

# Green Crackers

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In a bid to resolve the crisis of air pollution, the Government launched green firecrackers.

## What is green cracker?

The Supreme Court defined 'green cracker' as something that could be an improved formulation or an all-new formulation.

## Key highlights

- Union Minister for Science & Technology announced that Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) labs have been successful in developing various environment-friendly fireworks such as sound-emitting crackers, flowerpots, pencils, chakkar and sparklers
- The Minister also highlighted that the emissions **testing facilities for the new firecrackers have been set up at CSIR-NEERI** as well as their **approved National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration (NABL) facilities**
- Further, a **Raw Materials Compositional Analysis (RACE) facility** has been launched in **Sivakasi** to facilitate manufacturers for testing their raw materials and chemicals.
- About 530 emissions testing certificates have been issued to fireworks manufactures for new and improved formulations meeting the stipulated guidelines of green crackers.
- To develop reduced emission/green fireworks, **eight labs participated**, CSIR-NEERI, CEERI, IITR, IICT, NCL, CECRI, NBRI, and CMERI, with CSIR NEERI coordinating the entire exercise.
- Firstly, for immediate improvement CSIR-NEERI developed

improvements in conventional formulations based on Barium Nitrate to meet the stipulated norms of green crackers.

- **The implementation of these formulations is subject to the approval of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.**
- CSIR-NEERI have also developed new formulations for **reduced emission light and sound emitting crackers with 30% reduction in particulate matter.**
- The Minister also mentioned that **CSIR-NEERI along with Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC) have also evolved a clear definition of green crackers** with a view to educate the regulators and the public on ways and means to demarcate green crackers from conventional crackers.
- Apart from defining green crackers, baseline values for benchmarking green crackers and **assessing Barium levels in conventional crackers and green crackers,** have been laid down for legal and policy interventions.
- He also informed that a **green logo as well as a Quick Response (QR) coding system** has been developed for the differentiation of green crackers from conventional crackers. QR codes are a novel feature incorporated on the firecrackers to avoid the manufacture and sale of counterfeit products. This will also help the consumers to track the cracker using smartphones and other devices.