



Dirty Bomb

Why in News?

- Recently, Russia intends to raise at the [United Nations Security Council](#) its accusation that Ukraine is planning a “dirty bomb” attack.

What is a Dirty Bomb?

▪ About:

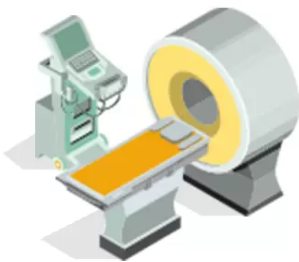
- A “dirty bomb” is a **dispersion device containing radioactive material** – possibly **uranium**, but more likely low-grade materials such as caesium-137 or other radioactive materials in common use.
- It **doesn't need to contain highly refined radioactive material**, as is used in a nuclear bomb. Instead, it could use radioactive materials from hospitals, nuclear power stations or research laboratories.
- This **makes them much cheaper and quicker to make than nuclear weapons**.
 - **For Example:** They can also be carried in the back of a vehicle.

▪ Concerns:

- The **immediate health impact would probably be limited**, since most people in an affected area would be able to escape before experiencing lethal doses of radiation.
 - However, the radioactive dust and smoke spread farther away could be dangerous to health if it is inhaled. Because people cannot see, smell, feel, or taste radiation.
- **The economic damage could be massive** from having to evacuate urban areas or even abandon whole cities.

Making a dirty bomb

1 Source
eg hospital
equipment



2 Radioactive
material
extracted



3 Radioactive
material placed
with conventional
explosives



Source: [IH](#)

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