Exploring Indian Himalayas (EIH) is a philanthropic initiative to showcase the magnificence of Indian Himalayas and the states of Indian Union that are home to the world's largest mountain ranges. EIH supports conservation of Himalayas & its ecology and also believes in “clean” economic development of the Himalayan states.
The Content of this calendar (excluding photographs) is based on publicly available information from various sources including organisations’ websites, research publications, quotes of eminent personalities from the field of mountaineering, environment science, journalists & entrepreneurs. The following is the reference list:

www.harishkapadia.com

www.gbphed.gov.in (GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Almora, India)

www.wikipedia.com

www.wii.gov.in (Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, India)

www.himalayanclub.org

The Hindu, English Daily

www.brvda.uk.gov.in, Bhagirathi River Valley Development Authority


SP Rai, Bhusan Kumar and Pratap Singh, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, India & Hydro Tasmania Consulting, Delhi, India

Merufilm.com


www.journalcra.com

www.worldviewofglobalwarming.org

Photographs used in the calendar are exclusively the copyright of EIH.
Exploring Indian Himalayas (EIH)

EIH Calendar 2016 is dedicated to Gangotri group of Himalayas: Gangotri glacier & Himalayan peaks of the region

Foreword

Harish Kapadia, Mountaineer, Explorer & Author

"Love for mountains and particularly Himalaya come naturally to me since the childhood. I am extremely happy to know that EIH is leading the initiative of showcasing the magnificence of Himalaya and spreading the important message of preservation of its ecology which is of paramount importance today. If the ecology of this beautiful mountain range is not preserved, there'll be no future mountaineers who will have the honour of climbing these mighty peaks and the world will not be the same without the Himalaya. Last but the most important aspect that I wish to touch upon is the need to preserve the flora, fauna and the human beings of this region who are heavily dependent on the topology of the Himalaya. Any change to the climate in this region will bring in significant damage to this world.

I hope each and every human being joins this cause of conserving the Himalaya."

Harish Kapadia (Born 11 July 1945) is a distinguished Himalayan Mountaineer and author from India. He has been awarded the Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographic Society, UK and the Life Time Achievement Award for Adventure by the President of India and the King Albert Mountain Award presented by The King Albert I Memorial Foundation, Belgium. He has written numerous books and articles on the Indian Himalaya. He began climbing and trekking in the range around Mumbai, the Western Ghats. His first visit to the Himalaya was almost 40 years ago. His main contribution to Himalayan climbing has been to explore unknown areas and, in number of cases, to open up climbing possibilities. Some of his major ascents have been of Devtoli (6788 m), Sudarshan Parvat (6502 m), Bandarpunch West (6102 m), Parilangbi (6166 m) & Lungser Kangri (6666 m). He led seven international joint expeditions, four with the British, two with the French and one with the Japanese; to high peaks, such as Rimo I (7385 m), Chong Kunda I (7071 m), Sudarshan Parvat, Panch Chuli, Rangnik Rang groups and Padmanabh (7030 m).

Harish Kapadia has been elected an Honorary Member of the Alpine Clubs of London, America, Japan and Poland. He was a Vice President of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (1997–1999). He was awarded the IMF Gold Medal by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation in 1993. In 2003, the Queen approved the award of the Patron's Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society to him. He has been invited to many countries to lecture on his Himalayan exploits, and is a member of several organisations. He is married, and lives in Mumbai.

Harish Kapadia has written number of books including Trekking and Climbing in the Indian Himalaya, Into the Untravelled Himalaya, Spiti Adventures in the Trans-Himalaya, Meeting the Mountains & Exploring the Highlands of Himalaya to name a few. His forthcoming coming book Routes in the Himalaya will cover hundreds of trekking routes in the range.

www.harishkapadia.com
Exploring Indian Himalayas (EIH)

EIH Calendar 2016 is dedicated to Gangotri group of Himalayas: Gangotri glacier & Himalayan peaks of the region

Foreword

Sheroes.in, Career empowerment for Women

There is something in the Himalayas that calls us, connects with us. If we love the nature, or enjoy different mountain activities or just appreciate beauty, the Himalayas have something to offer to each of us. But, the mountain that has stood strong for ages now, is slowly falling apart. And it needs our help and support.

