



Satellite-based monitoring of Himalayan glaciers

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- Scientists of IIT Kanpur in collaboration with Department of Science and Technology (DST), government of India found in a study that **satellite-based monitoring of Himalayan glacial catchment would improve understanding of flood risk in the region** and help inform an early flood warning system.
- Suitably called **Earth's "Third Pole"** the Himalayan region is home to **the largest ice mass outside of the planets Polar Regions**. Due to climate change the glaciers in the Himalayas are melting at a faster rate creating new lakes and expanding the existing ones.
- However, the remote, challenging Himalayan terrain and the overall lack of cellular connectivity throughout the region have made the development of early flood warning system virtually impossible. Therefore, **satellite-based surveillance can mitigate damage from future flood accidents**.
- The study team suggests that efforts to help mitigate Glacial Lake Outbursts Floods (GLOF) events in the future should include the creation of a network of *satellite-based monitoring stations that could provide in situ and real-time data on GOLF risk.

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