



EARTHQUAKE IN TIBET & NEPAL - GEOGRAPHY

NEWS: A powerful earthquake struck Tibet on January 9, 2025, killing at least 126 people and injuring 188 others.

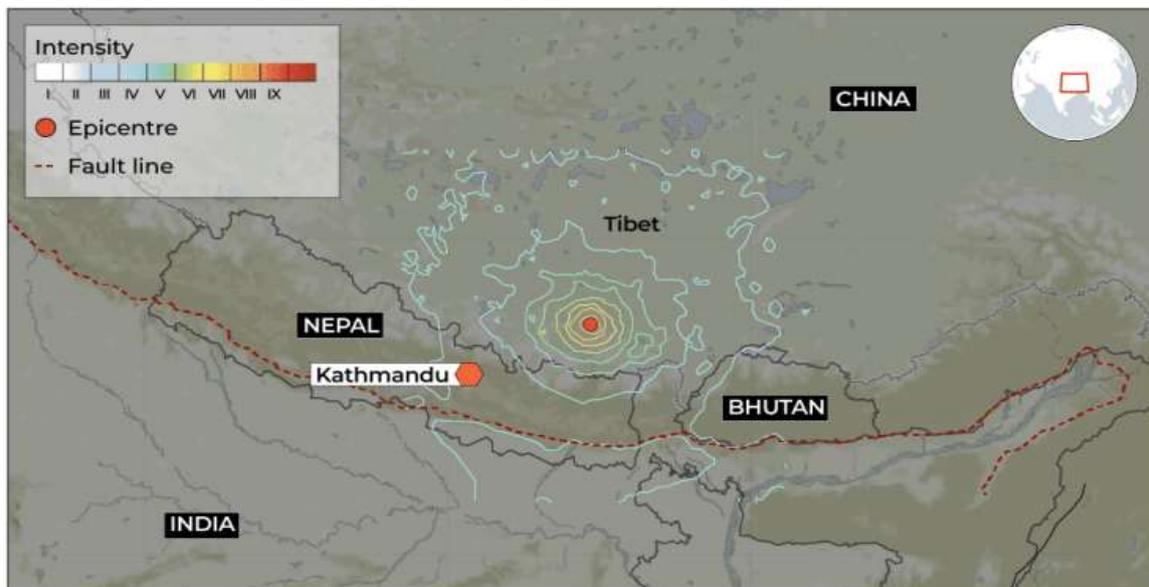
WHAT'S' IN THE NEWS?

- The earthquake hit **Tingri County, Xigaze**, located **80 km north of Mount Everest**, near the border with Nepal.
- Tremors were felt in neighboring Nepal (Kathmandu) and parts of India (Bihar), causing widespread panic.

EARTHQUAKE

Magnitude 7.1 earthquake strikes Tibet

A powerful earthquake in Tibet has killed nearly 100 people, according to Chinese state media. The 10km-deep quake struck at 9:05am local time (01:05 GMT) followed by aftershocks felt in western China and Nepal.



Damaged houses after an earthquake at a village in Shigatse, Tibet, on January 7, 2025 [Xinhua via Reuters]



A damaged car lies amid rubble on a street in Shigatse, Tibet, on January 7, 2025 [Reuters]



Magnitude and Impact:

- **China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC)** measured the quake at **6.8 magnitude**, while the U.S. Geological Survey reported it at **7.1 magnitude**.
- The earthquake struck at around 9:00 a.m. local time.
- The mountainous and rural terrain of the area, with many houses built from dirt, exacerbated the destruction.

Casualties and Damage:

- **126 confirmed deaths** and **188 injuries** (28 in critical condition).
- Approximately **3,609 houses collapsed**, with significant damage reported to buildings.
- The earthquake was the **deadliest in China** since **2014**.

Geographical and Social Context:

- Tingri County, with a population of around **62,000**, is **less developed** compared to urban centers like Lhasa.
- The area is surrounded by rugged, mountainous terrain, making rescue efforts challenging.

Rescue and Relief Efforts:

- Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for **“all-out search and rescue efforts.”**
- Rescue teams have been mobilized, and some injured individuals have been transferred to hospitals.
- Locals have been provided with blankets and supplies to endure the subzero temperatures in the aftermath of the quake.

Regional Impact:

- **Tremors** were felt in **Kathmandu, Nepal**, particularly near the Everest region and Lobuche.
- Some tremors were also experienced in Bihar, India, though no injuries have been reported there.
- Aftershocks followed the main tremor, complicating rescue and relief operations.

Condolences and International Reactions:

- The Dalai Lama expressed deep sadness over the tragedy.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping and other officials have extended their condolences and called for swift action to assist those affected.

Historical Context:



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- This earthquake is the **most powerful recorded** in the region within a **200 km** in the last five years.
- The December 2023 earthquake in Gansu, China, **killed 148 people** and displaced thousands, highlighting the region's vulnerability to seismic activity.
- The 2014 earthquake in Yunnan province remains China's deadliest earthquake in recent history, with over 600 fatalities.

Challenges in Recovery:

- The mountainous terrain and the rural setting of the affected areas pose significant challenges for **timely and effective rescue operations**.
- Damage to **infrastructure and housing**, coupled with harsh weather conditions, complicates recovery efforts

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/tibet-earthquake-several-killed-houses-destroyed-updates-january-8/article69074939.ece>