"It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves." - Sir Edmund Hillary

We at SHEROES.in support this initiative to protect the beauty of Indian Himalayas and its ecology and promote preservation of the ecosystem of the world’s largest mountain ranges. At SHEROES, we work towards, scaling new heights everyday, staying strong and being true to oneself. We motivate the community to explore things they are afraid of—just like Mt. Everest.

Everyone has their mountain to climb. And that’s what we work towards everyday at SHEROES.in

We work towards promoting women’s careers. With the right attitude and perseverance they have overcome many hurdles and climbed new heights. We wish to extend the same support to the mountain that has inspired many over thousands of years and we hope to make a difference and prevent it from falling apart.

Taking Charge, Staying Strong
Sairee Chahal

Founder SHEROES.in

SHEROES is the career destination for women in India. It offers the largest OpportunityScape for women seeking options at various life stages. SHEROES offers the most diverse range of engagement formats to women including corporate jobs, returning professionals, partner programs, work from home, part time, freelancing, franchising, mompreneur programs and internship programs. Over 6000 companies use SHEROES to be connected with talented women professionals. SHEROES partners actively with the startup eco-system to enhance entrepreneurial connect to women. The SHEROES Community has access to high growth career resources, mentorship and support. SHEROES engages with businesses to help them connect with female talent in form of employees, partners, customers and business owners.

www.sheroes.in

Te Aroha, Eco-friendly Himalayan Resort

The Himalayas have captured the imagination of people for centuries. Sadly, the Himalayan ecosystem is facing strong anthropogenic and developmental pressures including deforestation, land use change and degradation of natural resources. There is widespread concern that this situation will intensify in the years to come. The Himalayas form part of global natural heritage. Persistent efforts are required to protect them from degradation. It is heartening to learn that initiatives like Exploring Indian Himalayas are working persistently to showcase the beauty of Indian Himalayas and its ecology with the objective of preserving the ecosystem of the world’s largest mountain ranges. I compliment them for their efforts and wish they would gather support from around the globe to advance this initiative.

Sumant Batra
Founder & Owner, Te Aroha

Te Aroha is a small boutique resort located amidst the scenic surroundings of Dhanachuli, an enchanting little village located a few miles from Mukteshwar, a popular hill station in Uttarakhand. Blessed with pleasant weather, breathtaking views of the Himalayas, lush forests, enticing apple orchards and charming people, Dhanachuli is perhaps one of the most beautiful weekend getaways from Delhi. As part of their endeavor to promote responsible tourism, Te Aroha is developing Dhanachuli into a smart village using art, culture, literature, theatre and similar activities to create economic opportunity for people. The project is non-intrusive in approach. It aims at creating economic and other opportunities for locals while extending respect to the habitat and indigenous way of life of locals.

www.tearoha.in
Exploring Indian Himalayas (EIH)

EIH Calendar 2016 is dedicated to Gangotri group of Himalayas: Gangotri glacier & Himalayan peaks of the region

Foreword

KAFAL, Knowledge Acquisition for Appropriate Livelihood

Exploring Indian Himalayas has been making laudatory efforts to explore the eternal and unfathomable beauty of the great Himalayas. We at Kafal, in particular, feel a sense of great elation and joy at this as we too identify strongly with the Himalayas. Apart from being a visual delight, EIH photo-story seeks to enhance awareness about Uttara Khand and in that we find a common cause as we strive to provide opportunities to its children through education.

We wish EIH success in this endeavour.

Gyan Joshi
Secretary, KAFAL

KAFAL strongly believes in the power of opportunity and seeks to provide opportunities for education to children who would otherwise not have access to it. Education enlightens, emancipates, empowers and enthralls. It is the most basic requirement to get out of poverty and squalor, to find employment, to enjoy life and to contribute to the welfare of the society at large. It's vision is:

"To empower the under privileged through education and to seek to provide equal opportunities."

The society works in Malla Ramgarh in Nainital district of the state of Uttara Khand. KAFAL chose this area for its activities because it is largely rural, lacks good education, its inaccessibility makes manpower sourcing difficult, and it is poor.

And yet there is a manifest desire in the people of this area to provide good education to children. Those with just about average means prefer to send their children to far off places disrupting families and imposing huge costs on them. Another factor that governed the location choice was the familiarity of the founding members of KAFAL with the terrain.

