



Roopkund Lake: In Peril Due to Climate Change

Why in News?

Recently, the famous [Roopkund Lake in Uttarakhand](#), known for its centuries-old human skeletons, is shrinking as [climate change](#) affects its size and [ecosystem](#).

Key Points

- **Roopkund Lake:**
 - The **skeletons found in Roopkund** are believed to date back to the **9th century**.
 - **Genetic studies** indicate that these individuals came from diverse groups, including a **Mediterranean lineage**.
 - Theories suggest they were either pilgrims or traders who perished during a sudden **hailstorm**, with massive hailstones being the possible cause of death.
- **Scientific Studies on Roopkund's Skeletons:**
 - Modern research has uncovered **DNA** traces from multiple ethnicities, some as recent as the **19th century**, suggesting Roopkund may have been visited over a prolonged period.
 - Researchers believe that **Roopkund** was once a sacred site, and the pilgrims likely traveled long distances before meeting their demise in this isolated, **high-altitude lake**.
- **Environmental Impact of Climate Change:**
 - The decline in glacier size, altered **monsoon patterns**, and **erratic snowfall** have caused a reduction in water levels at **Roopkund**.
 - Changes in temperature and weather are affecting the **region's flora and fauna**, contributing to the ecological imbalance around the lake.
- **Tourism and Conservation Challenges:**
 - Roopkund's reduced size and environmental degradation are making it harder to preserve the lake's unique history and ecological significance.
 - There are growing concerns that unchecked tourism and insufficient conservation efforts may exacerbate the damage caused by climate change.

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