



Our Changing Climate

Melting Ice Caps on the Top of the World

Sixty-seven per cent of glaciers in the Himalayas are retreating at a startling rate and the major causal factor has been identified as climate change. The Gangotri glacier between Kashmir and Nepal is one good example of an accelerated glacial retreat.

Satellite, mapping, and other surveys indicate that Bhutan's glaciers are also retreating rapidly at a rate of 30 to 40 metres (98 to 131 ft) a year. Because of weather patterns on each side of the Himalayas and

differences in topography, the glaciers on each side of the range are distinctly different from one another and are likely to react very differently to climate change. Scientific studies show that glaciers on the north side of the range move as much as ten times faster than glaciers on the south side. Because glaciers move under their own weight, one reason glaciers on the south side seem to move slowly may be their dwindling supply of ice.