SNOW COVER ATLAS OF GANGA BASIN

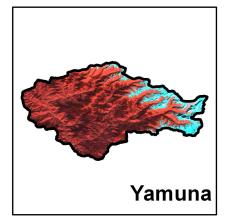
Sub basins: Alaknanda, Bhagirathi and Yamuna

(A Joint Project of Indian Space Research Organisation and Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India)

Year: 2012-13











Uttarakhand Space Application Centre Dehradun - 248001

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Space Applications Centre (ISRO) Ahmedabad - 380015

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Abstract	This atlas gives subbasin-wise distribution of snow cover in the Ganga basin from October 2012 to June 2013. The subbasins included in this report are Alaknanda, Bhagirathi and Yamuna. The areal extent of snow cover was estimated in fully automatic mode using Normalized Difference Snow Index (NDSI) based algorithm. For this purpose AWiFS sensor of Resourcesat satellite was used. This atlas gives snow cover products, statistics and seasonal snow depletion curve. It is expected that this data will be useful for hydrological and climatological applications.				
Key words	Snow cover, NDSI, AWiFS, depletion curve, Alaknanda, Bhagirathi and Yamuna basins.				
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CONTENTS

		Page No.
1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	STUDY AREA	2
3.	DATA USED	2
4.	NORMALISED DIFFERENCE SNOW INDEX	2
5.	SNOW COVER MONITORING ALGORITHM	3
6.	RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	4
	ALAKNANDA BASIN	8
	BHAGIRATHI BASIN	31
	YAMUNA BASIN	54

1. Introduction

Snow covers almost 40 per cent of the Earth's land surface during Northern Hemisphere winter. This makes albedo and areal extent of snow as important component of the Earth's radiation balance (Foster and Chang, 1993). In addition, large areas in the Himalayas are also covered by snow during winter. Area of snow can change significantly during winter and spring. This can affect stream flow for rivers originating in the higher Himalayas. All the rivers originating from higher Himalayas receive almost 30-50 % of annual flow from snow and glacier melt run off (Agarwal et al., 1983). In addition, snow pack ablation is highly sensitive to climatic variation. Increase in atmospheric temperature can influence snowmelt and stream runoff pattern (Kulkarni et al., 2002). Therefore, mapping of the areal extent and reflectance of snow are important parameter for various climatological and hydrological applications. In addition, extent of snow cover can also be used as input for numerous other applications.

Mapping and monitoring of seasonal snow cover using field methods are normally very difficult in a mountainous terrain, like the Himalayas. Therefore, remote sensing techniques have been extensively used for snow cover monitoring. Snow cover monitoring using satellite images were started by using the TIROS-1 satellite from April 1960 (Singer and Popham 1963). Since then, the potential for operational satellite-based mapping has been enhanced by the development of higher temporal frequency and satellite sensors with higher spatial resolution. In addition, satellites with better radiometric resolutions, such as NOAA have been used successfully for snow mapping (Hall et al., 1995). This is possibly due to the distinct spectral reflectance characteristics of snow in visible and near infrared regions. India has launched series of Indian Remote Sensing satellite (IRS) to study the different earth resources. Previously launched satellites have flown with many sensors having different spatial, temporal and spectral resolutions. Recently launched RESOURCESAT-1 satellite has three different sensors namely LISS III, LISS IV & AWiFS with different spatial, temporal and spectral resolutions as desired for different applications. AWiFS (Advanced Wide Field Sensor) is an advanced version of earlier Indian satellite sensor WiFS (Wide Field Sensor) with improved spectral and spatial resolutions maintaining the same repetivity. There are a series of other polar orbiting satellites, like Landsat, NOAA and MODIS etc., which have provided information on different aspects of snow. Geo-stationary satellites also proved their utility in mapping/monitoring the snow-covered regions. Information generated from satellite observations has been extensively used for snowmelt runoff modeling (Kulkarni et al., 1997).

2. Study Area:

This Atlas gives distribution of snow cover in three sub-basins of the Ganga basin. These are Alaknanda, Bhagirathi and Yamuna sub basins. Locations of these basins are shown in Figure 1.

3. Data used:

AWiFS data from October 2012 to June 2013 were used in this study.

4. Normalised Difference Snow Index (NDSI):

In general, the reflectance of snow is high at the red end of the visible spectrum. It tends to decline in the near-infrared region until 1090 nm, where slight gain in reflectance occurs and gives a minor peak at approximately 1090 to 1100 nm. One of the important difficulties in snow cover monitoring is the presence of cloud cover. Cloud has strong reflectivity in visible, NIR and SWIR regions while snow absorbs in SWIR, and this difference can be utilized for snow/cloud discrimination. Normalized Difference Snow Index (NDSI) utilize the normalized ratio of green and SWIR and is used as an automated approach for snow mapping addressing the shadow and cloud problems in snow bound areas.

Normalized Difference Snow Index was calculated using the ratio of green wavelength (band 2) and SWIR (band 5) of AWiFS sensor:

Normalized Difference Snow Index(NDSI) = (band2 - band5)/(band2 + band5) ...(1)

To estimate NDSI, DN numbers were converted into reflectance. This involves conversion of digital numbers into the radiance values, known as sensor calibration, and then estimation of

reflectance from these radiance values. Various parameters needed for estimating spectral reflectance are maximum and minimum radiances and mean solar exo-atmospheric spectral irradiances in the satellite sensor bands, satellite data acquisition time, solar declination, solar zenith and solar azimuth angles, mean Earth-Sun distance etc. (Markham and Barker, 1987; Srinivasulu and Kulkarni, 2004).

5. Snow cover monitoring algorithm

An algorithm is developed to provide changes in the areal extent of snow (Kulkarni et. al., 2006). Snow extent is estimated at an interval of 5-days and 10-days, depending upon availabilities of AWiFS data. In 5-daily product, snow extent is generated scene-wise. In this product, snow and cloud extents are given. Estimate of cloud is important because, at times, snow is covered by cloud and this may be classified as non-snow area, leading to erroneous conclusions. In 10-daily product, three scenes are analyzed, if available. For example, 10 March product data of 5, 10 and 15 March was used. If any pixel is identified as snow on any one date then this pixel will be classified as snow on final product. This provides snow cover at an interval of 10 days, an important requirement in hydrological applications. Therefore, this product is generated basinwise. Since this product is using three scenes, probability becomes high that at least in one scene, pixel may be cloud-free and this helps in overcoming problem associated with snow under cloud cover. If three consecutive scenes are not available, then all available scenes in 10 days window was used in the analysis. Differentiation between water and snow is difficult using NDSI image. In addition, separation of snow and water pixels is also difficult based on reflectance due to mountain shadow. Therefore, in the present algorithm, water bodies are marked in pre-winter season and are masked in the final products during winter. Flow diagram of the algorithm is given in Figure 2.

6. Results and discussions

In this atlas, basin-wise snow cover statistics, maps, and seasonal depletion curves have been provided from October 2012 to June 2013. Snow ablation pattern varies from basin to basin, depending on area altitude distribution in the basins. In the month of October and November there is not much snow fall was observed but in Alaknanda sub-basin. Accumulation starts from December and ablation start from April end for Alaknanda and Bhagirathi sub-basins. For Yamuna sub-basin ablation starts in early March. Fluctuation in snow cover is more in Yamuna sub-basin. It may be due to lower altitude.

Acknowledgements

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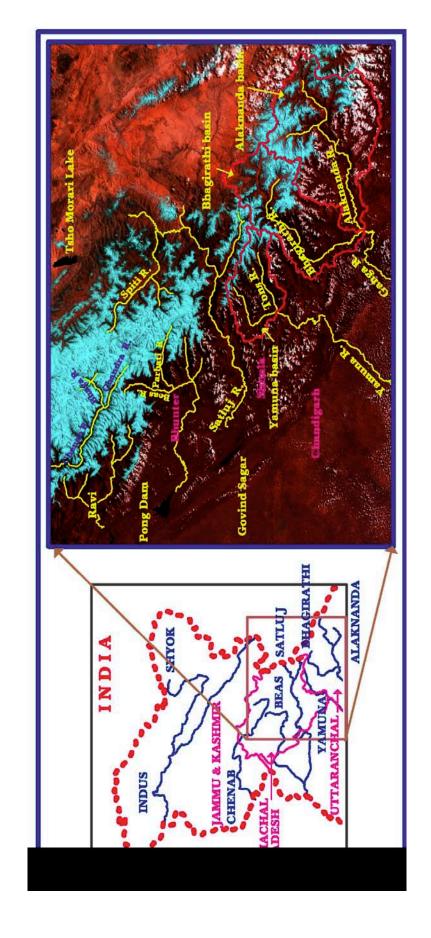


Figure 1: Location map of Alaknanda, Bhagirathi and Yamuna sub-basins (Part of Ganga basin)

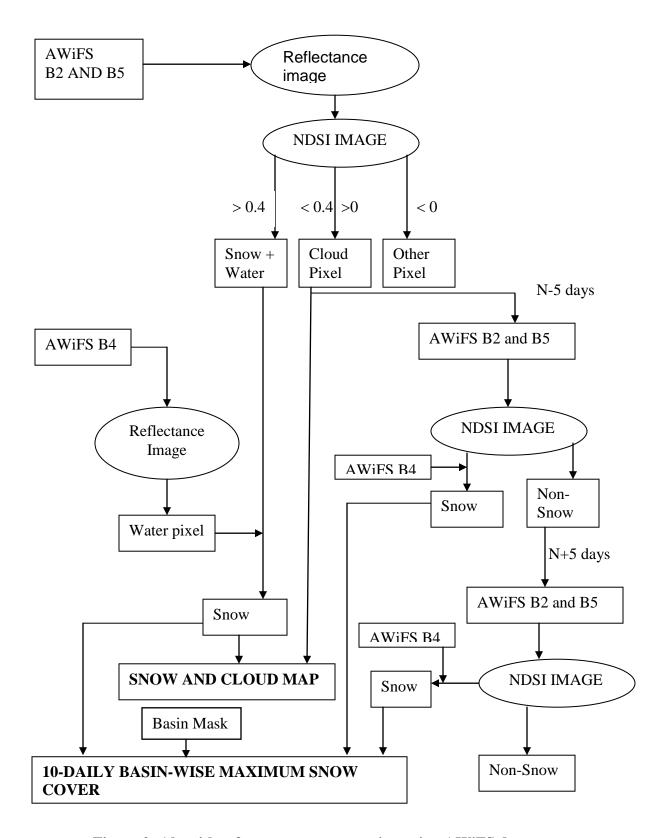


Figure 2: Algorithm for snow cover mapping using AWiFS data

ALAKNANDA BASIN

AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (5 DAILY)

BASIN AREA: 11090 sq km

BASIN NAME: ALAKNANDA

S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover	S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover			
	October 2012									
1	07-Oct-2012	1514	14	5	15-Oct-2012	2298	21			
2	09-Oct-2012	4783	43	6	22-Oct-2012	2429	22			
3	10-Oct-2012	3220	29	7	26-Oct-2012	2812	25			
4	14-Oct-2012	2995	27	8	27-Oct-2012	2150	19			
				9	31-Oct-21012	2408	22			
	November 2012									
10 02-Nov-2012 2912 26 14 12-Nov-2012 3186 2										
11	03-Nov-2012	2716	24	15	15-Nov-2012	1887	17			
12	07-Nov-2012	2661	24	16	17-Nov-2012	2195	20			
13	09-Nov-2012	1058	10	17	26-Nov-2012	2777	25			
	_		Decem	ber 2012						
17	09-Dec-2012	2247	20	20	25-Dec-2010	5101	46			
18	21-Dec-2010	5113	46	21	26-Dec-2010	4319	39			
19	23-Dec-2010	5113	46							
	1	I		ry 2013		I	T			
22	07-Jan-2013	3623	33	26	16-Jan-13	2781	25			
23	11-Jan-2013	2960	27	27	20-Jan-13	3625	33			
24	13-Jan-2013	4642	42	28	21-Jan-13	5567	50			
25	14-Jan-2013	4510	41	29	25-Jan-13	4989	45			
	1	T	Februa	ry 2013	1	<u> </u>	T			
32	01-Feb-11	2882	45	35	25-Feb-2013	5545	50			
33	09-Feb-11	5767	52							
34	18-Feb-11	6543	59							
2=	10-1-			h 2013		1000	4.0			
35	05-Mar-2013	5393	49	38	20-Mar-2013	4385	40			
36	17-Mar-2013	5934	54	39	22-Mar-2013	5174	47			
37	19-Mar-2013	5450	49	40	26-Mar-2013	5790	52			
41	April 2013									
41	12-Apr-2013	5034	45	44	19-Apr-2013	4874	44			
42	15- Apr -2013		43	45	24- Apr-2013	5006	45			
43	17- Apr -2013	4885	44 Man 20	012						
4.5		10.5-	May 20				4.5			
46	14-May-2013	4827	44	50	20-May-2013	2110	19			

