

Earthquake in China

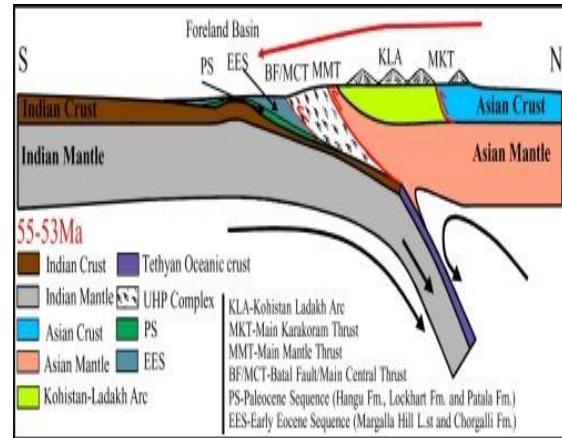
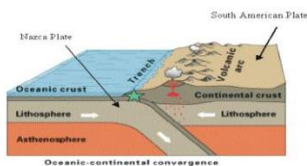
- The collision of India with the rest of Asia has led to seismic activity throughout Western China, particularly in Tibet and the Yunnan, Xinjiang, Sichuan, Gansu and Qinghai provinces. However, these regions in comparison with Eastern China have a low population density.
- These areas also in general have poorer transport and building codes.
- Throughout China, poor building codes increases the damage and loss of life from earthquakes.

Lithosphere

The Lithosphere is the outer shell of the Earth including the crust and the upper mantle. It is composed of brittle rock. The lithosphere is broken into the tectonic plates. The plates or chunks of crust, drift about on the magma in the mantle below. They move only a few centimeters a year.



A subduction zone is a place where two plates collide. Plates are constantly shifting and moving, so when they subduct, one pushes beneath the other. Subduction zones create geologic formations such as mountain ranges, ocean trenches, and island arcs, as well as phenomena like earthquakes and volcanoes.



THE HINDU

Chile rejects constitution

- President Gabriel Boric vowed to continue working to reform the political landscape after Chileans on Sunday emphatically rejected a proposed new Constitution to replace the one adopted during the Augusto Pinochet dictatorship.
- With more than 99% of votes counted, the reject camp led with almost 62% compared to just over 38% for those in favour, in a result that exceeded the expectations of the conservative opposition.

About Proposed constitution

- The proposed Constitution aimed to build a more welfare-based society, boost Indigenous rights and legalize abortion.
- In October 2019, protests sprung up mostly in the capital led by students

initially angered by a proposed metro fare hike.

- Those demonstrations spiraled into wider discontent with the country's neoliberal economic system as well as growing inequality.
- Among the chief concerns of opponents was the prominence given to the country's Indigenous peoples, who make up close to 13% of the 19 million-strong population.
- Gender parity Proposals to enshrine reproductive rights and protect the environment as well as natural resources such as water, which some say is exploited by private mining companies, had also garnered much attention.
- The new Constitution would have overhauled Chile's government, replacing the Senate with a less powerful "chamber of regions," and requiring women to hold at least half of positions in public institutions.

THE HINDU

SRS System

- The SRS Airbag System is designed to supplement the seatbelt system and improve occupant protection in certain type of crashes.
- Airbags supplement the seat belt and enhance passenger safety in certain types of collision
- In the case of the SRS Airbag (Driver's side), a sensor will detect the impact and calculate the collision intensity and deploy the airbag.
- The time it takes for the airbag to finish deploying is approximately 0.03 seconds.
- That deployed airbag will deflate and the total time it takes is about 0.1 seconds.
- The human eye blinks for about 0.1 - 0.3 seconds.
- The Supplementary Restraint System (SRS) is basically an air-bag system
- This works together with conventional 3-point seat belts and prevents impact of the driver's chest and face with the steering wheel in the event of a collision.
- SRS may sometimes be installed to the passenger's side to prevent impact with the dashboard. Side-impact air-bags are also fitted to protect the upper body and head during a sideways impact.
- At speeds in excess of 40 kmph the seat belt alone is no longer adequate in the event of a serious accident.
- Analysis after accidents has concluded that, in 68% of cases, an air-bag provides a significant safety measure. It is predicated that if all cars in the world are equipped with airbags then the annual number of

fatalities can be reduced by well over 50,000

- The SRS uses a gas-generator module, which contains an explosive charge. Therefore, on no account the SRS should be dismantled or tampered with.
- Major components of supplementary restraint system.
- The sensor provides input signals into the SRS ECU often termed a “Diagnostics Module”, which constantly checks and monitors the entire SRS.
- When a frontal collision is confirmed by both a D-sensor and the S-sensor, the diagnostic module sends a current pulse to fire a gas generator unit contained with the air-bag module, which is located in the steering wheel centre pad.
- The air-bag is then inflated. If the diagnostic module detects a fault with the SRS, an instrument panel warning lamp is illuminated and the SRS is deactivated to prevent accidental deployment.
- Hilsa fish is one of the few fishes that is quite famous for its incredibly soft meat. Found in the freshwaters in eastern India, the Hilsa has a full flavour and a smooth but oily texture.
- Hilsa was found in abundance along the Bay of Bengal’s waters until a few years ago. Due to overconsumption and an increase in demands, the population of Hilsa fish has reduced significantly.
- Increase in demand of the Hilsa fish is one of the main reasons for the rise in Hilsa fish price. In coastal areas such as Goa, Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, Hilsa fish price is relatively less when compared to cities away from the coast.
- Hilsa Fish is found in the freshwaters in Eastern India.
- The Hilsa fish is quite flavourful and soft but also has an oily texture. Hilsa is known for its numerous health benefits. Some of them are:
 - Rich source of proteins
 - Calcium to strengthen bones
 - Healthy fatty acids such as omega-3.
 - Prevents Coronary heart diseases.
 - Hilsa fish also provides vitamin A and vitamin D to your body.
 - Consuming Hilsa fish leaves you with healthy skin.

