

Snowfall in Gangotri Dham

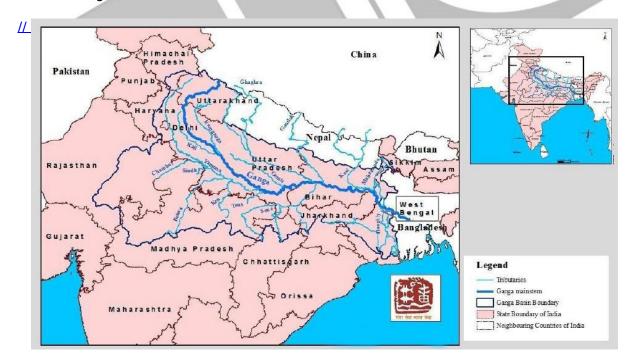
Why in News?

Recently, <u>Gangotri Dham</u> in Uttarakhand, the highest temple dedicated to Goddess Ganga, received fresh rain and snowfall.

 The <u>India Meteorological Department (IMD)</u>, 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.



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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