



FORTNIGHTLY DROUGHT BULLETIN

(1st to 15th January, 2026)



National Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Centre

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Sector H-8/2, Islamabad, Pakistan

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

Rainfall Distribution and Anomalies:

From 1 to 15 January 2026, rainfall was recorded on some stations including upper and central KP, AJK, parts of Punjab and southeastern Sindh. Whereas, the other parts of the country remained dry. Figure 1 illustrates the spatial distribution of rainfall, based on data from meteorological observatories.

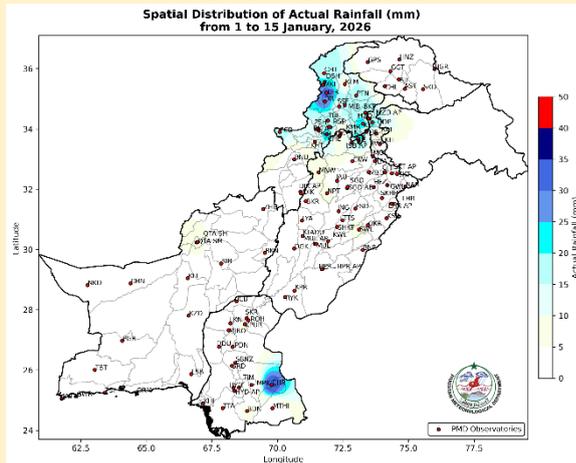


Figure 1: Spatial Distribution of Rainfall (mm)

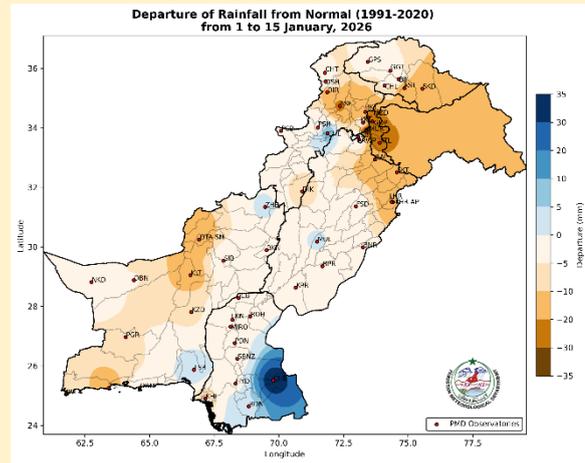


Figure 2: Departure of Rainfall (mm)

Figure 2 illustrates the departure of rainfall from normal (1991-2020) during the first half of January 2026. Below normal rainfall of up to -35 mm was observed in most parts of the country with significant anomalies in upper parts of the country. However, southeastern Sindh received above normal rainfall during the period.

Mean Temperature Distribution and Anomalies:

Figure 3 presents the fortnightly deviation of mean temperature from the climatic normal (1991-2020), indicating values ranging from -8°C to 4°C. During this period, most parts of the country experienced temperatures ranging from -2°C to 2°C. However, Islamabad received below normal temperature of up to -7°C.

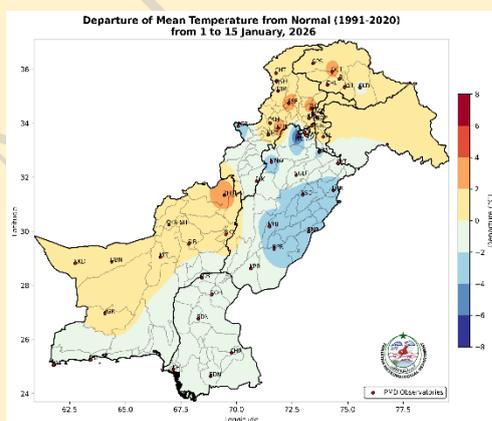


Figure 3: Departure of Mean Temperature(°C)

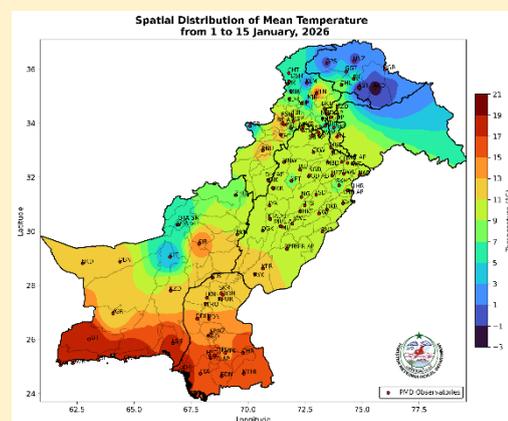


Figure 4: Spatial Distribution of Mean Temperature(°C)

Figure 4 illustrates the spatial distribution of mean temperatures across the country during this period, ranging between -3°C and 21°C . The lowest average 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 21°C , were recorded in southern parts of the country.

Climate Normals: Temperature and Rainfall

Figure 5 presents the long-term average rainfall distribution for 1-15 January, based on 30-year normal (1991-2020). Most of the upper and central parts of the country typically receive average rainfall of 5 mm to 50 mm. In contrast, parts of Balochistan, southern Punjab and Sindh, generally remain predominantly dry.

Figure 6 depicts the spatial distribution of mean temperature during the first fortnight of January, based on the climatological period (1991-2020). Mean temperatures range between -3°C and 21°C across the country. The lowest temperatures are observed in the mountainous regions, where values range between -3°C and 7°C , whereas the central and southern regions experience higher mean temperatures, typically between 7°C and 21°C .

