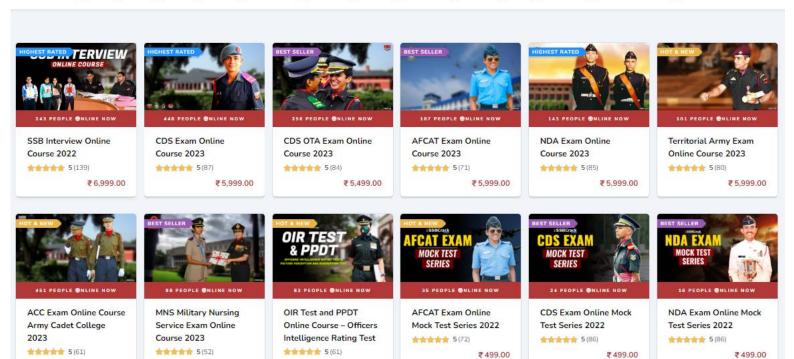


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Arctic Could Be Ice-Free In The Summer By 2030

Why In The News?

Scientists Announced On 6th June 2023 That The Arctic Ocean's Ice Cap Will
 Disappear In The Summer As Early As The 2030s, Ten Years Earlier Than
 Anticipated. Despite Concerted Efforts And International Discussions, Climate
 Change Has Already Begun To Have A Terrible Impact On The Ecosystem.

About The Study:

- The Study That Was Published In The Journal Nature Communications Found
 That Even Capping Global Warming At 1.5 Degrees Celsius In Line With The Paris
 Climate Treaty Will Not Prevent The North Pole's Vast Expanse Of Floating Ice
 From Melting Away.
- "It Is Too Late To Still Protect The Arctic Summer Sea Ice As A Landscape And As A Habitat," Co-Author Dirk Notz, A Professor At The University Of Hamburg's Institute Of Oceanography, Said.
- The Study Warns This Will Be The First Major Component Of Our Climate System
 That We Lose Because Of Our Emission Of Greenhouse Gases. Decreased Ice
 Cover Has Serious Impacts Over Time On Weather, People, And Ecosystems-Not
 Just Within The Region, But Globally.
- Sea Ice In Antarctica Dropped To 1.92 Million Square Kilometres In February, The Lowest Level On Record And Almost One Million Square Kilometres Below The 1991-2020 Mean.



Issue Of Climate Change In The Arctic:

- The Arctic Has Been Experiencing Climate Heating Faster Than Any Other Part
 Of The Planet. The Ice Which Remains At The End Of Summer Is Called
 Multiyear Sea Ice And Is Considerably Thicker Than Its Seasonal Counterpart. It
 Acts As Barrier To The Transfer Of Both Moisture And Heat Between The Ocean
 And Atmosphere.
- Over The Past 40 Years This Multiyear Sea Ice Has Shrunk From Around 7 Million Sq Km To 4 Million. That Is A Loss Equivalent To Roughly The Size Of India Or 12 UKs. In Other Words, It's A Big Signal, One Of The Most Stark And Dramatic Signs Of Fundamental Change To The Climate System Anywhere In The World.
- Therefore, There Has Been Considerable Effort Invested In Determining When
 The Arctic Ocean Might First Become Ice-free In Summer, Sometimes Called A
 "Blue Ocean Event" And Defined As When The Sea Ice Area Drops Below 1
 Million Sq Kms.

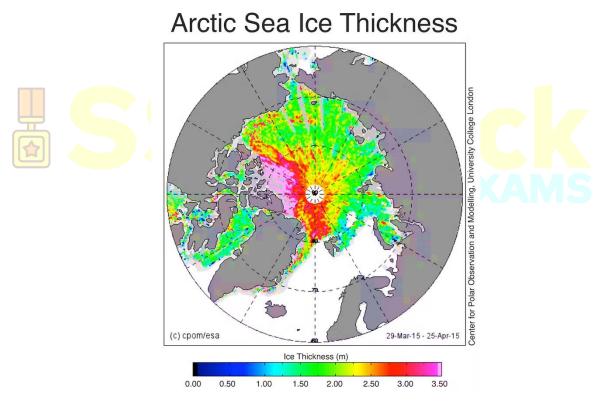


Melting Faster Than Models Predicted:

• The Latest **IPCC Climate Science Report**, Published In 2021, Predicted A Loss Of About 2.5% Per Decade, While The Observations Were Closer To 8%. These Predictions Were Made Way Back In The Early 2000's.

Why This Matters?

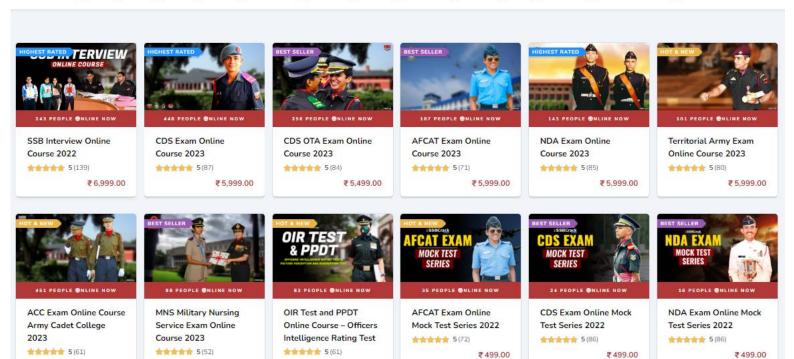
- Arctic Sea Ice Is An Important Component Of The Climate System.
- As It Dramatically Reduces The Amount Of Sunlight Absorbed By The Ocean, Removing This Ice Is Predicted To Further Accelerate Warming, Through A Process Known As A Positive Feedback.
- This, In Turn, Will Make The **Greenland Ice Sheet Melt Faster**, Which Is Already A Major Contributor To Sea Level Rise.
- The Loss Of Sea Ice In Summer Would Also Mean Changes In Atmospheric Circulation And Storm Tracks, And Fundamental Shifts In Ocean Biological Activity.
- These Are Just Some Of The Highly Undesirable Consequences And It Is Fair To Say That The Disadvantages Will Far Outweigh The Slender Benefits.





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