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Countries around the world are planning projects for the next 25 years to address climate change. The most important climate change issue is the melting of glaciers. 97% of the water on Earth is seawater the rest 3% is in glaciers and only a small amount is suitable for drinking. Human life may have improved due to factors such as industrialization, urbanization, and economicization. But the environment has been

affected. The change in the ozone layer due to the emission of greenhouse gases has made the Earth directly exposed to ultraviolet and infrared rays from the sun. Scientists have confirmed in their study that as a result of this, the Earth's surface temperature has increased, causing most of the glaciers in the polar regions to melt, raising sea levels and causing coastal erosion. Glaciers are formed on land by the recrystallization of snow or other types of solid precipitation. Glaciers cover an area of about 700,000 km<sup>2</sup> worldwide. Glaciers are found on all continents except Australia. The largest concentrations of glaciers are found in Antarctica and Greenland. Glaciers are also found in various mountain ranges around the world outside the polar regions. The largest glaciers in the Antarctic ice sheet are the Lambert Glacier and the Sellar Glacier on Thurston Island. These glaciers play a key role in regulating the global climate. But scientists believe that the decline in these glaciers due to global warming could have a major impact on the environment. Glaciers form the planet's largest reservoir of fresh water. In fact, they store 75% of the world's fresh water. Glaciers now cover less than 10% of Earth's total land area, down from 32% during the last ice age. Some notable orchid species and animals live in the glaciers. The white-winged diuca finch nests on the surface of glaciers in the Andes. These glaciers are also home to many rare animals, such as the forests. Large mammals such as bison, musk ox, elk, reindeer, mountain goats, ibex, chamois, and bighorn sheep seek out the glaciers to escape the heat. Researchers have also confirmed that bighorn sheep come to drink water on the glacier surface. Glaciers are essential to human life – their water is essential for drinking water, agriculture, industry, clean energy production and healthy ecosystems. Rapidly melting glaciers are creating uncertainty in water flows, which has profound implications for global climate change. Global reductions in carbon emissions and local strategies and plans to adapt to shrinking glaciers are essential. We must work together to put glacier preservation at the heart of our plans to address the global water crisis. We will step up our activities and research as part of a global campaign on 'Glacier Preservation'. We must do our part to slow global warming and adapt to shrinking glaciers.

**S.Vijikumar**

**Editor in Chief, IJONS**

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