

Weapons of **Mass Destruction!**

Know some lesser known facts about the weapons that have been used for destruction of life and property

Too much has been written and spoken about the weapons that were used in the blasts or riots. But have you given a thought to who actually invented or named them? Read on to know more about some of the famous arms that have been used to kill people and terrorise nations.



AK 47

Guns that were used by the military were mostly named by themselves. One such example is AK-47 rifle. It was created by the Russian military in 1947 who also gave it the name. It was one of the first assault rifles mainly because of its durability and easy to use functions. The average service life of AK-47 is anywhere between 20-40 years depending on the conditions to which it is exposed. In India, the name cropped up when they were recovered from actor Sanjay Dutt's home after the 1993 Mumbai blasts. Before that they were mainly used by the army officers.

Hand Grenade

A hand grenade is a small handheld anti-personal weapon which explodes couple of minutes after it is thrown. It is derived from the French word 'grenade' meaning pomegranate because its shrapnel pellets reminded the soldiers of the seeds of the fruit. Smoke grenades are extensively used for signalling. Though they are difficult weapons to use and involve high risk, they have been extensively used to combat in urban areas. One such example was the Godhra riots in Gujarat where smoke grenades were used. After that some grenades were used to destroy Sea Rock during the 1993 blasts.



RDX

Cyclotrimethylenetrinitramine, also known as RDX, is an explosive widely used by military. It was developed in 1848 and has been used in World War II. This explosive is generally fitted with timers. In India, RDX was first used in the 1993 blasts, again in July 2006 train blasts and recently in the Jaipur and Islamabad Marriott bomb blasts. Besides being used by terrorist groups and military, RDX is also used in controlled demolition to demolish structures. An example was a bridge in United States.



Nuclear Weapons

Also known as atomic bombs, they were first developed in early 30's jointly by the US, Britain and Canada during World War II. The first atomic bomb was dropped by the US on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The ultimate role of nuclear bomb is to destroy a region in one go, apart from killing humans or maiming them for life...

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The 60-year old Indian film industry aka Bollywood is all set to grow! With an investment of over \$100 million likely to flow into the industry, mostly from the foreign based entities, its good times ahead

Roadside Romeo', 'The Namesake', 'Ek Hasina Thi', 'Saawariya' and the upcoming films like 'Chandni Chowk to China' - all these films have something in common. Guess what? They are co-produced by giant Hollywood production units.

This ongoing love affair between an embattled Hollywood where revenues are flattening and a cash rich Bollywood with a growing domestic market is profiting both the marketers and the filmmakers. Fox Studios, Miramax, Sony Motion Pictures, Walt Disney, and Warner Bros are many of the contenders waking up to Bollywood's potential and many others are willing to be part of the so called 'West Chalo India' strategy.

Earlier we have seen Hollywood films

dubbed in Hindi, running blitzkrieg marketing and even going big with the release, but the foreign movie revenues have not grown. So what has really attracted them to set up their base permanently in India? The growing domestic market, a large audience base and the demand of foreign films are some of the reasons that have put India on the center stage. But this is still just the tip of the iceberg.

As Ashwin Rohatas, an associate with UTV Motion Pictures, puts it, "Earlier they were here to make profits but now they want to tap every possibility and build relationships. Also, the cost effective environment of the Indian film industry, which rarely

exceeds \$25 million, sounds like a secure venture!"

Unlike other Asian countries, India allows foreign-private broadcasters to operate, helping the big conglomerates to build on their synergies. "The independence of the entertainment industry from the government works as a positive sign amongst foreign players and the accessible, tender market for the media and entertainment companies allow them to operate," says Tarun Sahi from BAG Entertainments.

So is it just the big bucks that everybody seems to be interested in or is it the synergies that is going to add new avenues to the Indian film industry? Kuldeep Kaushik from the industry says, "These new transformations will give a new dimension to filmmaking. We will witness a

new level in scriptwriting and visual effects. In fact, Bollywood will make more westernized movies but in the Indian genre, culture and language."

In today's economic scenario where foreign investments are lowering day-by-day and government's repeated efforts seem futile, Hollywood's growing interest is giving strength to the entertainment sector, will just be 'the next big thing' that will take the industry to booming times ahead!

So far so Good!

Walt Disney – signed a three animation movie deal with Yash Raj Films, will be making four action films including "The 19th step" starring Kamal Hassan.

Twentieth Century Fox – enters into a three movie deal with Ram Gopal Varma. Releases only "Ek Hasina Thi"

Fox Star Studios – signs a two-film production deal with Vipul Shah's Blockbuster Entertainment.

DreamWorks – joint venture with Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group.

Warner Bros – co-produced in Ramesh Sippy Entertainment, the extravagant Chandni Chowk to China.

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