

## Ammonium nitrate - Used in fertilizers and explosives

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**Prelim Focus** : Ammonium Nitrate, Fertilizer, ANFO, Eutrophication

- Widely used in **fertilizers** and **explosives**.
- The most common **nitrogenous component** of artificial fertilizers.
- **Colourless** crystal substance.
- Highly **soluble** in water.
- It is an **oxidizing agent**. The material itself does not readily burn but will readily do so if contaminated by combustible material. It will accelerate the burning of combustible material.
- Excessive use leads to **water pollution** (eutrophication)
- Used in **ANFO** (Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil) explosives.