Pakistan Meteorological Department

Monthly Drought Bulletin
For the Month of February, 2026

Highlights

- Overall, most parts of the country received below-normal rainfall during the month, while departure of mean temperature ranged from 2°C to 4°C across the country while 4°C to 8°C in Chagai district (Balochistan) and parts of southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- For March 2026, near to slightly below-normal rainfall is anticipated across most parts of the country, with the most pronounced positive anomalies concentrated over northern regions and western Balochistan.
- Mean temperatures are likely to remain above normal nationwide, with highest positive departures expected over Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir.
- Considering weather forecast for March 2026, mild drought conditions are likely to remain prevalent in southwestern parts of Balochistan.

National Drought Monitoring and Early Warning Centre (NDMC)
Headquarters Office, Sector H-8/2, Islamabad
Tel: + (92-51) 9250598, Fax: + (92-51) 9250368,
URL: https://ndmc.pmd.gov.pk/new/

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Highlights of Weather for the Month of February, 2026

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

During the month, most of the western and upper parts of the country received rainfall, while Punjab, parts of Sindh and Gilgit-Baltistan remained dry as depicted in Figure 1. Figure 2 illustrates the departure of monthly rainfall from the climatological normal (1991-2020). Overall, most regions recorded below-normal rainfall. Whereas, upper Sindh, Karachi and Kalat received slightly above normal rainfall of up to 10 mm. Major amounts of rainfall recorded during the period are depicted in Figure 3.