Kafal is the name of a popular dark purple berry found in Uttara Khand which ripens in summer. In order to identify with the local sentiment and to give a message of bonding with the local people, this was adopted as the acronym for the society.

Vani, Author

I had been working for six years as a business journalist when I decided to pack my bags and take a holiday; this one was meant to experience nature the unconventional way, 'on a bicycle'. As I trudged along one of the world's toughest roads, the Leh-Manali Highway, I got to witness the beauty of nature as can only be enjoyed on a bicycle—the old fold mountains that change hues, strangely converting from brown to pink with streaks of green, yellow, rust, mauve and purple, greenery that is so abstractedly placed that it enchants you, places like Keylong, Gondla, Shisuleng, Tandi that still retain their old world charm, the river Indus that flows through these mountains like a ribbon, religious chortens that line the road as you cross Shey and Thiksey, the mysticism that deepens at every step leaving you completely spell bound and mesmerised.

In the fifteen days that I spent travelling from Manali to Leh, crossing the major mountain passes, including Tanglang La, world's second highest pass (Ht 17852 ft), I did everything that I had never even dreamt of—sleeping in dirt laden clothes on roadside stones, taking lift in trucks and milk vans, getting a Maggi overdose, eating omelettes from roadside rehriwallas and taking help from strangers. Luckily for me, whenever the weather would go hostile, there was Indian Army to help, even the truck drivers who traverse these mountains were very kind.

My journey gave me an opportunity to appreciate our natural heritage and that is also what Exploring Indian Himalayas (EIH) 2016 Calendar is all about—a celebration of the beauty of Indian Himalayas, its ecology and beings. This year the calendar specifically focuses on the Gangotri belt of mountains in the hilly state of Uttarakhand with its magnificent peaks such as the Chaukhamba, Thalay Sagar, Bhagirathi, Shivling & Meru that form a ring around the Gangotri Glacier. The theme has been carefully chosen to inspire those of us who haven't known these places beyond the religious significance they already have—some of these peaks are challenging even to the world's best trekkers and mountaineers. But, that is not all. The proceeds from the EIH Calendar go to support education of underprivileged children in the Himalayan states which still continue to lag behind their city cousins. A noble initiative, we all agree, especially as it seeks to bring these children at par with their counterparts who study in the best of schools and have access to top class facilities. I congratulate the team at Kafal and thank all those of you who make such initiatives a success by contributing your bit towards buying these Calendars.

Vani is a journalist and the author of 'The Recession Groom'. Excerpts from her news story, 'To Leh N Beyond', also available elsewhere on her personal blog, have been used in this write-up.

www.vaniauthor.com
Gangotri glacier is ‘rapidly disintegrating’

The Gangotri glacier is rapidly disintegrating, states the latest observation of a team from the Almora-based G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development. The team of the institute, which has been monitoring the Himalayan glaciers, particularly the Gangotri, since 1999, visited the glacier between June and October, this year. Kireet Kumar, Scientist in the Glacial Study Centre of the institute, said, “Our team has been observing disintegration in the snout of the Gangotri glacier for around three year now. This time the team observed that the disintegration on the right side of the snout is taking place at a rapid rate.” Dr. Kumar said rapid melting of the Raktvarn, Chaturangi, and Thelu — tributary glaciers of the Gangotri, which are placed at a higher altitude than the Gangotri and are towards its right — as the reason behind the heavy disintegration. Gangotri: Shrinking and retreating, a 2008 research report published in Current Science titled ‘Estimation of retreat rate of Gangotri glacier using rapid static and kinematic GPS survey,’ stated: ‘The Gangotri glacier is retreating like other glaciers in the Himalayas and its volume and size are shrinking as well.’

The glacier has retreated more than 1,500 metres (m) in the last 70 years. Post 1971, the rate of retreat of the glacier has declined. Dr Kumar said the latest data projects that post 2000 the average rate of retreat of the glacier per year has been about 12 to 13 m. Dr. Kumar said global warming was not the only factor, but, it was an important factor that was resulting in glacial retreat. The Gangotri, one of the largest Himalayan glaciers, is in Uttarkashi district. Originating at about 7,100 m above sea level, the glacier is 30.2 kilometre (km) long and has a width that varies between 0.5 and 2.5 km. The Bhagirathi river, which is one of the main tributaries of the Ganga, originates from the glacier.