47	16-May-2013	3929	35	51	23-May-2013	3474	31	
48	18-May-2013	3229	29	52	25-May-2013	3077	28	
49	19-May-2013	3488	31	53	28-May-2013	3193	29	
				54	31-May-2013	2362	22	
June 2013								
55	01 1 2012	2271	2.1	50	21 7 2012	0.440		
	01-June-2013	2354	21	58	21-June-2013	3413	31	
56	01-June-2013 04-June-2013	2354 2755	25	58	21-June-2013	3413	31	

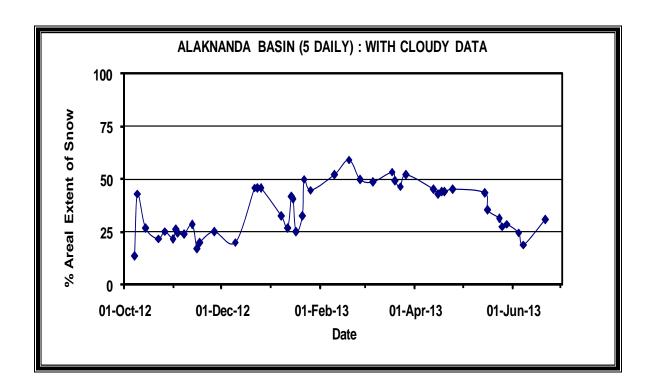
AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (10 DAILY)

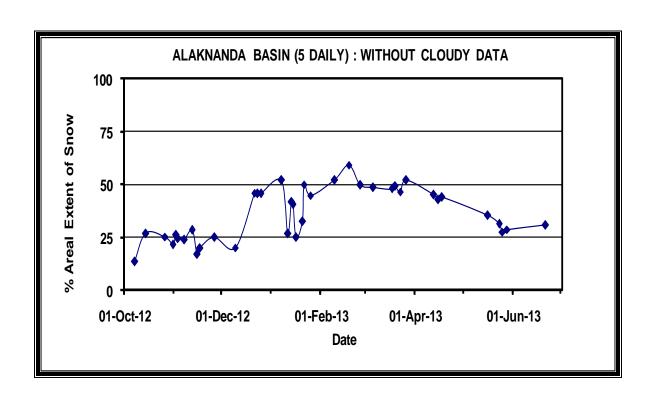
BASIN AREA: 11090 sq km

BASIN NAME: ALAKNANDA

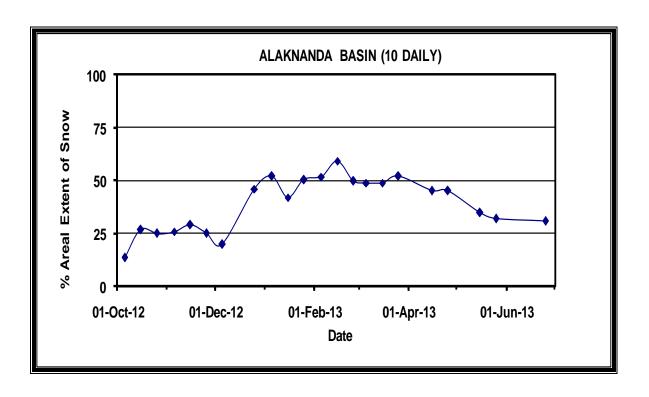
S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)	S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)		
October 2012									
1	05-Oct-2012	1514	14	3	25-Oct-2012	2812	25		
2	15-Oct-2012	2995	27						
November 2012									
4	05-Nov-2012	2912	26	6	25-Nov-2012	2777	25		
5	15-Nov-2012	3186	29						
December 2012									
7	05-Dec-2012	2247	20	8	25-Dec-2010	5101	46		
			Janua	ry 2013					
9	05-Jan-2013	5767	52	11	25-Jan-13	5567	50		
10	15-Jan-2013	4642	42						
			Februa	ry 2013			T		
12	05-Feb-11	5797	52	14	25-Feb-2013	5545	50		
13	15-Feb-11	6589	59						
			2.0	1 2012					
15	05 May 2012	5202		h 2013 17	25 Mar. 2012	5700	50		
16	05-Mar-2013	5393	49	1/	25-Mar-2013	5790	52		
10	15-Mar-2013	5450	49						
April 2013									
18	15-Apr-2013	5034	45	19	25-Apr-2013	5005	45		
May 2013									
20	15-May-2013	3929	35	21	25-May-2013	3474	31		
	15 May 2015	3,2,		<u></u>	25 May 2015	31/1			
			June	2013	•				
22	25-June-2013	3413	31						

