

Dirty Bomb

Why in News?

Recently, Russia intends to raise at the <u>United Nations Security Council</u> 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
- Radioactive material placed with conventional explosives







Source: TH

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