The Hindu
October 27, 2014

River Bhagirathi’s water flow is primarily dependent on the Glacial melt. Only 3% of its water comprises of rain water (ablation period of 2004/05). It’s therefore critical to preserve and continuously monitor the glaciers from rapid retreat & melt.

2009 Research Report, “Estimation of contribution of Southwest monsoon rain to Bhagirathi River”

“I am happy to know that EIH supports Conservation of Himalayas and its ecology and at the time showcases the beauty of this region to bring about a consensus amongst all stakeholders viz. people of the region & the world, scientists who are involved in various researches to find most innovative and cutting edge methods of conservation, authorities who are responsible for policy formulation & organisations who propagate this message. EIH Calendar 2016 beautifully describes this theme and I hope this calendar will be supported by people & organizations across the globe.”

- Dr. Kireet Kumar, Scientist G, G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Almora, India

Exploring Indian Himalayas (EIH)

EIH Calendar 2016 is dedicated to Gangotri group of Himalayas: Gangotri glacier & Himalayan peaks of the region

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Exploring Indian Himalayas

Photocredits: Exploring Indian Himalayas©
Gangotri National Park

Gangotri National Park, established in 1989, is situated in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand in the upper catchment of Bhagirathi River covering 1,553 square kilometers area. The park is located at an altitude varying from 1800 to 7000 m and is majestically decorated by nature with Coniferous forest, Meadows and Glaciers. Gangotri glacier, the origin of river Ganga, is located inside Gangotri National Park. The enchanting beauty of the area is highlighted by the snow clad mountains, eye catching springs and tall-dense-green forests which overwhelms tourists & trekkers with peace and tranquility. Gangotri National Park has typical high altitude ecosystem, physically and biologically influenced by the trans-himalayan elements. The northeastern boundary of Gangotri National Park is along the international boundary with China.

In the lower elevation of the park one can see Western Himalayan Subalpine Conifer Forest and on the higher elevation we find Western Himalayan Alpine Shrub and Meadows. Chirpine, deodar, fir, spruce, oak and rhododendron are the common vegetation in Gangotri National Park.

Various rare and endangered species like Bharal (blue sheep), black bear, brown bear, Himalayan Monal, Himalayan Snowcock, Himalayan Thar, musk deer and Snow leopard are found in the park. The birds and animals usually found in Gangotri National Park are Bulbul, Doves, Himalayan Barbet, Ibex, Parakeet, Partridges, Pheasants, Pigeons, Serow, Snow Loepard, Thar and Tiger. As per the study of Paramanand et. al. in 2000, there are 15 species of mammals and 150 birds species in Gangotri National Park. Any erosion of ecology of this national park will have significant impact on flora, fauna & wild life of the region. Immediate preservation measures need to taken to save the ecosystem.

Tourist Attractions: Tourists typically indulge in Hang gliding, Hiking, Jeep Safari, Mountaineering, Paragliding, River Rafting, Skiing and Trekking in this region.

Wild Life Conservation

Forest Department of Uttarakhand government governs Gangotri National Park. Consequential landslides have distinctly broken up the steeper mountain sides that exist through the entire route from Gangotri to Gaumukh. The irreversible isolation caused by the landslides between forest patches including the alpine vegetation and its impact on the forest and dependent organisms is the biggest threat to the region. The region is at great risk of losing its endangered species as described above.

“The footage in the camera installed at Gangotri National Park recovered on December 16 2013 showed a male snow leopard moving in the area on the night of November 18 and a female snow leopard moving around on the morning of December 2, said G.N. Yadav, Deputy Director, Gangotri National Park, on Monday. “This is fabulous and our hunt for the existence of this majestic high altitude cat along with its favourite prey — blue sheep — has paid rich dividends. The presence confirmed, we will now make extra efforts to conserve the animal.” The conservation methods would include improving the habitat of the snow leopard and the blue sheep, he said. Regular patrol in the park would be intensified and steps taken to ensure that the grassland did not degrade. Soil conservation measures like building check dams and preventing landslides would also be taken.”