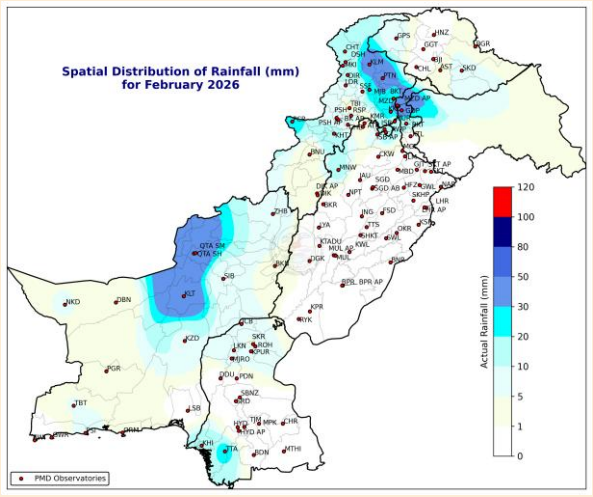

Figure 1: Spatial Distribution of Rainfall

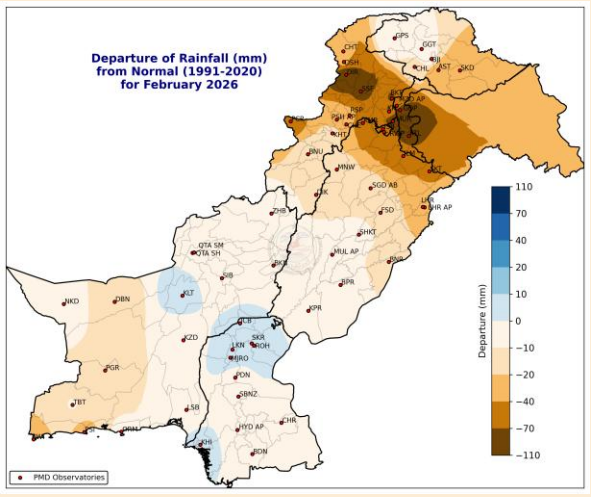

Figure 2: Departure of Rainfall from Normal

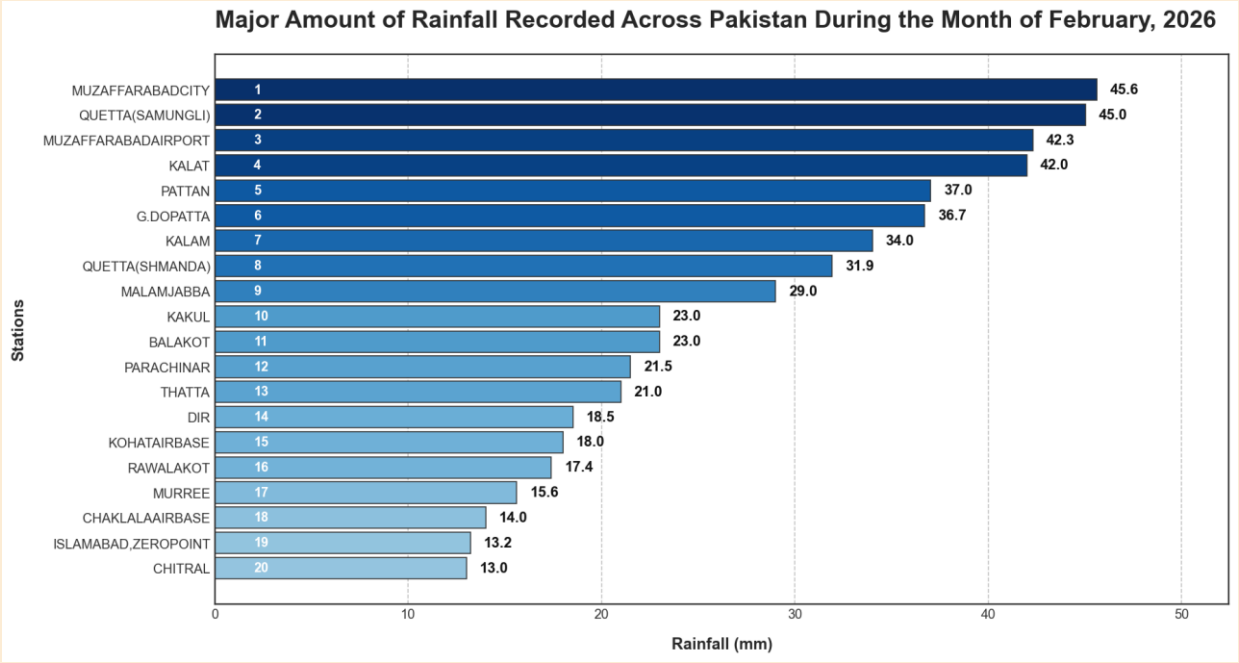

Figure 3: Major Amount of Rainfall (mm)

Figure 4 illustrates the spatial distribution of mean temperatures recorded at PMD stations during February 2026, highlighting significant regional variations across the country. Overall, mean temperatures ranged between 2°C and 24°C. Relatively lower temperatures, between 2°C and 18°C, were observed over parts of Balochistan, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, AJK, and Gilgit-Baltistan. In contrast, relatively higher temperatures prevailed across central and southern Punjab, Sindh, and coastal areas of Balochistan, where mean values ranged between 18°C and 24°C.

