October 2015 Hindu Kush earthquake

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| --- | --- |
| **October 2015 Hindu Kush earthquake** | |
| [Shakemap us10003re5 highres.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Shakemap_us10003re5_highres.jpg)  [USGS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USGS) [ShakeMap](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strong_ground_motion" \o "Strong ground motion) of the earthquake | |
| [**UTC**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coordinated_Universal_Time)**time** | 2015-10-26 09:09:42 |
| [**ISC**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Seismological_Centre)**event** | [609819093](http://isc-mirror.iris.washington.edu/cgi-bin/FormatBibprint.pl?evid=609819093) |
| **USGS-**[**ANSS**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced_National_Seismic_System) | [ComCat](https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/us10003re5) |
| **Local date** | 26 October 2015 |
| **Local time** | 13:39 [AFT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_in_Afghanistan), 14:09 [PKT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Standard_Time), 14:39 [IST](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Standard_Time)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-USGS-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-NGRI-2) |
| **Magnitude** | 7.5 [Mw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moment_magnitude_scale)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-USGS-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-NGRI-2) |
| **Depth** | 212.5 km (132.0 mi)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-USGS-1) |
| **Epicenter** | https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[36.524°N 70.368°E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake&params=36.524_N_70.368_E_)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[36.524°N 70.368°E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake&params=36.524_N_70.368_E_)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-USGS-1) |
| **Areas affected** | * [Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan) * [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) * [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) |
| **Max. intensity** | [VII (*Very strong*)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercalli_intensity_scale) |
| **Casualties** | 399 deaths and 2,536 injured |

The **October 2015 Hindu Kush earthquake** was a [magnitude](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moment_magnitude_scale) 7.5 [earthquake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earthquake)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-USGS-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-NGRI-2) that struck South Asia on 26 October 2015, at 13:39 [AFT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_in_Afghanistan) (14:09 [PKT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Standard_Time); 14:39 [IST](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Standard_Time); 09:09 [UTC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coordinated_Universal_Time))[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-USGS-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-NGRI-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-3) with the [epicenter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epicenter) 45 km north of `Alaqahdari-ye Kiran wa Munjan, Afghanistan,[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-4)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-5) at a depth of 212.5 km.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-guardianuk-6)

By 5 November, it was estimated that at least 399 people were killed, mostly in [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan).[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-NDMA-7)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-ABC-8)[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-Afghan_casualties-9)[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-myreffp1-10) Tremors were felt in Pakistan, [Uzbekistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uzbekistan), [Turkmenistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkmenistan),[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-11) [Tajikistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tajikistan) and [Kyrgyzstan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyrgyzstan).[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-12)[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-13)[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-14) According to the [United States Geological Survey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Geological_Survey) (USGS), Pakistan is located in one of the most earthquake active zone in the world.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-15) The earthquake was also felt in [New Delhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delhi), in both Pakistan’s [Azad Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azad_Kashmir) territory, and the Indian state of [Jammu and Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jammu_and_Kashmir) and as far as [Lucknow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucknow" \o "Lucknow) and in the prefectures of [Kashgar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashgar_Prefecture" \o "Kashgar Prefecture), [Aksu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aksu_Prefecture" \o "Aksu Prefecture), [Hotan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hotan_Prefecture" \o "Hotan Prefecture), and [Kizilsu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kizilsu_Kirghiz_Autonomous_Prefecture" \o "Kizilsu Kirghiz Autonomous Prefecture) in [Xinjiang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xinjiang), [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_China) while damage was also reported in Afghan capital [Kabul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kabul).[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-ABC-8)[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-16) The earthquake was also felt in the Nepalese capital of [Kathmandu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathmandu).

Background[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake&action=edit&section=1" \o "Edit section: Background)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Earthquake_Information_for_Pakistan.png)

Map depicting regional tectonic plates

The [Himalayan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Himalayas) mountains, pushed up by the collision of tectonic plates, are prone to devastating quakes. [An earthquake in April 2015](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_2015_Nepal_earthquake), [Nepal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nepal)'s worst in 80 years, killed over 8,600 people.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-nepal-eq-indianexpress-17)

The last [major earthquake in the same region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2005_Kashmir_earthquake) of similar magnitude (7.6 [Mw](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moment_magnitude_scale)) was almost exactly ten years prior in October 2005, which resulted in 87,351 deaths, 75,266 injured, 2.8 million people being displaced, and 250,000 farm animals dying. The notable difference between this earthquake and the [2005 earthquake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2005_Kashmir_earthquake) is the focal depth and its location with respect to the densely populated areas.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-18) The 2005 earthquake was 15 km deep and centered close to some densely populated areas while this earthquake was 212.5 km deep and centered farther from populated areas, reducing its damaging effects.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-19)

In recent studies, geologists claim that [global warming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming) is one of the reasons for [increased seismic activity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming#Seismic_activity). According to these studies melting glaciers and rising sea levels disturb the balance of pressure on Earth's tectonic plates thus causing an increase in the frequency and intensity of earthquakes. This could be one of the reasons why the [Himalayas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Himalayas) are getting more prone to earthquakes in recent years.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-20)[[*better source needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:NOTRS)]

Earthquake[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake&action=edit&section=2" \o "Edit section: Earthquake)]