Source - The Hindu
Sudarshan, 6507 m, Uttarakhand India
Sudarshan Parvat is a fascinating peak to sight as one embarks upon the Gaumukh trek
**Fact File : Sudarshan Parvat**

Sudarshan Parvat (6507m) is a mountain hard to miss on the trek from Gangotri towards Gaumukh. Sudarshan Parvat is the first ‘big’ mountain on the right side of the valley and is approached through the Raktavarn glacier, which in turn is part of the much larger Gangotri glacier. A cluster of major peaks such as Saifee, Thelu, Koteswar, Swetwarn, Chaturbhuj etc. surround Sudarshan Parvat. The major glaciers that describe the Gangotri region are the Gangotri, Chaturangi and Raktavarn, which lie adjacent to each other. At Gaumukh (Cow’s Mouth), the source of the holy Ganges can be observed that is emerging from the depths of the glacier and the shape of the ice formation is like a cow’s mouth (which is slowly disintegrating due to glacial melting). Immediately opposite of Gaumukh is Shivling (6543 m), a towering pinnacle of rare beauty and of equally severe technical difficulty.

**Vital Statistics**

- Elevation (feet): 22,493
- Elevation (meters): 6,507
- Continent: Asia
- Country: India
- Range/Region: Garhwal Himalaya
- Latitude: 30.58
- Longitude: 79.05
- Difficulty: Major Mountain Expedition
- Year first climbed: 1981
- First successful climber(s): Indian-French Sudarshan Parvat Expedition. Harish Kapadia, EIH partner was part of the expedition

**Must Read**

- High Himalayas Unknown Valleys by Harish Kapadia
- Garhwal & Kumaon A Trekker’s and Visiter’s Guide by KP Sharma
- [https://www.himalayanclub.org/hj/38/14/sudarshan-parbat-une-belle-montague/](https://www.himalayanclub.org/hj/38/14/sudarshan-parbat-une-belle-montague/)

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**Holidays • Important Days**

- **New Years Day** | Jan 01, Fri
- **Lohri/Makar Sankranti** | Jan 14, Thu
- **Pongal** | Jan 15, Fri
- **Republic Day** | Jan 26, Tue

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**Exploring Indian Himalayas**
River Bhagirathi, Gangotri, Uttarakhand, India
Ferocious bhagirathi gushing down the himalayas (near Gangotri temple)
**Fact File: River Bhagirathi**

River Bhagirathi is the largest tributary of River Ganga and is one of the most fascinating rivers in India. The headwaters of the Bhagirathi are formed at Gaumukh (elevation ~4000 m) at the foot of the Gangotri glacier in the Garhwal Himalayas.

In order to preserve the river and its basin from reckless deforestation and other activities that can severely damage the ecology of the entire river basin, Uttarakhand government had set up Bhagirathi River Valley Development Authority (Constituted under Section 3(1) of the Uttarakhand River Valley (Development & Management) Act, 2005).

The mandate of the authority is, to maintain Ecological Balance, provide Environment Protection, insure Sustainable Development and establish mechanism for Redressal for Public Grievances by:

(a) ensuring treatment of damages to environment of the basin by soil conservation measures, afforestation by soil binding fodder and fruits species & maintenance of water quality

(b) establishing Botanical Gardens with local Flora & Fauna

(c) ensuring Optimum Utilization of Natural Resources and setting up and implementation of mechanism for Disaster Management and

(d) establishing Public Grievance cells in the Basin and Community Facility Centers near rehabilitation locations

Source: Bhagirathi River Valley Development Authority | www.brvda.uk.gov.in

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**Holidays & Important Days**

- Basant Panchami | Feb 12, Fri
- Guru Ravidas Jayanti | Feb 22, Mon
- Valentine’s Day | Feb 14
- Chinese New Year (The year of Monkey) | Feb 08
- Arunachal Pradesh Day | Feb 20

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**Exploring Indian Himalayas**
Himalayas Panorama, Gangotri-Gaumukh, Uttarakhand, India

