

## KEY DATA

### ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION: UNKNOWN

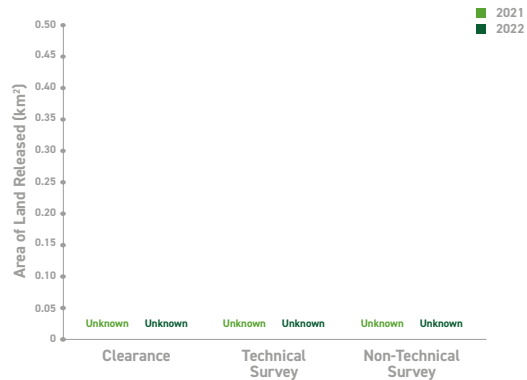
AP MINE CLEARANCE IN 2022

**UNKNOWN**

AP MINES DESTROYED IN 2022

**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 (AP) 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 AP 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 AP 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.<sup>1</sup> 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. Both AP and anti-vehicle (AV) mines were laid on cultivated land and pasture, as well as around infrastructure and a number 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.<sup>2</sup>

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

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

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 20km<sup>2</sup> of irrigated land was still mined in the Akhnor sector of the LoC alone.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> India asserts that the Indian Armed Forces have never used landmines in internal armed conflicts in its northern and north-eastern states.<sup>5</sup>

The Landmine Monitor identified India as one of only a handful of countries that it believes to be actively producing mines.<sup>6</sup> In 2019, according to an online media report the Indian Army was planning to procure one million AP mines over a five-year period to be used along the LoC.<sup>7</sup> In 2021, the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers received delivery of the first of 700,000 Nipun AP mines and were also carrying out trials on new AV mines which it planned to deploy along the LoC (if the trials were successful).<sup>8</sup>

Incidents involving Indian army personnel who step on mines during patrols of the LoC continue to be reported, as well as among Kashmir rebels who try to cross the LoC, and civilians, often children, who are killed or injured when grazing cattle or collecting firewood near the LoC.<sup>9</sup>

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. Landmine Monitor has reported an increase in the past few years in the number of incidents involving pressure-plate mines attributed to recent use by the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-M) or other Naxal-Maoist rebel groups.<sup>10</sup> Data from the ACLED database and the Fenix Insight database support this finding with both civilian and security force (police and paramilitary) casualties recorded in 2022 and 2023.<sup>11</sup>

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## 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 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.

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## LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

At the time of writing, India had not submitted an Article 13 report under Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) covering 2022. In its Article 13 report covering 2021 it did not provide information on land release in 2021 as it had in previous years. It does provide information on the demining training sessions which the Indian Army undertook during the year.<sup>12</sup>

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3 "Heavy rainfall worsening landmine peril for Kashmiri farmers", *Thomson Reuters Foundation*, 5 November 2013, at: <http://tmsnrt.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/2Z1AJJL>.

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

6 *Landmine Monitor 2022*, p.22, at: <https://bit.ly/3E9ELWa>.

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

8 "Nipun anti-personnel mines: Army gets weapons boost for Pakistan, China borders", *Hindustan Times*, 21 December 2021, at: <https://bit.ly/3P6SnaJ>.

9 ACLED, "Filters: 01/01/2022-12/08/2023, Remote explosive/landmine/IED, India," accessed: 12 August 2023 at: [www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com); and Fenix Insight database, at: <https://fenix-insight.online/>.

10 *Landmine Monitor Report 2022*, p.22.

11 ACLED, "Filters: 01/01/2022-12/08/2023, Remote explosive/landmine/IED, India," accessed: 12 August 2023 at: [www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com); and Fenix Insight database, at: <https://fenix-insight.online/>.

12 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2021), Form E.

The Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for clearing mines placed by non-State armed groups.<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup> According to media reports, the Army's bomb disposal squad is responsible for destroying mines near the LoC that have drifted due to seasonal rainfall and been reported during Army patrols.<sup>16</sup>

No target date has been set for the completion of mine clearance. In a statement delivered at the Fourth APMBC Review Conference 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".<sup>17</sup> During the Twentieth Meeting of States Parties of the APMBC, India affirmed its commitment to the "eventual elimination" of AP mines. However, India also noted that the achievement of this objective hinges on the "availability of militarily effective technologies that can perform cost effectively the legitimate defensive role of anti-personnel landmines."<sup>18</sup>

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13 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 "Six land mines destroyed along LoC in Balakote", *Northlines*, 5 May 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/3qQG6hj>; and "Rusted landmine found in J-K's Poonch; destroyed", *The Print*, 31 July 2023, at: <https://bit.ly/44jlhrC>.

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

18 Statement of India, Twentieth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 21 November 2022.