

Pakistan Meteorological Department



Monthly Drought Bulletin For the Month of May 2026

Highlights

- Overall, rainfall during May 2026 remained below normal in most parts of the country, with above-normal rainfall limited to northern regions such as Gilgit-Baltistan, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and northeastern Punjab.
- Mean temperatures during May 2026 remained generally above normal across the country, with values ranging from up to 4°C above average in most regions.
- Considering the weather forecast for June 2026, near-normal to slightly below-normal rainfall is expected with above-normal temperatures nationwide.

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1. Monthly Rainfall and Temperature Analysis for the Month of May, 2026

During the month of May, rainfall was recorded over the northern and central parts of the country. Significant amounts of rainfall were received in the upper regions, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), upper and central Punjab, and northern Balochistan, as depicted in Figure 1. However, no rainfall was recorded over Sindh and southern Balochistan. Figure 2 illustrates the departure of monthly rainfall from the climatological normal (1991-2020). GB, northeastern areas of Punjab, and parts of southern KP received above-normal rainfall, whereas most other parts of the country experienced below-normal rainfall. Major amounts of rainfall recorded during the period are depicted in Figure 3.

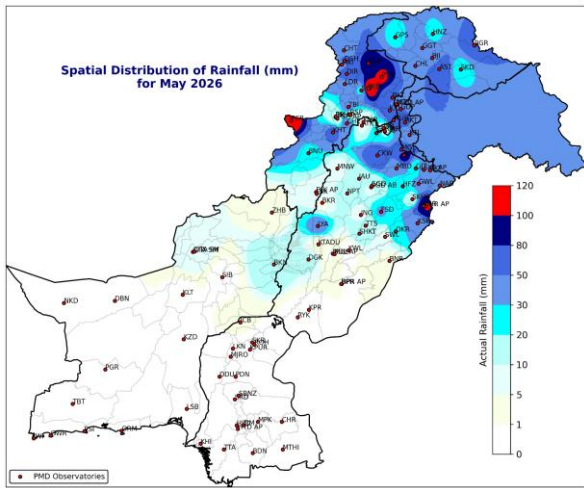


