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1. Himalayan meltdown: Number of glaciers in Hindu Kush Himalayan region is rising

- What will happen to glaciers, if climate efforts fail?**
- To deal with the receding glaciers in Hindu Kush, why need for cooperation between countries that share Himalayas?**
- Give a brief note on Hindu Kush Himalayan region**

GS paper 3 (Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

N.A. (

2019, February , 8). Writ in snow. Indian Express. Retrieved from

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/himalaya-hindu-kush-glaciers-climate-change-global-warming-writ-in-snow-5570882/>

What is the context about?

- The number of glaciers in the Himalayan area has increased in the last five decades and this is an indicator of how severe glacier melting has been due to global warming.**
- The Study found that even the most ambitious Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5**

degrees by the end of the century would lead to 2.1 degrees rise in temperatures.

- ❑ This will result into melting of one-third of the region's glaciers, a critical water source for some 250 million mountain dwellers and the 1.65 billion others living in the river valleys below in the Asia.

What will happen to glaciers, if climate efforts fail?

- ❑ If global climate efforts fail, the study warns that current emissions would lead to five degrees rise in temperatures and a loss of two-thirds of the region's glaciers by 2100.
- ❑ Global warming is on track to transform the frigid, glacier-covered mountain peaks of the region, cutting across eight countries, to bare rocks in a little less than a century.
- ❑ The glaciers feed 10 of the world's most important river systems, including the Ganges, Indus, Yellow, Mekong and Irrawaddy, and directly or indirectly supply billions of people with food, energy, clean air and income.
- ❑ Climate change will also reduce how much food farmers will be able to produce in this part of the world.

To deal with the receding glaciers in Hindu Kush, why need for cooperation between countries that share Himalayas?

- ❑ A global temperature increase of 1.5°C could mean at least a 1.8°C temperature rise in the Hindu Kush

Himalayas, the ICIMOD study warns. This will have a major bearing on the ice-fields, which are the largest repository of permafrost outside the polar regions.

- ❑ The region's snow is the source of 10 major river systems — including the Ganga, Indus, Brahmaputra and Mekong — in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China and Myanmar.
- ❑ Large-scale warming could drastically alter the river flows in these countries.
- ❑ The receding glaciers could cause a deluge in the rivers during the monsoon while the flows are likely to plummet during the dry seasons, with serious implications for irrigation, hydropower and ecosystem services.

About the Hindu Kush Himalayan region

- ❑ The Hindu Kush Himalayan region is spread over 3,500 kilometres area across Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.
- ❑ Though the mountainous region was formed around 70 million years ago, its glaciers are extremely sensitive to the changing climate.
- ❑ Since the 1970s, when global warming came into public attention, these ice masses have steadily thinned and retreated, and snow-covered areas and the amount of snow have decreased.

- ❑ The region would require up to 4.6 billion USD per year by 2030 to adapt to climate change, rising to as much as 7.8 billion USD per year by 2050, according to an estimate in the report.