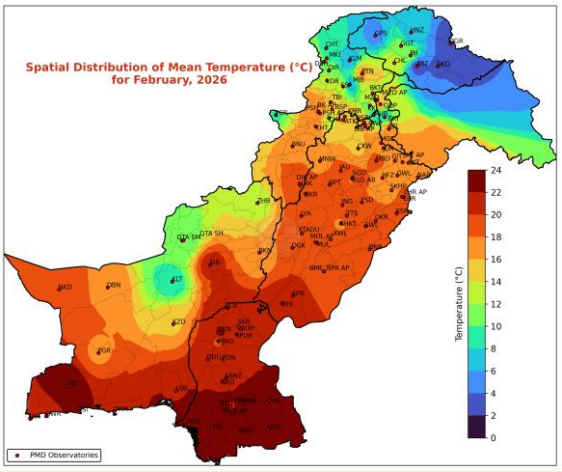

***Figure 4**: Monthly Mean Temperature (°C)*

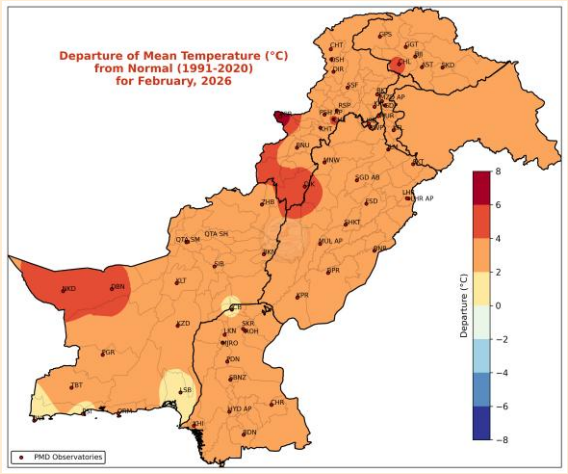

***Figure 5**: Monthly Departure from Normal Mean Temperature*

Figure 5 illustrates the deviation of mean temperatures from the climatological normal (1991-2020), indicating above-normal temperatures countrywide, with maximum positive anomalies of up to 8°C however, in most parts of the country, above-normal temperature ranged between 2°C and 4°C. Figures 6 and 7 present the monthly normal rainfall and mean temperature for February, respectively, based on the 1991-2020 reference period.

