Ottawa Convention

Prelims – *Current events of International Importance.*

Mains (GS II) – *International Agreements.*

Why in News?

The Baltic States and Poland recently announced their withdrawal from the Ottawa Treaty.

> *Landmines come predominantly in two varieties - Anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines. Both types have caused harm to civilian populations and continue to kill and injure long after conflicts end.*

- It is an ***international agreement*** that prohibits the use, developing, acquiring, retaining, stockpiling, production, and transfer of ***anti-personnel landmines***.
- It is also known as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention or Mine Ban Treaty.
- **Anti-personnel landmines definition -** Designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person and that will incapacitate, injure or kill one or more persons.
- **Entered into force in –** 1999.
- The convention is *open to all nations.*
- It requires states-parties to destroy their stockpiled APLs within 4 years and eliminate all APL holdings, including mines currently planted in the soil, within 10 years.
- Countries may request a renewable extension, which can be up to 10 years long, to fulfill their destruction obligations.
- States-parties are also required *annually to report* their total APL stockpiles, the technical characteristics of their APLs, the location of all mined areas, and the status of APL destruction programs.
- **Member states – *164 States*** that have formally agreed to be bound by the Convention till 2022.
- The US, Russia, China and **India** are ***not party*** to the convention.
- **Significant producers and users of anti-personnel mines -** The United States, China, India, Pakistan, and Russia.

Reference

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