Figure 1: Spatial Distribution of Rainfall

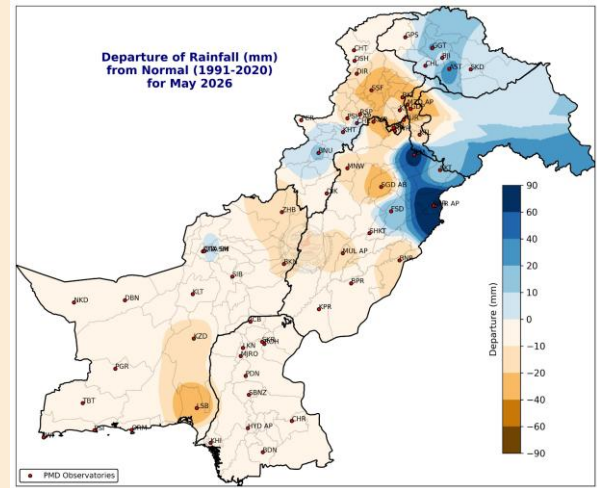


Figure 2: Departure of Rainfall from Normal

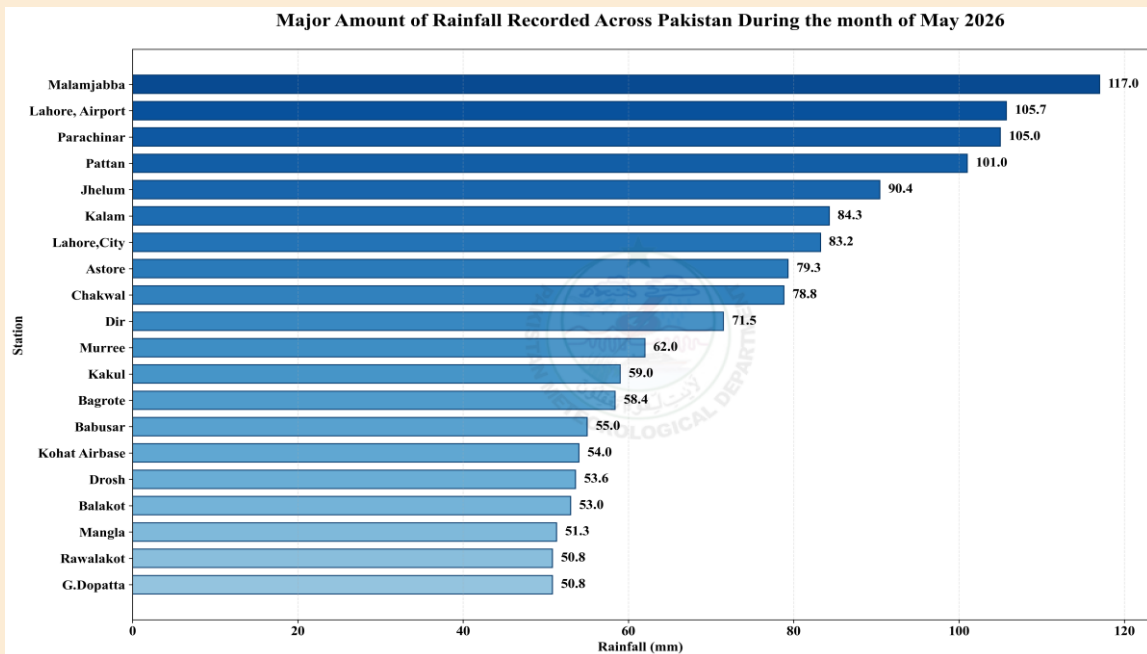


Figure 3: Major Amount of Rainfall (mm)

Figure 4 illustrates the spatial distribution of mean temperatures recorded at PMD stations during May 2026, highlighting significant regional variations across the country. Overall, mean temperatures ranged between 13°C and 39°C. Relatively lower temperatures, between 13°C and 29°C, were observed over upper parts of the country including northern Balochistan. In contrast, relatively higher temperatures prevailed over central and southern parts of the country, ranging from 29°C to 39°C.

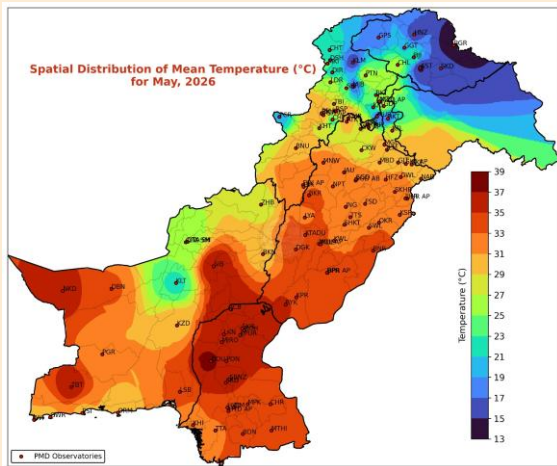


Figure 4: Monthly Mean Temperature (°C)



Figure 5: Monthly Departure from Normal Mean Temperature

Figure 5 illustrates the deviation of mean temperatures from the climatological normal (1991-2020), indicating above-normal temperatures over most parts of the country. Positive temperature anomalies reached up to 4°C; however, in most parts of the country, mean temperatures remained up to 3°C above normal. In contrast, parts of upper Punjab, AJK, and Gilgit-Baltistan experienced slightly below-normal temperatures, with negative anomalies of up to 1°C. Figures 6 and 7 present the monthly normal rainfall and mean temperature for May, respectively, based on the 1991-2020 reference period.

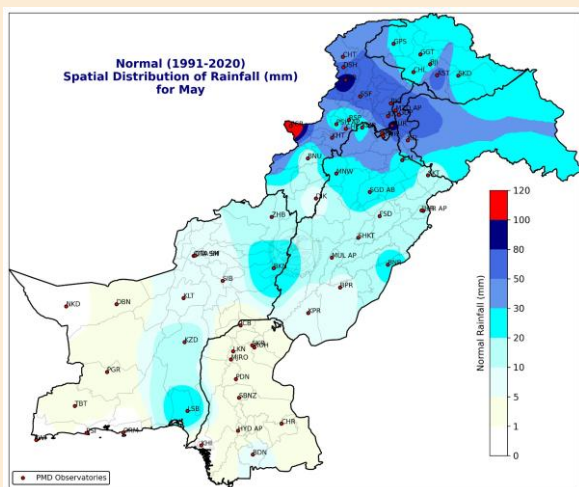


Figure 6: Monthly Normal Rainfall (mm)

