



Chadar Trek: The Thawing Zanskar

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News Context: The iconic Chadar Trek in Ladakh has been deferred (Jan 2026) because the Zanskar River failed to form a stable "ice blanket" due to unusually high winter temperatures.

- **The Trek:** A 105-km trail over the frozen river at 11,000 feet, where temperatures typically hit -20 degree Celsius
- **The "Chadar" (Blanket):** Climate change is making the ice unstable. When the river "unfreezes" or thaws, it creates dangerous "air pockets" under thin ice or leads to overflowing water, making the gorge a death trap.
- **Wholistic Insight:** This illustrates the "**Cryosphere Collapse**" in the Himalayas. The postponement affects the livelihoods of the Zanskari people who rely on winter tourism, highlighting the economic cost of global warming in fragile mountain ecosystems.