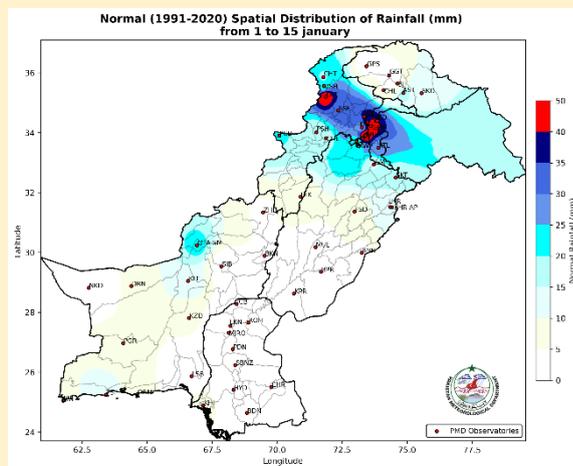


Figure 5: Normal Distribution of Rainfall(mm)

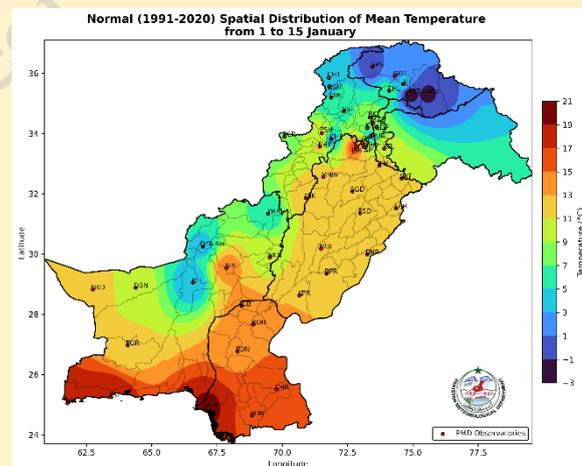


Figure 6: Normal Distribution of Mean Temperature($^{\circ}\text{C}$)

Maximum Length of Consecutive Dry Days (CDD)

The Consecutive Dry Days (CDD), calculated for the period from 11 September 2025 to 15 January 2026, are illustrated in Figure 7. The maximum CDD was recorded at Sibi (127 days), followed by Thatta and Shaheed Benazirabad (106 days each). In contrast, CDD values across most parts of the country range between 0 and 20 days, reflecting the recent rainfall spells.

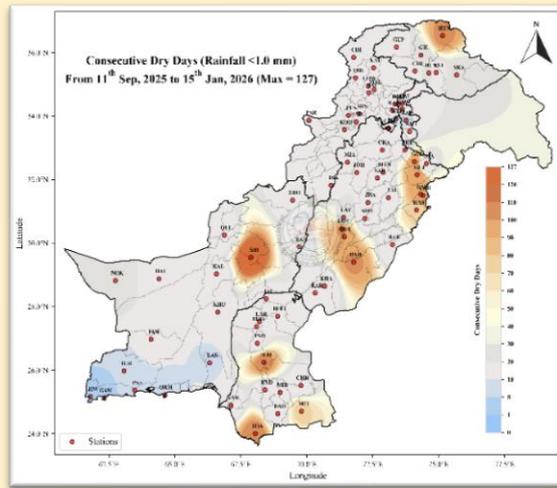


Figure 7: Spatial Distribution of Dry Days Spell

Reservoir Water Level Dynamics in Early January, 2026

During the first fortnight of January 2026, water levels major and minor reservoirs almost remain constant. The current level in Tarbela, Mangla, Khanpur, Simly and Rawal is 1492.0, 1200.7, 1963.3, 2295.9 and 1748.4 respectively.

Weather Forecast for the Second Half of January

A shallow westerly wave is expected to approach the upper parts of the country from 16 January, persist till 19 January, and strengthen from 20 January, affecting most parts by 21 January. Under its influence, rain-wind/thunderstorms with light to moderate snowfall are expected in Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir, and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from 16 (evening/night) to 19 January, while Murree and Galliyat may receive light rain/snow from 18-20 January. From 20-23 January, widespread rain-wind/thunderstorms are likely in Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir, Murree, Galliyat, Islamabad, Potohar region, central and southern Punjab divisions, and KP divisions, with heavy snowfall in upper KP, Murree, Galliyat, and Kashmir during 20-23 January. Additionally, rain-wind/thunderstorms are expected in Balochistan on 21-22 January and Sindh on 22-23 January, with moderate to heavy snowfall over northern Balochistan during this period.

Summary

During the first half of January 2026, rainfall was recorded at a few stations in upper and central Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, AJK, parts of Punjab, and southeastern Sindh, while other areas remained dry. Consequently, negative rainfall anomalies prevailed over the country, with deficits reaching up to -35 mm, particularly pronounced in the upper regions. In contrast, southeastern Sindh experienced above-normal rainfall during the period. Mean temperature anomalies ranged between -8°C and 4°C, however, Islamabad recorded a notable below-normal anomaly of up to -7°C. Spatially, the lowest mean temperatures were observed in the northern mountainous regions, while moderate conditions prevailed across central areas, and

higher temperatures, reaching up to 21°C, were recorded in southern parts of the country. Dry conditions were further reflected by the Consecutive Dry Days (CDD) analysis, which showed maximum CDD of 127 days recorded at Sibi, although recent rainfall reduced CDD values to 0-20 days in several regions. Water levels in major and minor reservoirs, including Tarbela, Mangla, Khanpur, Simly, and Rawal, remained almost constant during the first fortnight of January.

Overall, the prevailing rainfall deficits, extended dry spells, and stable but low reservoir inflows highlight the continued need for close drought monitoring and proactive water resource management, particularly in dry regions.

For drought update, visit NDMC official website: <https://ndmc.pmd.gov.pk/new/bulletins.php>

NDMC, Pakistan Meteorological Department