

# What is static shock?

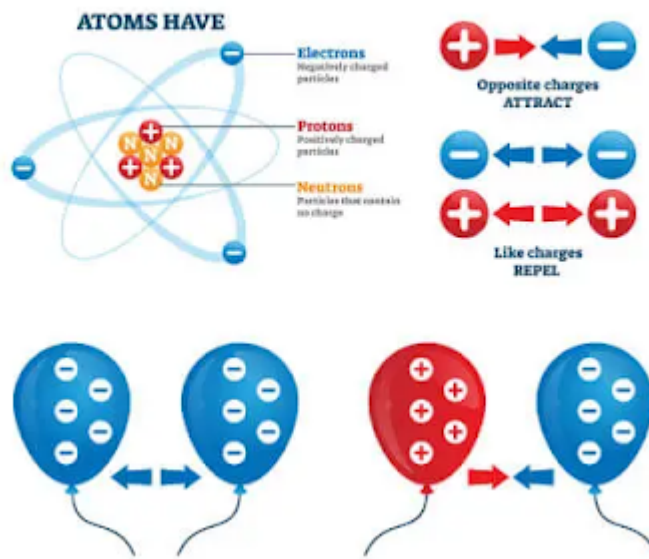
March 17, 2023

**In news**– Recently, many Bengalureans have reported static shocks – while brushing hair, opening car doors, using a gas lighter or a metal tap or while simply rolling a plastic mat.

## What is static shock?

- **Static electricity discharge occurs when two materials with different electrical permittivity**, such as the skin and a piece of clothing or a blanket, **come into contact and an exchange of electrons (charges) takes place.**
- **It is the build-up of charge caused by the body collecting electrons** from the objects and surfaces around.
- The charge continues to accumulate until it gets the opportunity to flow into another object with a weaker or opposite charge.
- It is a result of an **imbalance between positive and negative charges.**
- In tropical regions, due to high moisture levels, static discharges are not common. The moisture on the surface conducts the charges. Only during dry seasons this is experienced.

# STATIC ELECTRICITY



## How to avoid such static shocks?

One needs to avoid synthetic fabric and wear cotton clothes. Synthetic fabric like nylon and polyester increases static. Also, one should discharge oneself with a key or pin before touching any metallic object.