



IIFOMAS[✈]

INDIA INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON
MINE ACTION AND SAFETY

Essay Competition 2026

In Association with | CLAWS
Centre for Land Warfare Studies



Essay Writing Competition

Mine Action: National and Global Response for Post-Conflict Recovery

IIFOMAS invites young scholars, professionals, students and practitioners to reflect on how national commitment, international solidarity and innovative Mine Action can help transform post-conflict environments from zones of enduring danger into foundations for peace, recovery and sustainable development.

Brief Synopsis

Armed conflicts leave behind a legacy of landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO), abandoned explosive ordnance, and other explosive hazards that can continue to threaten communities long after hostilities have ended. These hazards impede the safe return of displaced populations, restrict access to land and essential infrastructure, hinder reconstruction and economic activity, and pose a long-term humanitarian and developmental challenge.

Mine Action is therefore not merely a process of removing explosive hazards; it is an essential component of post-conflict recovery, reconstruction, peacebuilding and sustainable development. It brings together humanitarian imperatives, national responsibility and international cooperation through activities such as survey and clearance, explosive ordnance risk education, victim assistance, stockpile management and support to affected communities.

The essay may examine how national efforts and global partnerships can contribute to addressing the continuing challenge of explosive hazards. Participants may explore the role of governments, armed forces, humanitarian organisations, international agencies, the private sector and local communities, while reflecting on India's experience, capabilities and potential contribution to global Mine Action.

The competition seeks thoughtful perspectives on how Mine Action can move beyond the removal of immediate hazards to become an integral part of restoring lives, livelihoods, infrastructure and dignity in post-conflict societies.

General Instructions

- **Eligibility:** The competition is open to all.
- **Essay Theme:** “Mine Action: National and Global Response for Post-Conflict Recovery.”
- **Length:** The essay should be between 1,500 and 2,000 words, excluding references.
- **Language:** Entries should be submitted in English.
- **Originality:** The essay must be the participant's original and unpublished work. Plagiarised or substantially AI-generated submissions may be disqualified.
- **Content:** Participants are encouraged to develop an independent argument and may address, inter alia:
 - Global Mine Action Scenario.
 - The enduring humanitarian and developmental impact of landmines and UXO.
 - Mine Action as an essential component of post-conflict recovery and reconstruction.
 - National responsibility and the role of affected states.
 - International cooperation, multilateral mechanisms and donor support.
 - The role of technology and innovation in survey, detection and clearance.
 - Victim assistance, risk education and community participation.
 - Integration of Mine Action with sustainable infrastructure development.
 - India's experience, capabilities and potential contribution to global Mine Action.
 - The changing nature of conflict and emerging challenges for Mine Action.
- The above are indicative areas only and are not intended to restrict the scope of the essay.

General Instructions

- **References:** Participants may use published literature, official reports, research papers, and other credible sources. References should be appropriately acknowledged.
- **Format:**
 - Essays should be typed in A4 format
 - Times New Roman
 - 12-point font
 - 1.5 line spacing
 - The participant's name, institution, contact details and word count should be provided separately from the main essay.
- **Submission:** Entries should be submitted electronically in MS Word/PDF format by **05 Oct 2026 to contact@iifomas.org**
- **Evaluation: Entries will be assessed by a panel of experts on:**
 - Relevance to the theme
 - Depth of understanding and research
 - Originality of thought
 - Quality of analysis and argument
 - Awareness of national and international perspectives
 - Structure, clarity and presentation
- **Prizes:** First and Second Prizes and participation certificates will be awarded. Details of the prizes will be announced separately.
- **Announcement of Winners:** The winners will be announced and the prizes presented during the Annual IIFOMAS Symposium 2026, to be held on 05 November 2026 at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- **Rights of the Organisers:** IIFOMAS reserves the right to reject entries that do not conform to the competition guidelines and to use selected essays, with due acknowledgement to the authors, for IIFOMAS publications, website, or other non-commercial knowledge-sharing purposes.
- **Decision:** The decision of the judging panel shall be final and binding.