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Hilsa system

- Hilsa Fish, popularly known as Ilisha is rich in good quality fatty acids and Omega-3 that prevent coronary heart diseases in humans.

Conversion therapy

- The National Medical Commission (NMC) has written to all State Medical Councils, banning conversion therapy and calling it a “professional misconduct
- Conversion therapy is the pseudoscientific practice of attempting to change an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression to align with heterosexual and cisgender norms
- Common methods of conversion therapy are counselling, visualization, social skills training, psychoanalytic therapy, and spiritual interventions. Other methods that have been used include ice-pick lobotomies;
- A lobotomy, or leucotomy, is a form of neurosurgical treatment for psychiatric disorder or neurological disorder (e.g. epilepsy) that involves severing connections in the brain's prefrontal cortex.
- Chemical castration with hormonal treatment; aversive treatments, such as "the application of electric shock to the hands and/or genitals"; "nausea-inducing drugs ... administered... with the presentation of homoerotic stimuli";
- In 2021, Justice N. Anand Venkatesh of the Madras High Court issued a slew of interim guidelines for the

police, activists, Union and State Social Welfare Ministries, and the National Medical Commission, regarding the LGBTQIA+ community, to “ensure their safety and security to lead a life chosen by them.”

- The ruling prohibited any attempt to medically “cure” or change the sexual orientation of LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual or of any other orientation) people.
- It urged the authorities to take action against “professional[s] involving themselves in any form or method of conversion therapy,” which could include the withdrawal of licence to practice medicine.

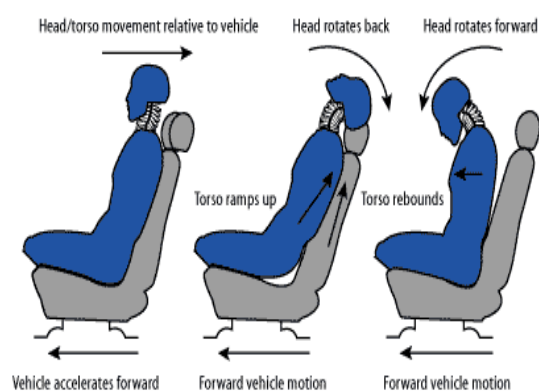
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Head restraint

What role do head restraints play?

- Head restraints, which are found either as adjustable models or moulded into the seats, prevent a whiplash injury.
- This type of injury occurs mostly when the vehicle is struck from behind, leading to sudden extreme movement of the neck backwards and then forwards. It could also happen vice versa in other circumstances.

- The injury involves the muscles, vertebral discs, nerves and tendons of the neck.



How does India regulate and enforce safety?

- On February 11, 2022, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued a draft notification providing for three-point seat belts to be provided in all vehicles coming under the M1 category, that is, for carriage of passengers comprising not more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat, for vehicles manufactured from October 1.
- Also, it stipulated relevant Indian Standards to be followed by the manufacturers for both seat belts

and reminder systems alerting occupants to wear them.

- What stands out is that the amended Motor Vehicles Act of 2019 already requires the occupants of a passenger vehicle to wear a seat belt.
- As per Section 194(B) of the Act, whoever drives a motor vehicle without wearing a safety belt or carries passengers not wearing seat belts shall be punishable with a fine of one thousand rupees.
- Evidently, although cars are equipped with seat belts, the enforcement for rear seat occupants is virtually absent in India.

THE HINDU

Higher education

- The NEP 2020 envisaged that it would “promote increased access, equity, and inclusion through a range of measures, including greater opportunities for outstanding public education.”
- It also provided an assurance that the autonomy of public institutions would be backed by adequate public funding.
- The NEP noted that public expenditure on education in India was nowhere close to the 6% of GDP envisaged by the 1968 policy,

reiterated in the 1986 policy, and reaffirmed in the 1992 review of the policy.

- Against this backdrop, it was gratifying that the 2020 policy endorsed a substantial increase in public investment by the Central and State governments to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest.
- Elaborating on the reasons, NEP 2020 said this level of public funding was “extremely critical for achieving the high-quality and equitable public education system that is truly needed for India’s future economic, social, cultural, intellectual progress and growth.”
- Going by the National Education Commission, also known as the Kothari Commission, which was the precursor to the 1968 policy, higher education should have been getting at least 2% of GDP.
- In contrast, the expenditure on higher education by the Centre and the States taken together nosedived from 0.86% of GDP in 2010-11 to a measly 0.52% in 2019- 20 (Budget Estimates, or BE).
- It is disquieting that the Centre’s expenditure on higher education dropped from 0.33% of GDP in 2010-11 to a mere 0.16% in 2019-20 (BE).
- The decline in public investment in higher education does not appear due to the fall in the receipts of the Central government.
- Higher education in India is already highly privatised
- The idea that higher education could be funded fully by the students or their parents out of their savings or through bank borrowings appears grossly misplaced in the Indian context.
- The NEP 2020 envisages enrolment in higher education to be nearly double by 2035.
- Considering the fact that the social and economic elites, the rich and the affluent, have already crossed a gross enrolment ratio of 100%, the future growth in higher education has to come from the socio-economically disadvantaged groups.
- Higher education in India may have had its failings, but it has served the nation rather well. It has played a critical role in sustaining the \$2.8 trillion economy that India has become today.
- But for enhanced investment in higher education, our vision of a \$5 trillion economy and the aspiration of becoming a high-income developed country could be jeopardised.

THE HINDU