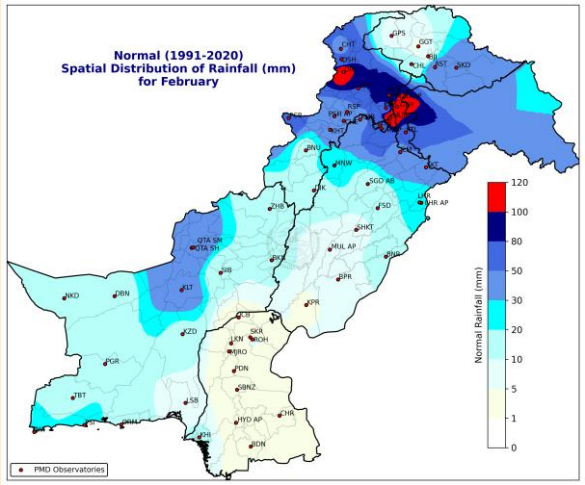

***Figure 6**: Monthly Normal Rainfall (mm)*

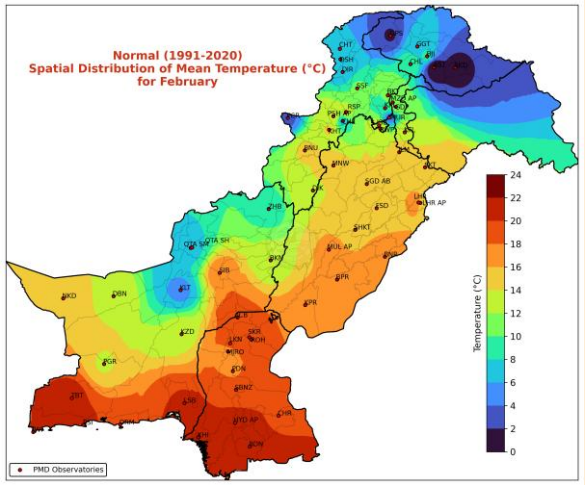

***Figure 7**: Monthly Normal Mean Temperature (°C)*

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

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

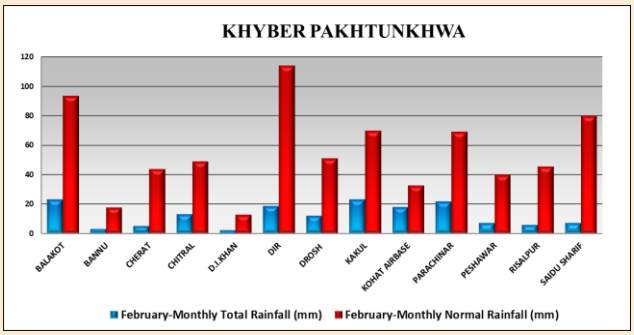

Figure 8a

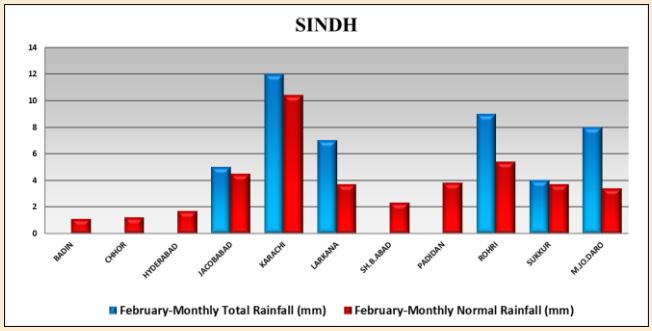

Figure 8b

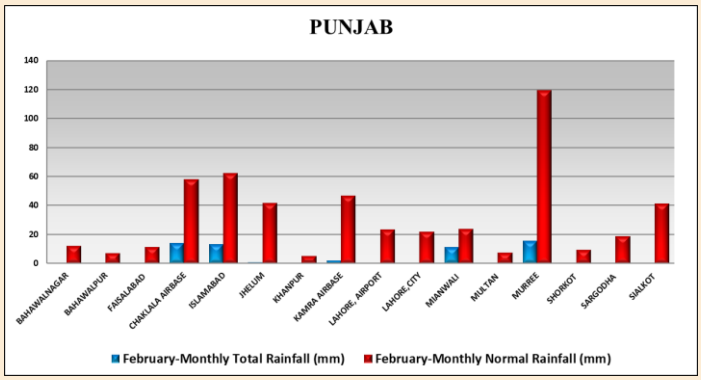

Figure 8c

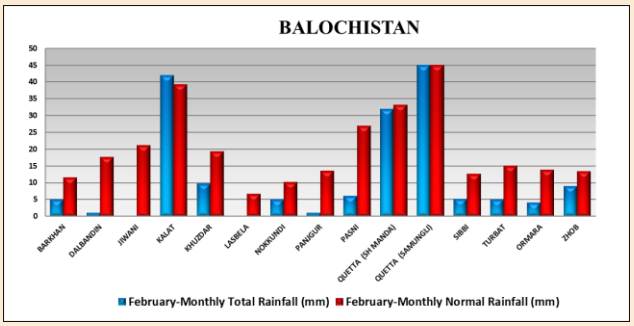

Figure 8d

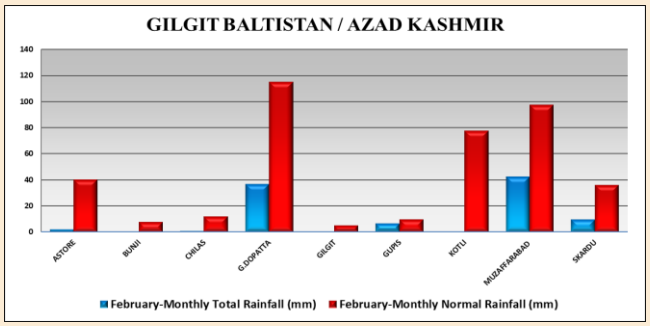

Figure 8e

3. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)

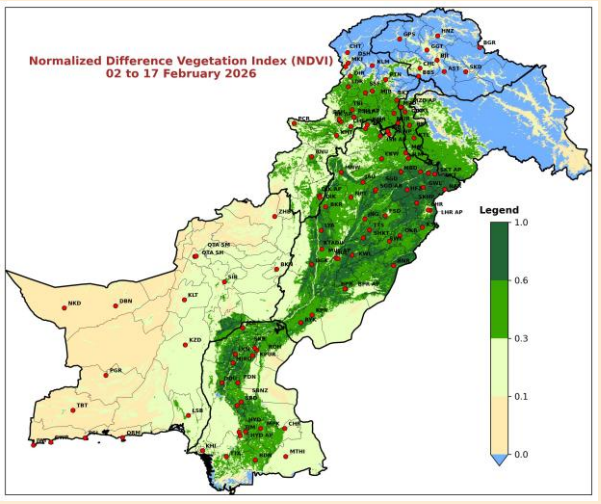

Figure 9: NDVI

Figure 9 presents the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) values for the period 02 to 17 February, 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 Balochistan exhibited low NDVI values.

4. Land Surface Temperature (LST)

Figure 10 depicts the Land Surface Temperature (LST) distribution for the period 02 to 09 February, 2026. During this period, most parts of the country recorded LST values ranging from 0°C to 20°C. Higher LST values, between 20°C and 30°C, were observed in parts of Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab.

