# Reciding Ice Shelf

## Why in news?

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A trillion-ton iceberg from the Larsen C Ice Shelf is being disintegrated into smaller icebergs in Antarctica.

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## What the Project MIDAS says?

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- It is a U.K.-based Antarctic research project that has been looking at the ice shelf for many years
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- Scientists from Project MIDAS have said the formation of icebergs is natural.
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- And there seems no link to human-induced climate change was available in this case.
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- Yet, the impact of such a loss on the stability of the ice shelf itself may not be good.
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## What are the impacts?

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- The disintegrated icebergs and glaciers melts and flow into the nearby seas and oceans.
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- It contributes to sea level rise, possibly at a slow rate.
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- It highlights the need to stop continued warming of the planet from man-made carbon emissions.
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## What is the importance of Antarctica?

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- Antarctica is a climate stabilising factor.
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- Except for man-made causes, there was no anticipated factor in the natural geological cycle that would disturb Antarctica.
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- The separation of an iceberg from the ice shelf shows the importance of such alarms.
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- Species like emperor penguins which depend on sea ice to complete their life cycle are at risk if ice cover declines.
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- Any dramatic changes will only add to the worry of irreversible effects of climate change, given that the Arctic and Greenland have also been losing ice cover.
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## What is the way ahead?

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- The last pristine continent should be left well alone, with a minimum of human interference.
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- At the same time research efforts are intensified to study the impact of human activities in the rest of the world on this wilderness.
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**Source: The Hindu**

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