India’s Indus water tower is at risk

A quarter of the world’s population is likely to face serious water shortages by 2030, according to a major report by the United Nations. The report, published on 8 November, shows that the world is facing a “perfect storm” of population growth, economic development, and climate change, which are putting pressure on water resources.

The Indus water tower

The Indus water tower is a region in Pakistan that provides water for more than a billion people. It is home to some of the world’s most biodiverse and fragile ecosystems, including the Indus River valley, the Thar Desert, and the Himalayas. The tower is also home to the world’s largest urban area, the Indus Valley Civilization, which was one of the most advanced civilizations of its time.

The tower is at risk due to climate change, with rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns leading to increased water stress. The report warns that if action is not taken, the Indus water tower could become the world’s largest water crisis by 2030.

Most at risk are mountain water towers

Mountain water towers are regions where water is stored in the form of snow and glaciers. They are crucial for providing water to downstream communities, especially in arid and semi-arid regions. However, these towers are highly vulnerable to climate change, with rising temperatures leading to a decrease in snow cover and glacier melting.

Climate change may be death knell for the lemurs of Madagascar

Climate change is causing lemurs to lose their habitat, with rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns leading to increased forest fires and deforestation. The report warns that if action is not taken, the lemurs of Madagascar could be extinct by 2050.

101 lemur species at risk

The report estimates that 101 lemur species are at risk of extinction due to climate change, with the number of species at risk expected to rise in the coming decades.

Findings

The report highlights the need for urgent action to address the threat to the Indus water tower and the lemurs of Madagascar. It recommends that governments take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, invest in renewable energy, and protect and restore ecosystems.

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