

POLITY

PRE-CONTEXT

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

News: "Time and timing."

Election Commission of India (ECI)

- ECI is a permanent and an independent body established by Constitution to ensure Free & fair Elections in the country under **Art.324**.
- **Conducts elections to Parliament, State legislature, President, Vice President.**
- **Strength of ECI not specified by Constitution** & left at discretion of President.

Appointment of CEC and ECs

According to Constitution:

- President of India appoints the CEC & two ECs or their appointment is "subject to any law to be made by Parliament".

New Law made by Parliament:

- **CEC and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.**
 - **Qualification:**
 - CEC and ECs shall be appointed from amongst persons who are holding or have held a **post equivalent to the rank of Secretary to the Government of India** and Persons who have knowledge of and experience in management and conduct of elections.
 - **Search Committee:**
 - **Headed by the Minister of Law and Justice** and comprising two other members not below the rank of Secretary to the Government of India, shall **prepare a panel of five persons** for consideration of the Selection Committee.
 - **Selection Committee:**
 - **CEC & ECs shall be appointed by the President** on the **recommendation of a Selection Committee** consisting of:
 - Prime Minister—Chairperson.
 - Leader of Opposition in the House.
 - Union Cabinet Minister to be *nominated by the Prime Minister*.
 - **Term of CEC and EC: 6 years** or till he/she attains **age of 65 years**.
 - **Resignation:** CEC or an EC may, at any time, **resign** their office by writing under their hand addressed **to the President**.
 - Both CEC and ECs shall **not be eligible for re-appointment**.
 - **Salary of CEC and ECs:** is equal to the salary of a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Removal:

- Removal grounds of CEC **similar to judge of Supreme Court** (*ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity*).
- **Election Commissioner(ECs) or a Regional Commissioner shall not be removed from office except on the recommendation of the CEC.**
- **Security of tenure: only to CEC** under Election Commission Act 1991.

Other:

- Both CEC, ECs are equal powers in functioning.
- Constitution not debarred from further appointment.
- **61CAA:** lowered voting age from 21 to 18.

19 FEB 2025

SOCIAL JUSTICE

PRE-CONTEXT

EDUCATION

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

News: "Eroding federalism."

PM-SHRI Schools: PM Schools for Rising India.

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** (60:40).
- To develop more than 15,000 schools **to implement NEP Policy** during 2022-2027.
- **Managed by** Both Centre and State Govts.
- NEP 2020 includes **three language formula** and curriculum changes.

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

- **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** (60:40).
- **Ministry of Education** is the nodal agency.
- **Vision of scheme** is to ensure inclusion and equitable quality of education inline with SDG for education.
- Estimated outlay of **approx 3 lakh crore** between 2021 and 2026.
- **Features:**
 - Extends support from pre-school to class 12.
 - It **merged earlier three-schemes** Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamika Shiksha Abhiyan, Teacher Education.
 - Envisages one comprehensive strategic plan for development of school education at **district level**.
 - Improving on quality of school education by **focusing on two T's: Teachers and Technology**.
 - Promotes **vocationalisation of education**.
 - Focusses on **digital education like UDISE+, Shagun etc.**
 - Strengthens and **upgrades Teacher Education Institutions** Eg. SCERT.
 - Supports states to implement **RTE Act 2009**.

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GEOGRAPHY

PRE-CONTEXT

EARTHQUAKE

THE HINDU, Pg.NO: 6.

News: "Quakes may well sharpen India's seismic readiness."

About Earthquakes:

- Earthquake is the **shaking of the surface of the Earth resulting from a sudden release of energy** in the Earth's **lithosphere** that creates **seismic waves**.
- **Causes of Earthquake:**
 - **Tectonic Movements:**
 - **Divergent Boundaries:** Plates move apart (e.g., Mid-Atlantic Ridge).
 - **Convergent Boundaries:** Plates move towards each other (e.g., Himalayas formation).
 - **Transform Boundaries:** Plates slide past each other horizontally (e.g., San Andreas Fault).
 - **Volcanic Activity:** Associated with magma movement beneath volcanoes.
 - **Human induced:** from large dams, and hydraulic fracturing (fracking), Nuclear or chemical explosions.

