



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Battle of Surabaya

The 10th of November is celebrated as National Heroes Day in Indonesia to commemorate the heroism of Indonesian patriots during the 1945 Battle of Surabaya.

- The **Battle of Surabaya**, fought between **Indonesian nationalists and British and British Indian forces**, which lasted from 1945 to 1949.
- At the time of war, **Indonesia was a Dutch colony** and after Japan's surrender in [World War II](#), Indonesian nationalists declared independence. However, **the Dutch did not recognize this declaration** and sought to regain control of their colony, **which led to war**.
- The outcome of the battle was a **victory for the British and British Indian forces**, who managed to capture the city of Surabaya after heavy fighting.



Read More: [Indian National Army](#), [Advent of Europeans In India](#)

Supreme Court Orders on Firecrackers and Pollution

Recently, the [Supreme Court](#) restated its **directives to reduce air and noise pollution** resulting from [firecrackers](#).

- Emphasizing that **its mandates are binding for all states**, the court stressed the necessity for

ongoing endeavors to diminish pollution, **not only during festivities but consistently throughout the year.**

- It underlined the importance of responsible Diwali celebrations, **highlighting that joy should not compromise the environment's well-being.**

The recipe for hazard

Traditional firecrackers are made of several chemicals and metals that are hazardous for human health

THE EXPLOSIVE KIND

Bombs of all kinds contain sulphur, potassium nitrate and aluminium



THE SPARKLING ONES

These crackers such as phuljhadi and anar contain sulphur, barium nitrate and aluminium and magnesium dust

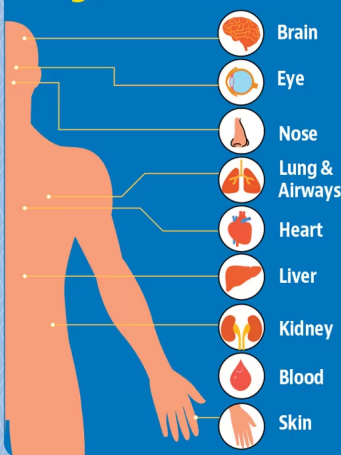


IN THE AIR

The ones such as rockets contain charcoal, sulphur, potassium nitrate and aluminium



Organs affected



How these ingredients affect humans

Aluminium

Exposure may lead to neuromuscular problems, confusion, disturbed sleep



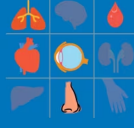
Sulphur dioxide

Can cause damage to heart, eye, liver



Barium

Fatigue or weakness, difficulty in breathing, blood pressure changes, facial numbness



Potassium nitrate

Redness or itching of skin or eyes, shortness of breath, dizziness and mental impairment



Read more: [Green Crackers](#)

Artificial Rain Project to Combat Delhi Pollution

Recently, the **Delhi government** has been considering **artificial rain** through [cloud seeding](#) as a measure to combat [escalating pollution levels in the city.](#)

- IIT-Kanpur has conducted pilot projects during monsoon months, and the focus is now on winter conditions.
- A minimum requirement of **40% cloud and moisture is necessary for cloud seeding.**
 - The potentially favorable conditions for artificial rain are projected on November 20 and 21, 2023.
- The project involves using **silver iodide and other components for cloud seeding via aircraft.**
- The effectiveness of artificial rain in reducing pollution levels depends on factors like moisture and rainfall.

Read more: [Cloud Seeding](#)

INDUS-X Investors Meet

The [Innovations for Defence Excellence \(iDEX\)](#) and the **US Department of Defence** organized the **inaugural INDUS-X Investors Meet in New Delhi**, fostering collaboration in defence innovation.

- The event featured the launch of the **INDUS-X Educational Series (Gurukul)** aimed at guiding innovators and startups in the **defence ecosystem of India and the US**.
 - The Gurukul Educational Series will offer sessions for startups by experts from both countries, facilitating **navigation in the defence ecosystems**.
- Panel discussions focused on **investment opportunities** in the defence sector, establishing a sustainable commercial foundation for collaboration and co-production.
- The **India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) initiative**, launched in June 2023, aims to enhance strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation between India and the US.

Read more: [Innovations for Defence Excellence](#), [India-U.S. Strategic Partnership](#)

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