



# FORTNIGHTLY DROUGHT BULLETIN

(1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2026)



## **National Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Centre**

Pakistan Meteorological Department, Pitras Bokhari Road, Post Box No. 1214,  
Sector H-8/2, Islamabad, Pakistan

URL: <https://ndmc.pmd.gov.pk/new/>

## Rainfall Distribution and Anomalies

From 1 to 15 May 2026, light to moderate rainfall was recorded in upper and central parts of the country. In contrast, Balochistan, Sindh and parts of southern Punjab remained dry. Figure 1 illustrates the spatial distribution of rainfall, based on data from meteorological observatories.

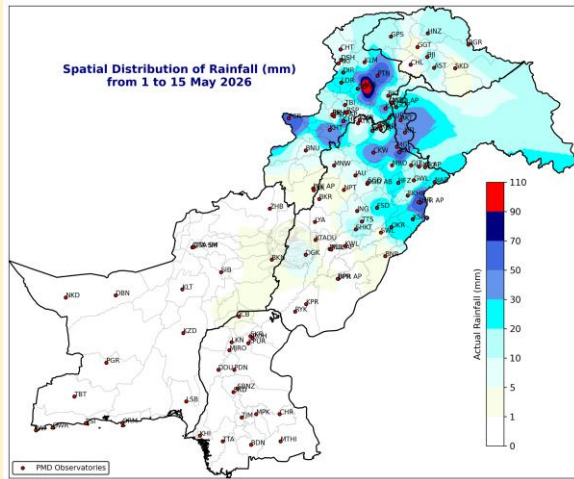


Figure 1: Spatial Distribution of Rainfall (mm)

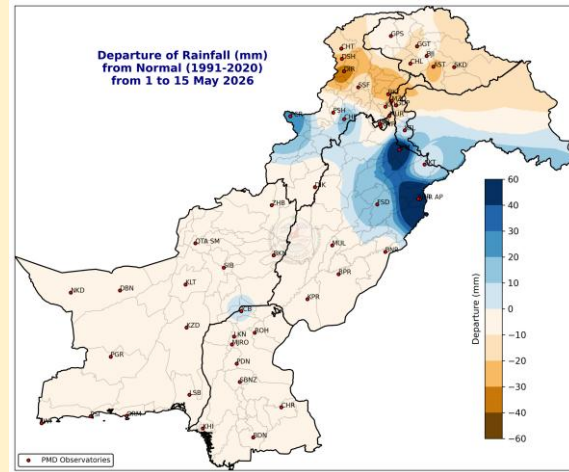


Figure 2: Departure of Rainfall (mm)

Figure 2 illustrates the departure of rainfall from normal (1991-2020) during the first half of May 2026. Most parts of the country received below-normal rainfall, whereas parts of upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and northeastern Punjab received above-normal rainfall.

## Mean Temperature Distribution and Anomalies

Figure 3 presents the deviation of mean temperatures for the first fortnight of May, 2026, from the climatic normal (1991-2020). Most parts of the country recorded above-normal temperatures. However, parts of KP and northern parts of Punjab recorded below-normal temperatures during this period. The departure of mean temperature ranged between  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $6^{\circ}\text{C}$  from normal.

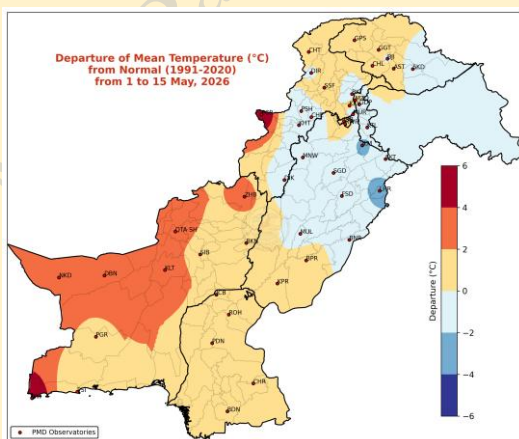


Figure 3: Departure of Mean Temperature( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

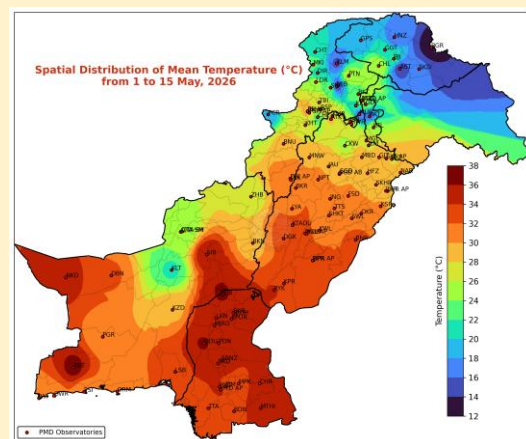


Figure 4: Spatial Distribution of Mean Temperature( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

Figure 4 illustrates the spatial distribution of mean temperatures across the country during this period, ranging between 12°C and 38°C. Relatively lowest temperatures were observed in the upper parts of the country, reflecting cooler conditions at higher elevations. In contrast, moderate temperatures prevailed across central parts of the country. The highest temperatures, reaching up to 38°C, were recorded in southern and western parts of the country.