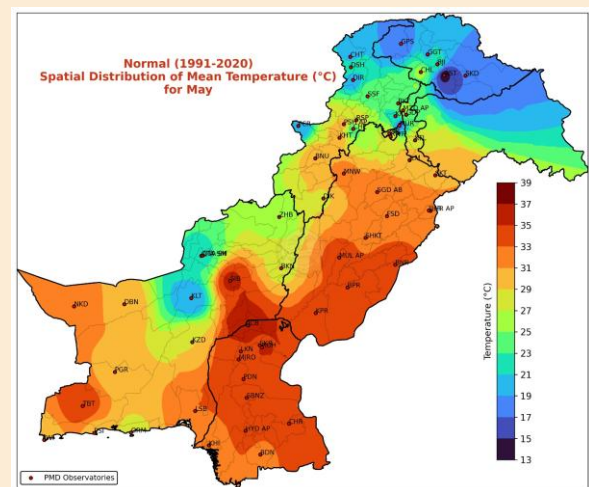


Figure 7: Monthly Normal Mean Temperature (°C)

2. Comparison of Actual to Normal Monthly Rainfall for May, 2026

Figure 8 presents a regional comparison of actual rainfall with the climatological normal (1991-2020) for May 2026, shown separately for different regions: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa [Figure 8(a)], Sindh [Figure 8(b)], Punjab [Figure 8(c)], Balochistan [Figure 8(d)], and Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir [Figure 8(e)]. Overall, rainfall across the country remained below normal during the month; however, positive anomalies were observed in some parts of the country.

