



Earthquake in Sikar

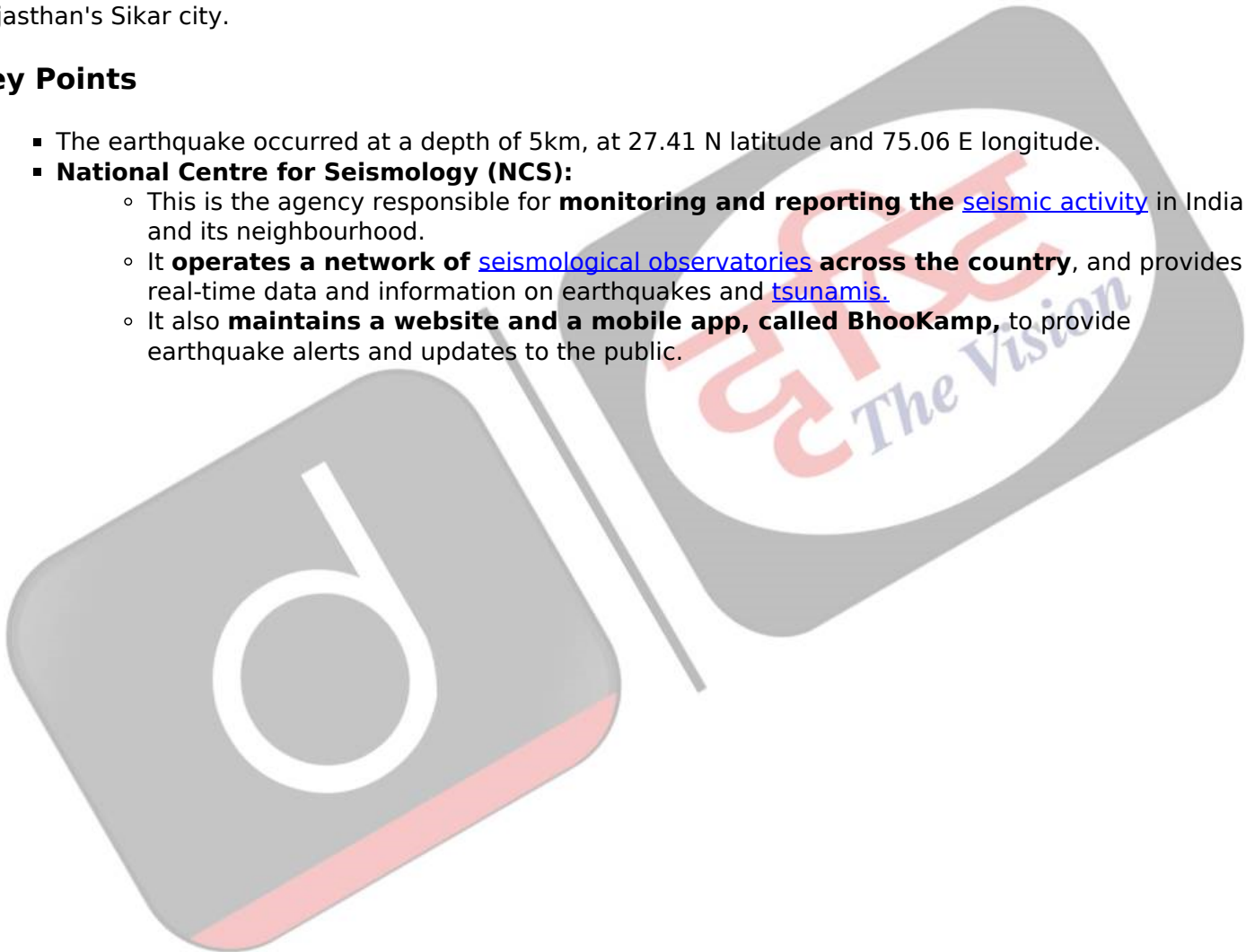
Why in News?

According to the [National Center for Seismology \(NCS\)](#), recently a **3.9 magnitude earthquake** occurred in Rajasthan's Sikar city.

Key Points

- The earthquake occurred at a depth of 5km, at 27.41 N latitude and 75.06 E longitude.
- **National Centre for Seismology (NCS):**
 - This is the agency responsible for **monitoring and reporting the seismic activity** in India and its neighbourhood.
 - It **operates a network of seismological observatories across the country**, and provides real-time data and information on earthquakes and [tsunamis](#).
 - It also **maintains a website and a mobile app, called BhooKamp**, to provide earthquake alerts and updates to the public.

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EARTHQUAKE



ABOUT

- Shaking of the earth; caused due to release of energy, generating seismic waves in all directions

EARTHQUAKE WAVES

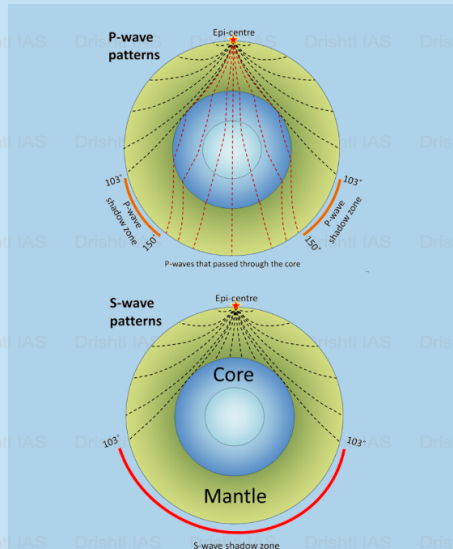
- Body Waves:** Move in all directions travelling through the body of the earth
 - P Waves:** Move faster, First to arrive at surface, Similar to sound waves, Travel through gaseous, liquid and solid materials
 - S Waves:** Arrive at surface with some time lag, Travel only through solid materials
- Surface Waves:** Last to report on seismographs, More destructive, Cause displacement of rocks
 - Love Waves:** Same motion as S-waves (horizontal) without vertical displacement, Sideways motion perpendicular to the direction of propagation, Faster than Rayleigh waves
 - Rayleigh Waves:** Cause the ground to shake in an elliptical pattern, Spread out the most of all seismic waves, Move vertically and horizontally in a vertical plane

HYPOCENTER

- Location where the earthquake starts (below earth's surface)

EPICENTER

- Location right above the Hypocenter (on the earth's surface)



CAUSES OF EARTHQUAKES

- Release of energy along a Fault/Fault Zones (break in the crustal rocks)
- Movement of tectonic plates (most common)
- Volcanic eruption (stress changes in rock-injection/withdrawal of magma)
- Human activities (mining, explosion of chemical/nuclear devices etc.)

EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA

- India is one of the highly earthquake affected countries due to the presence of technically active mountains - the Himalayas.
- India has been divided into 4 seismic zones (II, III, IV, and V)

MEASURING EARTHQUAKE

- Seismometers** - Measures seismic waves
- Richter Scale** - Measures magnitude (energy released; range: 0-10)
- Mercalli** - Measures intensity (visible damage; range: 1-12)

DISTRIBUTION

- Circum-Pacific Belt** - 81% of earthquakes
- Alpide Earthquake Belt** - 17% of the largest earthquakes
- Mid-Atlantic Ridge** - Mostly submerged underwater

