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National April 3, 2026

# Koh Kong commune declared mine-free with India's financial support

Khmer Times



Senior Minister and CMAA First Vice-President Ly Thuch (3-R), and Indian Ambassador to Cambodia Vanlalvawna Bawitlung (2-R) inspect mine-detection equipment in Koh Kong province. CMAA

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*Synopsis: Trapeang Rung officials celebrate as local lands become safe for agricultural development and rural residency.*

Trapeang Rung commune became the latest Cambodian district declared landmine-free on Tuesday, following a successful demining partnership with the Indian government. The achievement marks a vital step in the Kingdom's humanitarian mission to eliminate the threat of explosives.

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Senior Minister Ly Thuch, First Vice-President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), and Indian Ambassador to Cambodia Vanlalvawna Bawitlung led the official ceremony.

It also saw the presence of Koh Kong Provincial Deputy Governor Lao Bunkheng and Major General Sem Ratana, Acting Director General of the National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces, Mines and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance, as well as other distinguished guests.

The project originated in 2022 during a visit by Indian Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar. At the time, India pledged grant assistance for clearance operations across the Botum Sakor, Sre Ambel, and Thma Bang districts, including Trapeang Rung. With Botum Sakor and Srae Ambel already cleared, Thuch reiterated that this progress maintains the momentum needed to meet the nation's 2030 mine-free goal.

India's assistance also includes Quick Impact Projects. Two initiatives in Koh Kong have already concluded, while another is currently active in Pursat province.

Ambassador Bawitlung stressed that removing these hidden dangers does more than just save lives; it restores hope and allows families to use the land for farming and infrastructure.

Cambodia remains one of the world's most affected countries due to decades of conflict. While more than 3,500 square kilometres of land have been cleared since 1992, contamination remains a challenge, particularly near the Thai border. Recent data shows that over 19,000 hectares were cleared between 2018 and early 2026 under various China-aided projects.

Beyond security, the India-Cambodia partnership continues to grow in the social sector. Recent collaborations in Koh Kong include a new maternity care centre at Koh Sdach Communal Hospital and the ongoing construction of a kindergarten at Peam Kay Primary School. These projects reflect a broader commitment to enhancing healthcare and education, as well as land safety.

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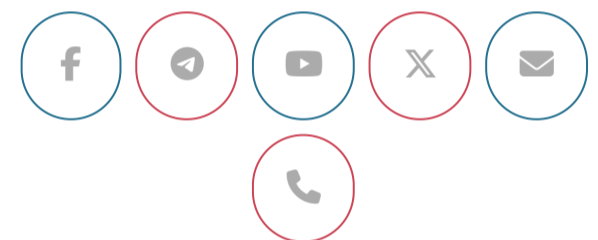
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### Cambodia Declares Mine-Free Commune in Koh Kong with India's Support

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AKP Phnom Penh, April 02, 2026 -- Cambodian authorities on Thursday declared Trapeang Rong commune in Koh Kong district, Koh Kong province, mine-free, marking a milestone in the country's post-war recovery achieved with support from the Indian government.

Senior Minister H.E. Dr. Ly Thuch, representing Prime Minister Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet and serving as First Vice President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), joined Indian Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. Vanlalvawna Bawitlung and provincial officials at a ceremony commemorating the declaration.

H.E. Dr. Ly Thuch described the clearance as a significant achievement not only for the local community but for Cambodia as a whole, emphasising that mine removal efforts go beyond technical operations to restore safety, peace, and livelihoods in war-affected areas.

He expressed gratitude to the Government and people of India for their contribution to demining activities in Koh Kong province and reaffirmed Cambodia's commitment to the national vision of becoming free from the impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war.

The senior minister also thanked development partners, subnational authorities, demining operators, civil society groups, and citizens for their active participation in humanitarian mine action.

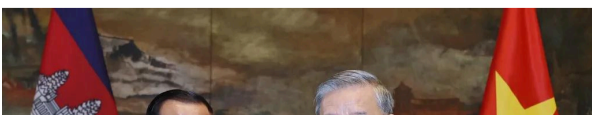
He stressed that such progress would not have been possible without the full peace achieved under the "Win-Win" policy of former Prime Minister and current Senate President Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, which ended decades of conflict and laid the foundation for reconstruction and development in previously affected areas.





