

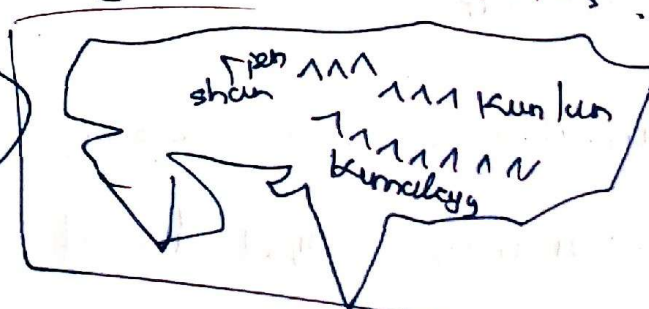
HKH is one of the most biodiverse regions on earth, as a biosphere on the brink. Examine the significance of the region & suggest measures to prevent it from collapse

The Hindukush Himalaya region

spans across 4-2 million kilometers across 8 countries covering more than two billion people. It is regarded as the thrust plate and Asia's water tower

It houses four biodiversity hotspots more than five hundred protected areas 130 bird areas covering Ramsar sites.

significance of the region



water source - The melt water from the glaciers feed the important river systems such as

India -	Ganga, Indus, Brahmaputra
China -	Huang Ho, Yangtze
South East Asia -	mekong, Irrawaddy, Salween

Energy - As the Himalayan region is a young orogen, hydrocarbon generation is key. Power agreements are signed between India - Nepal, India - Bhutan among others.

Biodiversity - The region is home to threatened flora and fauna such as the markhor, snow leopard, Hangul and flora such as Yarsa gumba which are flagship species of the mountain ecosystem.

Climate - The region acts as heat sink in summer and heat source in winter which mainly attracts the southwest monsoon towards India. Loss of glaciers can result in change in rainfall patterns across India.

Urgent measures to reverse the warming are needed at the earliest.

Measures to improve

- ① Reduce emissions - The region warms twice faster than the plains. Reducing carbon emissions is pivotal to stop the collapse.
- ② Delta sharing - the hydrological data between the countries must be shared without any reservations to an order to help people living in the downstream.
- ③ Government support India's Natancil mission on sustainable Himalayan ecosystems can be expanded and liberally funded to bring about tangible benefits.

Future As per the Himala-kush Himalayan assessment report even if global warming is capped at 1.5°C the region will lose 35% of glaciers by 2000. A multi national effort - such as Himalayan Council on the lines of Arctic Council can lead the ~~regio~~ conservation of the third pole.