

HAPPY DIWALI WITHOUT CRACKERS 2007

Deepavali or Diwali is a festival of lights that taught us to vanquish ignorance that subdues humanity and to drive away darkness that engulfs the light of knowledge.

During this festival (3 to 5 days), It has become a custom to enjoy Diwali through "Lighting Lamps" "Exchanging Sweets & Gifts" & "BURSTING FIRE CRACKERS".

First two are better way to enjoy, but what about the third one??

But **Diwali** today means.....

More 'air, noise, water, land & social' pollution due to use of lots of fire-crackers.

More patients for hospitals during & after the festival, more darkness rather than light.

More of street accidents causing injuries / deaths.....

Really bad news if there's no wind and rain to lessen the effects of the smoke.

Highly polluting nature of these firecrackers lead to a plethora of diseases.....

Pollutants	Can lead to...
<i>Suspended Particulate Matter</i>	<i>Asthma, cancer, restrictive lung diseases, pneumoconiosis</i>
<i>Respirable Particulate Matter</i>	<i>Respiratory illness (chronic bronchitis and asthma), heart diseases</i>
<i>Sulpher Dioxide(SO₂)</i>	<i>Eye burning, headache, respiratory problems like pulmonary emphysema, cancer, heart diseases</i>
<i>Nitrous Oxides</i>	<i>Lung irritation, chest tightness, viral infection, airway resistance</i>

Are you aware what **is** the impact of bursting Fire crackers on the environment??

It affects environment in the following ways:

1. Air Pollution: affecting health especially to diseased persons, aged people, children & pregnant women.
2. Water & Land pollution: will pollute our resources rivers, lakes...
3. Increased Noise levels can cause deafness/stress to many.
4. It takes several weeks to bring back normal air quality.
5. Fire hazards causing heavy damages to life and property.
6. Social nuisance leading to community disharmony.
7. We are not doing justice to children of age group 6 to 14years who manufacture these crackers who are the victims of this profession, will suffer from skin & respiratory disorders with shorter span of life.

The indicators of depleting environmental quality are harmful gases in the atmosphere, degradation of land, global warming, ozone depletion, loss of species and habitat and air and water pollution.

Being responsible citizens: Join hands with any environmental groups to reduce bursting crackers in the city and celebrate "HAPPY DIWALI WITHOUT CRAKERS". Don't ever purchase crackers which amounts to environmental degradation like air, water, land & ground water pollution. Causes health hazards, inconvenience to asthma patients, infants, pregnant women and senior citizens.

It is concerning to note that some environmental groups & government agencies are simply taking precautions for safe bursting of crackers, rather than its prevention. Are they aware of the real damage to environment even if used in safest ways?

By not purchasing crackers....we are doing humane service to society. Forward this message & protect the city from pollution, we don't have band width to accommodate this nuisance.

There is no valid historical significance for "BURSTING OF CRACKERS" as fire crackers & ammunitions are offshoot of post British rule in India.

Do you know that many companies opting for ISO 14001 Certification are struggling to dispose small quantities of Hazardous wastes, by having material Safety Data Sheets?

Whereas the amount of hazardous chemicals out of these crackers is alarming! recklessly dumping the hazardous chemicals, without any control, creating environmental havoc.

Who is responsible for control & safe disposal of all these hazardous wastes from these crackers?

=> Is it the Government? NGO? Corporate community? or Citizens in general?

If already purchased, "DONT USE IT, RATHER DAMPEN THE FUSES AND WE SHALL LOOK FOR ITS SAFE DISPOSAL"

- Children.... stop using firecrackers...instead demand your parents to buy toys, gifts, dress, & books in place of crackers.**
- Parents & teachers.... urge your children/pupil not to use it...**
- Employers... Discourage your staff from using firecrackers by any means... more importantly stop distributing crackers in the form of festival gifts.**
- Television & other media... Don't allow them to advertise on fire cracker's... Rather bring awareness in support of preventing cracker usage...**
- Government... Discourage the sale, distribution & usage of Firecrackers.**
- Common man... Use your common sense not to burst fire crackers and work towards sustenance of mother nature.**
- Environmentalists & NGO's... Kindly unite & work towards a common goal "reducing all sorts of pollution due to manufacture, sale, distribution & bursting of crackers during these diwali days..."**

LIVE & LET LIVE..... LET US SAVE GOOD ENVIRONS TO OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS!

---Kumar K S, #13/76, G Chandrasekaran Road, BEML 3rd Stage, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore 560098

If you want to know "why you should not Burst Crackers", kindly read through!

- *Crackers like "atombomb" and "Lakshmi Pataki" contain highly toxic heavy metals like cadmium, lead, copper, manganese and zinc.*
- *Others have arsenic, mercury, chromium and iron oxides which lead to severe pollution after they are burnt.*
- *According to the CPCB, 95 per cent of the crackers available in the market violate noise and air pollution norms.*
- *Thanks to crackers, pollution levels of Delhi rose to 10 times the permissible limit on Diwali day 2002, when noise levels touched 140 decibels.*
- *Normal decibel level for human beings is 60. An increase by 10 decibels means double the noise volume and intensity.*
- *When we use these crackers we are also violating the directives of The Supreme Court [Sep 2001] regarding firecrackers.*

Now if this is about the children & adults who play with firecrackers.....

What about the 1000s of children who make them.

Here are some facts!!!!!!!

Sivakasi in Tamilnadu produces more than 90% of firecrackers in India. More than 100 thousand children aged 6-14 work there 12-16 hrs a day for a meager Rs.10-15.

The corrosive gunpowder mixture with which they work eats away their tender skins first and their flesh later

So bear in mind that when we spend 100s of rupees on these polluting crackers we are also encouraging those who employ these little children & helping the 750 crore fireworks industry flourish!

In the process we are also denying these vulnerable children, their basic rights to read, write and play.

In the name of all those poor children who sacrifice their joy and even life please stop using firecrackers. And let the Diwali drive away our darkness that engulfs the light of knowledge.....

In New Delhi during previous years Diwali, many of the school children took oath not to burst crackers.

In fact in 2003, 2004, 2005 & 2006 we got a very good response to this cause & found so many wise citizens in & around Bangalore not bursting crackers during this festival.

Please forward this message to 10 of your friends & make them aware not to burst crackers atleast from now onwards considering its ill effects on environment.

-----ISSUED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST-----

NOTE: Print these pages back to back & circulate!