Good Morning everyone, I am Avani Jain of Automobile Branch of UIT, RGPV and today I would like to throw some light on one of the deadliest disasters of the Year 2020, THE BEIRUT EXPLOSION.

Beirut is the capital and the largest city of Lebanon. As of 2014, Greater Beirut had a population of 2.2 million, which makes it the third –largest city in the Levant region. The city is situated on a peninsula at the mid point of Lebanon’s Mediterranean coast. It is one of the oldest cities in the world. Beirut is an important seaport for the country. It was severely damaged by the Lebanese Civil War and its cultural landscape underwent major reconstruction.

THE EXPLOSION

* On August 4, 2020, at around 6 pm, a massive explosion took place at a warehouse at the Port of Beirut, on the City’s northern Mediterranean coast. The disaster was preceded by a large fire.
* Shortly after, The roof of the warehouse caught alight and there was a large initial explosion, followed by a series of smaller blasts that some witnesses said sounded like fireworks going off.
* About 30 second later, there was a colossal explosion that sent a mushroom cloud into the air and a supersonic blastwave radiating through the city.
* Here we can see white flashes right before the massive explosion.

DAMAGE  
The blast killed at least 200 people and injured around 5000 others.

This is the last photo of the firefighters from the [#Beirut](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Beirut?src=hashtag_click) Fire Department. They all lost their lives trying to save us all from the tragedy we have become.

It destroyed the immediate dockside area, creating a crater approximately 140m (460ft) wide, which flooded with seawater.

The warehouse where the initial fire and explosions were observed was obliterated and an adjacent grain silo was heavily damaged.

Satellite images show complete devastation in the port area, with one ship apparently blown out of the water and onto the dockside.

The explosion's shockwave blew out windows at Beirut International Airport's passenger terminal, about 9km (5 miles) away from the port.

The blast was also heard as far away as Cyprus, about 200km across the Mediterranean Sea, and seismologists at the United States Geological Survey said it was the equivalent of a 3.3-magnitude earthquake.

Based on an analysis of videos, a team from the University of Sheffield estimated that the explosion was the equivalent of 1,000 to 1,500 tonnes of TNT - about a 10th of the intensity of the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

This is a before and after image of Beirut Explosion

CAUSE

Lebanon's Prime Minister, Hassan Diab, blamed the detonation on 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate that he said had been stored unsafely at a warehouse in the port.

Ammonium nitrate is a crystal-like white solid commonly used as a source of nitrogen for agricultural fertiliser. But it can also be combined with fuel oils to create an explosive used in the mining and construction industries. Militants have made bombs with it in the past.

Experts say that ammonium nitrate is relatively safe when stored properly. However, if you have a large amount of material lying around for a long time it begins to decay.

* A former port worker reported that he warned for yers that a disaster was waiting to happen but nothing was done.

Ammonium nitrate has been associated with deadly industrial accidents. In 1947, a ship carrying 2,000 tonnes of the chemical exploded in Texas, killing 581 people.

A fire appears to have triggered the explosion of the ammonium nitrate in Beirut.

Lebanese broadcaster LBCI and Reuters news agency cited sources as saying the fire was started by welding work being carried out on a hole in Warehouse 12.

The port's general manager confirmed that maintenance was conducted on the door of the warehouse before the explosion.

Conclusion

President Aoun promised a transparent investigation into the blast and at least 20 people have been arrested so far.

Prime Minister Diab described the circumstances that led to the explosion as "unacceptable" but offered his government's resignation six days later. However, he avoided taking responsibility for the blast and instead blamed the country's entrenched political elite.

But no matter what, no apology or resignation can justify the deaths of these many people. It was not just the responsibility of a few officials but us, in general. We as humans are destroying our environment just for the benefit of a few cents.

I thank you all for being such patient listeners