

KEY DATA

NO APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE:

State not party to the APMBC

AP MINE CONTAMINATION:

Unknown

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km²)	Release in 2023 (km²)
Clearance	Unknown	Unknown
Technical Survey	Unknown	Unknown
Non-Technical Survey	Unknown	Unknown
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	Unknown	Unknown

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- None

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Little information is available on anti-personnel (AP) mine contamination, survey, and clearance in India, and there is no civilian mine action programme. India appears to be using AP mines on the line of control (LoC) with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir. Non-State armed groups (NSAGs) are reported to use improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that meet the definition of an AP mine in various Indian states, such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkand, Manipur, and Telangana. No details were available on survey or clearance of AP mines.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

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

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT

- 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 in India 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 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 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 The Landmine Monitor asserts that this was India's last significant use of AP mines when, between December 2001 and July 2002, the Indian army emplaced an estimated two million mines along the northern and western borders with Pakistan, in Operation Parakram.³ It appears that some areas were subsequently cleared. In June 2016, India's NDTV news network, for example, 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

Indian officials have in the past stated that "there is no minefield or mined area in any part of India's interiors", but acknowledged that "minefields are laid, if required, along the border areas as part of military operations".⁵ India has said it would only completely stop using mines when alternative technologies can perform their defensive role, though it has reported having ended production of "non-detectable" AP mines in accordance with the Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).⁶ In January 2021, a former Director-General of India's Defence Intelligence Agency was quoted as saying that India only emplaces mines when there is "a threat from an enemy state or possibility of an imminent war",⁷ while a 2023 media source

reported that the Indian army continues to use AP mines as part of its counter-infiltration strategy, to seal possible infiltration routes into Jammu and Kashmir across the LoC.⁸

Reports of landmine contamination, detonations, and casualties persist. In May 2024, several landmines, reported to be part of the "anti-infiltration" system, were reported to have exploded during a forest fire along the LoC in Poonch district,⁹ and in August 2024, a soldier and two porters were reported injured in another mine blast along the LoC in the in Mandi area of Poonch district in Jammu and Kashmir.¹⁰ Multiple reports of landmine explosions in Poonch continued throughout the remainder of 2024, and into 2025, with explosions often triggered by forest fires.¹¹ There were also reports of landmine explosions in other districts bordering the LoC.¹²

Explosions along the LoC continued to result in casualties, the majority of those reported in 2024 and the first seven months of 2025, involved Indian military personnel. Civilian and "terrorist" casualties were also reported, including a porter injured in Poonch in November 2025,¹³ five "Pakistani terrorists" killed in a landmine blast in Poonch in February 2025,¹⁴ and two women injured in a blast in Kupwara in August 2024, though the cause of the blast was not known.¹⁵

Furthermore, it was reported in August 2020, that conflict over disputed territory in Kashmir between India and China resulted in at least one death and one injury due to mines laid in the past along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).¹⁶ In addition, a Chinese media article claimed in August 2023 that India had emplaced mines in an area that China claims as its own, to the north-west of Panglong Lake on the Tibetan plateau. Two Indian labourers working on a new road in the area were reportedly killed in a landmine explosion on 16 August 2023.¹⁷

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

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

3 Landmine Monitor, "India", Last updated 22 September 2024, accessed 19 August 2025, at: <https://tinyurl.com/mryezh2e>.

4 "Farmers Hope to Return to Fields as Army Clears Landmines on Line of Control", *NDTV*, 27 June 2016, at: <http://bit.ly/2Z1AJLL>.

5 Landmine Monitor, "India", Last updated 22 September 2024.

6 "'A Ghost that haunts': Living with landmines in Kashmir", *Al Jazeera*, 27 January 2021, at: <https://tinyurl.com/t3xcsns7>.

7 Ibid.

8 "Army soldier injured in landmine explosion in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district", *The Indian Express*, 15 October 2023, at: <https://tinyurl.com/49w7w72j>.