### Climate Normals: Temperature and Rainfall

Figure 5 presents the long-term average rainfall distribution for 1-15 May, based on 30-year normal (1991-2020). Most of the country typically receives an average rainfall of 0 mm to 20 mm. However, upper parts of the country receive up to 70 mm of rainfall during this period. Figure 6 depicts the spatial distribution of mean temperature during the first fortnight of May, based on the climatological period (1991-2020). Mean temperatures range between 12°C and 36°C across the country. The lowest temperatures are observed in the mountainous regions, where values range between 12°C and 30°C, whereas the central and southern regions experience higher mean temperatures, typically between 31°C and 36°C.

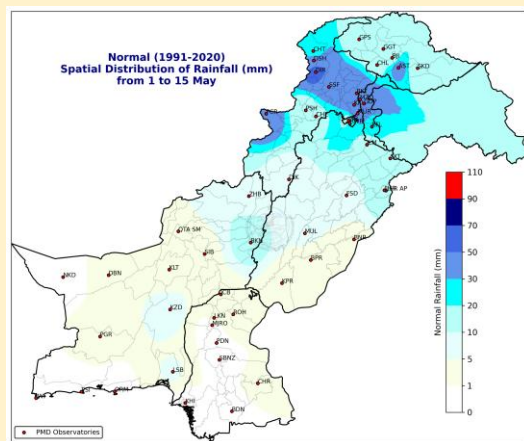


Figure 5: Normal Distribution of Rainfall(mm)

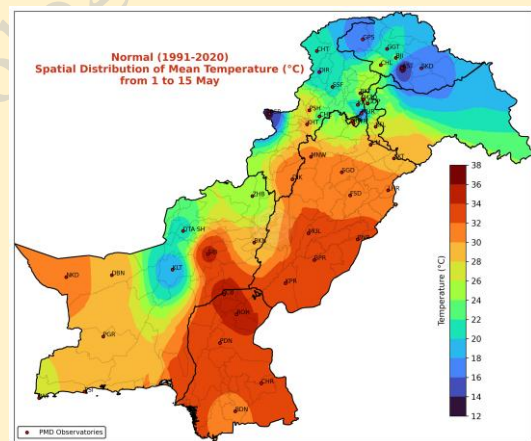


Figure 6: Normal Distribution of Mean Temperature(°C)

### Maximum Length of Consecutive Dry Days (CDD)

The Consecutive Dry Days (CDDs), calculated for the period from 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026 to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026, are illustrated in Figure 7. The maximum CDDs were recorded in Badin (56 days). In addition, CDDs have started to increase in western Balochistan and various parts of Sindh.

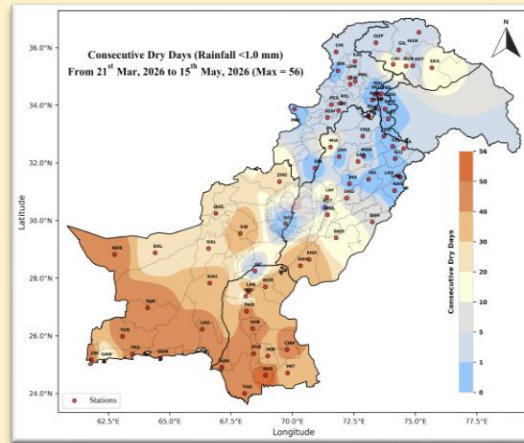


Figure 7: Spatial Distribution of Consecutive Dry Days

### Reservoir Water Level Dynamics in Early May, 2026

During the first fortnight of May 2026, water levels in Rawal, Simly and Khanpur dams almost remained constant during the period. The current levels (ft) as of 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2026, in Tarbela, Mangla, Khanpur, Simly and Rawal are 1451.5, 1164.1, 1968.0, 2286.1 and 1746.0 respectively.

### Weather Forecast for the Second Half of May

Mainly hot and dry weather is expected to prevail over most parts of the country, with very hot conditions in southern and central regions. However, partly cloudy weather with isolated rain-wind/thunderstorms is likely in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir, and adjoining hilly areas, mainly during the evening and night hours. Isolated heavy rainfall and hailstorms may also occur in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Kashmir.

### Summary

During the first half of May 2026, localized light-to-moderate rainfall in northern regions combined with predominantly above-normal temperature was recorded. However, regional disparities persist, with localized precipitation deficits remaining highly noticeable in Sindh, Balochistan, and southern Punjab. Dry spells have remained relatively brief in the rain-recipient upper parts of the country; however, parts of southern Sindh recorded significantly prolonged consecutive dry periods of up to 56 days in Badin. Moreover, the water levels in the reservoirs almost remained constant during the period.

Overall, these hydro-meteorological indicators delineate an increasingly polarized moisture landscape, wherein the convergence of escalating thermal demand and restricted precipitation underscores an elevated vulnerability to flash drought conditions. Thus, the close and continued monitoring, especially in the drier peripheral areas is imperative.