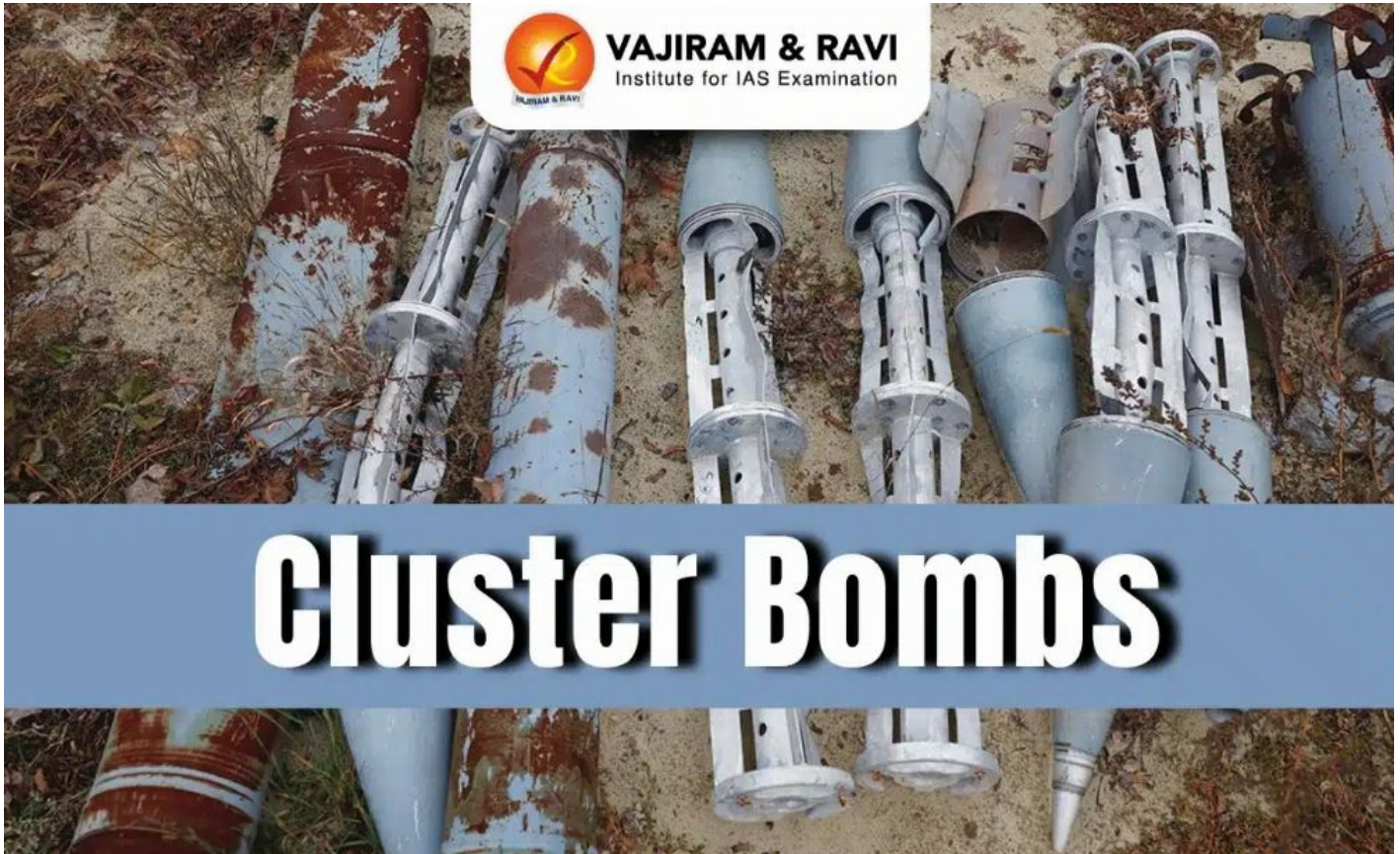


Cluster Bombs

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Cluster Bombs Latest News

Iran's reported use of a cluster bomb during a missile strike on Israel has raised concerns over the nature and dangers of these weapons.

About Cluster Bombs

- Cluster bombs, also called **cluster munitions**, are **explosive weapons that disperse smaller bombs**, known as **submunitions or bomblets**, over a wide area before impact.
- These **bomblets** are designed to **explode upon hitting the ground or after a delay**.
- However, **many fail to detonate, remaining live** and lethal **for months or even years**, posing long-term risks to civilians.
- Cluster bombs are **either air-dropped or ground-launched** and can saturate areas as large as several football fields, making them particularly **lethal in densely populated areas**.
- The **submunitions, often grenade-sized** with fins or streamers for stabilisation, are designed to **cause damage to both personnel and unarmoured vehicles**.
- Some modern versions, like the US-made DPICM, feature dual-purpose charges for added effect.

- But the **biggest controversy** lies in their high “**dud rate**”, **failure to explode on impact**, which turns them into de facto landmines. Estimates of **dud rates vary widely**, from as low as **2 percent to as high as 40 percent**.
- The **explosive bomblets**, when deployed over a wide area, **cannot distinguish between military targets and civilians**. This makes their use in populated regions particularly devastating.
- The **2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)**, which entered into force in 2010, **bans the use, development, production, acquisition, and transfer of cluster munitions**.
 - So far, **111 countries and 12 other entities have signed** the treaty.
 - But **key nations**, including **Israel, Iran, the United States, Russia, China, and India**, have **not joined**.
 - As per the United Nations, 99% of declared global stockpiles have been destroyed under the treaty.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-are-cluster-bombs/>

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