

January, 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:

In January 2026, the watch and wards visited the Maneri site after returning from the Gangotri region (Bhojwasa) to ensure the smooth functioning of the seismic station. They confirmed that all the instruments were working properly at these sites during their visit. Recent observations indicate snow cover variability over the Gangotri Glacier basin compared to the stable conditions in December 2025. The snow cover was ~58% on 5th January 2026, decreasing to 49% on 10th January and slightly increasing to 52% on 20th January. These fluctuations reflect a transition to a more dynamic snow regime, driven by episodic snowfall followed by short-term ablation influenced by temperature and radiation variability. The snow cover was estimated up to Bhojwasa for consistency with earlier assessments.

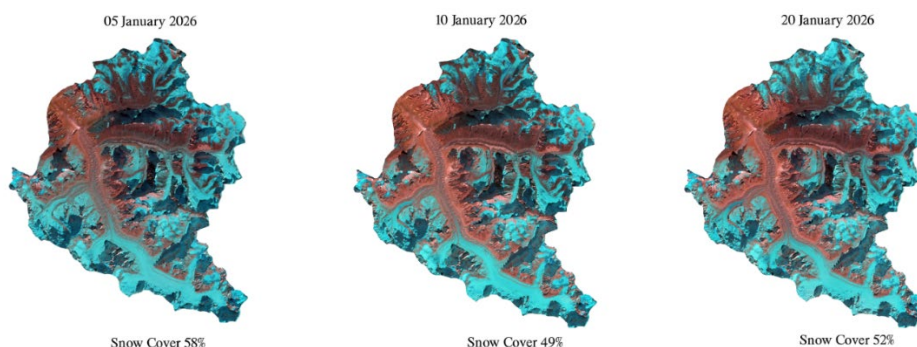


Figure 1. Distribution of snow cover conditions in Bhojwasa during January 2026, derived from Sentinel-2 imagery.

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