



## Rapid Fire Current Affairs

### Battle of Surabaya

The 10<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

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### 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

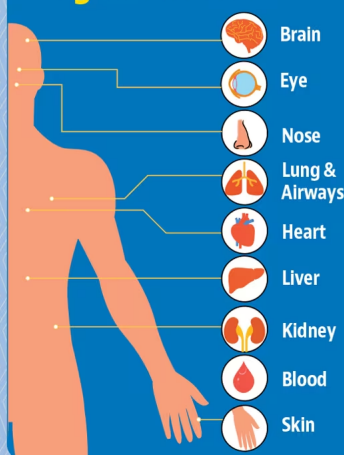


### IN THE AIR

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



### Organs affected



### How these ingredients affect humans

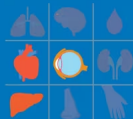
#### Aluminium

Exposure may lead to neuromuscular problems, confusion, disturbed sleep



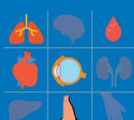
#### Sulphur dioxide

Can cause damage to heart, eye, liver



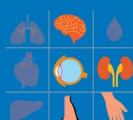
#### Barium

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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