Snow cover depletion curve

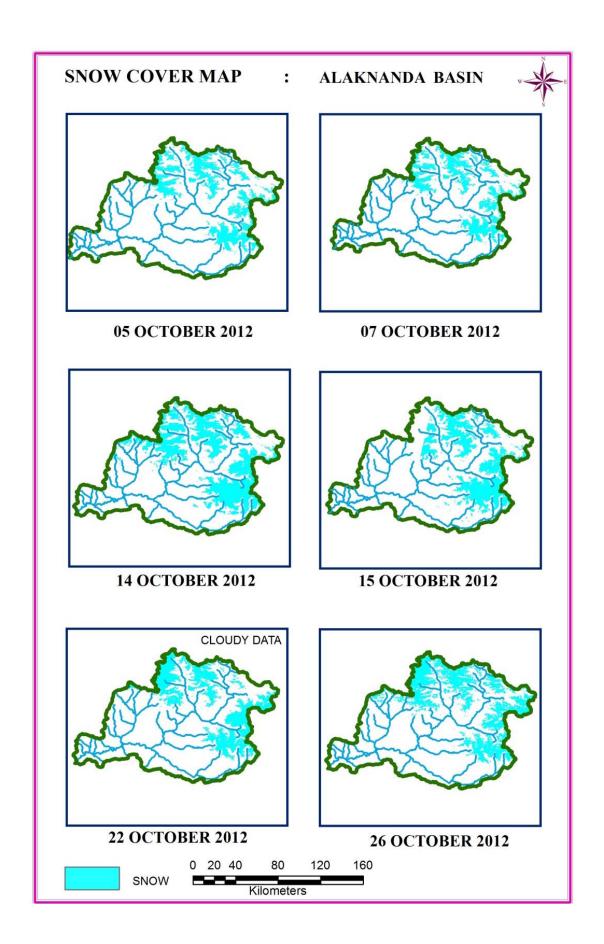


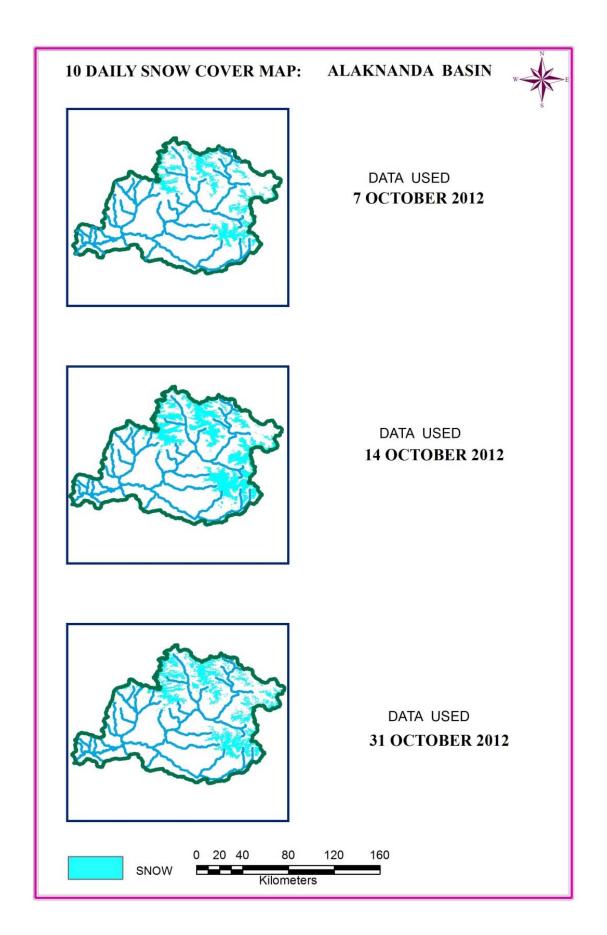


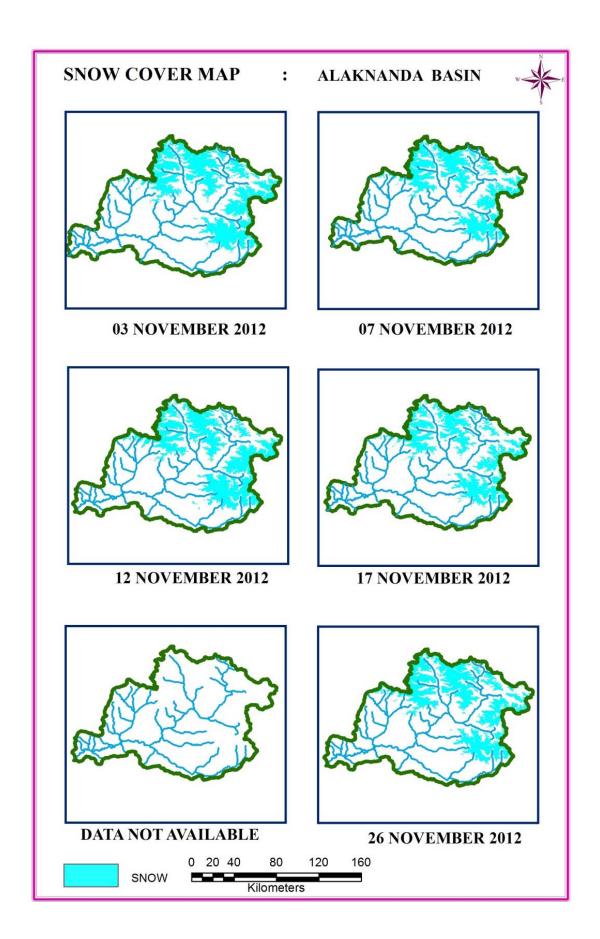
Snow cover depletion curve

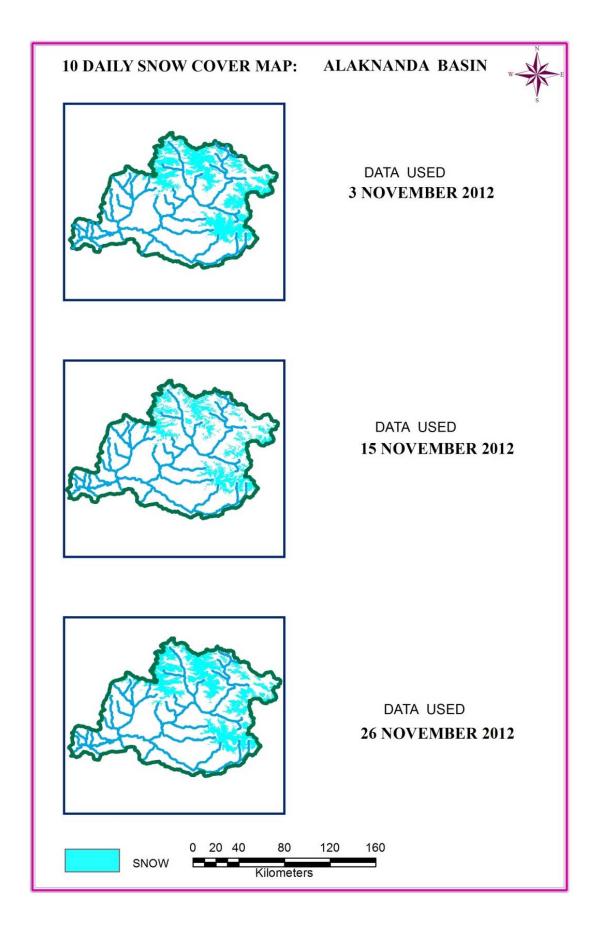


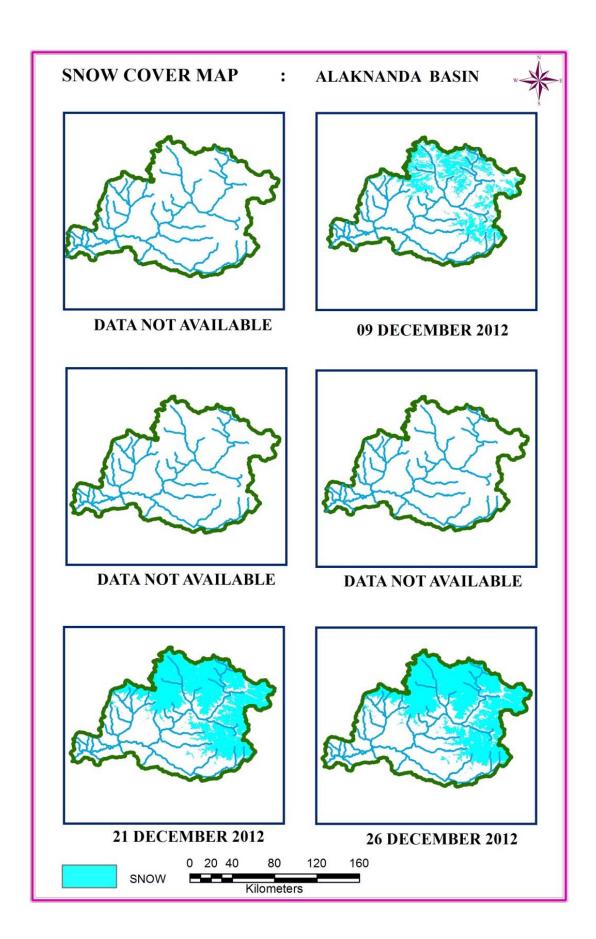
SNOW COVER MAP

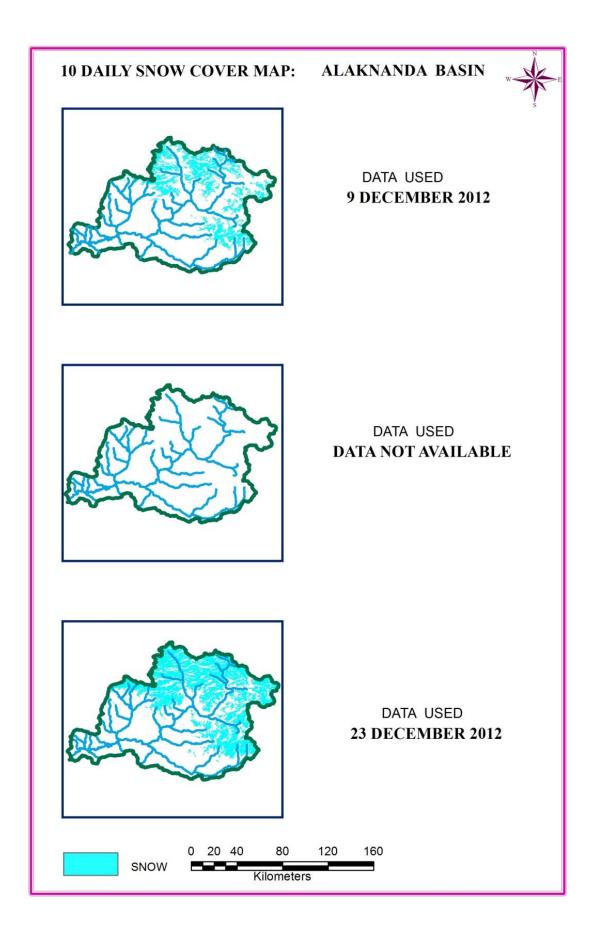


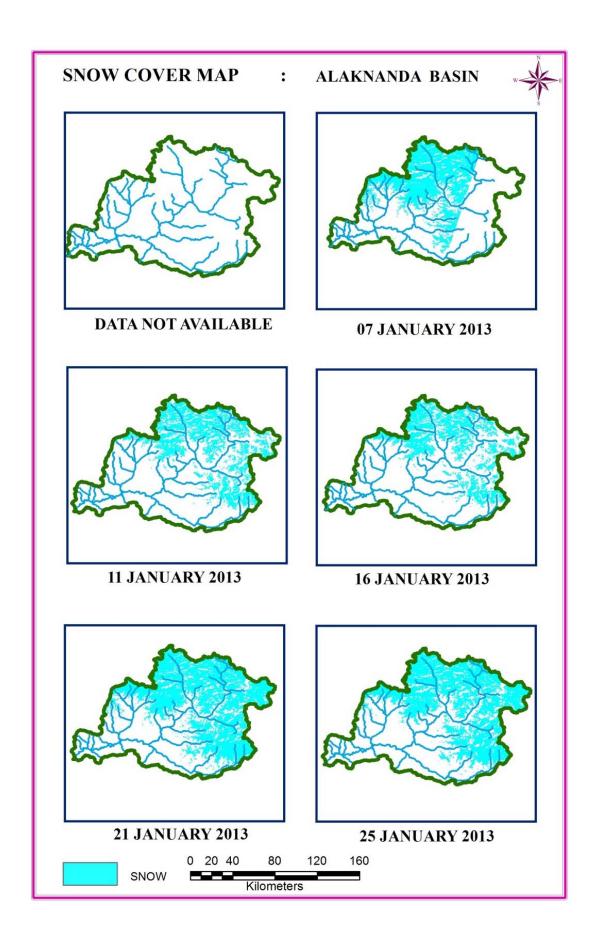


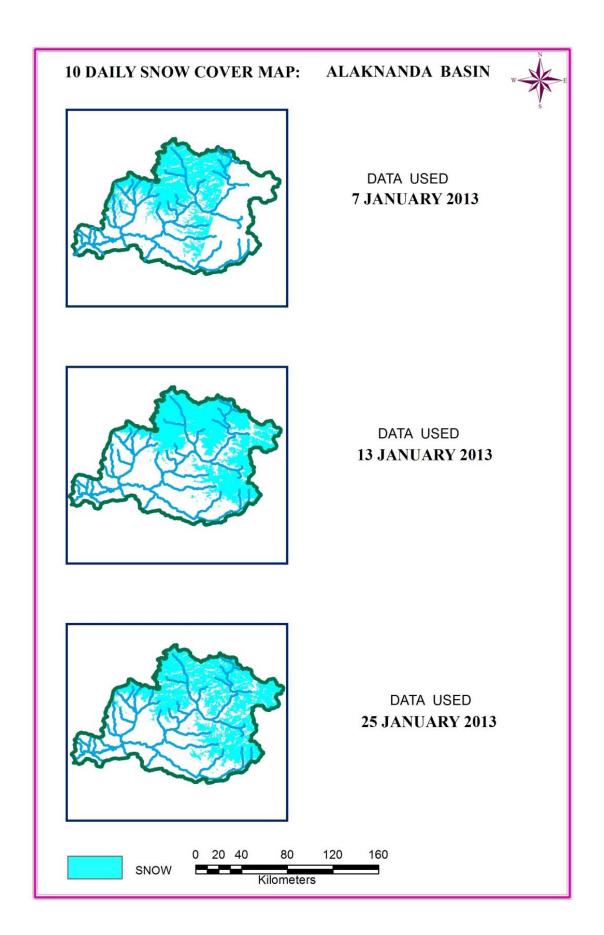


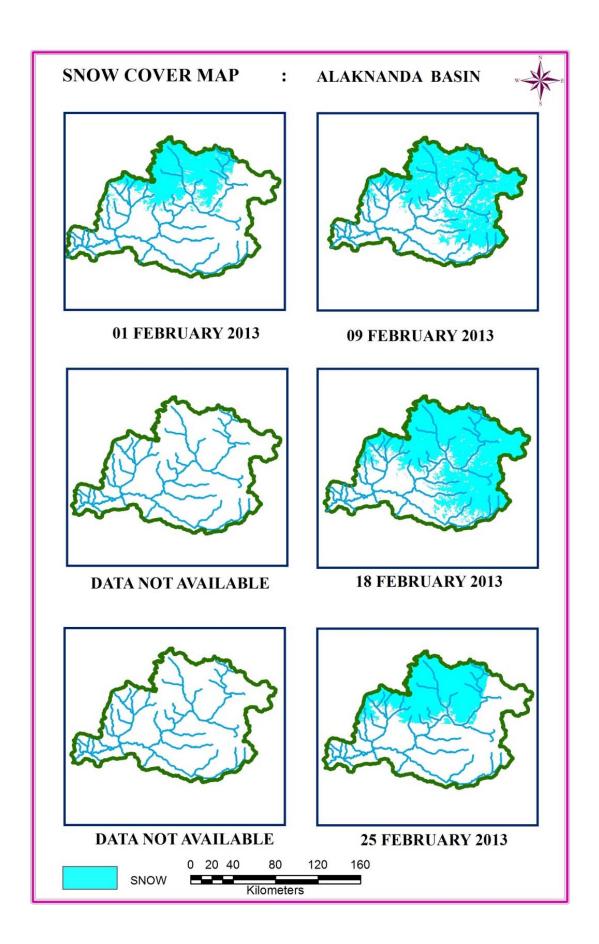


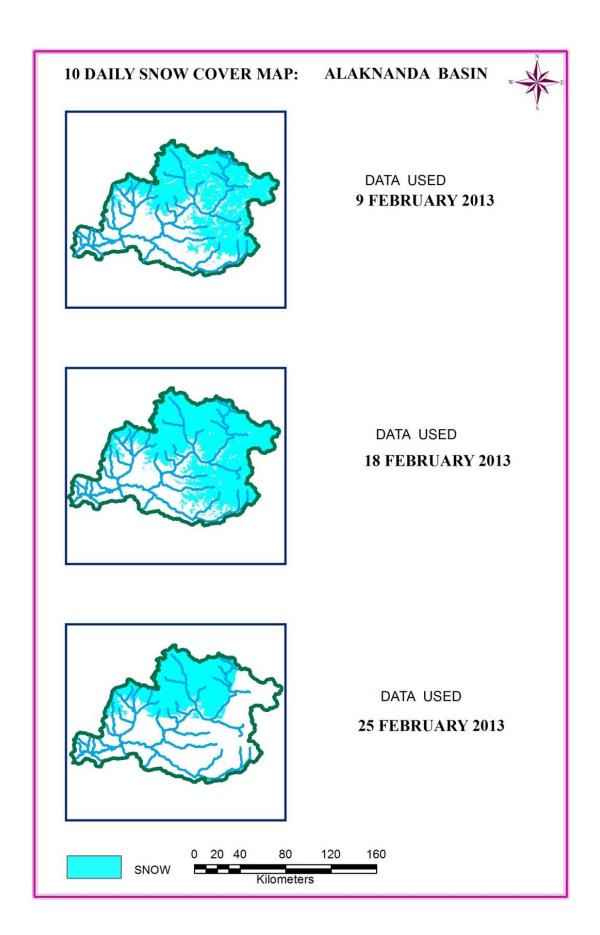


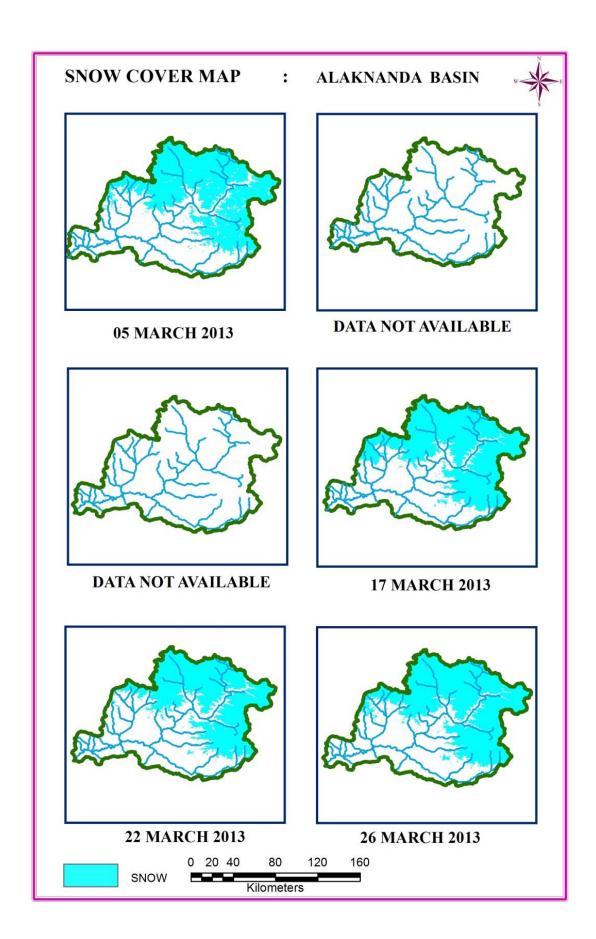


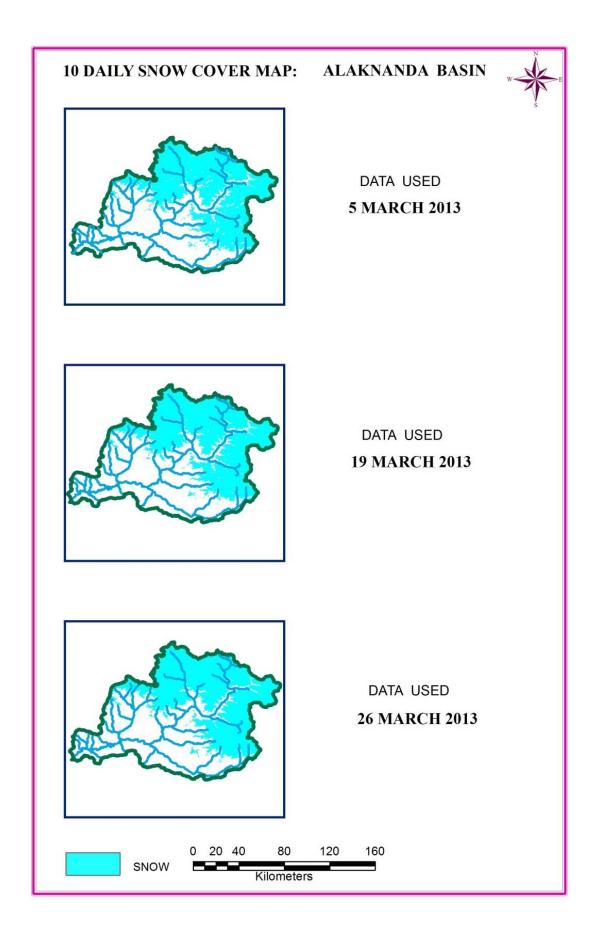


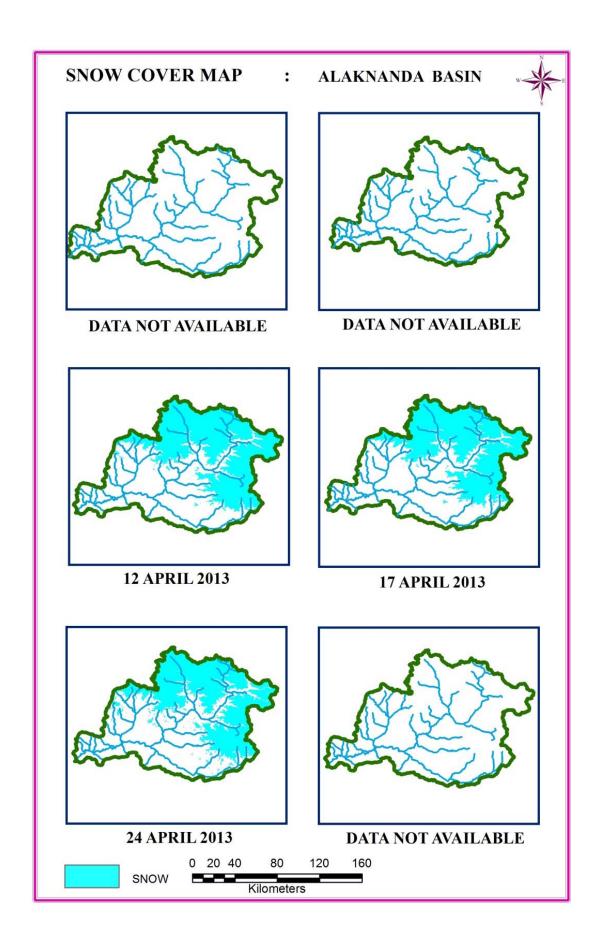


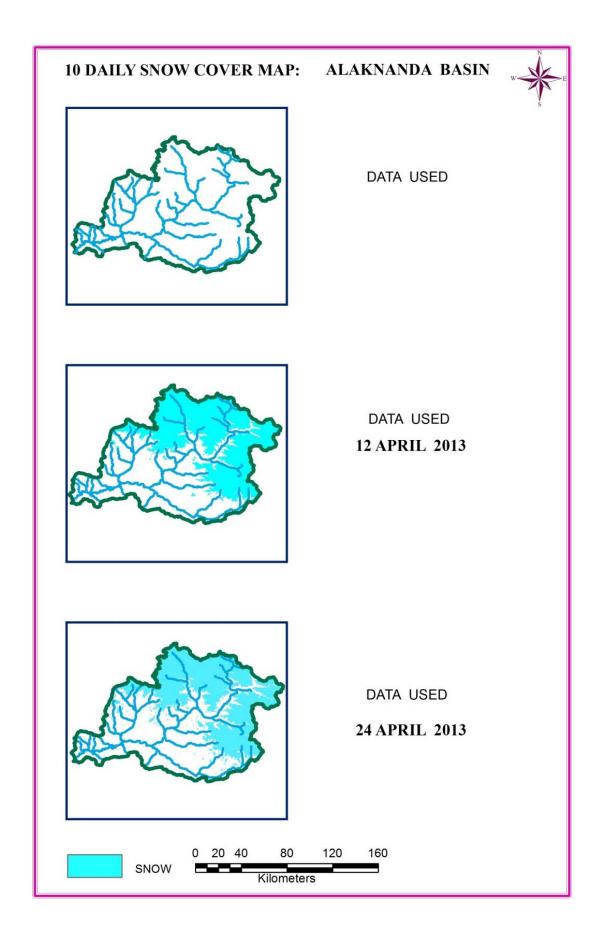


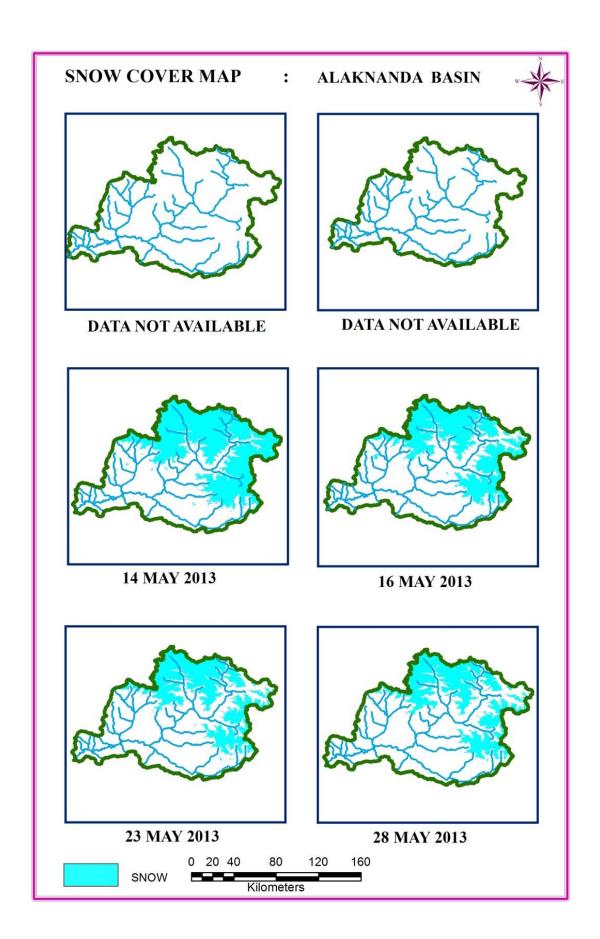


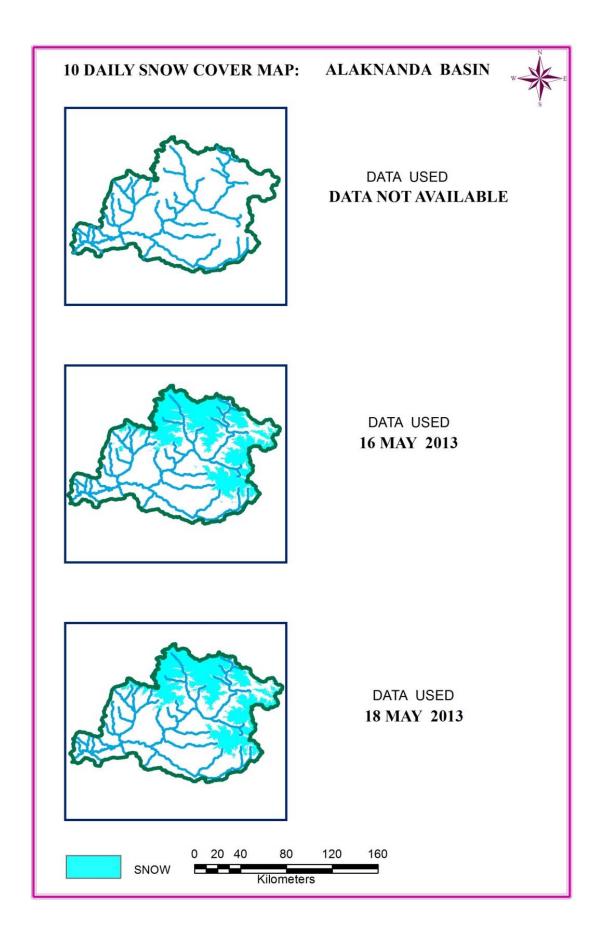


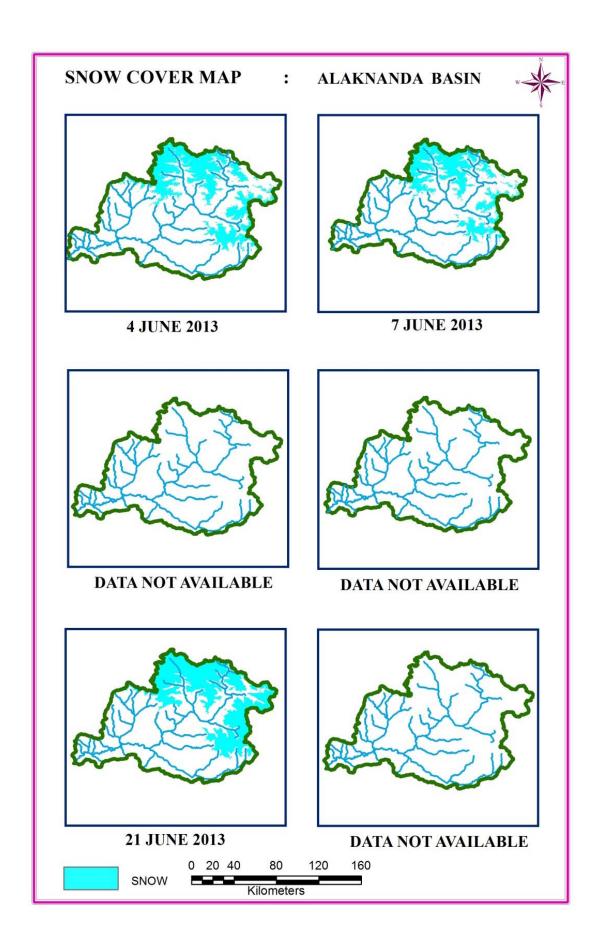


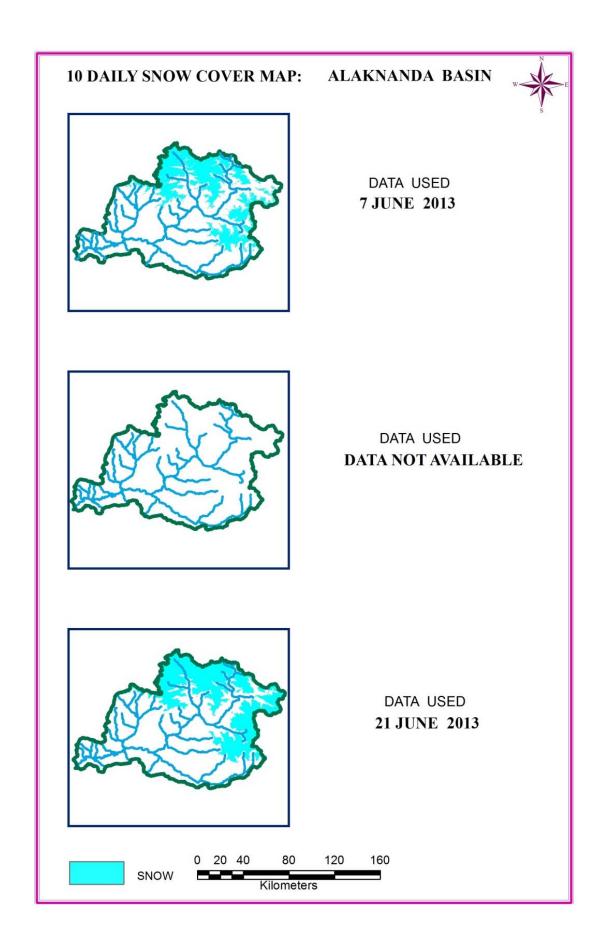












BHAGIRATHI BASIN

AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (5 DAILY)

BASIN AREA: 7438 sq km

BASIN NAME: Bhagirathi

S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover	S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)			
October 2012										
1	04-Oct-2012	1392	19	7	22-Oct-2012	2349	32			
2	05-Oct-2012	1717	23	8	24-Oct-2012	2152	29			
3	07-Oct-2012	1061	14	9	26-Oct-2012	2469	33			
4	09-Oct-2012	3278	44	10	28-Oct-2012	3445	46			
5	10-Oct-2012	2008	27	11	29-Oct-2012	2470	33			
