

Prelim Bits 04-04-2018

Earthquake

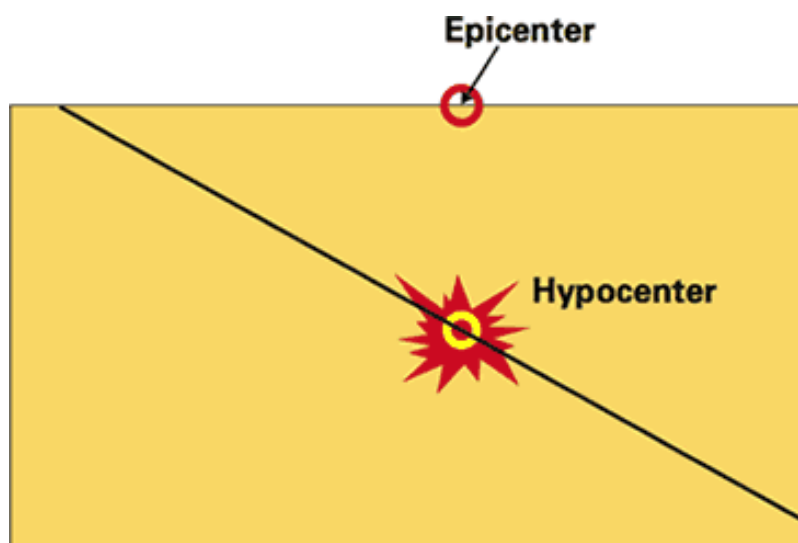
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- Recently, a strong but deep earthquake struck Bolivia in South America.
- Earthquake is any sudden shaking of the ground caused by the passage of seismic waves through Earth's rocks.
- Seismic waves are produced when some form of energy stored in Earth's crust is suddenly released.

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- The location below the earth's surface where the earthquake starts is called the **hypocenter**.
- The location directly above it on the surface of the earth is called the **epicenter**.
- Earthquakes are recorded by instruments called seismographs and the recording they make is called a seismogram.

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Underwater Melting -Antarctica

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- Warming waters have caused the **base of ice near the ocean floor** around the South Pole to shrink.
- According to the first complete underwater map of the world's largest body of ice, hidden underwater melt-off in the Antarctic is doubling every 20 years.
- It could soon overtake Greenland to become the biggest source of sea-level rise.
- The base of the ice around the South Pole shrank by 1,463 square kilometers between 2010 and 2016.
- Climate change is affecting the Antarctic more than previously believed and may lead to global projections of sea—level rise upward.

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Materials ISS Experiment Flight Facility (MISSE-FF)

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- Astronauts aboard the International Space Station were set to receive research, crew supplies and hardware in SpaceX, a commercial resupply mission.
- The SpaceX Dragon lifted off on a Falcon 9 rocket with a delivery of experiments dealing with **how the human body, plants and materials behave in space**
- The MISSE Flight Facility is a commercially-available **materials research facility** that will reside externally aboard the International Space Station (ISS).
- It has been developed by Alpha Space Test and Research Alliance (Alpha Space) under a Cooperative Agreement with NASA.
- The primary MISSE-FF platform provides the ability to test materials,

coatings, and components or other larger experiments in the harsh environment of space.

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- The MISSE-FF provides a platform for testing how materials react to exposure to ultraviolet radiation, atomic oxygen, ionizing radiation etc., in **the low-Earth orbit** environment.

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Dark Net

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- In some registered cases, 'Dark Net' was used for sale and purchase of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances as per the records of Narcotics Control Bureau.

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- It is a computer network with restricted access that is used chiefly for illegal peer-to-peer file sharing.

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- It also refers to networks that are not indexed by search engines such as Google, Yahoo or Bing.

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- These are networks that are only available to a select group of people and not to the general internet public, and only accessible via authorization, specific software and configurations.

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- In recent past ,Silk road ,an online dark market was busted which was used to sell drugs, weapons and stolen identities.

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Antacids and allergies

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- A study warns babies who are given antacids or antibiotics during their first 6 months of life may have a sharply higher risk for allergies or asthma.

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- Gut bacteria play a role in a healthy immune system.

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- Antibiotics and antacids might change the makeup of a baby's microbiome, perhaps enough to cause an overreaction in the immune system that shows

up as an allergy.

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- Though the cause and effect phenomenon is ambiguous but the relationship between the allergies and drug usage is striking.

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- Antacids are medicines that counteract (neutralize) the acid in our stomach to relieve indigestion and heartburn.

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- They contain ingredients such as aluminum, calcium, or magnesium which act as bases (alkalis) to counteract the stomach acid and lower pH.

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- They work quickly and are used to relieve symptoms of acid reflux, heartburn or indigestion.

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National Institution Ranking Framework (NIRF)

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- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru was adjudged the overall best institution in the country by the Human Resource Development Ministry's national ranking framework (NIRF).

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- [NIRF](#) was launched by Ministry of Human Resources Development (MoHRD) in 2015.

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- This year for the first time medical and dental colleges were also ranked by the NIRF.

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- NIRF has also added Architecture and Law this year.

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| \n YEAR | \n RANKED ENTITIES |
|------------|--|
| \n 2016 | \n Universities, Pharmacy, Engineering and Management |
| \n 2017 | \n Overall ranking and college Rankings were added |

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|---------------------------------|---|
| <p>\n</p> <p>2018</p> <p>\n</p> | <p>\n</p> <p>Medical and Dental college, Law and Architecture rankings were added</p> <p>\n</p> |
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- The rankings assume significance as performance of institutions has been linked with “[Institutions of Eminence](#)” scheme.

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- ‘Institutions of Eminence’ is a government scheme in which 20 institutions both public and private would be selected on challenge method and they would be actively supported to come up in the global rankings.

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Map of the Day

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India Physical - South

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- Chotanagpur plateau and Meghalaya Plateau are part of the Peninsular Plateau Region.

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- Pulicat Lake is spread over the state of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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