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Earthquake, Pattanam, Baratang, Barren Island, Havelock Island

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Earthquake

- An **earthquake** (also known as a **quake**, **tremor**, **temblor** or **seismic activity**) is the result of a sudden release of energy in the Earth's crust that creates seismic waves. Earthquakes are measured with a seismometer; a device which also records is known as a *seismograph*. The moment magnitude (or the related and mostly obsolete Richter magnitude) of an earthquake is conventionally reported, with magnitude 3 or lower earthquakes being mostly imperceptible and magnitude 7 causing serious damage over large areas. Intensity of shaking is measured on the modified Mercalli scale.
- The **Mercalli intensity scale** is a scale used for measuring the intensity of an earthquake. The scale quantifies the effects of an earthquake on the Earth's surface, humans, objects of nature, and man-made structures on a scale of I through XII, with I denoting not felt, and XII total destruction
- The **Richter magnitude scale**, also known as the **local magnitude (M_L) scale**, assigns a single number to quantify the amount of seismic energy released by an earthquake. It is a base-10 logarithmic scale obtained by calculating the logarithm of the combined horizontal amplitude (shaking amplitude) of the largest displacement from zero on a particular type of seismometer (Wood – Anderson torsion) .
- The largest earthquake that has been measured was the 9.5 magnitude one in Chile in 1960.

Pattanam

Pattanam is a small village in the Ernakulam district of Kerala. Recent excavation conducted by the Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR) and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) indicates that this place could be the ancient trading city of Muziris which is referred to by Roman historians.

Baratang

Baratang is an island in the Andaman Islands (area: 238 sq. km) . This island contains the only known examples of mud volcanoes in India.

Barren Island

Barren Island is located in the Andaman Sea and is the only confirmed active volcano in South Asia. The most recent eruption was in May 2008.

Narcondam

Narcondam is a small volcanic island located in the Andaman Sea. It is classified as a dormant volcano by the Geological Survey of India.

Nyoma

Nyoma is a town in Leh District, J&K. There is an Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) of the Indian Airforce very near to the Line of Actual Control. Similarly, Fukche is also a ALG.

Havelock Island

It is the largest of the islands of the Ritchie's Archipelago in Andaman Islands. In May 2010, the first attack on human by a salt-water crocodile in the open sea was recorded there.

Pattadakal

The 8th century monuments in Pattadakal (Karnataka) were designated a World Heritage Site in 1987. The monuments are the culmination of the earliest experiments in the Vesara style of Hindu temple architecture.

Loktak Lake (Manipur)

It is an important lake in Manipur which is surrounded by mountains on all sides. It is the largest freshwater lake in northeaster India. Also called the only **Floating Lake** in the world due to floating masses of organic matter on it. It serves as a source for hydropower generation, irrigation and drinking water supply.

Hambantota

- It is a coastal town in south Sri Lanka. India has opened a new consulate there. It has been recently in news for the giant port project built with the help of China.
- Artibonite River flows through Haiti. In 2010, Cholera epidemic spread in Haiti due to the contaminated water of this river.
- Ashgabat is the capital of Turkmenistan. The intergovernmental agreement on TAPI project was signed here in December 2010.