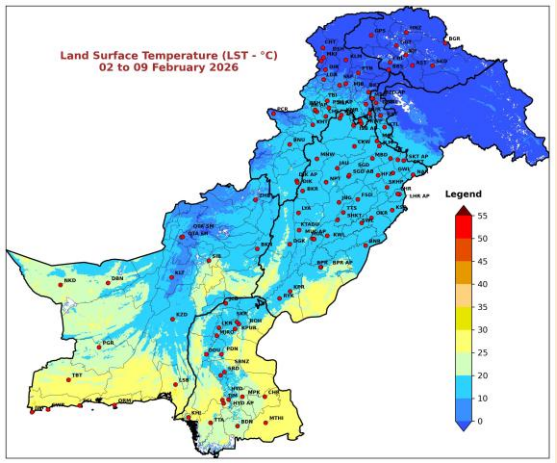

Figure 10: Land Surface Temperature (°C)

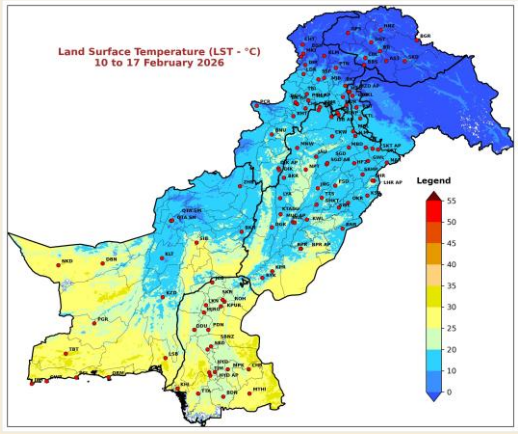

Figure 11: Land Surface Temperature (°C)

Figure 11 illustrates the Land Surface Temperature (LST) conditions from 10 to 17 February 2026. During this period, a considerable increase in LST was observed in Balochistan, Sindh and parts of Punjab.

5. Temperature Vegetation Dryness Index (TVDI)

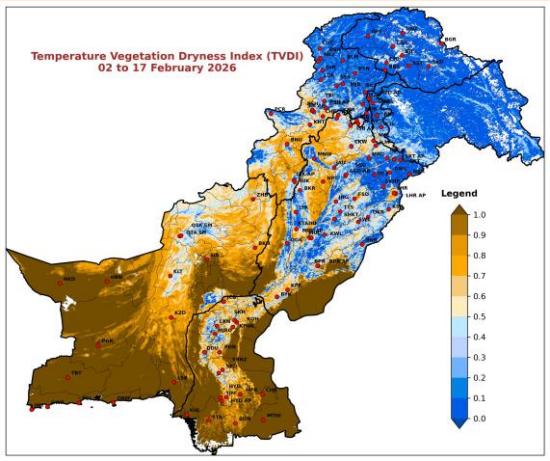

Figure 12: TVDI

Figure 12 presents the Temperature Vegetation Dryness Index (TVDI) from 02 to 17 February, 2026. The TVDI highlights dry-like conditions across the country, especially in Sindh and western/southwestern Balochistan. These elevated TVDI values reflect dryness and soil moisture deficits in these regions.

6. Length of Consecutive Dry Days up to February 28, 2026

Figure 13 presents the maximum length of Consecutive Dry Days (CDD) across the country. Recent rainfall events have partially broken the dry spell in western Balochistan. The longest CDD was recorded at Hunza, 147 days. In other parts of the country, CDD ranges from 10 to 40 days.