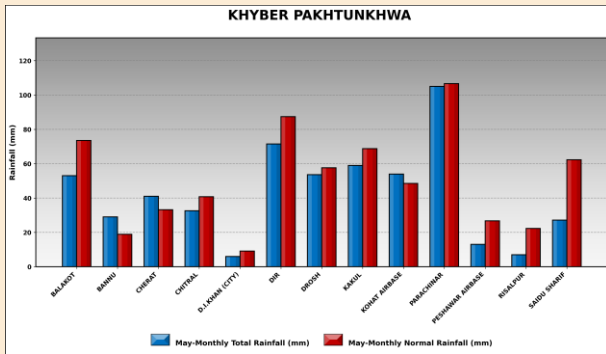


Figure 8a

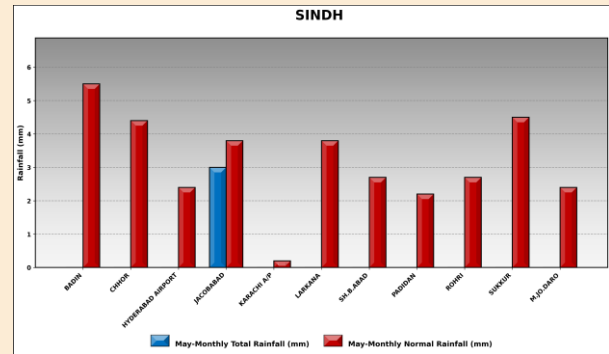


Figure 8b

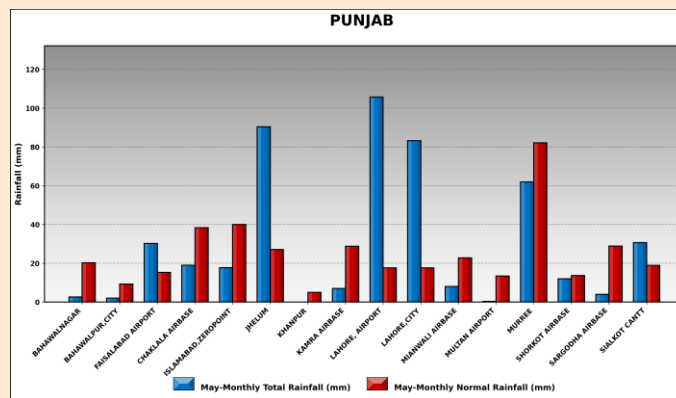


Figure 8c

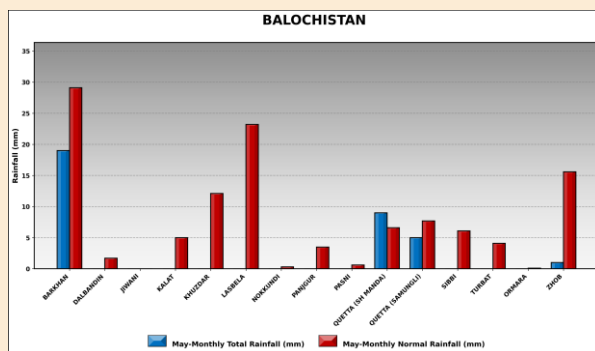


Figure 8d

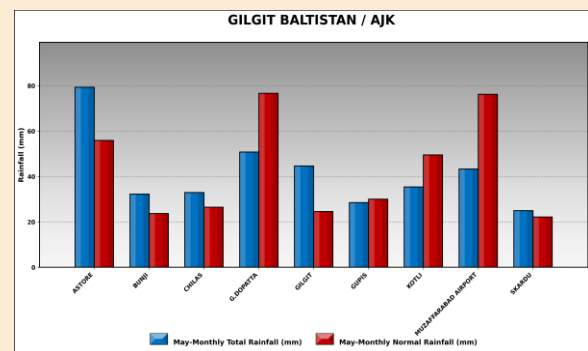


Figure 8e

3. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)

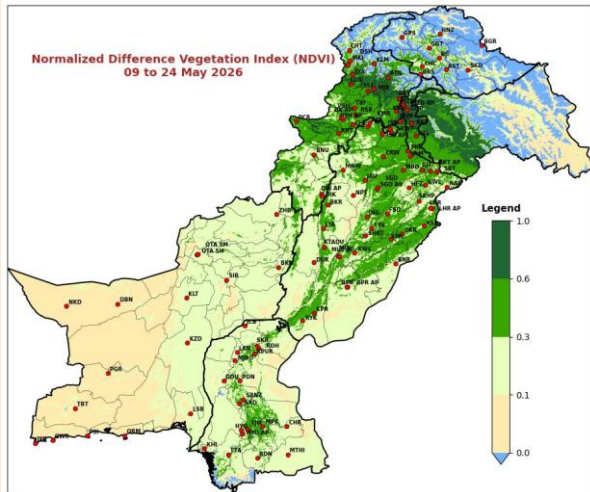


Figure 9: NDVI

Figure 9 presents the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) values for the period 09 to 24 May, 2026. Higher NDVI values were observed across AJK, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and along the Indus Basin, reflecting extensive vegetation cover in these regions. These conditions indicate healthy plant growth supported by adequate chlorophyll accumulation. However, western and southern Balochistan exhibited lower NDVI values.

4. Land Surface Temperature (LST)

Figure 10 depicts the Land Surface Temperature (LST) distribution for the period 09 to 16 May, 2026. During this period, most parts of the country recorded LST values ranging from 0°C to 55°C. Higher LST values, between 35°C and 55°C, were observed in parts of Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab.

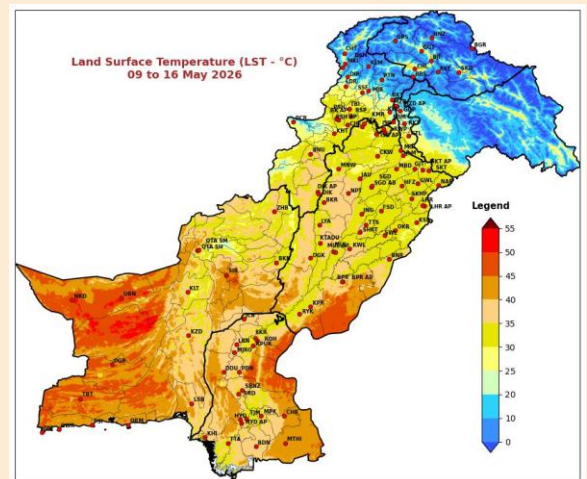


Figure 10: Land Surface Temperature (°C)