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## Indian support sees Kong Kong commune declared mine-free

## NATIONAL

Publication date  
02 April 2026 | 16:52 ICT

Reporter : **Niem Chheng**

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The declaration of Trapeang Rung commune, in Koh Kong province, was declared mine-free on April 2. CMAA

Trapeang Rung commune, located in Koh Kong province's Koh Kong district, was officially declared mine-free today, April 2.

This achievement was made possible through assistance from the Indian government, aligned with the vision of "A Cambodia free from the impact of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), ensuring that every citizen can live in safety".

The declaration ceremony was presided over by Ly Thuch, first vice-president of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), alongside Indian ambassador Vanlalvawna Bawitlung and the provincial administration.

Thuch described the declaration as a significant achievement for the local community and Cambodia as a whole. He believed the accomplishment was not merely a technical demining success, but a demonstration of the successful restoration of safety, peace and the livelihoods of the people in post-war Cambodia under the leadership of Prime Minister Hun Manet.

On behalf of the government and the people of Koh Kong, Thuch expressed his gratitude to the government and people of India for their contributions to mine action in Koh Kong province.

Bawitlung explained that India announced the grant assistance in 2022. The aid covers demining operations in Botum Sakor, Srae Ambel and Thma Bang districts, as well as Trapeang Rung commune specifically.

"I am very pleased that after successfully declaring Botum Sakor and Srae Ambel mine-free, we are doing the same for Trapeang Rung," he said.

He added that this declaration brings them closer to the goal of making Thma Bang district mine-free.

The ambassador noted that the demining efforts are conducted under the "Quick Impact Project" (QIP), which also focuses on various other sectors, such as healthcare.

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ហួរ ជី

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## Trapeang Rung Commune in Koh Kong Province Declared as Mine-free

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**(Phnom Penh):** On 2 April 2026, Trapeang Rung Commune in Koh Kong Province was officially declared mine-free with collaboration from India, marking a significant milestone in Cambodia’s ongoing humanitarian mine action efforts.

The ceremony was presided by Ly Thuch, Senior Minister and First Vice-President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) and also attended by Vanlalvawna Bawitlung, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Cambodia; Lao Bunkheng, Deputy Governor of Koh Kong Province; and Major General Sem Ratana, Acting Director General of the National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces, Mines and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance (NPMEC), along with other distinguished guests.

During the visit of vice president of India to Cambodia in 2022, India had announced grant assistance for mine clearance in three districts, Botum Sakor, Srae Ambel, and Thma Bang, as well as Trapeang Rung Commune.

Following the successful declaration of Botum Sakor and Srae Ambel as mine-free, the declaration of Trapeang Rung demonstrates strong progress and momentum towards the shared goal of a mine-free Cambodia, including ongoing efforts in Thma Bang district. India’s support to mine action in Cambodia also includes the implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs).

In Koh Kong Province, two such projects have been completed, contributing to the clearance of mines in several villages. Another QIP is currently underway in Prey Andoung Village in Pursat Province.

Beyond mine clearance, India's development partnership with Cambodia continues to expand. In collaboration with the Koh Kong Provincial Administration, a Pre- and Post-Partum Maternity Care Centre at Koh Sdach Communal Hospital was inaugurated last year under a QIP, enhancing maternal and child healthcare services in the province. Additionally, a new QIP involving the construction of a kindergarten at Peam Kay Primary School in Phnhi Meas Commune is currently being implemented.

Speaking on the occasion, the Ambassador highlighted that the declaration of Trapeang Rung Commune as mine-free represents an important step forward in ensuring safer communities and advancing sustainable development in Cambodia. The Ambassador emphasized that landmine clearance not only removes hidden dangers but also restores hope, enables safe livelihoods, and unlocks the full potential of communities by making land safer for agriculture, infrastructure, and everyday life.

The Embassy of India congratulates the CMAA, NPMEC, Koh Kong Provincial Administration, and all stakeholders involved.

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## ពិធីអបអរសាទរដ៏ប្រក្រតីលំដាប់ ក្រុងកោះកុង ខេត្តកោះកុង ជាឃុំអស់មីន

### CONGRATULATIONS ON THE DECLARATION OF TRAPEANG RUNG COMMUNE, KOH KONG DISTRICT, KOH KONG PROVINCE AS MINE-FREE COMMUNE

ថ្ងៃទី២ ខែមេសា ឆ្នាំ២០២៦, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

កម្រិតប្រកាសពិធីអបអរសាទរដ៏ប្រក្រតីលំដាប់ ក្រុងកោះកុង ខេត្តកោះកុង



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