6	11-Oct-2012	1710	23	12	31-Oct-2012	2158	29			
			Novem	ber 2012						
10	02-Nov-2012	2328	31	15	10-Nov-2012	1085	15			
11	03-Nov-2012	2242	30	16	12-Nov-2012	2343	32			
12	05-Nov-2012	1737	24	17	15-Nov-2012	1520	20			
13	07-Nov-2012	2080	28	18	17-Nov-2012	1628	22			
14	09-Nov-2012	1503	20	19	26-Nov-2012	2010	27			
				20	27-Nov-2012	1942	26			
	December 2012									
21	09-Dec-2012	1844	25	23	25-Dec-2012	2989	40			
22	23-Dec-2012	2410	32							
			Ionuo	mr. 2012						
24	00 I 2012	2469		ry 2013 27	14 I 2012	2924	20			
25	09-Jan-2013	2468	33	26	14-Jan-2013	2824	38			
26	11-Jan-2013	1642	22 42	27	20-Jan-2013 30-Jan-2013	4719 4196	63 56			
20	13-Jan-2013	3155	42	21	50-Jan-2015	4190	30			
			 	ary 2013						
32	01-Feb-13	4172	56	34	25-Feb-13	4439	60			
33	11-Feb-13	4420	59	35	28-Feb-2013	4289	58			
		20			20100 2010					
March 2013										
35	05-Mar-2013	3886	52	37	19-Mar-2013	4033	54			
36	17-Mar-2013	4381	59	38	26-Mar-2013	3912	52.59			
	T		Apri	1 2013						
39	12-Apr-2013	3757	51							

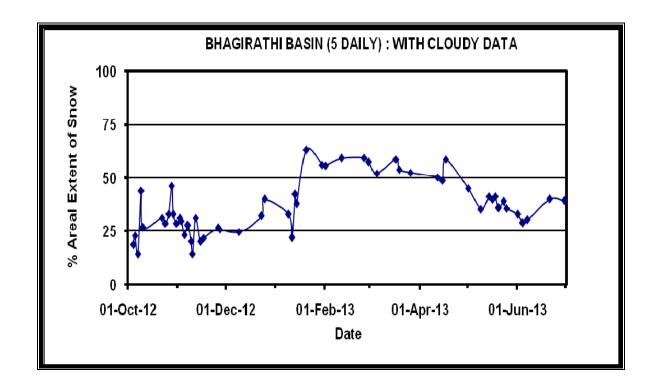
40	15- Apr -2013	3640	49					
41	17- Apr -2013	4463	60					
May 2013								
42	01-May-2013	3365	45	46	18-May-2013	3082	41	
43	09-May-2013	2657	36	47	20-May-2013	2690	36	
44	14-May-2013	3095	42	48	23-May-2013	2960	39	
45	16-May-2013	2974	40	49	25-May-2013	2681	36	
			June	e 2013				
