# FORTNIGHTLY DROUGHT WATCH BULLETIN

(1st to 15th March, 2025)


**Pakistan Meteorological Department**

**National Drought Monitoring Centre**

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## 1. Actual Rainfall Analysis during First Fortnight of March, 2025

The wide spread rainfall of moderate to heavy intensity was observed across Northern Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), northern parts of Baluchistan, Kashmir, and Gilgit Baltistan. The upper parts of KP and Kashmir received the highest rainfall. Figure No. 1 depicts the spatial distribution of rainfall from March 1-15, 2025. The chief amounts of rainfall recorded at various stations in Pakistan are listed in Table-1 below;

*Table 1: Chief amounts of rainfall (mm)*

| Rainfall Table | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **S. No** | **Station** | **Rainfall (mm)** | **S. No** | **Station** | **Rainfall (mm)** |
| 1. | Malam Jabba | 117.0 | 6. | Muzaffarabad Airport | 90.0 |
| 2. | Gari Dopatta | 99.4 | 7. | Kakul | 84.5 |
| 3. | Muzaffarabad City | 99.0 | 8. | Kalam | 81.2 |
| 4. | Dir | 92.0 | 9. | Murree | 72.5 |
| 5. | Pattan | 91.0 | 10. | Balakot | 72.0 |

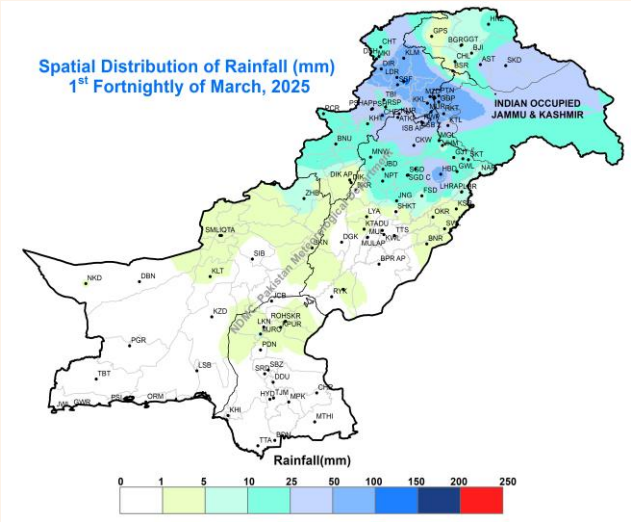


*Figure 2: Spatial distribution of rainfall (mm)*

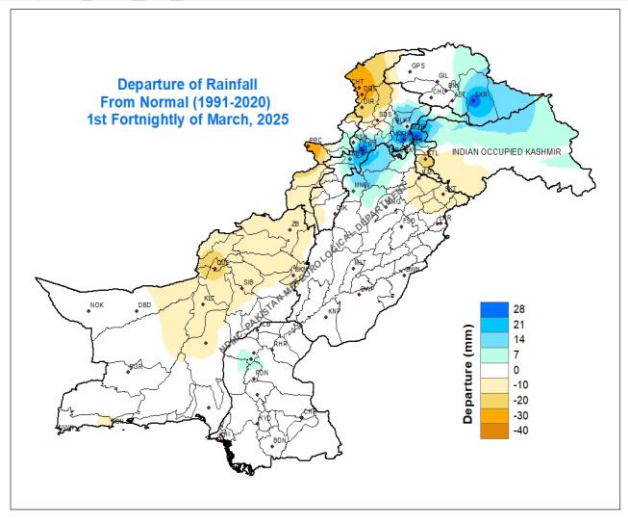


*Figure 2: Departure of rainfall (mm)*

## 2. Departure of Rainfall during First Fortnight of March, 2025

Figure 2 illustrates the deviation of observed rainfall during the first fortnight of March 2025, from the 30 years Normal of 1991-2020. Upper and Lower KP, Baluchistan, lower parts of Kashmir and potohars and Sialkot region of Punjab province experienced below-normal rainfall. While upper parts of Kashmir, Hazara and Peshawar Division of Khyber Pakhtookhwa and Baltistan division of GB recorded above-normal rainfall. The highest deviation of rainfall was observed over Muzaffarabad, Gari Dopatta regions of AJ&K, Swat, Hazara and Kohistan in KP, Quetta and Kalat in Balochistan Province. The rest of the country remained dry.

