

## **Snowfall in Gangotri Dham**

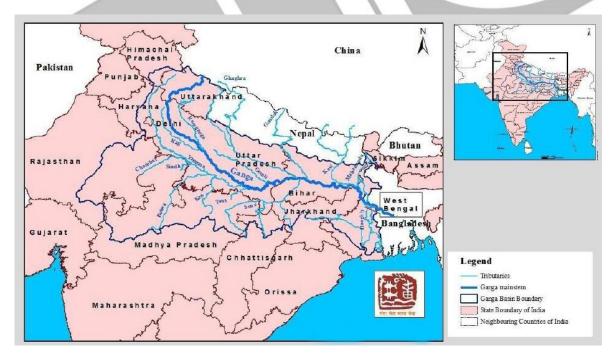
## Why in News?

Recently, **Gangotri Dham** in Uttarakhand, the highest temple dedicated to Goddess Ganga, received fresh rain and snowfall.

 The <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 <u>Goddess Ganga</u> is worshipped, stands at a height of 20 feet and boasts of exquisite carvings on <u>white granite</u>.
- 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.

The Vision,

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