WMO Third Pole RCC Network
(In Demonstration Phase)

Monthly Climate Bulletin in the Third Pole Region
June 2026

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Highlights

- In June 2026, most of the Third Pole Core Region (TPCR[1]) was dominated by near-normal surface air temperature (SAT), while the SAT anomalies were obviously above normal over the northern Third Pole (TP) region.

- The total precipitation in June exceeded more than twice that of the normal in some areas of the western TPCR and the southwestern part of Tarim Basin. In contrast, localized areas of the upper-middle Helmand River basin and the Ganges Plain experienced precipitation deficits of exceeding 80% relative to the monthly normal.

- The snow cover extent (SCE) in June declined to nearly half of that in May, with most of the remaining snow cover concentrated in the TPCR. Within the TPCR, SCE exhibited a spatial pattern of more in the west and less in the east, and was 15.2% higher than the 2005-2020 average for June.

- Persistent heatwaves intermittently affected parts of northern and central India. Meanwhile, rainstorms struck Kyrgyzstan and Southwest China.

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[1] TPCR refers to the region with elevation above 2000 m within the TPRCC-Network service domain, i.e. the region within black contour in Figures 1-3.

1. Monthly Overview

1.1 Temperature

In June 2026, the surface air temperature (SAT) over the TPCR was dominated by near-normal anomalies, with the exception of its western part, where positive anomalies of 1-3℃ prevailed. Actually, the above-normal SAT covered most of the northwestern TP region, with anomalies in localized areas exceeding 4℃. In contrast, negative anomalies of 1-3℃ were primarily observed over the northeastern and southwestern TP regions (Figure 1).

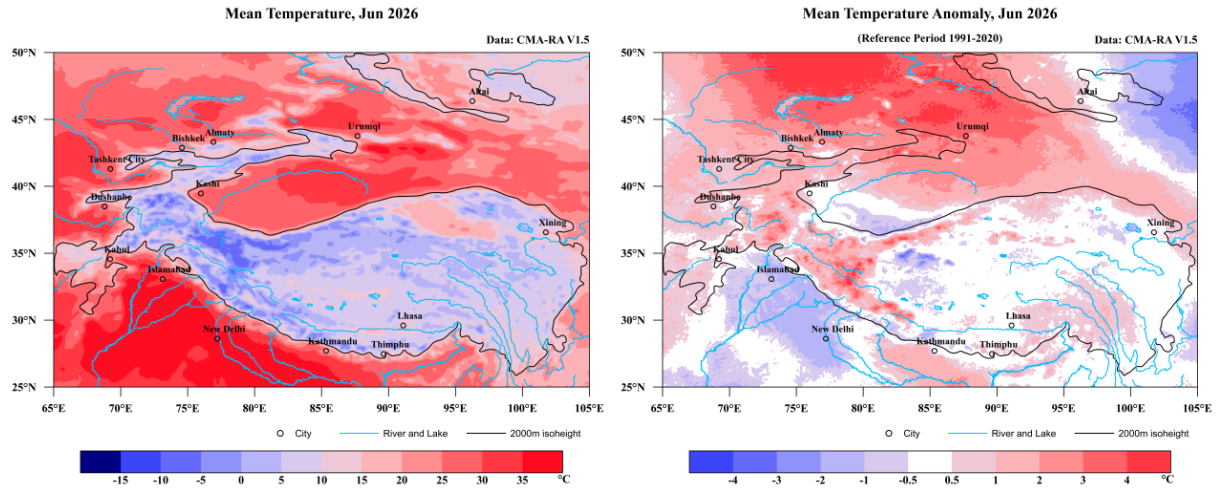

Figure 1 Monthly mean surface air temperature (left) and anomalies (relative to 1991-2020, right) in June 2026. *Data source: CMA-RA V1.5*

1.2 Precipitation

For the month, the distribution of precipitation anomalies was heterogeneous. Total precipitation over most of the TPCR and the northwestern TP region was above normal, with some areas in the western TPCR and the southwestern Tarim Basin adjacent to its north receiving more than twice that of the normal amount. In contrast, some areas in the northeastern and southwestern TP region, as well as the central section along the southern edge of TPCR, experienced precipitation deficits of 20% to 50% relative to the normal, with specific areas of the upper-middle Helmand River basin and the Ganges Plain recording a reduction of over 80% (Figure 2).

