

May, 2026

To,
The Additional Chief Executive Officer (Admin.)
Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority,
IT- Park Sahastradhra Road
Dehradun

Subject: Reference to letter No. 493/USDMA-2024 dated 7th June 2024 and email dated 04.11.2024.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the above-mentioned letter regarding the submission of the monthly progress report for the project “**Long-term Monitoring of the Gangotri Glacier, Garhwal Himalaya**”, sponsored by the **Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA)** and undertaken by the **Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG)** since March 2022.

- The third instalment of funding was received this month, supporting the smooth continuation of project activities. A field expedition was conducted from May 11–22, 2026, led by Dr. Amit Kumar with the project team.
- At Bhojwasa, a new Automatic Water Level Recorder (AWLR) was successfully installed and tested, and was found to be functioning properly. The team inspected the existing Automatic Weather Station (AWS) and Broadband Seismic Station (BBS) at Bhojwasa, which were functioning normally, but data retrieval faced a technical issue. The issue was informed to the firm’s engineer for necessary action. The Gomukh was observed to be relatively stable, with ice blocks periodically falling into the Bhagirathi River due to ongoing ice melt.
- A substantial debris deposit was observed in front of the snout, largely sourced from the unstable moraine of Meru Glacier. Significant meltwater discharge was also observed from Meru Glacier, which joins the Bhagirathi River. The Gomukh–Tapovan trekking route remains unstable due to frequent boulder movement and rockfalls along the track. A dGPS survey was conducted near the snout and across the Meru debris-flow deposit to establish a high-resolution baseline for future monitoring and elevation-change assessment.
- During the return to Gangotri, the team inspected the AWS at Chirwasa, which was functioning properly, and successfully downloaded the stored data. At Maneri, an IGM module was integrated with the existing BBS to enable real-time data transmission to WIHG, Dehradun. A separate solar panel and battery were also installed for reliable IGM operation. Satellite observations for May showed continued snowmelt across the Gangotri Glacier basin. Snow cover decreased from 75% on May 10 to 61% on May 20, indicating active seasonal melting.

The field visit confirmed that the instruments at Bhojwasa, Chirwasa, and Maneri were functioning properly. Data was successfully retrieved from Chirwasa and Maneri, and an IGM module was installed at Maneri for real-time data transmission to Dehradun. A new AWLR was also installed at Bhojwasa. The existing AWS and BBS were functioning normally; however, a data retrieval issue with the AWS at Bhojwasa was identified. A firm engineer will visit the site in June to resolve the issue. Field observations and satellite data showed no major debris flows, new glacial lakes, or significant geomorphological changes around the Gangotri Glacier.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Dr. Amit Kumar
Scientist C

Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun