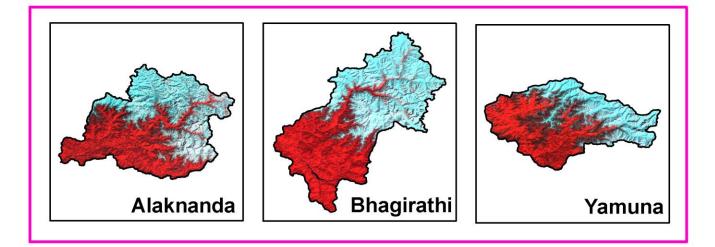
SNOW COVER ATLAS OF GANGA BASIN

Sub basins: Alaknanda, Bhagirathi and Yamuna

(A Joint Project of Indian Space Research Organization and Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India)

Year: 2013-14







Uttarakhand Space Applications centre Dehradun - 248001

Space Applications Centre (ISRO) Ahmedabad - 380015

March 2015

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SPACE APPLICATIONS CENTRE (ISRO), AHMEDABAD - 380015

DOCUMENT CONTROL AND DATA SHEET

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Abstract	This atlas gives subbasin-wise distribution of snow cover in the Ganga basin from October 2013 to June 2014. 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.
Security Classification	Unrestricted
Distribution	Among concerned

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Anju Panwar

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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 2013 to June 2014 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:

$$NormalizedDifferenceSnowIndex(NDSI) = (band 2 - band 5)/(band 2 + band 5)$$
 ...(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 2013 to June 2014. Snow ablation pattern varies from basin to basin, depending on area altitude distribution in the basins. In the month of October there was not much snow fall was observed, accumulation starts from November and melting was observed from till first week of December in all the three sub-basins. Again accumulation starts from second week of December till March end. Maximum snow cover was observed in the month of February in all the three sub-basins. Yamuna sub-basin ablation starts in early March. Fluctuation in snow cover was more in Yamuna sub-basin. It may be due to lower altitude.

Acknowledgements

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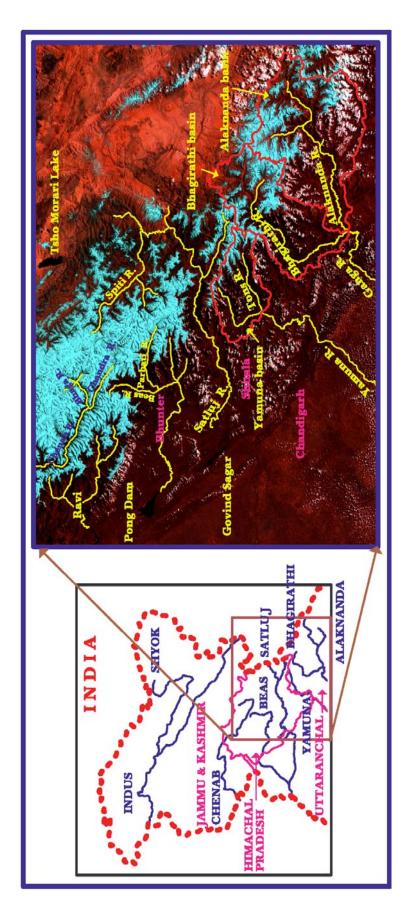
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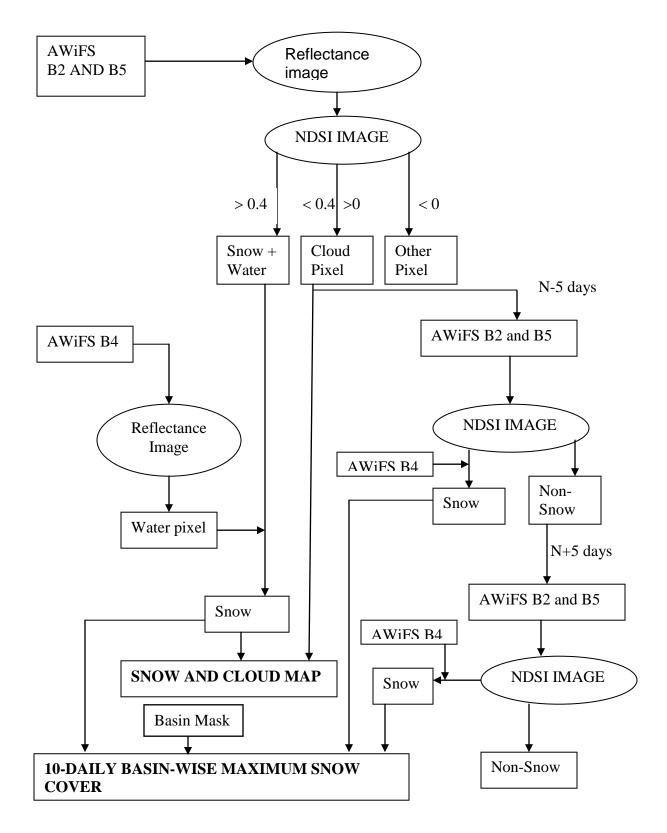