50	01-June-2013	2473	33	53	21-June-2013	2993	40	
51	04-June-2013	2163	29	54	30-June-2013	2935	39	
52	07-June-2013	2280	31					

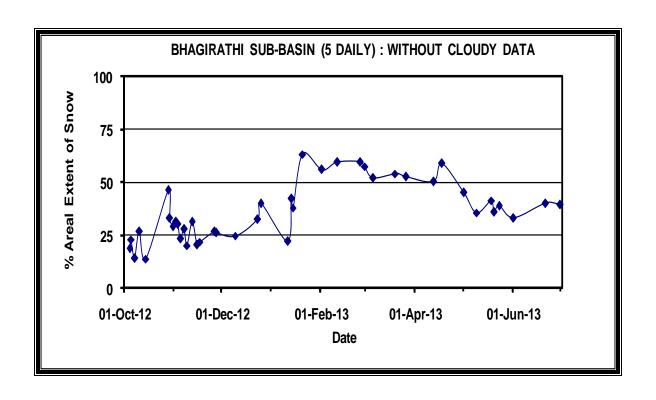
AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (10 DAILY)

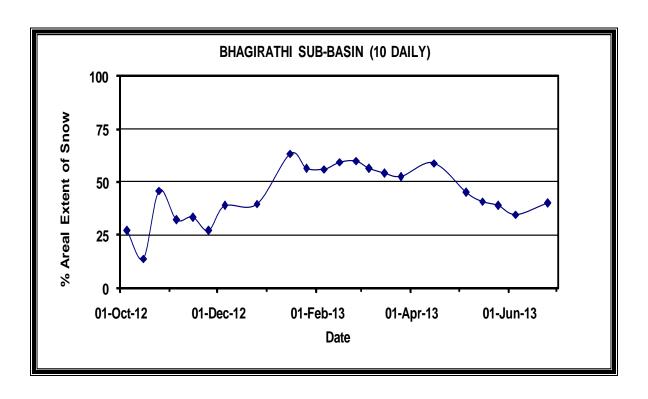
BASIN AREA: 7438 sq km

BASIN NAME: BHAGIRATHI

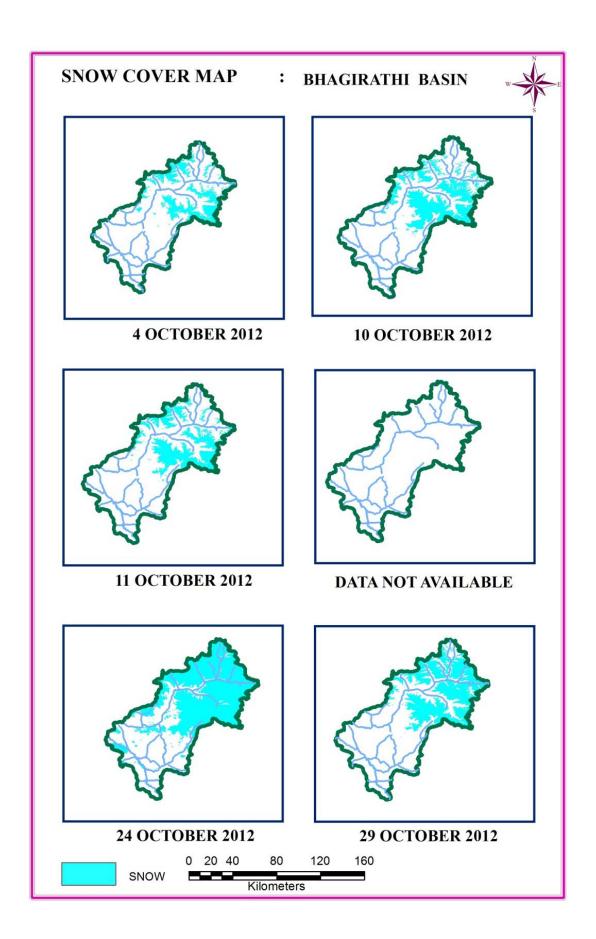
S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)	S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)		
October 2012									
1	05-Oct-2012	2028	27	3	25-Oct-2012	3421	46		
2	15-Oct-2012	1041	14						
	November 2012								
10	05-Nov-2012	2396	32	12	25-Nov-2012	2008	27		
11	15-Nov-2012	2488	33						
	T	T	Deceml	ber 2012			T		
13	05-Dec-2012	2889	39	15	25-Dec-2012	2966	40		
	T	T		ry 2013	1	Г	T		
16	15-Jan-13	4713	63	18	25-Jan-13	4195	56		
	I	T	Februa	ry 2013	1	T	T		
25	05-Feb-2013	4172	56	27	25-Feb-2013	4463	60		
26	15-Feb-2013	4420	59						
20	0.7.1.	1001		h 2013		0010			
29	05-Mar-2013	4206	57	31	25-Mar-2013	3912	53		
30	15-Mar-2013	4016	54						
			<u> </u>	1 2012					
22	15 4 2012	4200	_	1 2013					
32	15-Apr-2013	4388	59						
			N/ 20	112					
16	05 M 2012	22.47	May 20		25 M 2012	2007	20		
46	05-May-2013	3347	45	48	25-May-2013	2887	39		
47	15-May-2013	3050	41						
	05 I 2012	2500		2013	25 I 2012	2002	40		
55	05-June-2013	2588	35	56	25-June-2013	2993	40		

