IIFOMAS
INDIA INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MINE ACTION AND SAFETY
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9 December 2025
Manekshaw Auditorium, New Delhi,. INDIA

IIFOMAS SYMPOSIUM ON MINE ACTION

CLEARING DANGER TO DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

Landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) are more than a humanitarian crisis—they are formidable obstacles to sustainable development. They restrict access to fertile land, delay infrastructure projects, impede delivery of essential services, and pose a continuous threat to displaced populations returning home. Millions of hectares globally remain unusable due to legacy landmines and ERW contamination, significantly affecting livelihoods, and infrastructure rollout. This contamination locks communities in cycles of poverty by making productive land unusable and by undermining mobility, education, and economic revival.

As post-conflict nations strive to rebuild, Mine Action has proven to be a foundational enabler of long-term recovery. It is no longer seen solely as an emergency response but as a prerequisite for peace building and inclusive development. Second edition of the Annual IIFOMAS (India International Forum on Mine Action & Safety) Symposium aims to highlight how Mine Action, when aligned with national priorities and development frameworks, catalyzes progress in trade, agriculture, housing, and social reintegration.

Symposium Details

IIFOMAS is a strategic think tank under Horizon Safer World Foundation (HSWF). It aims to convene global minds, sectoral leaders, policy architects, and humanitarian actors working at the intersection of Mine Action, infrastructure development, and sustainable growth.

The Annual IIFOMAS Symposium titled **"Clearing Danger to Development"** will be conducted at Manekshaw Auditorium in New Delhi on 09 Dec 2025. This edition of IIFOMAS Symposium brings together a powerful message: *"Before nations can build, they must first clear the invisible threats beneath their soil."*

The symposium will serve as a call-to-action to align Mine Action efforts with national development goals, especially in regions affected by historical conflicts. The event will also showcase cutting-edge technologies available in India in Mine Action.

Objective

The Symposium aims to:

- Highlight the multifaceted linkages between Mine Action and post-conflict reconstruction and redevelopment.
- Generate pragmatic policy and operational recommendations for aligning Mine Action with national development priorities.
- Explore India's strategic and humanitarian role in global Mine Action efforts, guided by the spirit of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (One Earth, One Family).**
- Reinforce India's role as a principled leader of the Global South.
- Highlight modern scalable Indian technologies in Mine Action.

Themes & Focus Areas

- Integrating clearance with reconstruction: planning land release for agriculture, housing and infrastructure.
- Community-centred mine action: victim assistance, livelihoods restoration and social reintegration.
- Innovations in detection and clearance.
- Policy, financing and partnerships: mobilising donors, private sector engagement and international cooperation.
- Environmental considerations in clearance and redevelopment: remediation, resettlement and ecological restoration.

Relevance in the contemporary geopolitical environment

Two global trends make the Symposium's theme urgent. First, protracted and recent conflicts have left extensive contamination that undermines reconstruction and regional stability; land release and risk reduction are prerequisites for refugee returns, agricultural recovery and infrastructure programs.

Secondly, as great-power competition and regional insecurity reshape supply chains and development priorities, access to safe land becomes a strategic asset for host countries and external partners alike.

Topics and Sessions

The Symposium will be divided into following Sessions :

Opening Session

- **Introduction and Keynote Address**

Session I: Mine Action as a Development Enabler

- **Lecture:** "From Danger to Development: Aligning Mine Action with the SDGs" Focused on integrating Mine Action into broader development and recovery strategies, and how it supports key Sustainable Development Goals such as poverty alleviation, education, food security, and environmental restoration.

- **Lecture**: Partnerships for Progress: Public, Private, and Philanthropic Roles in Clearance"
  Examining successful funding mechanisms and collaboration models between governments, private sector, and NGOs, with a focus on scalability and innovation

- **Panel Discussion:** "Clearing Land for Growth: From Contamination to Opportunity"
  Speakers will highlight on how cleared land can be transformed into productive assets, enabling economic independence and sustainable livelihoods.

Session II: India's Role in Global Cooperation on Mine Action

- **Lecture**: *"Horizon's Humanitarian Footprint in Mine Action"*

  Showcasing Horizon's historical and ongoing contributions—highlighting operations in Sri Lanka, Jordan, Transcaucasia, and beyond.