The main earthquake occurred on 26 October 2015 at 13:39 [AFT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_in_Afghanistan) (14:09 [PKT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Standard_Time), 14:39 [IST](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Standard_Time), 09:09 [UTC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coordinated_Universal_Time))[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-USGS-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-NGRI-2) at a depth of approximately 212.5 km, with its epicenter approximately 82 km southeast of [Feyzabad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fayzabad,_Badakhshan" \o "Fayzabad, Badakhshan), Afghanistan. The USGS initially measured the quake's magnitude at 7.7, then revised it down to 7.6 and later to 7.5. The [Pakistan Meteorological Department](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Meteorological_Department), however, said the magnitude of the earthquake was 8.1.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-21) According to USGS, the epicentre was 67 km from [Chitral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chitral" \o "Chitral).[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-dawn-22)[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-Pak_casualties-23)[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-24)

Casualties and damage[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: Casualties and damage)]

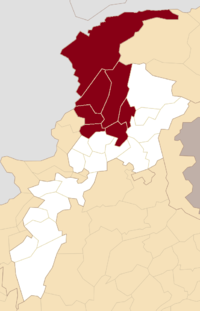
| **Casualties by country** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Country** | **Deaths** | **Injuries** | **Ref.** |
| https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/3/32/Flag_of_Pakistan.svg/23px-Flag_of_Pakistan.svg.png [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) | 280 | 1,770 | [[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-NDMA-7) |
| https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/9a/Flag_of_Afghanistan.svg/23px-Flag_of_Afghanistan.svg.png [Afghanistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan) | 115 | 538 | [[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-ABC-8)[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-Afghan_casualties-9) |
| https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/4/41/Flag_of_India.svg/23px-Flag_of_India.svg.png [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) | 4 | 20 | [[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-myreffp1-10) |
| https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d0/Flag_of_Tajikistan.svg/23px-Flag_of_Tajikistan.svg.png [Tajikistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tajikistan) | 0 | 14 | [[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-rferl-25) |
| **Total** | **399** | **2,342** |  |

In Afghanistan, 115 people were killed, including five in [Jalalabad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jalalabad), and twelve schoolgirls aged 10 to 15 who perished in a [crowd crush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crowd_crush) while trying to exit a school building in [Takhar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Takhar_Province" \o "Takhar Province).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-Afghan_casualties-9)[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-26)[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-Schmitz26Oct-27)

The earthquake and subsequent aftershock swarm resulted in 280 fatalities, injuries to 1,770 persons, and notable damage to 109,123 buildings.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-28) Widespread damage in Federally Administered Tribal Areas, [Gilgit-Baltistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilgit-Baltistan" \o "Gilgit-Baltistan) and [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa) provinces of Pakistan. The most affected areas from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa include [Shangla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shangla_District" \o "Shangla District), [Lower Dir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_Dir_District), [Upper Dir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_Dir_District), [Swat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swat_District) and [Chitral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chitral_District" \o "Chitral District), which were in close proximity of the epicenter.[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-29)[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-30) As a result of land sliding, the [Karakoram Highway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karakoram_Highway) was closed.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-Tribune-31) The observed damage was mostly concentrated in rural and old urban masonry buildings, both being built with no or minimal consideration for earthquake loading and having been constructed employing poor construction practices.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-32)

In India, 4 people were killed in [Jammu and Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jammu_and_Kashmir). A [Delhi Metro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delhi_Metro) spokesman told AFP "All of around 190 trains plying on the tracks were stopped at the time of the earthquake." Mobile phone services were choked for several hours because of the high voice traffic.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-thehindu-timeline-33)

In Tajikistan, 14 children suffered injuries in Yovon district when stairs at a local school collapsed.

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Malakand_Division.png)

Map of [Malakand Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malakand_Division" \o "Malakand Division), the most affected area in [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khyber_Pakhtunkhwa), [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan)

Rescue and relief[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake&action=edit&section=4" \o "Edit section: Rescue and relief)]

**https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/3/32/Flag_of_Pakistan.svg/23px-Flag_of_Pakistan.svg.png**[**Pakistan**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan)

Pakistani Prime Minister [Nawaz Sharif](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nawaz_Sharif) directed all federal, civil, military and provincial agencies to declare an immediate alert and mobilise all resources to ensure the security of citizens of Pakistan. According to [Inter-Services Public Relations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inter-Services_Public_Relations), Chief of Army Staff General [Raheel Sharif](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raheel_Sharif" \o "Raheel Sharif) has directed army personnel to reach out where required to help affected people without waiting for orders.[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-dawn-22)[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-Pak_casualties-23)

**https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/9a/Flag_of_Afghanistan.svg/23px-Flag_of_Afghanistan.svg.png**[**Afghanistan**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan)

Chief executive officer of Afghanistan [Abdullah Abdullah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdullah_Abdullah) called an emergency meeting of senior officials to respond to the disaster.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-34)

**https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/4/41/Flag_of_India.svg/23px-Flag_of_India.svg.png**[**India**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India)

The Indian Prime Minister, [Narendra Modi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narendra_Modi" \o "Narendra Modi), contacted Afghan President [Ashraf Ghani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashraf_Ghani) and Pakistani Prime Minister [Nawaz Sharif](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nawaz_Sharif) and offered help.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_2015_Hindu_Kush_earthquake#cite_note-35)

**https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/2f/Flag_of_the_United_Nations.svg/23px-Flag_of_the_United_Nations.svg.png**[**United Nations**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations)

According to UN Secretary-General [Ban Ki-moon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ban_Ki-moon), UN agencies are mobilizing to assist Pakistani and Afghan relief operations.