Himalayas on way to Chirbasa, Gangotri-Gaumukh

Turn over leaf for location fact file

Turn over leaf for holidays & important days

Exploring Indian Himalayas

Photocredits: Exploring Indian Himalayas©
Fact File: Gangotri Glacier

The Gangotri Glacier is the largest glacier in Western Himalayas. The area falls in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand between latitudes 30.43’N and 31.01’N and between longitudes 79.0’E and 79.17’E. The proglacial meltwater river, known as Bhagirathi river, emerges from the snout of the Gangotri Glacier at an elevation of ~4000 m. The meltwater is drained through a well defined single terminus of the glacier known as Gaumukh. Gaumukh is considered as the origin of Ganga River. The main Gangotri Glacier (length, 39.20 km; width, 0.2-2.35 km; area, 86.32 km²) forms the trunk part of the Gangotri Glacier System. The major glacier tributaries of the Gangotri Glacier System are the Raktvarn Glacier, Chaturangi Glacier, Kirti Glacier, Swachand Glacier, Ghanohim Glacier, Meru Glacier, Maini Glacier and a few others. Elevation range of the Gangotri Glacier varies from 4000 to 7000 m.

Source: Estimation of contribution of southwest monsoon rain to Bhagirathi River near Gaumukh, Western Himalayas, India using oxygen-18 isotope (Current Science Vol 97, No. 2 25 July 2009)
SP Rai, Bhushan Kumar and Pratap Singh, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, India & Hydro Tasmania Consulting, Delhi, India

Exploring Indian Himalayas
Bhagirathi I, II & III, Uttarakhand, India
Bhagirathi Valley, Chirbasa, Gangotri-Gaumukh

Turn over leaf for location fact file
Turn over leaf for holidays & important days

Exploring Indian Himalayas

Photocredits: Exploring Indian Himalayas©
The Gangotri Group of Himalayas is a subdivision of the Garhwal Himalayas in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand. It rings the Gangotri Glacier and contains peaks that are notable for their religious significance and for difficult climbing routes. Climbs on three of the peaks (Thalay Sagar, Shivling, and Meru) have resulted in the awarding of the prestigious climbing award, the Piolet d'Or.

Notable peaks include:

- **Chaukhamba (I-IV).** A four-summitted massif; Chaukhamba I, 7,138 m (23,419 ft), is the highest peak in the group.
- **Kedarnath,** 6,940 m (22,769 ft), the highest peak on the southwest side of the glacier
- **Thalay Sagar,** 6,904 m (22,651 ft), a steep rock spire, and perhaps the most difficult summit to attain in the entire group.
- **Shivling,** 6,543 m (21,467 ft), another steep rock peak, with two summits, and the most striking as viewed from Gaumukh. A symbol of the god Shiva, it is the most revered peak in the group.
- **Meru,** 6,660 m (21,850 ft), lies between Thalay Sagar and Shivling, and has some highly challenging routes, only recently ascended in Oct 2011 through “Shark’s Fin” route despite multiple attempts by the world’s best climbers.
- **Bhagirathi** [I: 6,856 metres (22,493 ft); II: 6,512 metres (21,365 ft); III: 6,454 m (21,175 ft)], peaks with moderate routes on the back sides, but huge steep-to-overhanging cliffs on the side facing the glacier. Bhagirathi III, in particular, has seen some of the most extreme rock climbing in the Himalaya. River Bhagirathi originates from Bhagirathi peaks Bhagirathi I, II & III.

1 Watch Jimmy Chin’s documentary on scaling the “Shark’s Fin” (Meru) - Conquering Meru, the Anti-Everest (Merufilm.com).

**Trio of Conrad Anker, Jimmy Chen and Renan Ozturk were the first to conquer the “Shark’s Fin” route (http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2255304/American-climbers-conquer-Indias-Mount-Meru-Sharks-Fin-Trio-world-ascend-20-700ft-death-defying-peak-11-day-climb.html).**

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The Gangotri Group of Himalayas is a subdivision of the Garhwal Himalayas in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand. It rings the Gangotri Glacier and contains peaks that are notable for their religious significance and for difficult climbing routes. Climbs on three of the peaks (Thalay Sagar, Shivling, and Meru) have resulted in the awarding of the prestigious climbing award, the Piolet d'Or.