Figure 2: Algorithm for snow cover mapping using AWiFS data

ALAKNANDA SUB-BASIN

AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (5 DAILY)

BASIN NAME: ALAKNANDA

BASIN AREA: 11090 sq km

S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)	S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)		
October 2013									
1	05-Oct-2013	2286	21	5	17-Oct-2013	1216	11		
2	07-Oct-2013	1482	13	6	18-Oct-2013	1641	15		
3	09-Oct-2013	1622	15	7	28-Oct-2013	2800	25		
4	14-Oct-2013	2030	18	8	29-Oct-2013	1985	18		
November 2013									
9	02-Nov-2013	2416	22	13	17-Nov-2013	4046	36		
10	03-Nov-2013	3271	29	14	21-Nov-2013	3688	33		
11	12-Nov-2013	4826	44	15	22-Nov-2013	3384	31		
12	16-Nov-2013	3776	34	16	27-Nov-2013	2581	24		
			Decemb	er 2013					
17	01-Dec-2013	2810	25	22	20-Dec-2010	3176	29		
18	11-Dec-2013	2629	24	23	21-Dec-2013	2980	27		
19	16-Dec-2013	2431	22	24	27-Dec-2013	1661	15		
20	18-Dec-2013	1650	15	25	30-Dec-2013	3175	29		
21	19-Dec-2013	3632	33						
	January 2014								
26	01-Jan-2014	3368	31	30	20-Jan-2014	4549	41		
27	02-Jan-2014	3649	33	31	23-Jan-2014	5881	53		
28	04-Jan-2014	3378	30	32	28-Jan-2014	5256	47		
29	16-Jan-2014	6673	60	33	30-Jan-2014	4860	44		
	·		Februa	ry 2014					
34	02-Feb-2014	4915	44	37	21-Feb-2014	5916	53		
35	16-Feb-2014	7683	69	38	25-Feb-2014	5710	51		
36	18-Feb-2014	7683	69	39	26-Feb-2014	4955	45		
March 2014									
40	07-Mar-2014	6096	55	43	22-Mar-2014	5444	49		
41	12-Mar-2014	6360	57	44	31-Mar-2014	5267	47		
42	15-Mar-2014	6085	55						
April 2014									
45	02-April-2014	4830	44	51	15-April-2014	5026	45		
46	05-April-2014	5056	46	52	20-April-2014	4894	44		

47	09-April-2014	5241	47	53	22-April-2014	4896	44	
48	10-April-2014	5241	47	54	24-April-2014	4895	44	
49	12-April-2014	4510	41	55	26-April-2014	4664	42	
50	14-April-2014	5286	48					
	May 2014							
56	01-May-2014	3247	29	58	18-May-2014	4537	29	
57	09-May-2014	5231	47	59	28-May-2014	4071	37	
June 2014								
60	02-June-2014	3878	35	63	16-June-2014	5017	45	
61	11-June-2014	3270	29	64	25-June-2014	5225	47	
62	13-June-2014	5018	45					

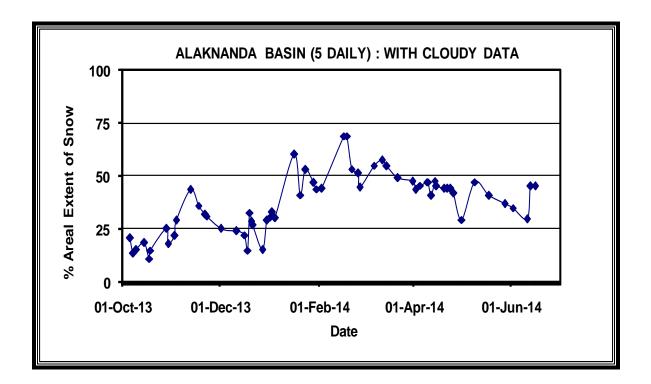
AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (10 DAILY)