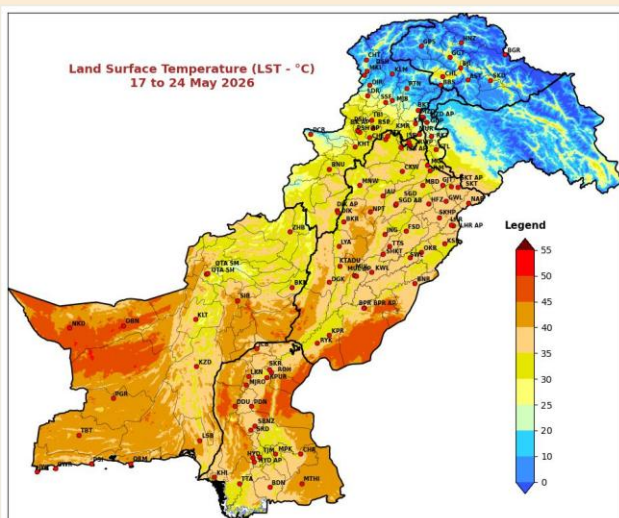


Figure 11: Land Surface Temperature (°C)

Figure 11 illustrates the Land Surface Temperature (LST) conditions from 17 to 24 May, 2026. During this period, a considerable increase in LST was observed in Punjab, Sindh and parts of Balochistan.

5. Temperature Vegetation Dryness Index (TVDI)

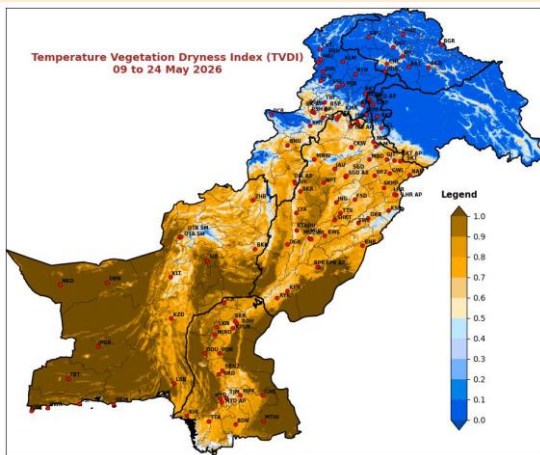


Figure 12: TVDI

Figure 12 presents the Temperature Vegetation Dryness Index (TVDI) from 09 to 24 May, 2026. The TVDI highlights dry-like conditions across the country, especially in Sindh and western/southwestern Balochistan and parts of Punjab. These elevated TVDI values reflect dryness and soil moisture deficits in these regions.

6. Length of Consecutive Dry Days up to 31st May, 2026

Figure 13 presents the maximum length of Consecutive Dry Days (CDDs) across the country. The longest CDDs, up to 72 days, are prevailing in Badin (Sindh). Moreover, CDDs have started to rise in southern Punjab, Sindh, and western Balochistan.