9 "Forest fire triggers landmine explosions along LoC in J&K's Poonch", *Deccan Herald*, 19 May 2024, at: <https://tinyurl.com/mr4czspa>.

10 "Soldier, Two Porters Injured In Mine Blast Along LoC In Poonch", *Kashmir Observer*, 14 August 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3Mb4q4L>.

11 See, e.g.: "Forest Fire Along LoC Triggers Landmine Blasts In J&K's Poonch", *ETV Bharat*, 21 November 2024 at: <https://bit.ly/41cCB3U>; "Indian soldier injured in Poonch landmine blast" *Kashmir Media Service*, 21 January 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/3HEFCDo>; "Forest fire triggers landmine blasts along LoC; no one hurt", *The Print*, 26 January 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4171nT1>; "IIOJK: Forest fire triggers landmine blasts in Poonch", *Kashmir Media Service*, 1 February 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/3V3Pn0W>; "Forest fire triggers landmine explosions in Poonch", *Kashmir Reader*, 10 February 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/41KZ5ZZ>; "Army soldier injured in landmine blast along LoC in J-K's Poonch", *The Indian Express*, 20 February 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4mKQMg>; "Soldier injured in landmine blast near J&K's Poonch", *Deccan Herald*, 17 May 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4fGDmYM>; and "Forest fire trigger landmine blasts along LoC in Poonch", *The Indian Express*, 23 May 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/45Trnnb>.

12 See for example, "Two soldiers injured in landmine blast near LoC in Kupwara", *Hindustan Times*, 4 October 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/47w2jEo>; "Soldiers Injured In Landmine Blast In Jammu And Kashmir's Rajouri" *NDTV*, 14 January 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/4mKyeo0>; "J&K: Two soldiers including captain killed in landmine explosion in Akhnoor sector", *Hans India*, 11 February 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/45TzHUh>; and, "Forest fire triggers landmine blasts along LoC in J-K's Rajour", *Press Trust of India*, 11 June 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/41L06kL>.

13 "Porter Injured In Landmine Explosion at LoC", *Devdiscourse*, 29 November 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/46XvErB>.

14 "5 Pakistani terrorists killed in landmine blast during infiltration bid at LoC in Poonch", *Sambad English Bureau*, 7 February 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/46WfTAJ>.

15 "2 women injured in Kupwara blast", *Kashmir Reader*, 7 August 2024, at: <https://tinyurl.com/5zurub94>.

16 Landmine Monitor, "India", Last updated 22 September 2024.

17 Ibid.

India is one of only a handful of countries still believed to be actively producing mines, which it does exclusively through the State-owned Munitions India Ltd.¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ In August 2020, India said it planned to increase domestic production and end AP mine imports.²⁰ In 2021, the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers received delivery of the first of 700,000 domestically manufactured Nipun AP mines and were also carrying out trials on new AV mines which it planned to deploy along the LoC.²¹

India asserts that the Indian Armed Forces have never used landmines in internal armed conflicts in its northern and north-eastern states.²² The security forces have, however, reported extensive use of mines and IEDs by Maoist fighters in the north-eastern states of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand causing civilian and military casualties. Landmine Monitor has reported several incidents involving the use of pressure-plate AP mines by either the Communist Party of India-Maoist or its People's Liberation Guerrilla Army.²³

Media reports support these findings, with mine explosions, including "pressure-activated" IEDs, recorded as causing civilian and security force casualties in 2024 and 2025, and killing wildlife.²⁴ There are also reports that landmines have been found in various other states, including Telangana in 2024 and 2025, and in Kerala in 2024, where their use has been attributed to Maoist groups.²⁵ A surge in landmine blasts in Manipur state bordering Myanmar has been reported since 2024,²⁶ including claims that mines have been emplaced by militants from Myanmar.²⁷ In July 2024, a landmine was found by a shepherd in Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, reportedly dating from Operation Parakram in 2001.²⁸