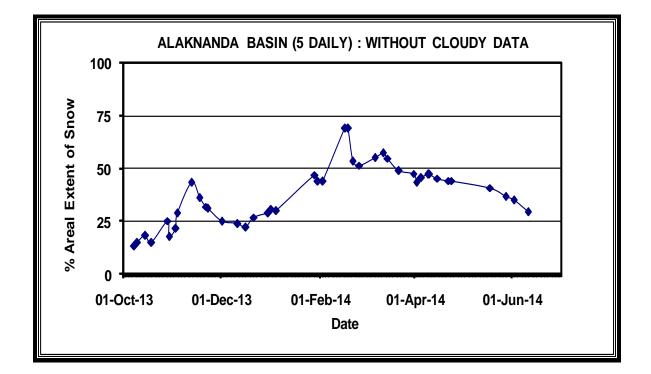
BASIN NAME: ALAKNANDA

BASIN AREA: 11090 sq km

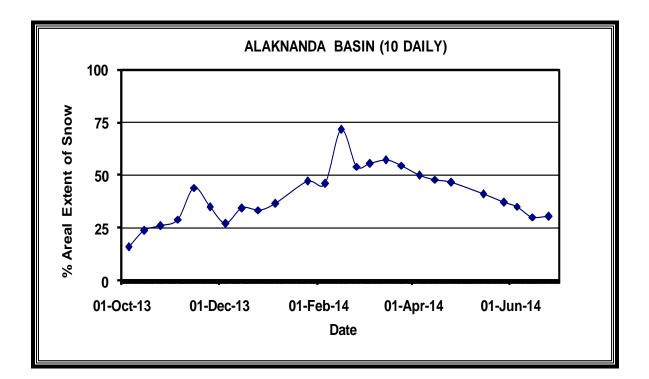
S. No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)	S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)	
			Octobe	er 2013				
1	05-Oct-2013	1774	16	3	25-Oct-2013	2883	26	
2	15-Oct-2013	2631	24					
	·		Novemb	er 2013	·			
4	05-Nov-2013	3216	29	6	25-Nov-2013	3862	35	
5	15-Nov-2013	4880	44					
	·		Decemb	er 2013	·			
7	05-Dec-2013	2994	27	9	25-Dec-2013	3703	33	
8	15-Dec-2013	3812	34					
			Januar	y 2014			_	
10	05-Jan-2014	4038	36	11	25-Jan-2014	5212	47	
	-	-	Februa	ry 2014				
12	05-Feb-2014	5101	46	14	25-Feb-2014	5989	54	
13	15-Feb-2014	7949	72					
			Marcl	n 2014				
15	05-Mar-2014	6134	55	17	25-Mar-2014	6049	55	
16	15-Mar-2014	6321	57					
			April	2014				
18	5-Apr-2014	5538	50	20	25-Apr-2014	5173	47	
19	15-Apr-2014	5317	48					
May 2014								
21	15-May-14	4547	41	22	25-May-14	4103	37	
June 2014								
23	05-June-14	3882	35	25	25-June-2014	3356	30	
24	15-June-14	3327	30					

