



WAVE OF DESTRUCTION

An 8.9-magnitude earthquake -- the strongest ever recorded in Japan -- sent a 10-metre (33-foot) high tsunami devouring neighbourhoods along the vast Pacific coast. An eerie calm reigns as towns lie in ruins in the wake of the massive waves. The Japanese media estimate that at least 1,300 people were killed. Stunned survivors confronted a deadly new threat yesterday -- the spectre of a nuclear reactor meltdown in the desolate disaster zone. Authorities mobilised 50,000 military and other rescue personnel to spearhead a herculean rescue and recovery effort.

Photo: Reuters/AFP