The Average of thirty years (1991-2020) distribution of rainfall (mm), during the first fortnight of March is given in Figure 3. The normal rainfall ranges between 0 to 20 (mm) across most of the parts of Pakistan. Whereas it ranges between 40 to 120 (mm) in Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Potohar region.

Normal distribution of temperature for the first fortnight of March for the period 1991-2020 is shown in Figure 4. It indicates the lower half of Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh Province as hot region ranging between 20-25 °C, while rest of the country have moderate temperature conditions.

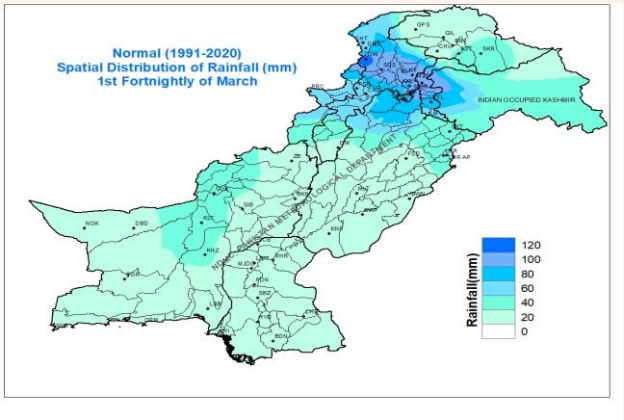


*Figure 3: Normal distribution of rainfall (mm)*

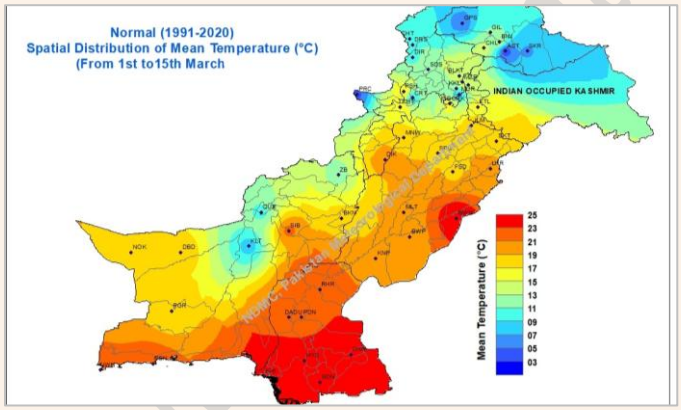


*Figure 4: Normal distribution of mean Temperature (°C)*

## 3. Mean Temperature Analysis during the First Fortnight of March, 2025

Figure 5 indicates the spatial distribution of mean temperatures (°C) during the first fortnight of March 2025. The lowest mean temperatures were recorded in the upper Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan. While moderate temperatures were observed in the rest of the parts of the country except Makran, Lasbella division and southern half of the Sindh Province.

