



# Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention

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## Why in News?

Recently, the **United States** has approved sending **anti-personnel landmines** to Ukraine which are banned under the [Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention, 1997](#).

- In another development, the US has supplied the **Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS)** to Ukraine which can **hit targets inside Russian territory**.

## What is Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention, 1997?

- **About:** It is an international agreement that aims to eliminate the **use, production, stockpiling, and transfer** of anti-personnel landmines.
  - It is commonly referred to as the [Ottawa Convention or Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty](#).
- **Adoption:** It was concluded by the Diplomatic Conference on an International Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Landmines at **Oslo** on **18th September 1997** and entered into force on **1st March 1999**.
- **Scope:** It prohibits anti-personnel mines but does **not cover anti-vehicle mines**.
- **Membership:** The Convention is **signed by 133 States**. Today it has **164 States parties**.
  - The **US, Russia and India** are **not** party to the convention. **Ukraine** is a **signatory**.

## Anti-Personnel Landmines

- Landmines are **explosives** that are **concealed** on the ground and are designed to **detonate** when **enemy forces pass over or near them**.
- **Anti-personnel mines** are built to **hurt enemy troops** while **anti-tank mines** are built to destroy **armoured vehicles**.

## Note:

ATACMS is a **surface-to-surface ballistic missile** designed to strike targets at a range of **up to 300 km**. It is powered by **solid rocket propellant** and follows a **ballistic trajectory**.

- Ballistic trajectories are used to describe the paths of projectiles like **missiles or artillery shells** that are launched and then fall to their targets due to **gravity**.

**UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year's Questions (PYQs)**

**Prelims**

**Q. Which one of the following is used as an explosive?(2009)**

- (a) Phosphorus trichloride
- (b) Mercuric oxide
- (c) Graphite
- (d) Nitroglycerine

**Ans: (d)**

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