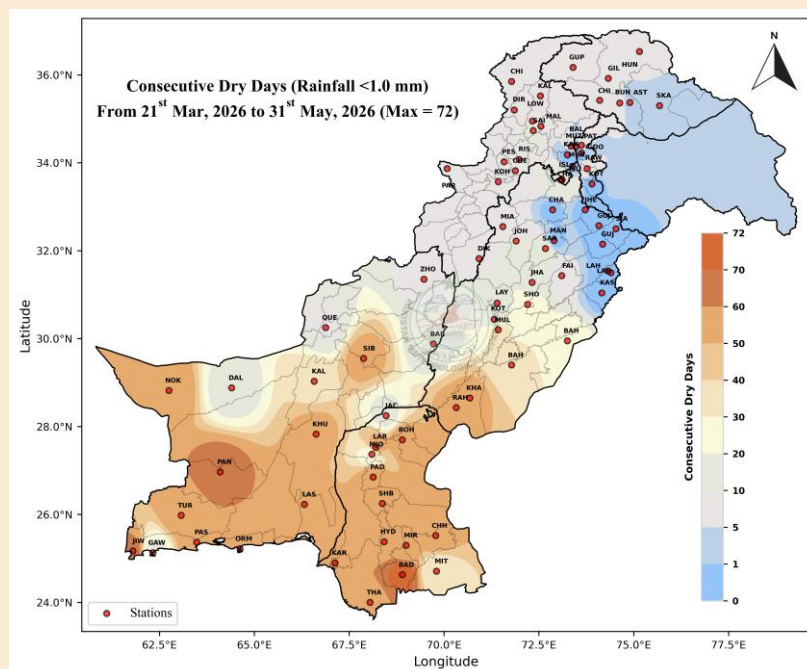


Figure 13: No. of consecutive dry days

7. Drought Monitor for the Month of May, 2026

Figure 14 illustrates the countrywide drought situation for May 2026, based on an integrated analysis of multiple drought-monitoring indicators and ground-based observations from meteorological stations. During the previous season, sufficient rainfall was received across the country including drought-affected districts of Balochistan. Consequently, normal conditions are now prevailing across the country.

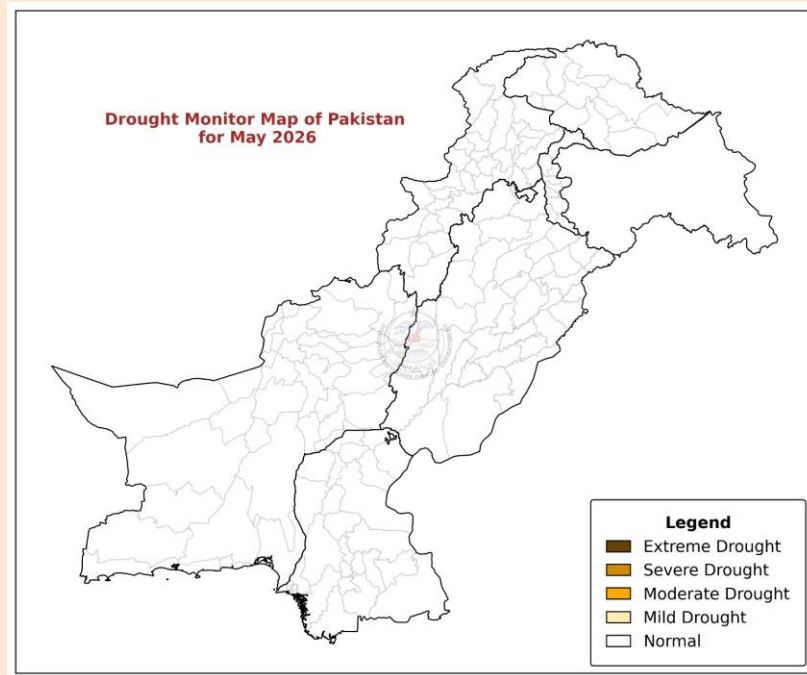


Figure 14: Drought Monitor of Pakistan for the month of May, 2026

8. Water Availability/ Dams Flow Data:

Figure 15 illustrates the water inflow, outflow, and storage levels of major reservoirs, including Mangla, Tarbela, Khanpur, Rawal, and Simly, during May 2026. The water level at Mangla Reservoir slightly increased during the month due to rainfall events. However, the water levels in Tarbela, Rawal, Khanpur, and Simly reservoirs slightly decreased owing to increased water demand during the summer season. The water levels at the major reservoirs, Tarbela and Mangla, averaged 1,454 feet and 1,164 feet, respectively.

