



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Moment Magnitude Scale

The recent earthquake that hit Turkey recorded a **magnitude of 7.8 on the Moment Magnitude scale.**

Magnitude is generally measured by **Richter Scale** (developed by Charles Francis Richter in 1935). It is a **logarithmic scale where each step represents a 10x increase** in magnitude (an earthquake measuring 7 has 10x the magnitude than an earthquake measuring 6).

However, as it is **strictly valid only for certain frequency and distance ranges**, a better way to measure magnitude - **Moment Magnitude Scale (denoted as Mw)** was developed.

The scale measures the total energy released in the earthquake and hence, **provides a more accurate estimate of magnitude**, especially as one goes higher up the scale. Moment Magnitude also **uses more variables to calculate the energy released** using seismic moment.

Other scales like the **Modified Mercalli Scale (MMS)** and the **Rossi-Forel scale measure the intensity** - the amount of shaking at a particular location. MMS ranks earthquake intensity on a scale of I (not felt) to XII (extreme).

Read More - [Earthquake](#), [Earthquake Infographics](#)

Asphyxiation

Recently, 7 workers died due to **asphyxiation** during the **removal of oil sludge** in an edible oil tank in Andhra Pradesh. Asphyxiation is the **failure or disturbance of the respiratory process** brought about by the **lack or insufficiency of oxygen in the brain**. The unconsciousness that results sometimes leads to death. Besides lack of oxygen in the brain, Asphyxia **can also be caused by injury to or obstruction of breathing passageways**, as in **strangulation** or the aspiration of food (choking) or large quantities of fluid (**near-drowning or drowning**).

Section 69 (A) of IT Act

MeitY recently issued orders to block 138 online betting platforms and 94 money lending apps on an “urgent” and “emergency” basis under **Section 69 (A) of the IT Act, 2000**. Some of the sites and apps were **allegedly linked to China** and **contained “material prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India”**.

Over the past 3 years, there have been several complaints of extortion/harassment from people who borrowed small amounts through such money-lending apps, often at exorbitantly high interest rates.

Section 69 of the IT Act allows the **govt. to issue content-blocking orders to online intermediaries** such as Internet Service Providers, telecom service providers, web hosting services, search engines, online marketplaces, etc. **provided such a content is deemed a threat to India’s national security, sovereignty, or public order.**

Read More [Information Technology Act's Section 69A](#), [Ban on Chinese Apps](#)

Grammy Awards 2023

Grammy Award (originally named **Gramophone Award**) is a series of awards **presented annually in the US** by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (**NARAS**) or the Latin Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (**LARAS** only for recordings in **Spanish/Portuguese languages**). This annual event to recognise musical achievements was **started in 1959** to respect the performers for the year 1958. The honorees receive a **golden statuette of a gramophone**.

Indian composer (Bengaluru-based) - **Ricky Kej** won a **Grammy for Best Immersive Audio Album** for his most recent album **Divine Tides** with rock-legend Stewart Copeland, making him the **only Indian to win three Grammy awards**. Ricky has previously won **2 Grammy Awards under the Best New Age Album category** - 'Winds of Samsara' (in 2015) and Divine Tides (in 2022).

Read More - [Indian Song wins Golden Globe Award](#)

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