

## Earthquakes Shake Himachal's Chamba and Pakistan

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Two mild earthquakes struck India's Himachal Pradesh within an hour early Thursday morning, with tremors also reported across the border in Pakistan. While no damage or casualties have been confirmed, the events have unsettled residents in the region, which is already known for its seismic vulnerability.

The first quake in Himachal's Chamba district was recorded at 3:27 a.m. with a magnitude of 3.3 on the Richter scale. Just over an hour later, at 4:39 a.m., a stronger tremor measuring 4.0 was felt in the same area. Both incidents prompted locals to rush outdoors, fearing possible aftershocks.

In addition to these tremors, Pakistan's National Seismic Monitoring Center reported an earthquake at 2:38 a.m., registering a magnitude of 3.7. The quake was detected in northern Pakistan, but officials confirmed that it did not cause structural damage or injuries.

Although the earthquakes were considered minor, the back-to-back events created panic among communities. Eyewitnesses reported that families quickly evacuated their homes,

gathering in open spaces until the tremors subsided. Parents carried children outside while elderly residents sought support from neighbors.

Local authorities in Chamba and Pakistan advised residents to stay calm and assured them that seismic monitoring systems are tracking the situation closely. Officials stressed that while aftershocks are possible, no immediate threat exists.

Chamba district lies in a highly sensitive seismic zone in northern India, close to the Himalayan fault line. The area has experienced multiple low-intensity earthquakes in recent years, raising concerns about future risks. Geologists explain that the region's unique tectonic structure often triggers frequent tremors, though most remain below destructive levels.

Experts in Pakistan also highlighted the importance of preparedness, noting that even moderate earthquakes can be hazardous in densely populated or poorly constructed areas. They encouraged residents to review safety measures, including identifying open evacuation points and avoiding unstable buildings.

Authorities in both India and Pakistan have reiterated their commitment to ensuring public safety. Emergency response teams remain on standby, and communication systems are being used to spread awareness on how to react during seismic events.

The Indian Meteorological Department and Pakistan's seismic monitoring agency continue to share real-time updates, underscoring the importance of regional cooperation in disaster readiness.

While no damage has been recorded, officials stress that vigilance remains essential. Earthquakes, even at low magnitudes, can serve as warnings of larger seismic events in the future.

Seismologists recommend that residents in vulnerable regions practice earthquake drills, secure heavy household items, and keep emergency supplies ready. In schools and public institutions, safety protocols are being reviewed to strengthen response measures.

Public awareness campaigns in both countries highlight the need to balance caution with calmness. "Panic often causes more harm than the quake itself," one official explained, urging communities to trust in monitoring systems and follow guidance from authorities.

The twin earthquakes in Himachal's Chamba district, coupled with tremors in Pakistan, underline the fragile seismic environment of the Himalayan region. While no immediate damage has been reported, the incidents are a stark reminder of the need for preparedness, public awareness, and continued regional vigilance.