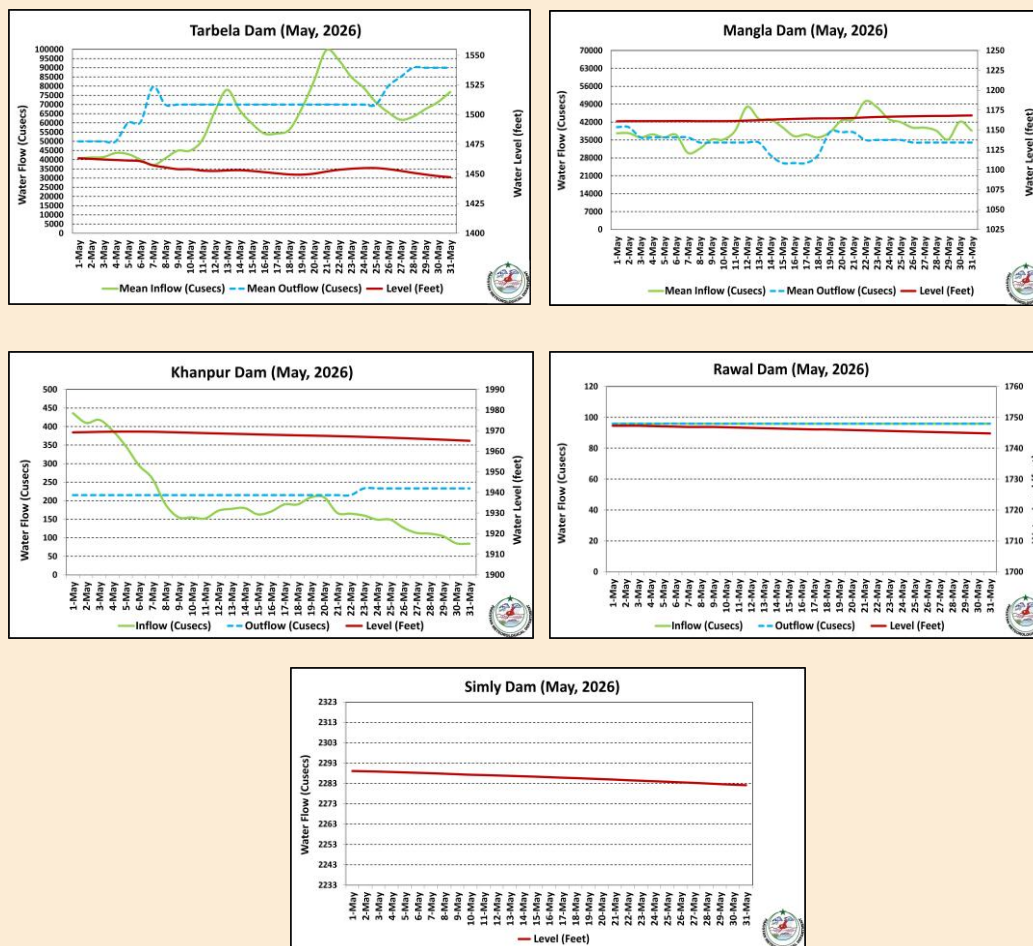


Figure 15: Water inflow, outflow and level of Tarbela, Mangla, Khanpur, Rawal and Simly Dams, May 2026

9. Weather Outlook for June, 2026

Near-normal to slightly below-normal rainfall is largely anticipated across the country during June 2026, with the most pronounced negative anomalies expected over northeastern Punjab and adjoining areas of Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In contrast, slightly above-normal rainfall is likely over the northern regions, including GilgitBaltistan and upper parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Near normal rainfall is anticipated over western mountainous regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and parts of northern Sindh. Mean temperatures are expected to remain above normal nationwide, with maximum departure over GilgitBaltistan, Kashmir and northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in June 2026.

10. Drought Outlook for June, 2026

Near-normal to slightly below-normal rainfall is anticipated during June 2026, along with above-normal temperatures across most parts of the country. Consequently, drought monitoring remains imperative.

11. Crop Condition & Advice for Farmers

- The harvesting and threshing of the Rabi wheat crop have reached completion across the southern and central plains. The agro-meteorological focus has transitioned entirely to the Kharif sowing cycle, specifically targeting the cultivation of cotton, sugarcane, and maize, alongside the initiation of rice nurseries.
- Like May, June is also characterized by heatwaves. High temperatures can cause significant heat stress to newly germinated Kharif seedlings, particularly cotton. Additionally, high temperatures can elevate evapotranspiration (ET) rates and cause physical damage to crops.
- Farmers are advised to complete Kharif crop sowing at the earliest, especially in Sindh and Punjab, and ensure necessary irrigation arrangements. In upper areas where wheat has reached full maturity, harvesting and post-harvest activities should be carried out while keeping PMD weather forecasts in view. Farmers in suitable rainfed areas of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh should complete peanut sowing in vacant lands, and pest-control sprays should be applied only as recommended by the relevant departments.

People and all concerned departments are advised to make efforts to save water and promote its judicious use.

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