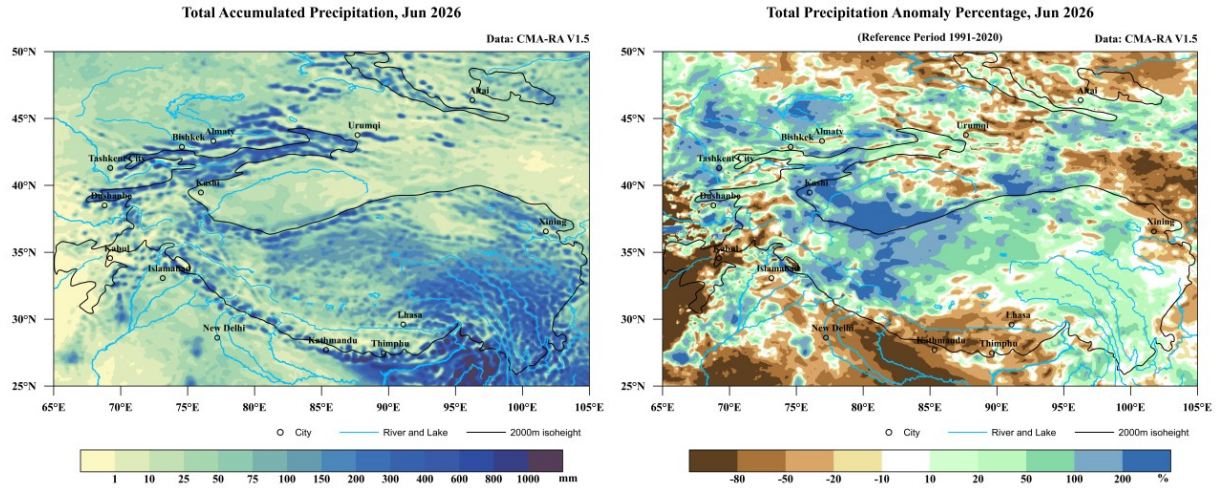

Figure 2 Monthly precipitation totals (left) and anomalies by percentage (right, relative to 1991-2020) in June 2026.
Data source: CMA-RA V1.5

1.3 Snow Cover

In June 2026, the snow cover extent (SCE) was almost only half of that in May, covering 0.88×10^6 km^2 and 0.85×10^6 km^2 over the TP region and TPCR, respectively, which were 13.6% and 15.2% higher than the 2005-2020 average for June, respectively. Spatially, the number of snow cover days (NSCD) remained over 20 days in the western and part of northern TPCR, as well as the region along the Himalayas, while NSCD in most other area shrunk quickly to below 10 days or vanished. The abnormal distribution in June was quite different from that in May. The positive anomalies in the western TPCR have been developing, while most of the other areas transitioned from positive-dominated anomalies in May to negative-dominated anomalies in June. Negative abnormalities in the eastern Nyenchen Tanglha Mountains continued to develop (Figure 3).

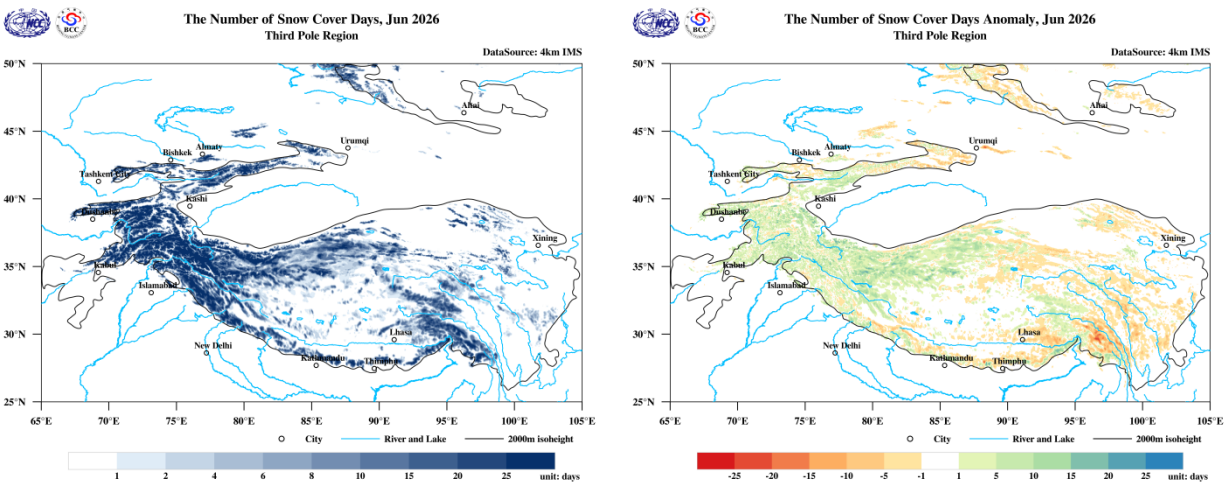

Figure 3 The Number of Snow Cover Days (left) and its anomalies (right, relative to 2005-2020) in June 2026
Data source: IMS/NSIDC

2. High-impact Climate Events

Heatwave

From late May to mid-June, a prolonged heatwave affected large parts of India, with the maximum temperatures in the northern and central plains exceeding 45℃, including New Delhi, Utter Pradesh, Rajasthan, and other areas.

Rainstorm

In June, several rounds of regional rainstorm processes affected the southern part of Yunnan Province Southwest China. On 24 June, a heavy rainfall event struck the Kalasu District in the southern Osh region of Kyrgyzstan, triggering mudslides that resulted in at least seven fatalities and two injuries.

In northern Pakistan, near-normal to above-normal rainfall was observed during June, leading to flash flooding in upland areas and glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) incidents.

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