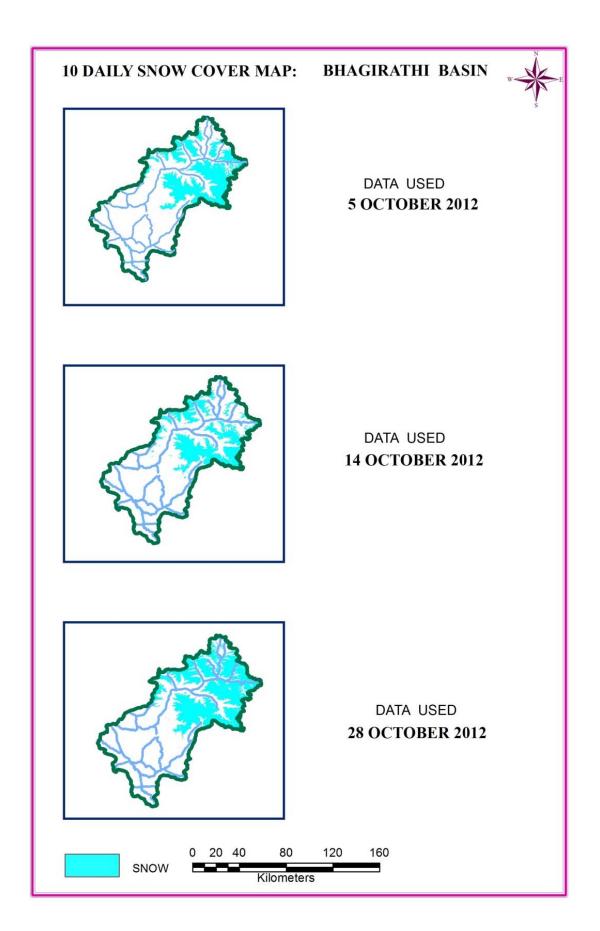


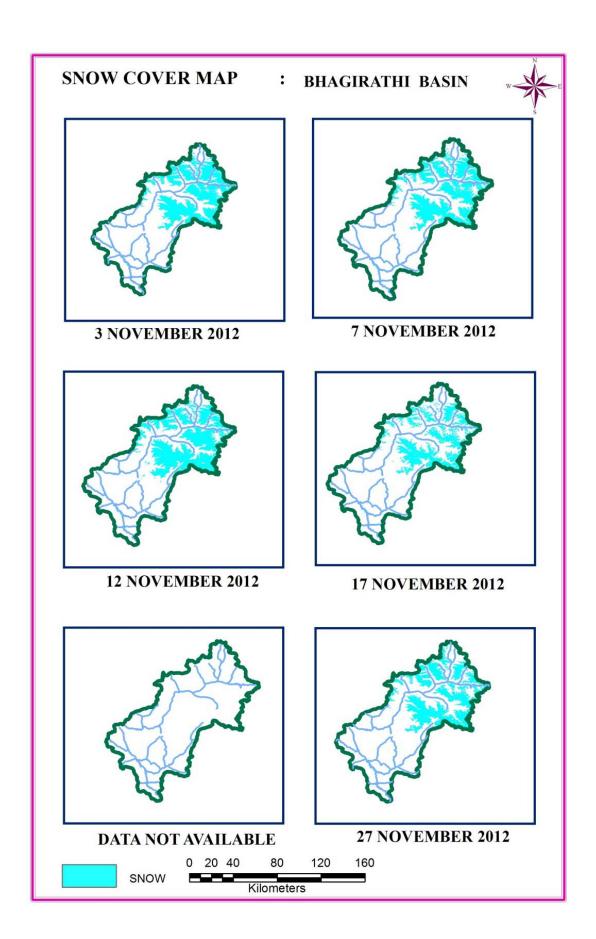


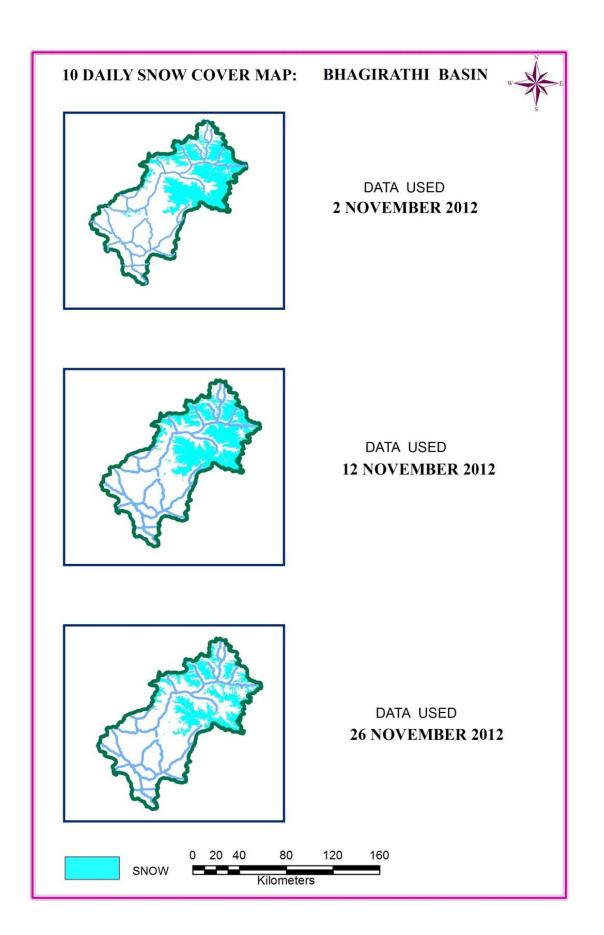


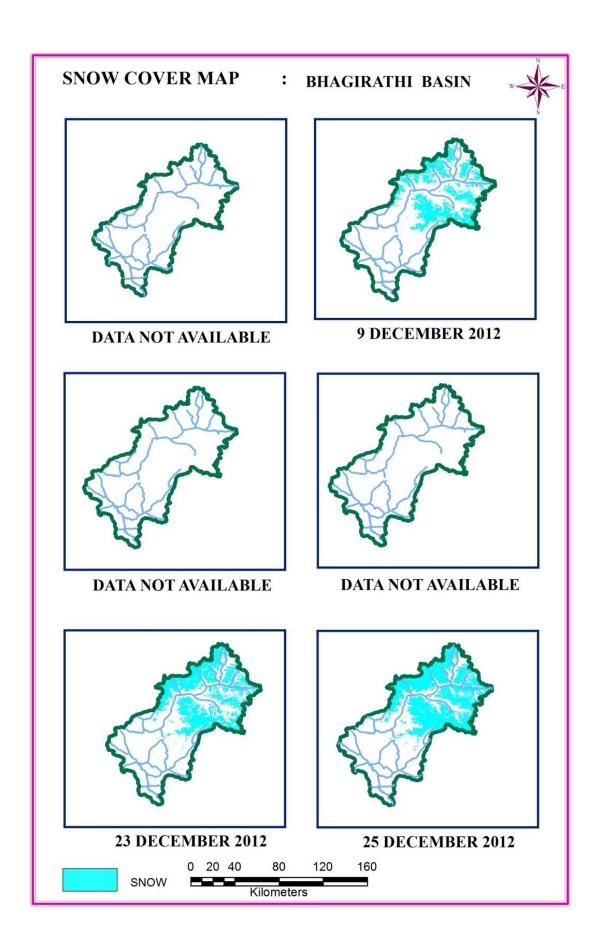
SNOW COVER MAP

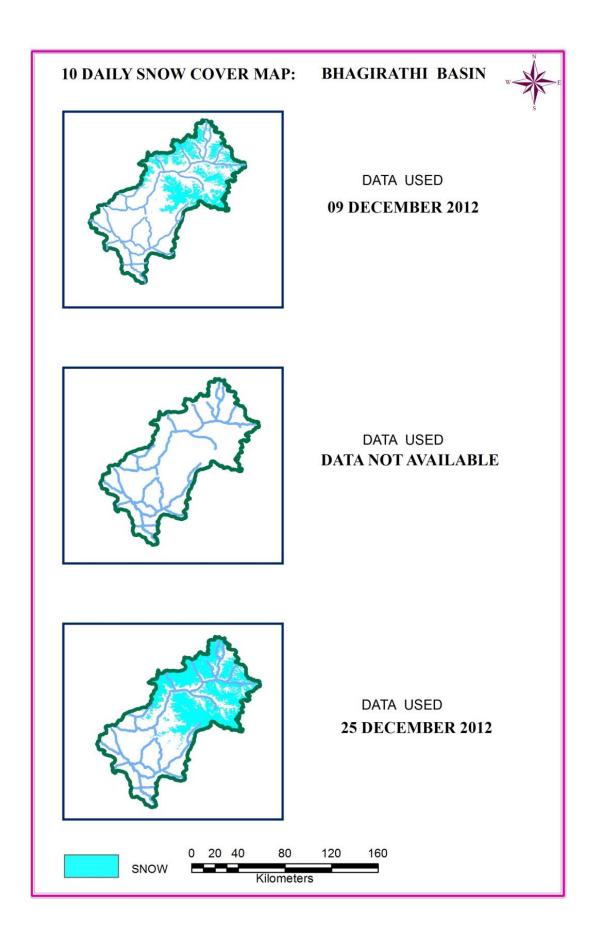


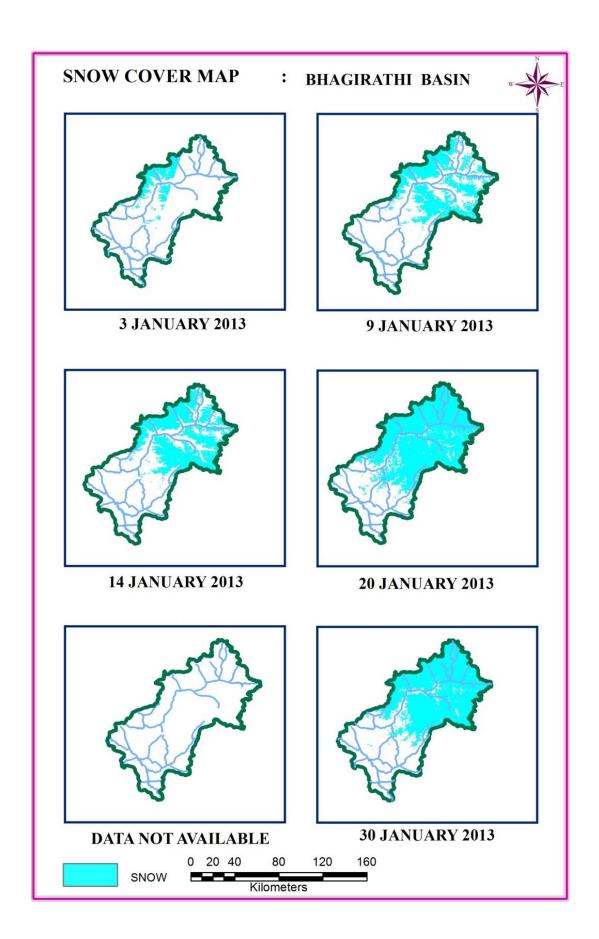


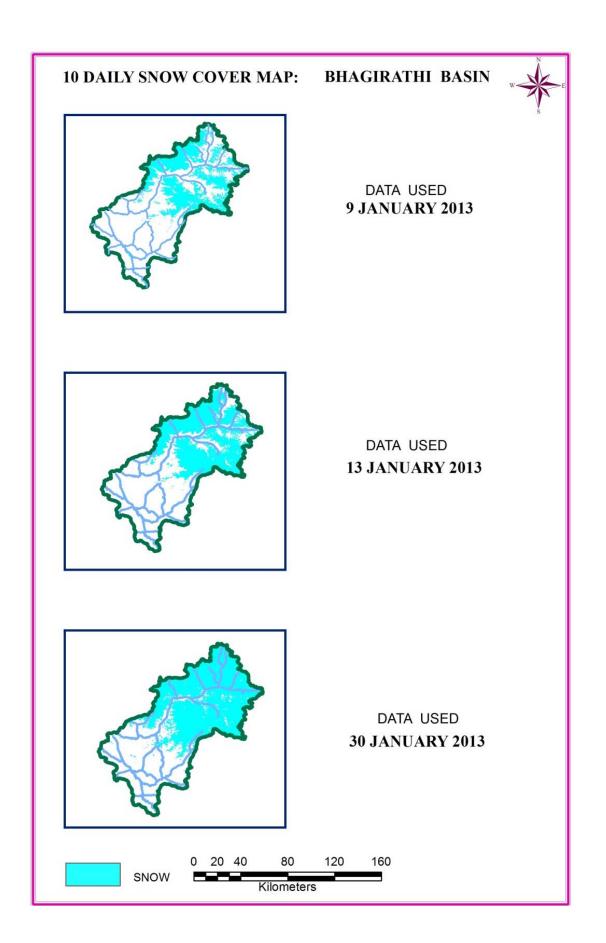


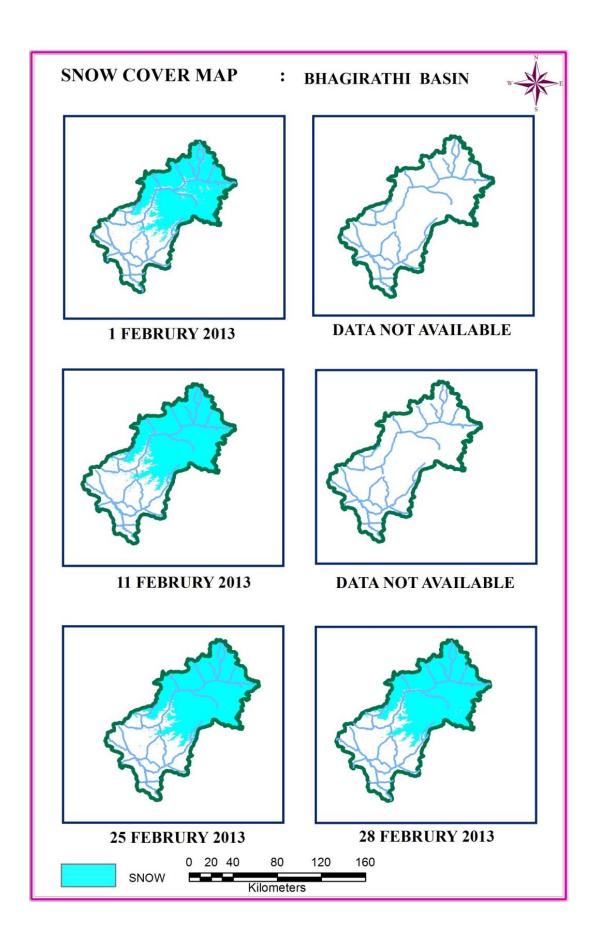


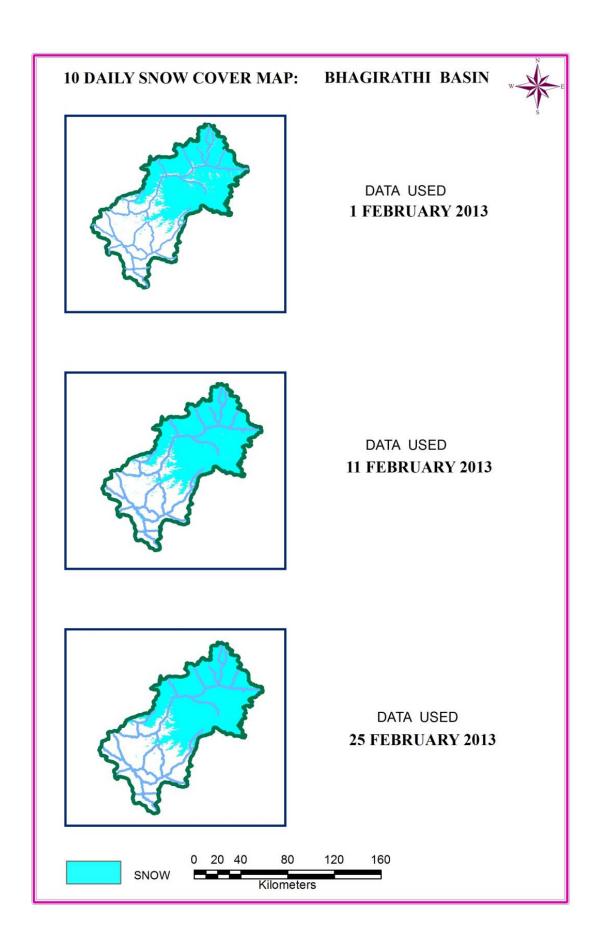


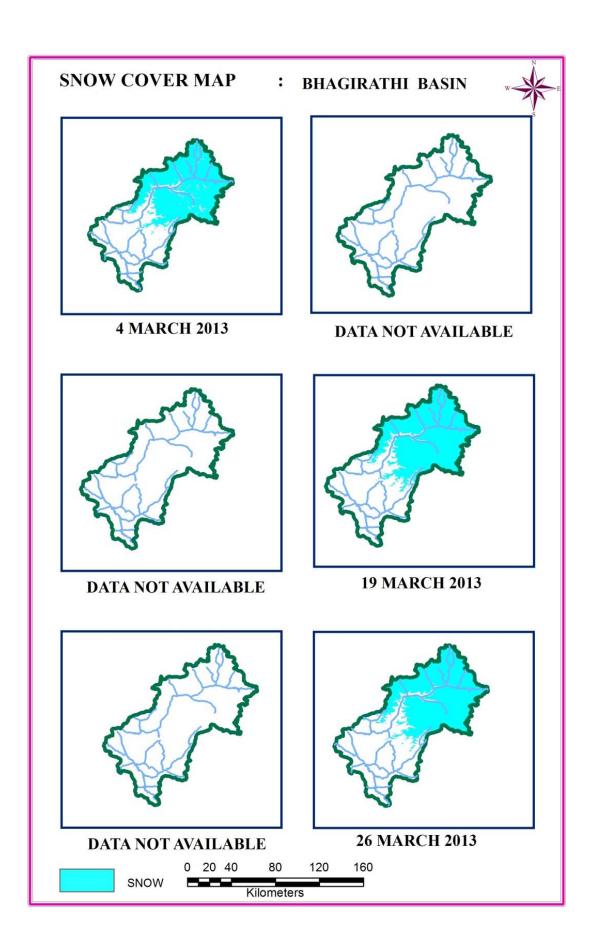


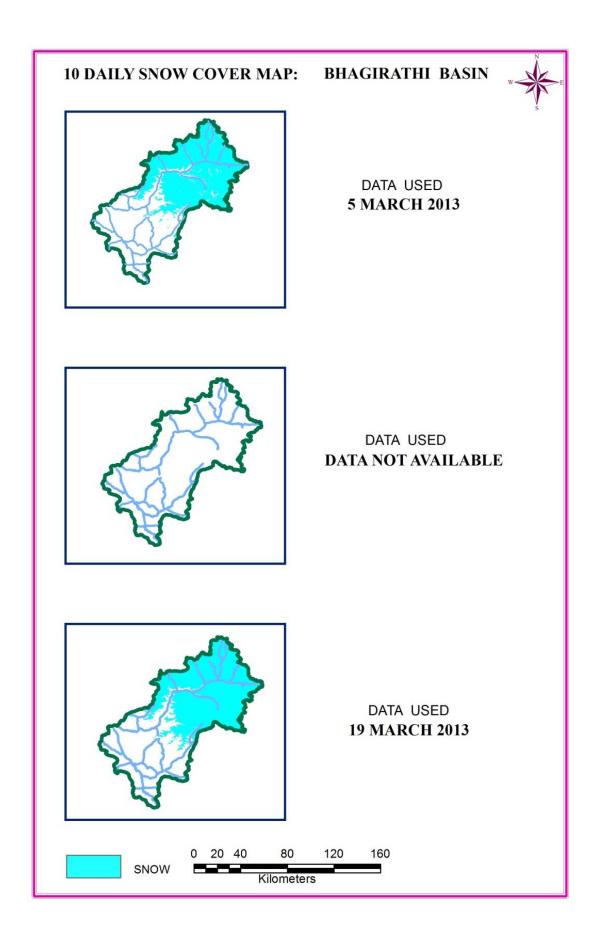


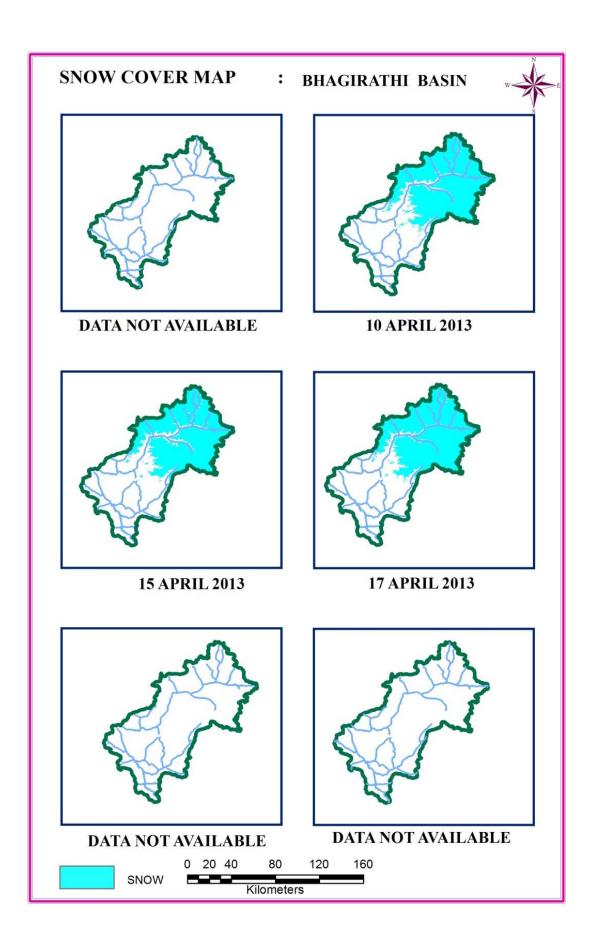


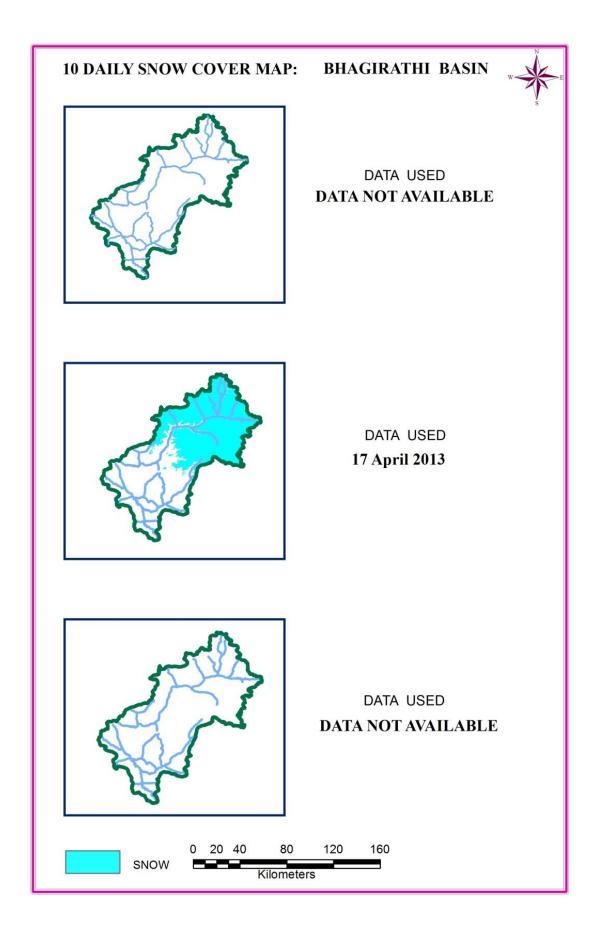


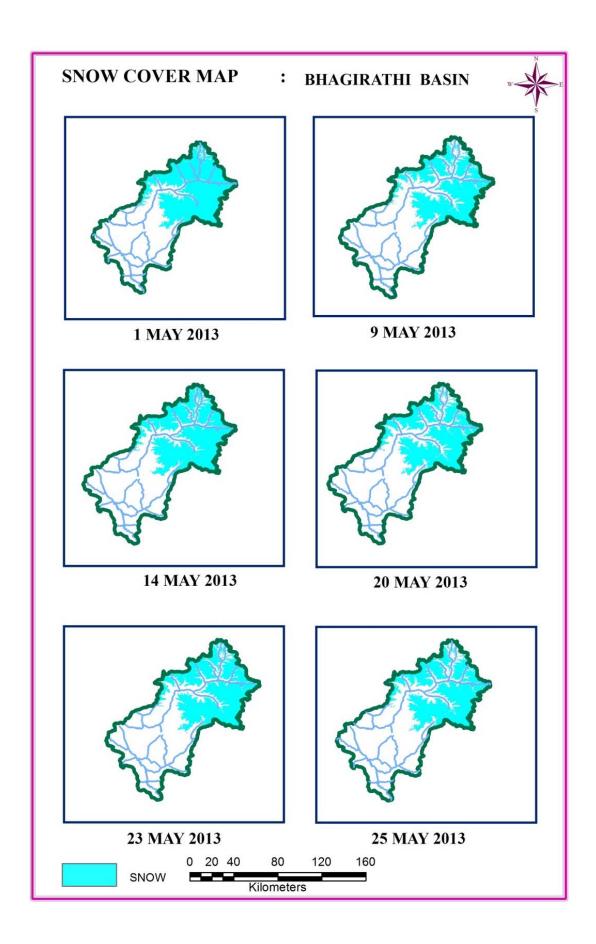


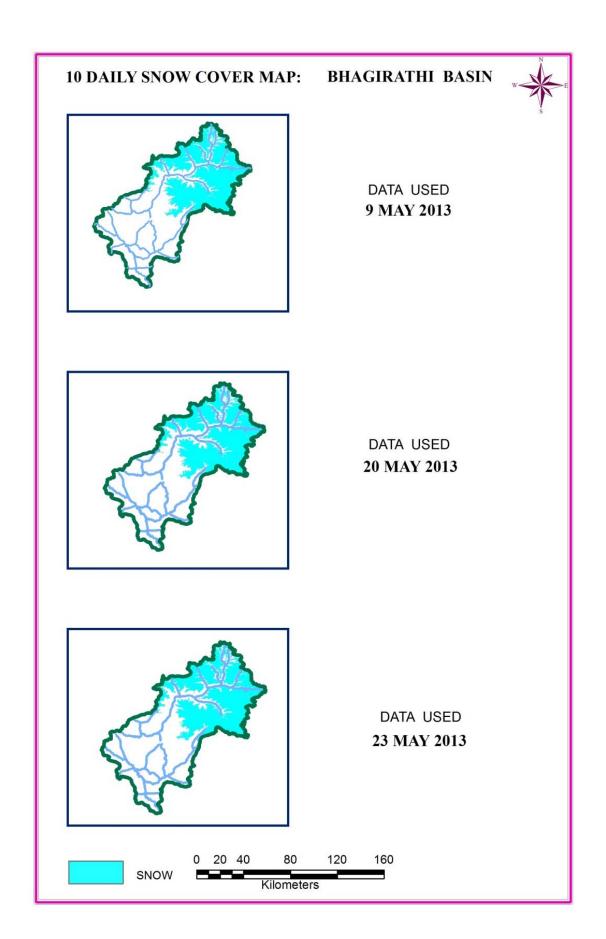


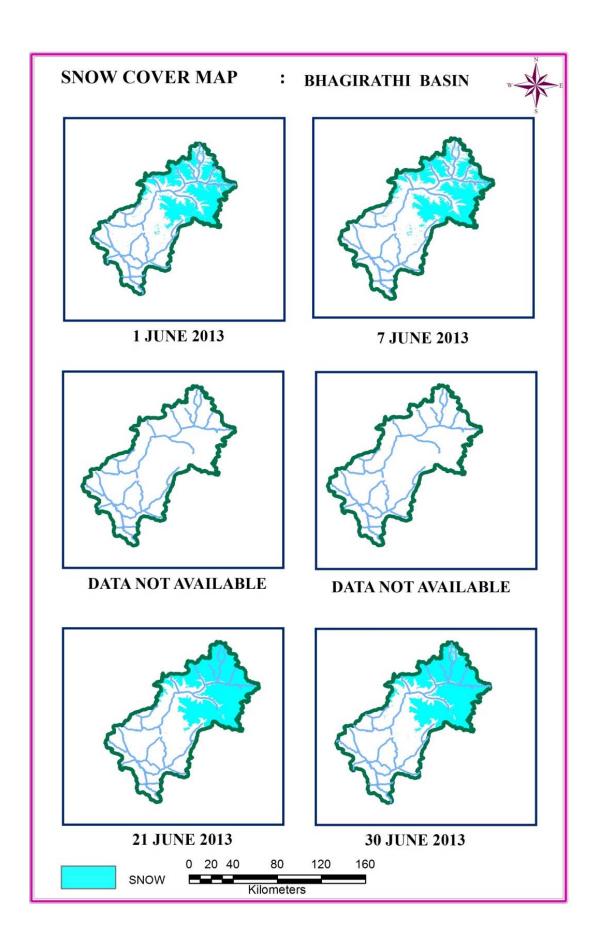


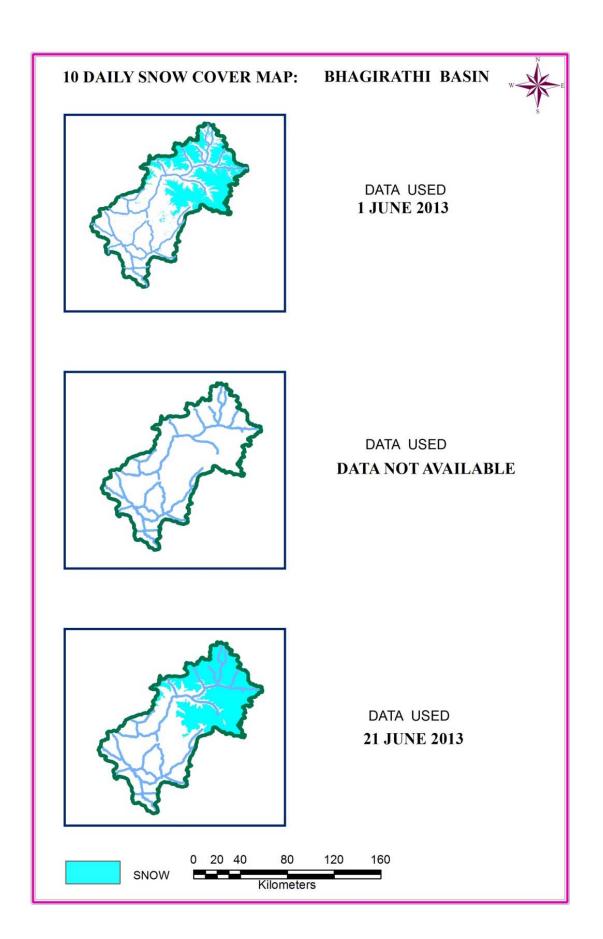












YAMUNA BASIN

AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (5 DAILY)

BASIN NAME: Yamuna					BASIN AREA: 3527 sq km			
S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)	S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)	
		<u> </u>	Octob	er 2012				
1	07-Oct-2012	242	7	6	26-Oct-2012	359	10	
2	11-Oct-2012	509	14	7	28-Oct-2012	575	16	
3	14-Oct-2012	409	14	8	29-Oct-2012	525	15	
4	17-Oct-2012	649	18	9	31-Oct-2012	436	12	
