

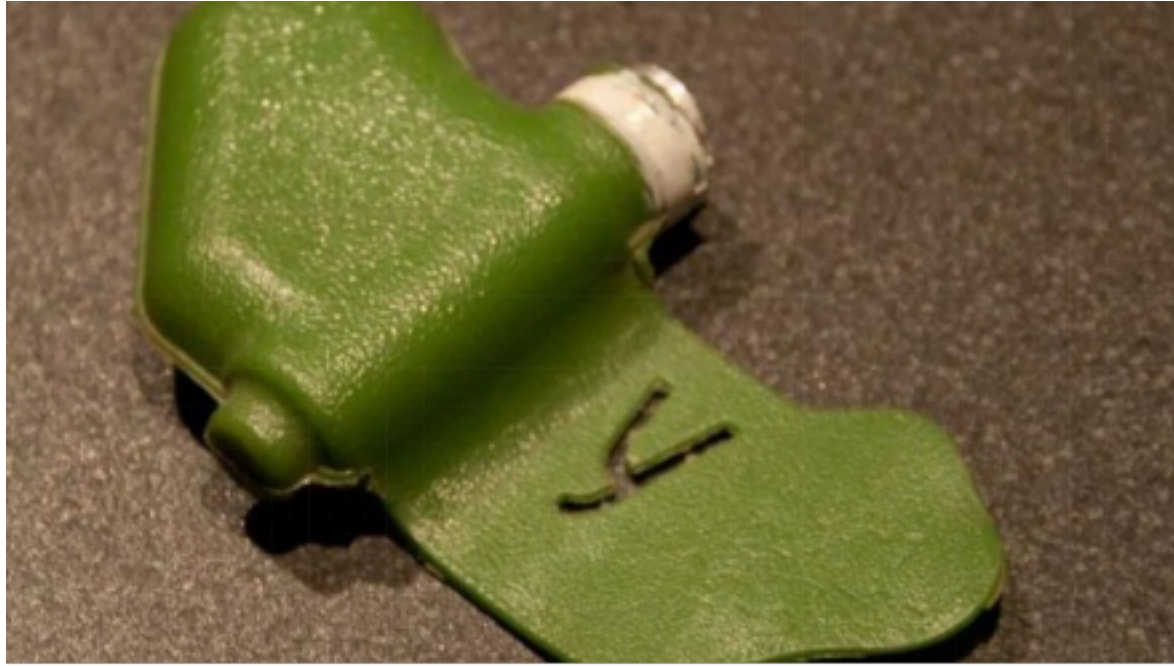
What is the controversial 'Butterfly Mine' Russia has allegedly used in Ukraine?

By IASToppers | 2022-08-12 17:25:00



What is the controversial 'Butterfly Mine' Russia has allegedly used in Ukraine?

Recently, UK Ministry of Defence sounded an alarm on the possible use of PFM-1 series 'Butterfly Mines' by the Russian military in Donetsk and Kramatorsk region.



[Ref: Rootnation.com]

What is the Butterfly Mine?

- The **PFM-1** and **PFM-1S** are two kinds of anti-personnel landmines that are commonly referred to as '**Butterfly mines**' or '**Green Parrots**'.
- These names are derived from the **shape and colour of the mines**.
- The main difference between the PFM-1 and PFM-1S mine is that the latter comes with a **self-destruction mechanism** which gets activated within one to 40 hours.
- These mines are difficult to detect because they are made of plastic and can **evade metal detectors**.

Uses:

- These mines can be **deployed in the field of action through several means**, which include being dropped from helicopters, ballistic dispersion using artillery and mortar shells.
- These mines glide to the ground without exploding and later explode on coming in contact.

Key Features:

- The PFM series mines are moulded in **polythene plastic** and have two wings.
- The thicker wing is the pressure activation for the main fuse which is contained in the central body.
- The thinner wing acts as a **stabiliser for the mine** when it is air-dropped.

Are these mines allowed by international law?

- The **anti-personal mines** are banned by international convention on land lines but Russia and Ukraine are not signatories to it.
- However, there is a 1996 **Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons**-the Landlines Protocol to which Russia and Ukraine are signatories.