International databases also indicate the use of AP mines,²⁹ including IEDs that may meet the definition of an AP mine, in the states outlined above.³⁰ The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) database also indicates the possibility that remote explosives, landmines, or IEDs have been used by NSAGs in several other Indian states.³¹

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. The Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for clearing mines placed by NSAGs. 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.³²

Available details about demining undertaken by the Indian military are scant. In its Article 13 report under CCW Amended Protocol II, covering 2024, India registered no entry for mine clearance.³³ It did, however, report various bilateral exercises in 2024 including "demining, CIED [Counter

Improvised Explosive Devices] & UXO [unexploded ordnance] disposal ... undertaken in India with Troops from other Nations".³⁴ It is unclear to what extent the exercises included AP mine clearance.

In its most recent Amended Protocol II report, India also lists exchange programmes it has undertaken "on CIED, Demining and Combat Engineering aspects" at the College of Military Engineering in Pune, Maharashtra state. These included five Russian army personnel who participated in a field Engineering and demining programme between 13 March to 14 March 2024; three UK army personnel who participated in a programme on "Counter Improvised Explosive Devices" between 4 and 6 March 2024; and two French army personnel who participated in a "Counter Improvised Explosive Devices and Field Engineering" programme from 12 to 13 June 2024.³⁵

18 Ibid.

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

20 Landmine Monitor, "India", Last updated 22 September 2024.

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

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

23 Landmine Monitor Report 2024, pp. 23-24, at: <https://tinyurl.com/8j2uvatt>.

24 "10 Year-Old Boy Killed in Naxal Land Mine Explosion", *Ommcom News*, 28 July 2024, at: <https://tinyurl.com/y6n43j6v>; "Five cops injured as IED planted by Naxalites explodes in Chhattisgarh", *The New Indian Express*, 29 September 2024, at: <https://tinyurl.com/43pbmctj>; "Chhattisgarh Cop Dies, Two Officers Injured In Landmine Blast In Sukma", *NDTV*, 9 June 2025, at: <https://tinyurl.com/ykmpkatv>; "Maoists regret death of villager in landmine explosion", 6 June 2024, *Telangana Today*, at: <https://tinyurl.com/unky4cwe>; and "Maoist landmine claims life of young elephant in Jharkhand's Chaibasa", *Social News XYZ*, 6 July 2025, at: <https://tinyurl.com/55x9useh>.

25 "Woman pilgrim injured in Mulugu land mine blast", *The Times of India*, 14 June 2024, at: <https://tinyurl.com/bdetdstw>; "Tribal injured in Maoist landmine blast in forest", *The Times of India*, 7 January 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/3UT6l2t>; "Three Greyhounds commandos killed in landmine blast in Telangana", *Social News XYZ*, 8 May 2025, <https://bit.ly/4fD9Jrq>; and "Landmine and other explosives found buried in Thalappuzha in Wayanad", *Kaumudi Online*, 24 June 2024, at: <https://tinyurl.com/mus97m66>.

26 "Living under the shadow of Land mines", *Daily Excelsior*, 30 March 2025, at: <https://tinyurl.com/yf7r58ra>.

27 "Landmines kill, maim many on Indo-Myanmar border", *The Sangai Express*, 2 August 2024, at: <https://tinyurl.com/ymzjas6c>; and "India-Myanmar border saw surge in landmine blasts, MLA tells House", *The Times of India*, 3 August 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3XbzQk>.

28 "Landmine recovered in Jaisalmer", *The Times of India*, 29 July 2024, at: <https://bit.ly/3MjVTw9>.

29 Fenix Insight database, at: <https://fenix-insight.online/>.

30 ACLED, "Filters: 01/01/2024-31/12/2024, Remote explosive/landmine/IED, India", accessed on 19 August 2024 at: www.acleddata.com.

31 Ibid.

32 "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>.