5	24-Oct-2012	963	27					
			Novem	ber 2012				
10	02-Nov-2012	512	15	14	10-Nov-2012	2755	78	
11	04-Nov-2012	357	10	15	12-Nov-2012	682	19	
12	07-Nov-2012	458	13	16	17-Nov-2012	425	12	
13	09-Nov-2012	277	8	14	26-Nov-2012	479	14	
	December 2012							
21	01-Dec-2012	1152	33	23	23-Dec-2012	881	25	
22	22-Dec-2012	875	25					
		1	Janua	ry 2013		T	T	
24	03-Jan-2013	1131	32	26	13-Jan-2013	1352	38	
25	08-Jan-2013	1084	31	27	16-Jan-2013	837	24	
26	09-Jan-2013	981	28	28	20-Jan-2013	2514	71	
27	11-Jan-2013	734	21	29	27-Jan-2013	2974	84	
				30	30-Jan2013	2088	59	
	_		Februa	ary 2013		,		
32	01-Feb-13	2498	71	36	18-Feb-2013	2558	73	
33	08-Feb-13	2411	68	37	25-Feb-2013	2590	73	
34	09-Feb-13	2336	66	38	28-Feb-2013	2050	58	
35	11-Feb-13	2912	83	40				
	T	T	Marc	h 2013		Г	T	
35	04-Mar-2013	1742	49	38	17-Mar-2013	2147	61	
36	05-Mar-2013	1699	48	39	19-Mar-2013	1691	48	
37	12-Mar-2013	2294	65	40	26-Mar-2013	1516	43	
	1	T		1 2013		Τ	T	
39	12-Apr-2013	1382	39	41	17-Apr-2013	1276	36	
40	15-Apr-2013	1237	35	42	19-Apr-2013	1210	34	

May 2013

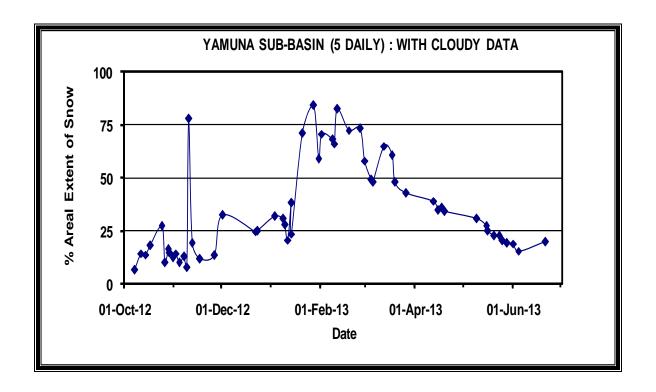
43	09-May-2013	1093	31	46	23-May-2013	801	23
44	15-May-2013	968	27	47	25-May-2013	721	20
45	16-May-2013	879	25	48	28-May-2013	687	19
