



Presena Glacier Covered with Tarps

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Why in News

Giant sheets of tarpaulin (tarps) are being used to cover **Presena glacier in northern Italy** to slow **melting caused by global warming**.

It is a part of the conservation project (undertaken by **Italian firm Carosello-Tonale**) which was launched in 2008 — at that point only **30,000 sq metres of the glacier** was covered.

Key Points

- **Covering of the Glacier:**

- **Tarpaulin sheets (tarps)** are being laid over 1,00,000 sq metres of the Presena glacier.
 - Rs. 34,091 tarpaulin sheets will be sewn together once they are stretched over the snow to keep warm air out. Bags of sand are used to weigh them down.
- This six-week process is repeated every year once the ski season is over and summer begins in full force.
 - A **ski season** is a period when skiing, snowboarding and other alpine sports are viable in an alpine resort.
- The process of removing the protective tarps will begin in September, and will take six months.

- **Tarpaulin Sheets:**

- **Tarpaulin** is a large sheet of strong, flexible and water-resistant material, often coated and made of plastics such as polyethylene.
- **Geotextile tarpaulins** reflect sunlight, maintain a temperature lower than the external one, and thus preserve as much snow as possible.
- There are similar glacier cover systems on a few Austrian glaciers, but the surface covered by the tarpaulins is much smaller.

- **Concern:**
 - Since 1993, the Presena glacier has lost more than one third of its volume.
 - The area is continuously shrinking, so the efforts are made towards covering the area as much as possible.

Presena Glacier

- Situated between the regions of **Trentino and Lombardy in Northern Italy**, the glacier is part of the **Presanella mountain** (Alps) group.
- It has a high altitude natural environment.

Source: IE