

April, 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 following update is submitted:

- On 29th April, two watch and ward undertook a visit to the Gangotri Glacier region to ensure the functioning of instruments installed at monitoring sites. Their inspection covered Bhojwasa, Chirwasa, and Maneri, where they carefully checked the operational status of equipment used for monitoring. The visit was part of routine monitoring efforts aimed to ensure that the instruments remained working. The Bhagirathi River is almost silent and is flowing along its original path.
- Throughout April, snow cover across the Gangotri Glacier basin showed a steady decline. In Bhojwasa, snow cover was already very limited and had begun to melt, leaving the basecamp and observatory largely free of snow (**Figure 1**).



Figure 1. A photograph of the Base Camp area, taken on 30th April 2026, shows a decline in snow cover compared to March 2026.

- The watch-and-ward team headed up to the snout region near Gomukh to check for any unusual activity. Fortunately, they found everything at the snout to be stable and looking

normal (**Figure 2**). However, notice some active rockfalls in the Meru bamak, which kicked up a visible cloud of dust and sediment (**Figure 2**).



Figure 1. Photographs of (A) Snout and (B) Meru, captured on 28 April 2026 by the watch and ward team.

- The watch and ward team inspected the Automatic Weather Station installed at Bhojwasa, along with the broadband seismic station, and found that the data were being recorded properly in the data logger and that the current air temperature and other parameters were being displayed correctly (**Figure 3**). The team also visited the Automatic Weather Station installed at Chirwasa and checked its functionality by connecting a display device to the data logger.
- The station was found to be recording data successfully, and the battery condition was within the normal operating range. As Chirwasa is located at a lower elevation than Bhojwasa, comparatively less snow was observed at the site than at the higher-elevation locations in the basin (**Figure 3**).



Figure 3. Photographs showing the inspection of the Automatic Weather Stations on 29 and 30 April 2026 by the team at Bhojwasa and Chirwasa.

- At the Maneri site, the team verified that the BBS was working properly.

Based on the field visit, it was verified that the instruments installed at Bhojwasa, Chirwasa, and Maneri were functioning properly. Available satellite data and field observations were jointly examined to identify any major events, such as debris flows or the formation of new glacial lakes near Gaumukh. The analysis confirmed the absence of debris flows, major glacial lake development, or significant geomorphological changes in the vicinity of the Gangotri Glacier.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Amit Kumar

Dr. Amit Kumar
Scientist C
Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology,
Dehradun