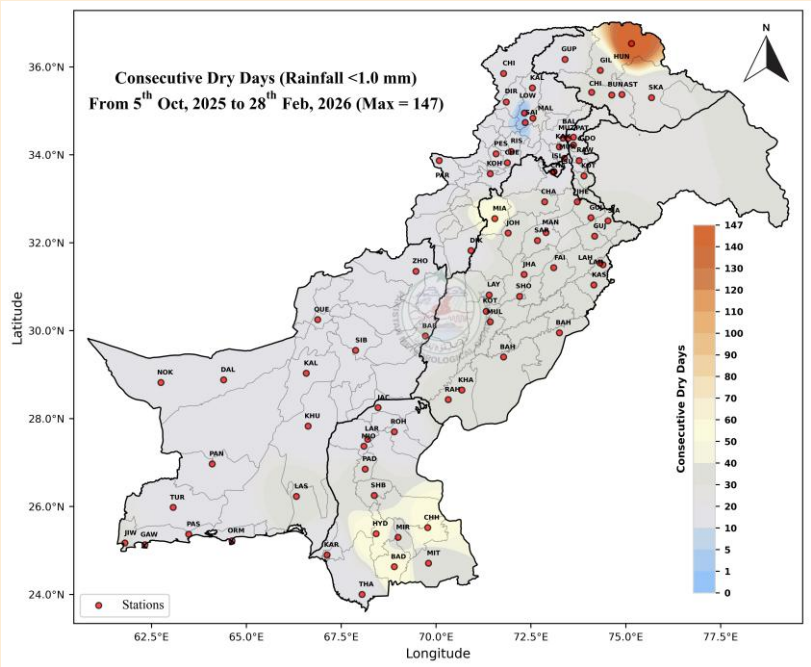

Figure 13: No. of consecutive dry days

7. Drought Monitor for the Month of February, 2026

Figure 14 illustrates the countrywide drought situation for February 2026, based on an integrated analysis of multiple drought-monitoring indicators and ground-based observations from meteorological stations. The cumulative rainfall deficit remains substantial in southwestern Balochistan. Consequently, mild drought conditions continue to persist across these regions.

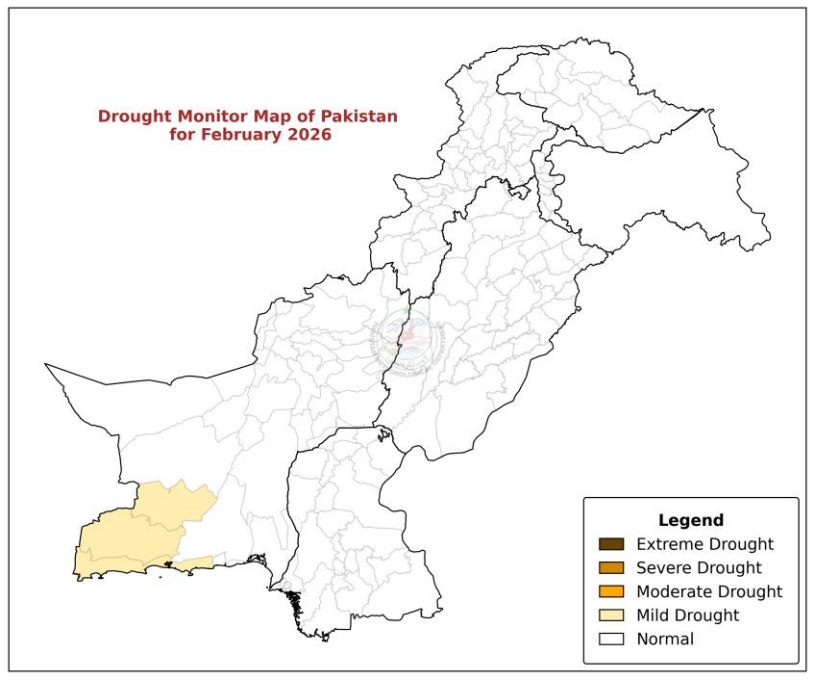

Figure 14: Drought Monitor of Pakistan for the month of February, 2026

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 the month. The water level declined in Tarbela, Mangla, Khanpur and Simly dams, whereas it remained constant in Rawal dam. Currently, the water levels at the key reservoirs, Tarbela and Mangla, stand at 1,468 feet and 1,164 feet, respectively. Therefore, sufficient water is available in these reservoirs to meet irrigation and drinking water requirements.