- **Lecture**: "Humanitarian Demining: Legal Challenges and International Norms"

  The lecture will explore the legal foundations of humanitarian demining, examining international treaties, conventions, and customary norms that govern mine action. It will highlight the obligations of states and organizations, and the legal challenges faced in ensuring safe, accountable, and humanitarian clearance of explosive remnants of war.

- **Panel Discussion:** " India's emergence as a compassionate force in Mine Action"

In a rapidly changing global landscape, India assisting other Global South countries, and reinforcing its vision of global unity and shared prosperity.

Session III: Emerging Technologies in Mine Action: Innovation for Safer Futures

- **Lecture 1**: “Advances in Detection Technologies: Shaping the Future of Threat Identification”
  Building on decades of painstaking progress, modern detection technologies now offer unprecedented precision and efficiency in locating hidden threats.

- **Lecture 2:** "Next-Generation Protective Equipment: Innovations for Enhanced Safety”
  This session highlights the latest advancements in protective gear, ensuring greater safety and resilience for those who serve on the frontlines of humanitarian demining.

- **Lecture 3:** “Artificial Intelligence and Robotics: Transforming Mine Action Operations”
  The integration of AI and robotics marks a transformative era in mine action, reducing human risk and increasing operational reach.

Closing Session

- **Closing Remarks**
- **Vote of Thanks**

Participants

Approximately 150 delegates are expected to attend, including representatives from:

- UN Agencies
- Indian Ministries (MEA, MoD, MoF)
- Ambassadors and Military Attaches
- International and National NGOs
- Think Tanks
- Infrastructure & EPC Companies
- Donor Agencies
- Academic Institutions
- Private-sector Innovators
- Field-level Practitioners and Community Representatives

Conclusion

With over 60 Countries still contaminated and around 6,000 casualties annually, Mine Action remains essential not only for saving lives but also for enabling safe, sustainable, and inclusive development.

By bringing together global experts and stakeholders, this symposium will strengthen the development narrative of Mine Action and create actionable strategies to ensure that clearing explosive hazards becomes a central pillar of recovery, resilience, and peace building worldwide.

By uniting global expertise, this symposium will:

- Cement Mine Action as a central pillar of recovery and peace building.
- Launch pilot “clearance-to-development” projects in affected regions.
- Forge public-private frameworks for mine-free infrastructure.
- Empower local communities through training and employment.

This symposium is a pledge to clear the path forward, transforming danger into opportunity and sowing the seeds of sustainable development.

SCHEDULE			
NO	**TOPIC**	**DURATION**	**RUNNING TIME**
RECEPTION & REGISTRATION 0830-0930			
1.	Inauguration and Welcome Address ◦ Inauguration by lighting the e-lamp ◦ Welcome by the Host	15mins	0930-0945
2.	Address by Chief Guest	10 min	0945-0955
3.	Keynote Address	15 Mins	0955-1010
4.	Online Message	05 min	1010-1015
5.	Expert Talk: From Danger to Development: Aligning Mine Action with the SDGs	15 Mins	1015-1030
6.	Lecture: Partnerships for Progress: Public, Private, and Philanthropic Roles in Clearance	10 Mins	1030-1040
7.	Panel Discussion: Clearing Land for Growth: From Contamination to Opportunity	40mins	1040-1120
	• Opening Comments	5 Mins	
	• Panelist 1	5 Mins	
	• Panelist 2	5 Mins	
	• Panelist 3	5Mins	
	• Panelist 4	5 Mins	
	• Open Discussions and Q&A Session	15 Mins	
TEA BREAK 1120-1150			
8.	Lecture: Horizon's Humanitarian Footprint in Mine Action	15 Mins	1150-1205
9.	Lecture: **Legal Aspects of Humanitarian Mine Action**	10 min	1205-1215
10.	Panel Discussion: India's emergence as a compassionate force in Mine Action	40 Mins	1215-1255
	• Opening Comments	5 Mins	
	• Panellist 1	5 Mins	
	• Panellist 2	5 Mins	
	• Panellist 3	5Mins	
	• Panellist 4	5 Mins	
	• Open Discussions and Q&A Session	15Mins	
BREAK 1255-1305			
11.	India's emergence as a compassionate force in Mine Action	3 Mins	1305- 1308
12.	New Techniques in Mine Action	20 Mins	1308- 1328
13.	Closing Remarks	07 Mins	1328- 1335
14.	Felicitations and Vote of Thanks	10 Mins	1335- 1345
GROUP PHOTOGRAPH 1345-1400			
LUNCH 1400 – 1500			