**Vital Statistics**

- **Elevation (feet):** 22,493
- **Elevation (meters):** 6,856
- **Country:** India
- **Range/Region:** Garhwal Himalaya
- **Latitude:** 30.85
- **Longitude:** 79.15
- **Difficulty:** Major Mountain Expedition

- **Year first climbed:** 1998
- **First successful climber(s):** Igor Potan’kin, Yuri Koshelenko, Vladimir Kachkov

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**Exploring Indian Himalayas**
Bhagirathi I & II, Uttarakhand India
Close up view of Bhagirathi I & II, Chirbasa, Gangotri-Gaumukh

Photocredits: Exploring Indian Himalayas©
Fact File: Bhagirathi Region

10 other mountain peaks closest to Bhagirathi Peaks:

1. Satopanth (7075 m) 5.9 km
2. Shivling (Garhwal Himalaya) (6543 m) 8.6 km
3. Kedarnath (6940 m) 10.9 km
4. Kedarnarth Dome (6831 m) 10.9 km
5. Meru Peak (6660 m) 11.5 km
6. Thalay Sagar (6904 m) 14.6 km
7. Chaukhamba 1 (7138 m) 18.2 km
8. Balakun (6471 m) 20.7 km
9. Arwa Tower (6352 m) 22.4 km
10. Avalanche Peak (India) (6196 m) 23.9 km

Bhagirathi River Basin Conservation

Recent research article, “Post Disaster Damages And Bank Erosion By Bhagirathi River In Part Of Bhatwari Block, Uttarkashi”, by Balamurugan, Somnath,B. and Ramesh,V (Geo Informatics Laboratory, Tata Institute of Social Sciences) talks about the hazards of soil erosion in Bhagirathi basin which has led to recent floods and natural calamity in the region. The study concludes that in the event of continued reckless development activity, such natural disasters will continue to impact this region.

Refer: www.journalcra.com for more details on the research

Exploring Indian Himalayas
Shivling, 6543 m, Uttarakhand, India
First view of Shivling from Bhojwasa, Gangotri-Gaumukh
**Fact File: Shivling**

Shivling is a mountain in the Gangotri Group of peaks in the western Garhwal Himalaya, near the snout of the Gangotri Glacier. It lies on the south of Gaumukh (the source of the Bhagirathi River). Its name refers to its status as a sacred symbol - Shiva Linga. It was called "Matterhorn Peak" by early European visitors because of its similarity in appearance to that Alpine peak. While not of locally great elevation, it is a dramatic rock peak, and most visually striking peak seen from Gaumukh. Difficulty of the climb makes it a famed prize for mountaineers.

**Vital Statistics**

- Elevation (feet): 21,467
- Elevation (meters): 6,543m
- Continent: Asia
- Country: India
- Range/Region: Garhwal Himalaya
- Latitude: 30.53
- Longitude: 79.10
- Difficulty: Major Mountain Expedition
- Year first climbed: 1974
- First successful climber(s): Ang Tharkey, Pasang Lhamu Sherpa, Laxman Singh, Hukam Singh, Pemba Tharkey

**Holidays • Important Days**

- World Environment Day Jun 05
- Father’s Day Jun 19

**Must Read**

**Himalayan Dreaming: Australian Mountaineering in the Great Ranges of Asia**

By Will Steffen

In this book, author writes about the difficulty level of scaling Shivling due to "soaring ridges and sheer faces of ice and rock".
Bhagirathi Peaks, Uttarakhand, India

Close up view of Bhagirathi peaks (I & II clearly visible; III covered by clouds)
Gangoti glacier like other himalayan glaciers are melting with each passing year which is attributed to global warming. The article on receding gangotri and other Himalayan glaciers is well captured in an article written by worldviewofglobalwarming, an organisation that focuses on global warming issues.


Land of Pure Vision: The Sacred Geography of Tibet and the Himalaya
- By David Zurick

Environment threat posed to Gangotri Glaciers is well captured in "Himalaya: Through the Lens of a Sadhu".
- By Swami Sundarananda's

Swami has spent his life residing in this region and has seen the drifting of glaciers in this region.