33 CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2024), Form B.

34 Ibid., Form E.

35 Ibid.

Innovation in demining technology has been reported in India. The Digital University Kerala has developed an “advanced mine detection solution” to detect buried explosives with minimal human involvement using machine learning, radar and drone technologies. The technology can be used in rugged and forested areas, and has been provided to the Indian Army for further testing and validation. According

to a media report, the technology could reduce reliance on manual demining and could expedite clearance efforts.³⁶ In November 2024, The India International Forum on Mine Action and Safety, an independent think tank and an initiative of Horizon Safer World, hosted a symposium on “Mine Action: Pathways to a Safer World” to advance global discussions on demining and post-conflict rehabilitation.³⁷

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

It is not known whether India takes into consideration gender and diversity during planning and tasking of survey and clearance of mines.

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 provided information on land release in its recent Article 13 reports under Amended Protocol II of the CCW, as it has done previously. It provided no survey or clearance information in its reports covering 2024, 2023, or 2021, and did not submit a report covering 2022. In Form B of the report covering 2024, India left the section on mine clearance programmes blank, whereas in the report covering 2023, it stated: “No update since 2006” in this section.³⁸

Although little information is publicly available on AP mine clearance in India, various media reports have attested to recent landmine clearance. These include a report in January 2025, that security personnel were undertaking a demining exercise in Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh after eight soldiers and a civilian driver were killed in an IED attack, reportedly orchestrated by “Maoists”. The demining exercise was said to focus on removing landmines that put the military and civilians at risk.³⁹ Another report in 2025 indicated that the former Chief Minister of Manipur had established a committee made up of Assam rifle personnel, Manipur police and intelligence, and tasked them with identifying, removing and defusing” landmines on the Indo-Myanmar border, where a surge in landmine blasts had been reported.⁴⁰

Other reports of landmine clearance in recent years include the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh tendering for clearance of UXO and mines in January 2024 following the deaths of at least five people from explosive ordnance in 2023.⁴¹ The military cleared 175 landmines in three villages in Ladakh,

bordering the LAC between India and China in October 2023,⁴² and in February of that year, the army is reported to have destroyed a mine in a controlled explosion near the LoC in Poonch district, in Jammu and Kashmir.⁴³ The army is also reported to have cleared mines attributed to Maoist rebels in Kathagudem district in Telangana state in 2022 following livestock injuries.⁴⁴

Since 2004, India has given similar statements regarding its position on the APMBC. In November 2023, it reiterated its position to the United Nations General Assembly, indicating that it, “supports the vision of a world free of anti-personnel landmines and is committed to their eventual elimination”, indicating little change in its position over two decades.⁴⁵ 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.”⁴⁶

No target date has been set for the completion of mine clearance in India. 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.”⁴⁷

36 “DUK develops mine-detection technology”, *The New Indian Express*, 8 November 2024, at: <https://tinyurl.com/yr5zdf9b>.

37 “IIFOMAS symposium on mine action highlights global commitment to safer world”, *The New Indian*, 16 November 2024, at: <https://tinyurl.com/4865x6xm>.

38 Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (covering 2024 and 2023), Form B.

39 “Chhattisgarh: Security personnel undertake demining exercise after nine killed in IED blast”, *Ani*, 7 January 2025, at: <https://bit.ly/3Jj8Vfm>.

40 “Living under the shadow of Land mines”, *Daily Excelsior*, 30 March 2025.

41 “LG Mishra orders tendering for clearing Kurbathang of unexploded ordnance”, *The Earth News*, 23 January 2024, <https://tinyurl.com/2jmhe2tt>.

42 “In Ladakh, Army removes landmines from 3 border villages”, *The Statesman*, 12 October 2023 at: <https://tinyurl.com/2n5wm9zb>.

43 “Army destroys landmine found near LoC in J-K’s Poonch”, *The Indian Express*, 23 February 2024, <https://tinyurl.com/yjhraekd>.

44 Landmine Monitor Report 2023, at: <https://tinyurl.com/2838baj8>, p. 18.

45 Landmine Monitor, “India”, Last updated 22 September 2024.

46 Statement of India, Twentieth Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC, Geneva, 21 November 2022.

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