



Snowfall in Gangotri Dham

Why in News?

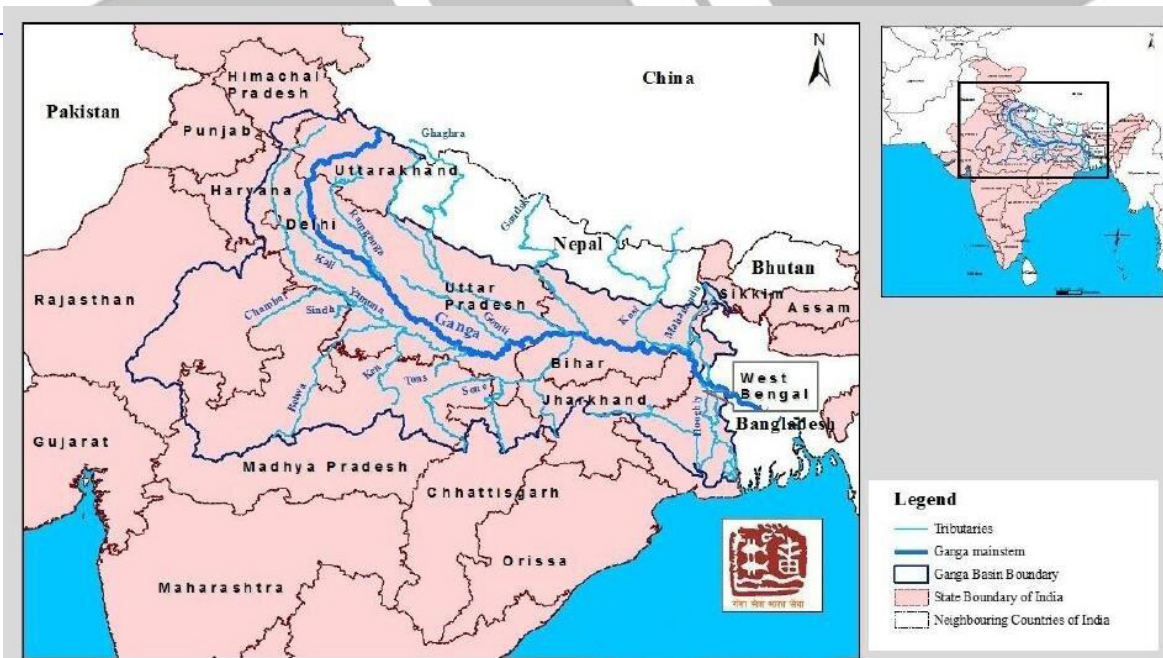
Recently, [Gangotri Dham](#) in Uttarakhand, the highest temple dedicated to Goddess Ganga, received fresh rain and snowfall.

- The [India Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#), earlier, issued an alert for the districts of Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Solan and some parts of Lahaul-Spiti.

Key Points

- The **Gangotri Temple**, where [Goddess Ganga](#) is worshipped, stands at a height of 20 feet and boasts of exquisite carvings on [white granite](#).
- It is the **origin of the River Ganges** and is **one of the four sites in the Char Dham pilgrimage of Uttarakhand**.
 - The other shrines included in the Char Dham pilgrimage are **Badrinath, Kedarnath, and Yamunotri**.
- The river is called **Bhagirathi** at the source and acquires the name Ganga (the Ganges) from Devprayag onwards where it meets the Alaknanda.
- The origin of the **holy river is at Gomukh**, set in the Gangotri Glacier, and is a 19 km trek from Gangotri.

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India Meteorological Department

- IMD was **established in 1875**. It is the **National Meteorological Service** of the country and the

principal government agency in all matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.

- It works as an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** of the Government of India.
- It is headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres of the World Meteorological Organization**.

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