

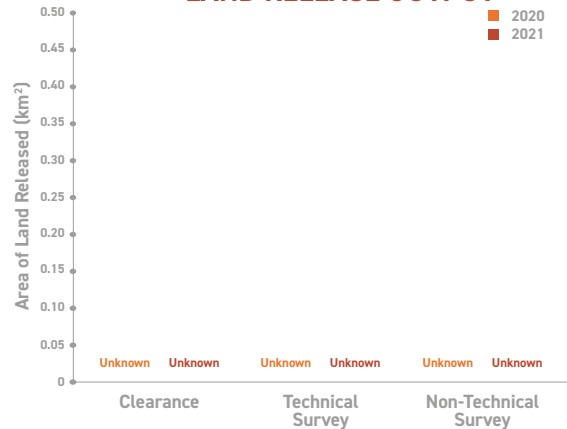
KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION: UNKNOWN

AP MINE CLEARANCE IN 2021
UNKNOWN

AP MINES DESTROYED IN 2021
UNKNOWN

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- India should accede to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) as a matter of priority.
- India should clear anti-personnel mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, consonant with its obligations under international human rights law.
- India should report publicly on the extent and location of anti-personnel mines and prepare a plan for their clearance and destruction.

DEMINING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Director-General of Military Operations

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Army Corps of Engineers
- Indian Police Service

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- None

OTHER ACTORS

- None

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The extent of anti-personnel mine contamination is not known. India used mines in three wars with Pakistan in 1947, 1965, and 1971, and in its war with China in 1962.¹ Large-scale mine-laying was conducted 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

¹ Recent Landmine Use by India and Pakistan, Human Rights Watch Backgrounder, May 2002, at: <http://bit.ly/3srXtQz>, p. 3.

of villages. In 2002, media resources reported that India was in the process of laying mines along virtually the entire length of its 2,897km border with Pakistan. One army commander said the mined area extended roughly two kilometres deep.²

Despite repeated 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 line of control (LoC) alone.³ 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 Parakram in 2001.⁴ India asserts that the Indian Armed Forces have never used landmines in internal armed conflicts in its northern and north-eastern states.⁵

The Landmine Monitor identified India as one of only a handful of countries that it believes to be actively producing mines.⁶ In 2019, according to an online media report the Indian Army was planning to procure one million anti-personnel mines over a five-year period to be used along the LoC.⁷ In 2021, it was reported that a new range of both anti-vehicle and anti-personnel mines were being introduced into the arsenal of the Indian Army to replenish its stockpiles.⁸

Landmine incidents continue to be reported, primarily involving Indian army personnel, but also civilians.

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.⁹ However, mine types are usually not specified and may include command-detonated explosive devices as well as mines (i.e. victim-activated explosive devices).¹⁰ In an audio press note sent to the media in August 2020, Maoist fighters assumed responsibility for the death of two youths who died in a landmine blast in Pedabayalu mandal, saying that they were targeting the police.¹¹ It was reported by the Landmine Monitor that villagers and police personnel in the states of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand were killed or injured by improvised anti-personnel mines during 2021 and that these were attributed by officials to the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-M) or its People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA).¹²

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

It is not known how, if at all, the environment is taken into consideration during planning and tasking of survey and clearance of mines in India in order to minimise potential harm from clearance.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

India has not submitted an Article 13 report under Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), covering 2021. There is no publicly available official information on land release in 2021 as in previous years in India.

2 "India's Minefields Mean Bitter Harvest for Farmers", *The New York Times*, 4 January 2002, at: <http://nyti.ms/3mTiBhp>.

3 "Heavy rainfall worsening landmine peril for Kashmiri farmers", *Thomson Reuters Foundation*, 5 November 2013, at: <http://tmsnrtr.rs/33xqBun>.

4 "Farmers Hope to Return to Fields as Army Clears Landmines on Line of Control", *NDTV*, 27 June 2016, at: <http://bit.ly/2Z1AJlI>.

5 Recent Landmine Use by India and Pakistan, Human Rights Watch Backgrounder, May 2002, p. 3.

6 Landmine Monitor 2021, p.19, at: <https://bit.ly/3L2fL4k>.

7 "Army wants 1 million mines from private sector", *The Economic Times*, 3 October 2019, at: <https://bit.ly/3L22UiQ>.

8 "Indian Army Getting New Family of Anti-Tank and Anti-Personnel Mines", *NDTV*, 1 December 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3L23A7S>.

9 "Jawans unearth 15 landmines on rebel turf", *The Telegraph India*, 6 July 2018, at: <http://bit.ly/33ycUeu>.

10 See, e.g., "15 police, driver killed by suspected Maoist landmine in western India", *Daily Sabah*, 1 May 2019, at: <http://bit.ly/2yZgobW>; "Jharkhand: Six Jaguar Force jawans killed in Maoist landmine blast", *The Indian Express*, 27 June 2018, at: <http://bit.ly/2Z1R6st>; "Farmer hurt in blast", *The Telegraph India*, 3 May 2018, at: <http://bit.ly/303gBqv>; and "Three killed in landmine blast triggered by Maoists in Chhattisgarh", *Hindustan Times*, 19 January 2017, at: <http://bit.ly/301Cvuk>.

11 "Andhra Pradesh, Maoists offer apologies for landmine blast", *The Times of India*, 11 August 2020, at: <http://bit.ly/3wWdnGh>.

12 Landmine Monitor Report 2021, pp. 12–13.

The Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for clearing mines placed by non-State armed groups.¹³ 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.¹⁴ 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.¹⁵

India has not reported any mine clearance in its Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 transparency reports since 2006.¹⁶ No target date has been set for the completion of mine clearance. In a statement delivered at the Fourth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in November 2019, India said: "Mines that are used for defensive military operations are laid within fenced perimeters and marked, in accordance with the requirements specified in AP [Amended Protocol] II. Post operations, these mines are cleared by trained troops".¹⁷

13 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2006), Form B.

14 "Advanced tech to help soldiers map minefields", *The Times of India*, 10 July 2017, at: <http://bit.ly/2KyoVt7>.

15 "IEDs pose huge challenge in efforts to counter Naxals: Police", *The Indian Express*, 24 July 2017, at: <http://bit.ly/2MgNRrb>; and "Telangana police defuse landmines laid by Maoist in Mulugu, explosives recovered", *India Today*, 8 February 2022, at: <https://bit.ly/3JuTc82>.

16 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (for 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020), Form B.

17 Statement of India, Fourth APMBC Review Conference, Oslo, 26 November 2019.