

MOST IMMEDIATE

F.2 (E)/2026-NDMA (MW/GLOF Alert)
Government of Pakistan
Prime Minister's Office
National Disaster Management Authority
 Near ITP Office, Main Murree Road ISLAMABAD

Dated: **23 February 2026**

Subject: **RISING TEMPERATURES MAY ACCELERATE GLACIER MELT AND INCREASE GLOF RISK IN NORTHERN PAKISTAN**

The rainfall and snowfall in **Northern Pakistan** remained **below normal** during the winter season, consistent with the seasonal forecast issued by PMD. Reduced precipitation and persistent clear-sky conditions have resulted in stable atmospheric patterns and significantly **elevated temperatures** across **Gilgit-Baltistan** during the first two decades (1–22 February) of February 2026.

2. Daytime (maximum) temperatures were recorded **3–5°C above normal**, while nighttime (minimum) temperatures remained **1–3.5°C above** the **1981–2010** climatological average. The highest warming has been observed in **Gilgit** and **Bunji**, while **Chilas** and **Bunji** have shown notable increases in minimum temperatures, reducing overnight refreezing. The sustained above normal temperatures are accelerating snow and glacier melt, particularly at mid to lower altitudes. reduced nighttime cooling further enhances meltwater runoff into glacial lakes. Rapid melting increases water accumulation in both moraine and glacier dammed lakes, raising the likelihood of **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)** events in **downstream valleys**.

3. The PMD's outlook for **February–April 2026** indicates a high probability of above-normal temperatures over **Northern Pakistan**, including **Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir**. If this warming trend persists, the risk of **glacier melt acceleration** and potential **GLOF** occurrences may increase in vulnerable areas such as **Gilgit, Ghizar, Hunza, Bunji, Chilas and Astore**. PMD continues to closely monitor temperature trends, glacier melt conditions, and hydrometeorological parameters and will issue timely advisories to relevant authorities and communities.

4. **Average Daily Temperature Anomaly for Gilgit-Baltistan for 1 to 22 February 2026:-**

Station Name	Average Temperature Anomaly* (°C) 1 to 22 February 2026	
	Maximum	Minimum
Astore	4.3	1.3
Bunji	4.5	2.6
Chilas	4.1	3.4
Gilgit	4.7	2.0
Gupis	3.1	1.6
Skardu	3.1	1.8
*Daily Normal period: 1981-2010		

5. In light of prevailing situation all concerned Federal Ministries / Departments, respective Provincial Governments, their line departments including PIDs / PDMA KP/ GBDMA, SDMA, District Administrations / DDMA and Municipal Administrations are advised to ensure following:-
- a. PDMA KP / GBDMA / SDMA Respective DDMA to **undertake proactive monitoring and surveillance of vulnerable GLOF Sites** in order to **ensure timely early warning, evacuation and response**.
 - b. DDMA to conduct **evacuation drills** in **at-risk communities** in order to **ensure full preparedness**.
 - c. All civic agencies / rescue services (Rescue 1122 / Fire Brigade / Ambulance / Civil Defence) to **remain alert and ensure availability of personnel and equipment** during the forecasted period.
 - d. **Mass awareness campaign for general public** on GLOFs in at risk areas covering following aspects: -
 - (1) Avoid **unnecessary movement** in such areas, especially the discharge nullahs / streams and rivers.
 - (2) Risk, consequences and danger of **washing away of vehicles** in fast-flowing water channels.
 - (3) **Alerting general masses living in low-lying areas** to exercise extra caution including community-based alert system.
 - (4) **Evacuation plan** of at-risk community and its timely evacuation.
 - e. LEAs / Traffic Police **advise travelers regarding likely situations** / dangers and safety measures.
 - f. NH&MP and Traffic Police to **coordinate** with **Law Enforcement Agencies** to **manage** and **redirect traffic** from affected areas to safer areas, to prevent congestion and facilitate emergency response efforts.
 - g. PDMA KP / GBDMA / Respective DDMA to ensure that **safe evacuation sites** are **fully stocked and ready for utilization** in case of any eventuality.
 - h. Preplace **necessary emergency equipment** at vulnerable / strategic locations to **expedite response efforts** and complete stocking / replenishment of stocks.
 - i. Coordinate with concerned departments (NHA, FWO and C&W) for **restoration of roads** in case of any blockage / obstruction / closures and **preplacing** of **necessary emergency equipment** at vulnerable / strategic locations.

- j. Local Administration / Police / Rescue Services to **alert population residing in low lying areas**.
 - k. Ensure **round the clock monitoring mechanism** / arrangements through **all possible means / resources**, especially involving the local communities for immediate dissemination of early warnings.
 - l. In case of heightened risk, **controlled breaching** of vulnerable **GLOF sites** may be coordinated with the concerned departments, to prevent **sudden outburst** events.
 - m. **Tourists** are advised to **avoid trekking** in **glacier-prone areas**, refrain from taking **pictures** or **videos near glaciers**, and strictly avoid going **close** to **glacier sites** to prevent any **untoward eventuality**.
 - n. In-case of any eventuality, routine updates will be shared with NDMA.
6. **Press Information Department (PID) Only**. With the request to ensure wider circulation and public awareness.
7. Forwarded for information / necessary action, please.


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Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Defence (Defence Division)
Pakistan Meteorological Department
Sector: H-8/2, Islamabad.

Press Release:

Date: 23rd February, 2026
Time: 11:00 PST

Rising Temperatures May Accelerate Glacier Melt and Increase GLOF Risk in Northern Pakistan

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