Exploring Indian Himalayas
Himalayas, Bhojwasa, Uttarakhand, India
Stunning landscape on the left side of Bhojwasa

Photocredits: Exploring Indian Himalayas®
Bhrigu Parvat, 6041 m, Uttarakhand, India

- **Holidays**
  - Independence Day: Aug 15, Mon
  - Raksha Bandhan: Aug 18, Thu
  - Parsi New Year's day: Aug 17, Wed
  - Janmashtami: Aug 25, Thu

- **Important Days**
  - Raksha Bandhan: Aug 18, Thu
Bhagirathi II, 6512 m, Uttarkhand, India
Close up view of Bhagirthi II Peak from Bhojwasa

Turn over leaf for location fact file

Turn over leaf for holidays & important days

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Photo credits: Exploring Indian Himalayas©
Fact File: Bhagirathi II

Spectacular setting of Gaumukh in the Bhagirathi basin is dominated by two beautiful mountains in the Garhwal Himalaya - Shivling and the Bhagirathi Peaks. Bhagirathi II is one of the major peaks among the Bhagirathi groups of peaks in garhwal himalaya, Bhagarathi I & III are others. Bhagirathi II (6512m) was first climbed by Austrian Edi Ellmauthaler and Toni Messner in 1933. Gaumukh and Nandanvan are the perfect sites to enjoy the beauty of Bhagirathi & Shivling peaks as one stands at the foothill of these magnificent peaks.

• Holidays
• Important Days

• Ganesh Chaturthi  Sep 05, Mon
• Idul Juha  Sep 12, Mon
• Onam  Sep 14, Wed
• Teachers’ Day  Sep 05
• Labor Day (USA)  Sep 05
• International Literacy Day  Sep 08
• Himalayan Day  Sep 09
• International Day of Democracy  Sep 15
• World Tourism Day  Sep 27

Exploring Indian Himalayas
Shivling, 6543 m, Uttarkhand, India
Shivling as seen from Gaumukh, 4000 m

Turn over leaf for location fact file

Shivling, 6543 m, Uttarkhand, India
Shivling as seen from Gaumukh, 4000 m

Turn over leaf for location fact file

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Photo credits: Exploring Indian Himalayas ©
Fact File: Shivling

Shivling is among the most stunning peaks of the Garwhal region. It rises as a sheer single pyramid above the snout of the Gangotri Glacier when seen from Gaumukh. It is a twin-summit mountain, with the northeast summit (6543 m) being slightly higher than the southwest summit (6,501 m). Between Gaumukh and Shivling lies the Tapovan meadow, a popular pilgrimage site due to its inspiring view of the mountain. Since the first ascent, at least ten other routes have been climbed on the peak, ascending all major ridges and most major faces of the mountain. All routes are extremely technical climbs.

Holidays

- Mahatma Gandhi Birthday: Oct 02, Sun
- Dussehra: Oct 11, Tue
- Muharram: Oct 12, Wed
- Maharishi Valmiki Birthday: Oct 15/16, Sat/Sun
- Diwali: Oct 30, Sun
- Halloween: Oct 31, Mon
- World Animal Day: Oct 04
- World Teachers’ Day: Oct 05
Shivling, 6543 m, Uttarkhand, India
Close up view of Shivling peak as seen from Gaumukh, 4000 m
Fact File: Highest Peaks of Uttarakhand

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- Holidays
- Important Days

- Bhai Duj
  Nov 01, Tue
- Guru Nanak Birthday
  Nov 14, Mon
- Uttarakhand Foundation Day
  Nov 9
- Children’s Day (India)
  Nov 14
- Universal Children's Day
  Nov 20

Exploring Indian Himalayas
Himalayas, Uttarkhand, India
Snowy peaks as seen from Bhojwasa, Gangotri-Gaumukh
Joy of giving  Please contribute to the EIH cause generously

Christmas Day                     Dec 25, Sun
Human Rights Day                  Dec 10
International Mountain Day        Dec 11

Bhagirathi Valley, Uttarkhand, India

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Thank you Exploring Indian Himalayas (EIH) in supporting WWF & helping the cause of saving the Snow Leopard, an endangered species in Himalayan region. EIH adoption of a Snow Leopard is a step in the right direction. We recognize the exemplary efforts of EIH in showcasing the beauty of the Himalayas and preservation of the highest & the longest mountain ranges in the world.

On behalf of

Exploring Indian Himalayas
a Snow Leopard

has been adopted through World Wildlife Fund

www.worldwildlife.org