

# DISASTER UPDATE

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## **TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS**

### **National**

#### **Brahmaputra erosion destroys nearly 4,000 sq km of Assam land – DD News**

Friday 05 February, 2010



**The mighty Brahmaputra has wiped out nearly 4,000 sq km of area, destroying more than 2500 villages and affecting more than five million people in Assam.**

Assam's Water Resources Department has identified 25 vulnerable and very severe erosion-prone sites and estimated that the Assam valley portion of the Brahmaputra has lost approximately 7.4 per cent of its land area due to river bank erosion and channel migration.

Experts from Assam and the USA, who have formed a joint committee, 'The committee for Developing Mitigation Strategies for Brahmaputra River Basin Flood and Erosion Problem,' have come forward with a set of short and long term measures to address the problem and develop cost-effective solutions.

The experts have pointed out that the key factors making the river extremely unstable at many reaches are 'aggradation' (raising of the river bed due to sediment deposition), intense 'braiding' and large water discharge.

They pointed out that till now both short and long term measures to tackle the erosion problem had been done only on a piecemeal basis during emergency situations depending on availability of funds. **(JK-04/02)**

### **International**

## **Haiti quake death toll reaches 212,000: PM – The Hindustan Times**

**Agence France-Presse**

Port-au-Prince, February 05, 2010

The death toll from Haiti's catastrophic earthquake last month has reached 212,000, while the number of homeless may be far higher than the one million estimated by authorities, the prime minister said on Thursday.

"We have over 200,000 (dead). The last number I received from my services was 212,000 people that were collected on the streets and different places," Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive told CNN from Haiti's devastated capital Port-au-Prince.

Bellerive said the toll, already the highest on record from any natural disaster in the Americas, was likely to rise "a little bit" higher as recovery crews pull bodies from locations where demolition had been delayed while rescue teams searched for survivors.

He also said more than 300,000 people had been injured in the disaster, and that most of them had received medical attention, he told the US cable network on Thursday.

On Wednesday Bellerive said that the death toll had topped 200,000.

Authorities had said about one million people were made homeless when the 7.0-magnitude quake struck the impoverished Caribbean nation on January 12, out of a national population of roughly nine million.

Aid groups have set up several refugee camps in and around Port-au-Prince, and the government has announced plans to relocate hundreds of thousands of Haitians out of the makeshift camps into new temporary shelters outside the capital.