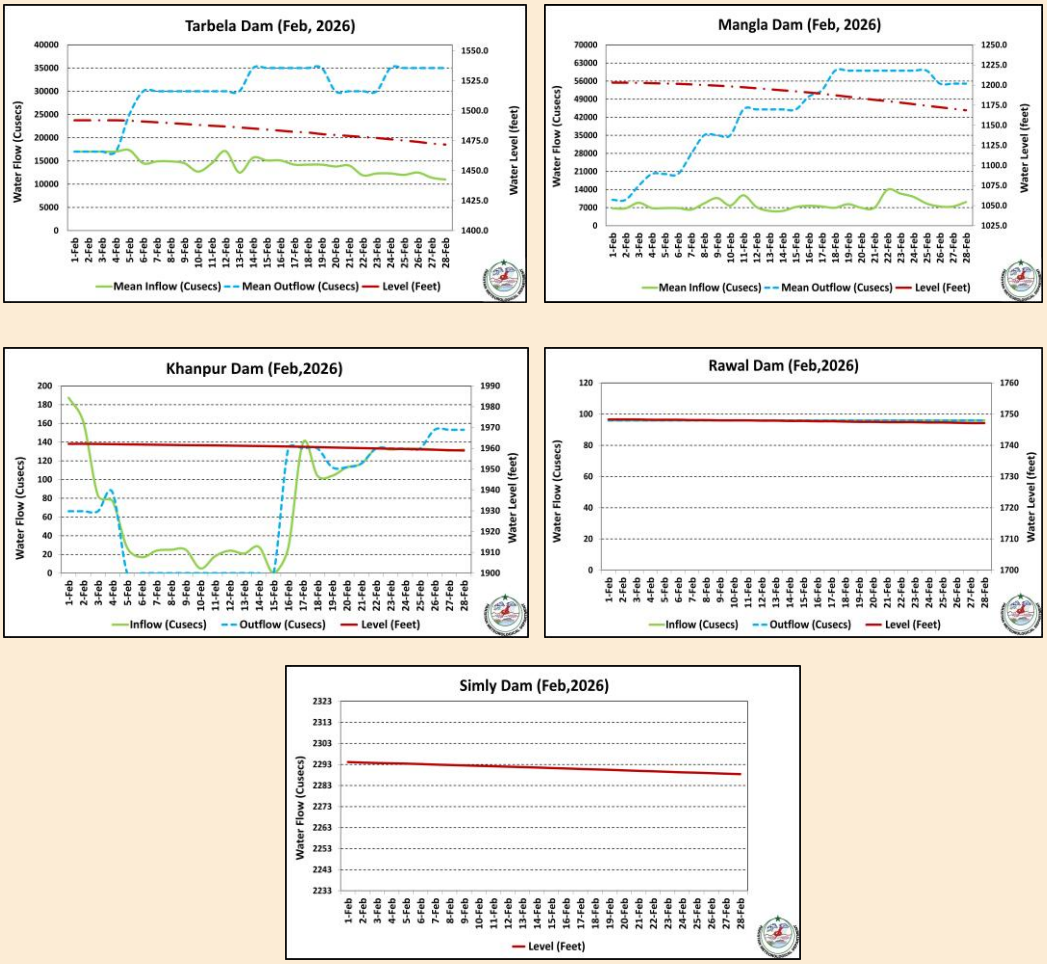

Figure 15: Water inflow, outflow and level of Tarbela, Mangla, Khanpur, Rawal and Simly Dams, February 2026

9. Weather Outlook for March, 2026

A general tendency for near to slightly below normal rainfall is anticipated across most parts of the country during March 2026, with the most pronounced negative anomalies concentrated over northern regions, including Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir, northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northern Punjab and parts of western Balochistan, indicating a relative suppression of spring precipitation in these regions. Mean temperatures are expected to remain above normal nationwide, with maximum departure over Gilgit Baltistan, Kashmir and northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in March 2026.

10. Drought Outlook for March, 2026

Near-normal to slightly below-normal rainfall along with above-normal temperature is anticipated during March 2026. Drought conditions are therefore likely to remain prevalent over southwestern Balochistan.

11. Crop Condition & Advice for Farmers

- The wheat crop has progressed from the vegetative phase and is currently in the critical heading, flowering, and grain-filling stages across most plains, while it is approaching maturity in the southern parts of the country (Sindh). At this stage, favorable temperatures and adequate soil moisture are vital for optimal grain development and yield.
- Farmers are advised to closely monitor weather forecasts, as March is a transitional month. The risk of frost and dense fog has subsided; however, sudden spikes in daytime temperatures can induce heat stress, potentially leading to grain shrinking. Additionally, farmers should remain vigilant regarding windstorms and hailstorms associated with spring westerly disturbances, which can cause severe lodging (flattening) of the standing crop.
- Following the predominantly dry conditions observed in late February across several regions, timely irrigation is highly recommended, particularly during the critical grain-filling stage, to prevent moisture stress. In areas with persistent below-normal rainfall, specifically in the drought-prone districts of western/southwestern Balochistan and rain-fed belts, efficient water management and moisture conservation techniques remain critical to maintain soil health and prevent yield losses.

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