

# South Col Glacier

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**In news—** Recently, researchers led by the University of Maine found that the South Col Glacier (on Mount Everest) has lost more than 180ft (54m) of thickness in the last 25 years.

## Key findings of the study-

- With estimated thinning rates of nearly 2 m per year even glaciers such as South Col Glacier, which is located at the highest point in the world, may vanish by mid-century.
- It was revealed by the multidisciplinary team of scientists from eight countries.
- Three of the co-authors of this study were from the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).
- Based in Kathmandu, Nepal, ICIMOD is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing center for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan.

## About South Col Glacier-

- **It is a sharp-edged col between Mount Everest and Lhotse.**
- **It lies on the main climbing route of Mt Everest** on its southern ridges.
- At a mean elevation of 7,985 masl, this relatively small glacier is undoubtedly **the highest glacier in the world.**
- **The surface of the glacier is mainly bare ice,** apart from seasonal snow and a perennial snow apron along the sides of Mount Everest, which comprise the upper reaches of this southerly oriented glacier.
- It is typically swept by high winds, leaving it free of significant snow accumulation.

The South Col was first reached on 12 May 1952 by Aubert, Lambert, and Flory of [Edouard Wyss-Dunant](#)'s Swiss Mount Everest Expedition that failed to reach the summit.