46	20-May-2013	798	23				
			June	e 2013			
49	01-June-2013	671	19	51	21-June-2013	706	20

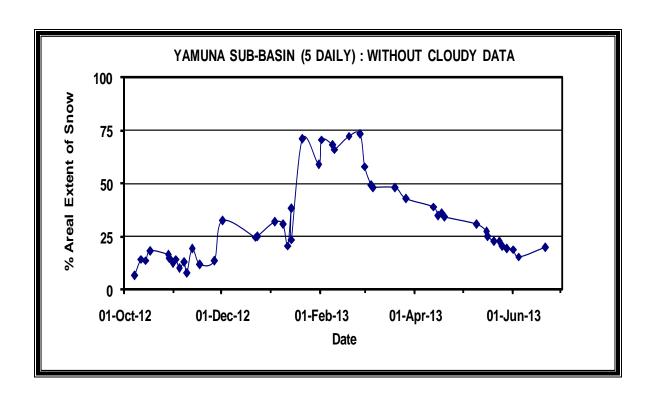
AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (10 DAILY)

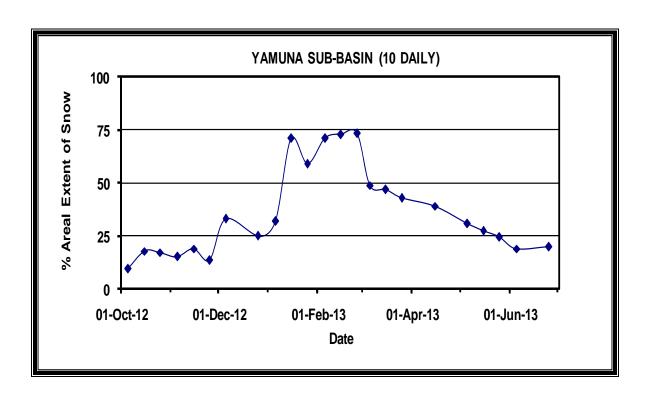
BASIN AREA: 3527 sq km

BASIN NAME: Yamuna

S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover	S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover		
October 2012									
1	05-Oct-2012	338	10	3	25-Oct-2012	612	17		
2	15-Oct-2012	635	18						
			Novem	ber 2012					
10	05-Nov-2012	543	15	12	25-Nov-2012	479	14		
11	15-Nov-2012	670	19						
	1	-	Decem	ber 2012		T	T		
13	05-Dec-2012	1163	33	14	25-Dec-2012	881	25		
	1	<u> </u>	Janua	ry 2013	_	Τ	1		
16	05-Jan-13	1128	32	18	25-Jan-13	2081	59		
17	15-Jan-13	2504	71						
	1		Februa	ry 2013		T	1		
25	05-Feb-2013	2504	71	27	25-Feb-2013	2590	73		
26	15-Feb-2013	2575	73						
	1	I		h 2013	1	1	T		
29	05-Mar-2013	1728	49	31	25-Mar-2013	1516	43		
30	15-Mar-2013	1658	47						
	1			1 2013	T	Г	T		
32	15-Apr-2013	1381	39						
May 2013									
46	05-May-2013	1093	31	48	25-May-2013	870	25		
47	15-May-2013	968	27						
	1		June	2013	1	Γ	1		
55	05-June-2013	670	19	56	25-June-2013	715	20		







SNOW COVER MAP