Snow cover depletion curve

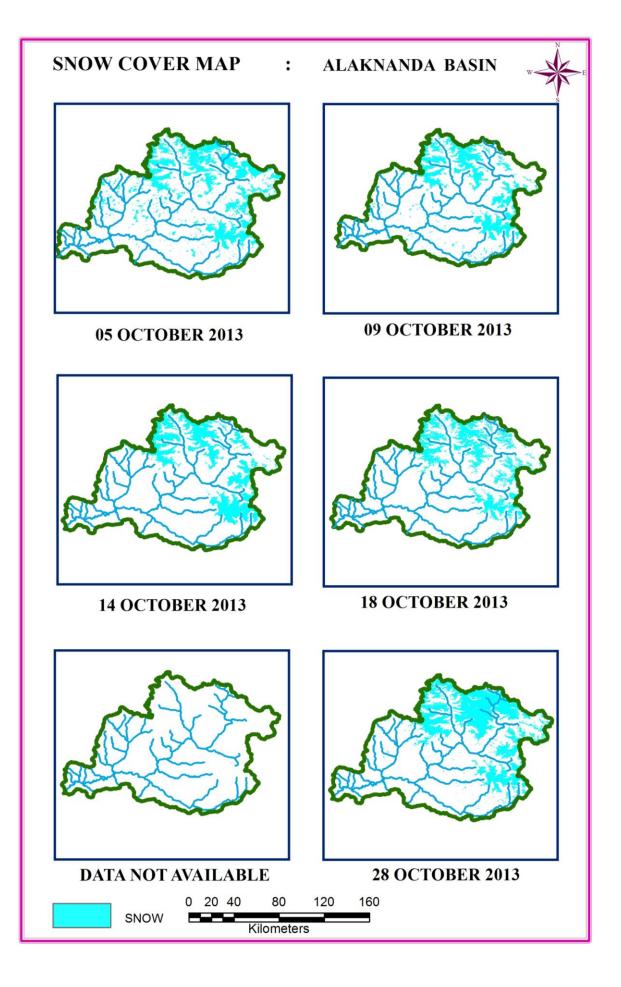


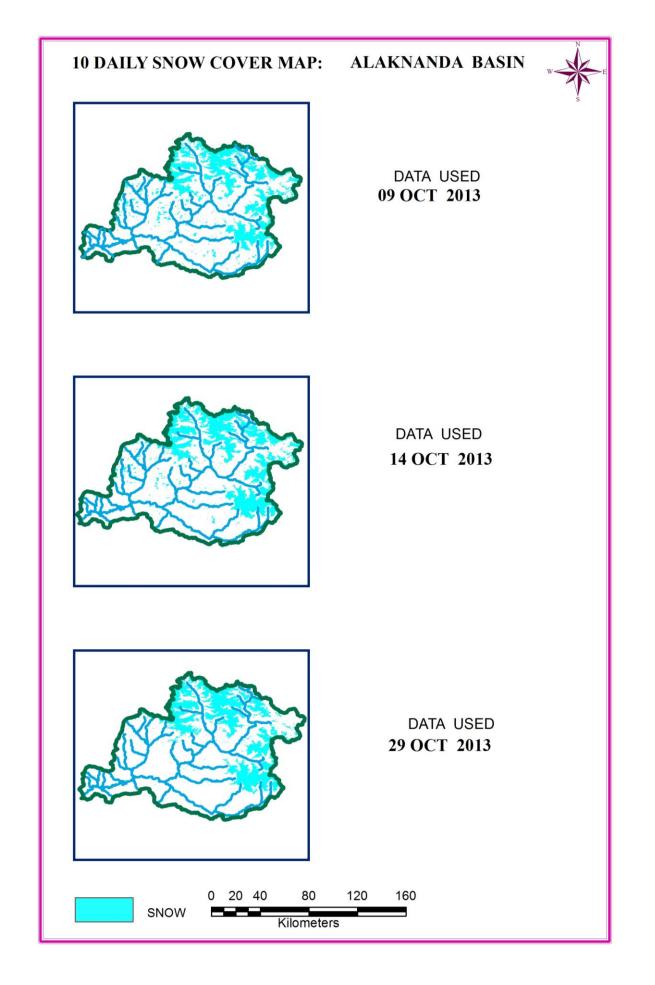


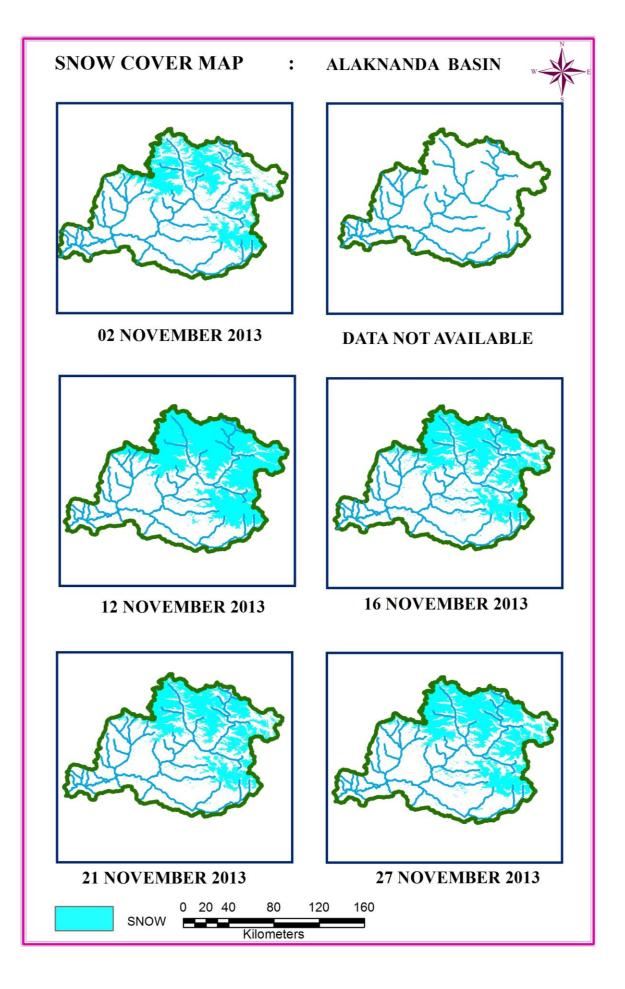