Seismic waves:

- **Body waves:**
 - **Primary waves (P-waves):** Fastest, compressional waves that can travel through solids, liquids, and gases.
 - **Secondary waves (S-waves):** Slower, can only travel through solids.
- **Surface Waves: most dangerous and destructive.**
 - **Love Waves:** Cause horizontal movement of the ground.
 - **Rayleigh Waves:** Cause both vertical and horizontal ground movement in a rolling motion.

Foci and Epicenter:

- **Foci/Focus** also called the hypocenter, the **focus is the point within the Earth's crust** where an **earthquake originates**.
- **Epicentre:** the **point on the Earth's surface directly above the focus**. It's the location where the most shaking and damage from an earthquake occur.

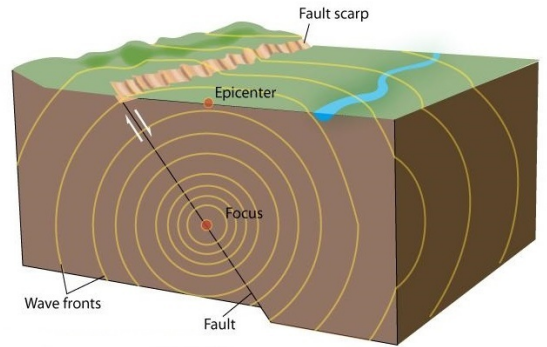
Measurement of Earthquakes:

- **Magnitude: Richter Scale:**
 - **Measures the energy released. Each whole number increase represents a tenfold increase in amplitude.**
 - **There is no upper limit**, Earthquakes approaching magnitude 10 are considered extremely unlikely due to the physical limitations of tectonic plate sizes and energy distribution.
- **Intensity: Mercalli Scale:**
 - **Measures the effects of an earthquake** on the Earth's surface, humans, objects of nature, and man-made structures.
 - **Maximum Intensity: XII (12)** represents the highest level of intensity, indicating total destruction, with structures completely destroyed, landslides, and ground cracking.

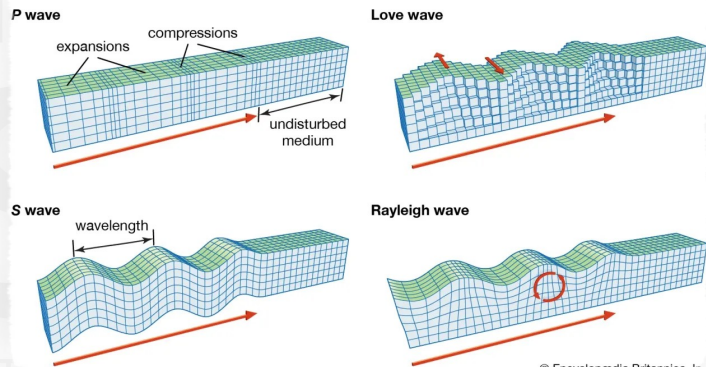
Impacts:

- Loss of Life and livelihood.
- Landslides, Tsunamis, Glacial Lake Outburst, Avalanches, Soil Liquefaction, etc.
- **Notable Earthquakes in India:** 1905 Kangra, 1934 Bihar-Nepal, 1991 Uttarkashi, 2001 Gujarat.

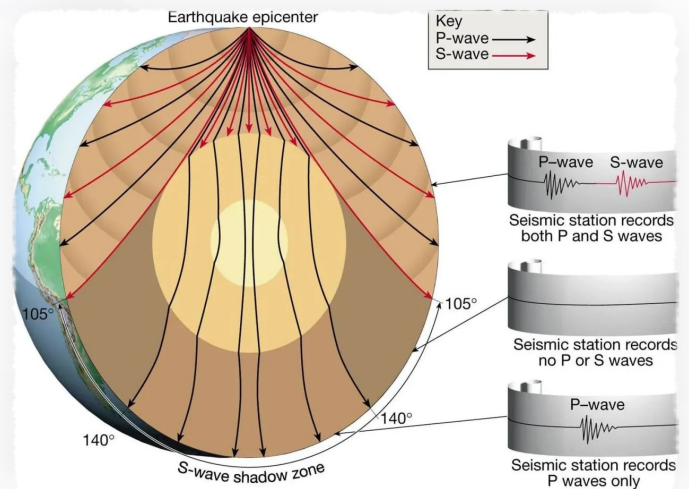
Seismic waves radiate from the focus of an earthquake



Main types of seismic waves



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