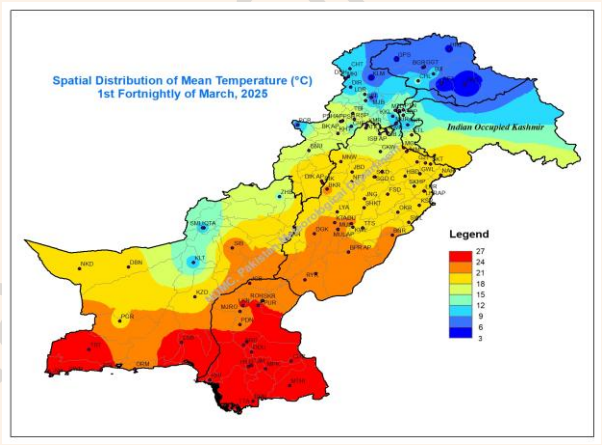


*Figure 5: Spatial distribution of the Mean Temperature (°C)*

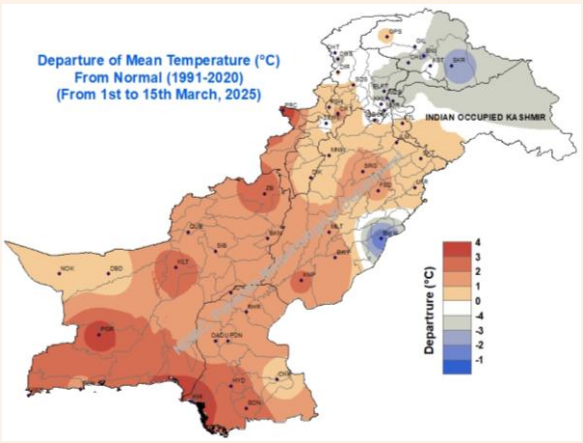


*Figure 6: Departure of Mean Temperature (°C) from the Normal (1991-2020)*

## 4. Departure of Temperature during the First Fortnight of March, 2025

Figure 6 shows the departure of mean temperatures from the normal (1991-2020) during the first fortnight of March 2025. Temperatures were 1-4°C above normal in most parts of the country, except in Bahawalnagar and Skardu, it remained 1-2°C below normal.

## 5. Maximum Length of Consecutive Dry Days (CCD)

The maximum length of the dry spell is determined by days receiving less than one (1) mm of rainfall. Figure 7 illustrates the spatial distribution of Consecutive Dry Days (CDD) in distict parts of the country. The highest number of consecutive dry days was recorded in Turbat (221 days), while Lesbella and Sindh experienced 140-211 number of consecutive dry days.

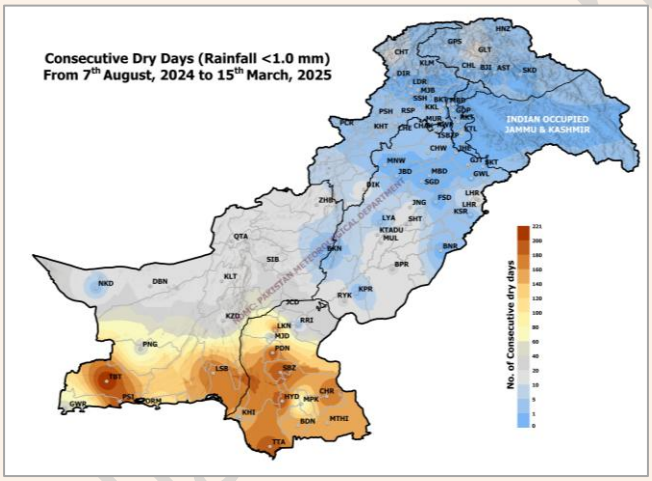


*Figure 7: Spatial Distribution of Dry Days Spell*

## 6. Drought Situation Analysis

Upper and Lower KP, northern Baluchistan, southern Kashmir, and upper Punjab experienced below-normal rainfall, while upper Kashmir, central KP, and the Baltistan division recorded above-normal rainfall. The largest positive deviations were observed in Kashmir, Murree, KP, Quetta, and Kalat, while the rest of the country remained dry.

The mean temperatures remained 1-4°C above normal in most of the parts of the country. While Bahawalnagar and Skardu experiencing 1-2°C below normal temperatures. The length of Consecutive Dry Days significantly increased in Turbat, Lesbella, and Sindh province.

Given the ongoing period of below-normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures, drought conditions are likely to upgrade to mild, in the already affected areas of Sindh and Baluchistan. Residents and businesses are urged to reduce water consumption by implementing water-saving measures such as fixing leaks, using

water-efficient appliances, and limiting lawn and garden watering to early morning or late evening to minimize evaporation.

Considering the current climatic conditions, all concerned stakeholders in these areas are advised to stay updated to weather advisories and adjust disaster risk reduction plans accordingly.