrigated land was still mined in the Akhnoor sector of the LoC alone.¹ In June 2016, India's *NDTV* news reported that the Indian army was demining areas of the LoC in Rajouri district, Kashmir, in order to return land to communities for agricultural use as it vacated fields near the border that were reportedly taken over and mined during the Kargil Conflict in 1999 and Operation Parakaram in 2001.²

In 2017–18, a number of landmine incidents continued to be reported, primarily involving Indian army personnel, but also civilians. From April to June 2018, a man and a woman were injured and one man killed when they accidentally triggered landmines while tending to their animals near the LoC in the Poonch district.³ In September 2017, three soldiers were injured, and in August 2018, a soldier was killed in landmine explosions near the LoC in north Kashmir's Kupwara district while on routine patrols.⁴ In August 2017, it was reported that an Indian soldier was injured in a mine blast near the LoC in Keran sector of Jammu and Kashmir.⁵

Security forces have also reported extensive use of mines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by Maoist fighters in the north-eastern states of Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand causing civilian and military casualties. In July 2018, it was reported that 15 anti-vehicle mines placed by Maoist rebels were neutralised by security forces in Garhwa district, Jharkhand state.⁶ However, mine types are usually not specified and may include command-detonated explosive devices as well as mines (i.e. victim-activated explosive devices).⁷

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

India has no civilian mine action programme. The Director-General of Military Operations decides on mine clearance after receiving assessment reports from the command headquarters of the respective districts where mine clearance is needed.

LAND RELEASE

There is no publicly available official information on land release in 2017. The Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for clearing mines placed by non-state armed groups.⁸ In July 2017, for instance, according to a media account, the Indian Army was manually clearing mines in the border districts of Jammu and Kashmir and was procuring more advanced demining equipment with a view to improving safety and decreasing the number of deminer casualties.⁹ Media reports have indicated the police also play an active part in clearing mines and other explosive hazards on an ad hoc basis in states dealing with insurgency.¹⁰

India has not reported that any mine clearance has occurred in its Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 transparency reports since 2006.¹¹ In August 2016, India stated that “mines used for military operations were laid within fenced and marked perimeters and were cleared after operations”.¹²

ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

India is not a state party to the APMBC, but nonetheless has obligations under international human rights law to protect life, which requires the clearance of mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible.

- 1 “Heavy rainfall worsening landmine peril for Kashmiri farmers”, *Thomson Reuters Foundation*, 5 November 2013.
- 2 “Farmers Hope to Return to Fields as Army Clears Landmines on Line of Control”, *NDTV*, 27 June 2016, at: <http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/farmers-hope-to-return-to-fields-as-army-clears-landmines-on-line-of-control-1423616>.
- 3 “Woman Injured In Poonch Blast”, *Kashmir Observer*, 27 June 2018, at: <https://www.nexis.com/auth/checkbrowser.do?t=1534860710482&bhcp=1>; “Shepherd injured in mine blast near LoC in Poonch”, *Kashmir Life*, 23 April 2018, at: <https://kashmirlife.net/shepherd-injured-in-mine-blast-near-loc-in-poonch-172553/>; “Elderly Man Dies In Mine Blast Near LoC In Poonch”, *Kashmir Observer*, 31 May 2018, at: <https://kashmirobservers.net/breaking-news/32503>
- 4 “3 Militants Killed Near LoC: Police” *Kashmir Observer*, 18 August 2018 <https://kashmirobservers.net/2018/local-news/3-militants-killed-near-loc-police-35248/>; “3 army soldiers injured in landmine blast in Kupwara district”, *The Tribune*, 11 September 2017, at: <http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jammu-kashmir/3-army-soldiers-injured-in-landmine-blast-in-kupwara-district/465388.html>.
- 5 “Kashmir: Army jawan injured in landmine explosion near LoC in Keran sector”, *First Post*, 12 August 2017, at: <http://www.firstpost.com/india/kashmir-army-jawan-injured-in-landmine-explosion-near-loc-in-keran-sector-3923445.html>.
- 6 “Jawans unearth 15 landmines on rebel turf”, *The Telegraph India*, 6 July 2018, at: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/states/jharkhand/jawans-unearth-15-landmines-on-rebel-turf-242657>.
- 7 See, e.g., “Jharkhand: Six Jaguar Force jawans killed in Maoist landmine blast”, *The Indian Express*, June 27 2018, at: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/jharkhand-six-jaguar-force-jawans-killed-in-landmine-blast-5234630/>; “Farmer hurt in blast”, *The Telegraph India*, 3 May 2018, at: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/states/odisha/farmer-hurt-in-blast-227625/>; and “Three killed in landmine blast triggered by Maoists in Chhattisgarh”, *Hindustan Times*, 19 January 2017, at: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/three-killed-in-landmine-blast-triggered-by-maoists-in-chhattisgarh/story-xhYWIUSxMqwaIFgX9VgcRN.html>.
- 8 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (for 2006), Form B.
- 9 “Advanced tech to help soldiers map minefields”, *The Times of India*, 10 July 2017, at: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/advanced-tech-to-help-soldiers-map-minefields/articleshow/59518560.cms>.
- 10 “IEDs pose huge challenge in efforts to counter Naxals: Police”, *The Indian Express*, 24 July 2017, at: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/ieds-pose-huge-challenge-in-efforts-to-counter-naxals-police-4764492/>.
- 11 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (for 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017), Form B.
- 12 Statement of India, “Summary record of 18th Annual Conference of High Contracting Parties to CCW Amended Protocol II”, Geneva, 30 August 2016, CCW/AP.II/CONF.18/SR.1.