



IIFOMAS[✈]

INDIA INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON
MINE ACTION AND SAFETY

Essay Competition 2025

In Association with | CLAWS
Centre for Land Warfare Studies



The India International Forum on Mine Action and Safety (IIFOMAS) is a strategic think tank established under the Horizon Safer World Foundation (HSWF). It seeks to bring together global experts, policy leaders, and humanitarian practitioners working at the intersection of Mine Action, infrastructure development, and sustainable growth.

The Essay Writing Competition organised by IIFOMAS in collaboration with Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) furthers this mission by engaging youth and professionals to generate innovative ideas, promote awareness on Mine Action, and contribute to post-conflict recovery. By providing a platform for policy and humanitarian dialogue, the competition fosters responsibility towards a safer world, encourages India's active role in global Mine Action, and supports the broader vision of a better future.

Themes of the Competition

IIFOMAS invites students, researchers, and professionals to write on the following themes and subtopics (but are not limited to them):

1. Mine Action for the Future: Ensuring Safer Communities

Landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) continue to endanger civilians, agriculture, and economic recovery in post-conflict regions. Mine Action, through its five pillars, serves as the foundation for humanitarian relief and sustainable development.

Suggested Dimensions:

- The devastating legacy of landmines/UXOs and their long-term impacts on safety and development.
- Mine Action's role in peacebuilding, land restoration, education, public health, and livelihoods.
- Government and community involvement in hazard identification, safety protocols, and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) programs.
- The importance of international cooperation, treaties, funding, and policy frameworks.
- Survivor support: prosthetics, psychological care, and social reintegration.
- Public-private partnerships for building technical expertise and operational capacity.

2. Emerging Technologies as Enablers for Safer Mine Action

Technological innovation is transforming Mine Action, making it safer, faster, and more efficient. From robotics to AI, emerging tools can redefine humanitarian response when paired with collaboration and investment.

Suggested Dimensions:

- Robotics, drones, and autonomous vehicles for surveying and clearance.
- AI-powered data analysis and remote sensing to identify minefields and assess terrain.
- Advanced sensors and real-time tracking for improved detection and safety.
- Enhancing traditional methods (e.g., detection dogs, mechanical flails) through innovation.
- Ethical, financial, and logistical challenges of technology use in fragile regions.
- Technology-sharing platforms, open-source tools, and inclusive design for sustainable Mine Action.

Important Instructions

1. All candidates must register for the Essay Writing Competition using the following registration link:



Click on the Icon to go to the Registratiton Link

2. Submissions should be between 2,000 – 3,000 words, accompanied by an abstract not exceeding 300 words. References will not be included in the word count. The completed paper is to be submitted by **28th November 2025**.
3. Each essay submission must include an 'About the Author' note of approximately 100 words, providing brief details about the participant, along with a photograph of the author.
4. The results of the Essay Writing Competition will be announced during the IIFOMAS Symposium on 9th December 2025 at the Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi.
5. Each entry must be accompanied by a signed Original Work Certificate stating that the essay is an original work of the participant and has not appeared in any publication.
6. In addition, **Serving Officers** must attach a CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE obtained from their parent organisation.

Who Can Participate?

1. Serving and retired Members of the Indian Armed Forces (including DSSC and Higher Command Courses).
2. **CAPF and Police personnel**

3. **University students and researchers** in Defence, Security, and Humanitarian Studies.
4. **Private industries** working in the technology, defence, and security sectors
5. **Mine Action organisations** and professionals engaged in humanitarian assistance.
6. Independent Journalists and media organisations.
7. Serving and retired diplomats.

Guidelines

1. All essays must be authored individually; joint submissions will not be accepted.
2. Submissions must be in British English, typed in Times New Roman, font size 12, with 1.5 line spacing, and sent only via email to contact@iifomas.org. Entries submitted through any other medium will not be considered. Multiple submissions by the same candidate are discouraged.
3. Any essay found to be plagiarised or generated using AI tools will be automatically disqualified.
4. As IIFOMAS is an independent and non-partisan think tank, entries must remain free from political, religious, or ideologically driven content.
5. The Jury Panel reserves the right to reject any submission that does not adhere to these guidelines.

Awards

Position	Prize Amount
1 st Prize	INR 10,000 + certificate
2 nd Prize	INR 7,000 + certificate

Important Dates to Remember

1. 28 November 2025: Submission of completed essay (2,000–3,000 words) along with Abstract (max. 300 words), and “About the Author” note (100 words).
2. 9 December 2025: Declaration of results during the Symposium at the Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi.

Evaluation Criteria

Essays will be assessed based on the following parameters:

1. Originality of content and ideas
2. Ability to present fresh perspectives on the subject
3. Practical application of the idea
4. Relevance and suitability for publication
5. Depth of understanding of the theme
6. Coherence of thought, logical reasoning, and quality of analysis
7. Clarity of language, fluency of expression, and adherence to the prescribed reference style
8. Alignment with the Indian Government and UN policies, or possible modification of the policy

Formatting Guidelines

Submissions must adhere to the following formatting and referencing requirements:

1. Referencing Style: Use APA 7th Edition for all references and in-text citations. Use the [link](#) for guidance.
2. Font & Spacing: Times New Roman, font size 12, with 1.5 line spacing.
3. Page Numbers: Use Arabic numerals for all page numbers.
4. Date Format: Write dates as Day Month (in words), Year (e.g., 28 November, 2025).
5. Language: Use British English, except for direct quotes, proper names, and source titles.
6. Numbers:
 - Numbers under 10 should be spelt out, except for measurements, time, or currency.
 - Percentages under 10 should include both number and word, or “percent” spelt out; above 10, use figures.
 - Arabic numerals should be used consistently where required.

7. **Abbreviations:** Expand abbreviations at first mention, followed by the shortened form in parentheses.
8. **Bullets:** Use bullets for lists, ending each bullet with a full stop.
9. **Quotations:**
 - Copy exact words from a source in double quotation marks.
 - To emphasise a part of a sentence, use single quotation marks.
10. **Attribution:** Properly credit the original author for any quotations or ideas used.



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