

Ricin

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Ricin Latest News

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad recently busted a suspected terror syndicate by arresting a 'doctor', who was allegedly preparing the highly lethal chemical poison, 'Ricin', and whose handler is associated with the Islamic State Khorasan Province, and two others.

About Ricin

- Ricin is a **poison found naturally in castor beans**.
- If castor beans are chewed and swallowed, the ricin that comes out can cause injury.
- Ricin can be **made from the waste material left over from processing castor beans**.
- Ricin can be in the **form of a powder, a mist, or a pellet**.
- It can also be **dissolved in water or weak acid**.
- It is **stable under normal conditions**. However, it will **not work if temperatures are over 80 degrees centigrade** (176 degrees Fahrenheit).
- It is **toxic when inhaled, ingested, or injected**.

- As few as **five to ten micrograms per kilogram can be lethal.**
- **How Does It Work?**
 - Ricin works by **getting inside the cells** of a person's body and **preventing the cells from making the proteins** they need. **Without the proteins, cells die.**
 - Eventually this is **harmful to the whole body, and death may occur.**
- It is of special concern because of its **potential use as a biological weapon.**
- **Accidental exposure** to ricin is **rare** and results primarily from the ingestion of castor seeds.
- **Treatment:**
 - **No antidote exists** for ricin.
 - **Symptomatic ricin poisoning is treated** by providing **supportive medical care** to minimize the effects of the poisoning.

Source: NDTV

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/ricin/>

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