Snow cover depletion curve

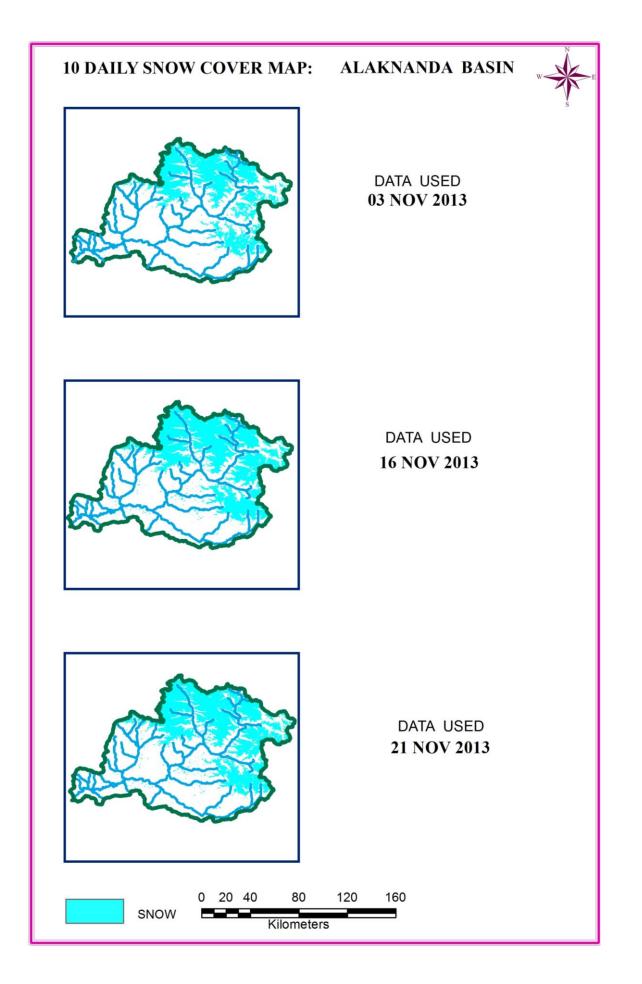


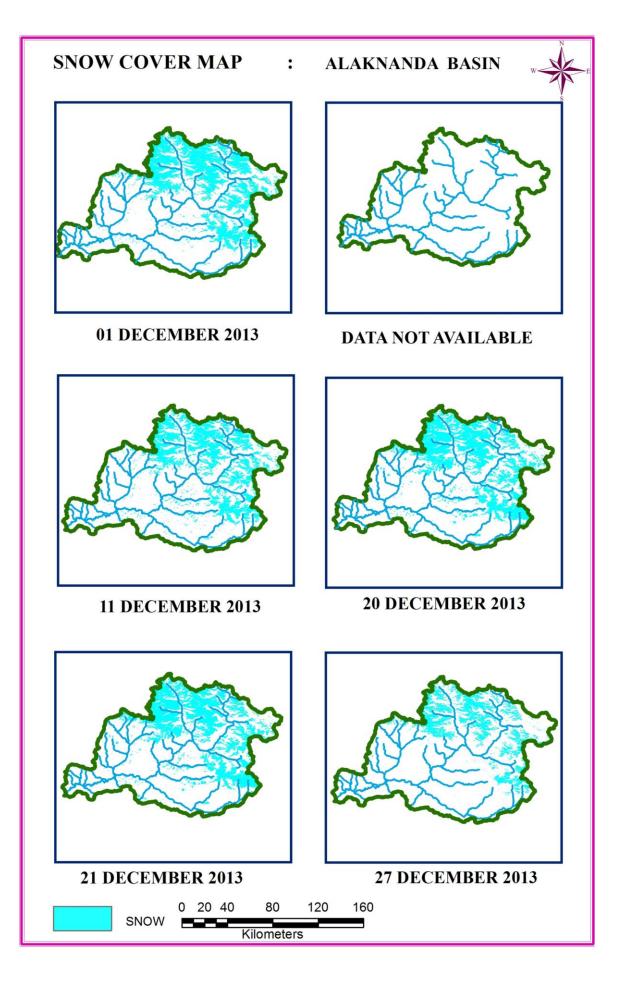
SNOW COVER MAP

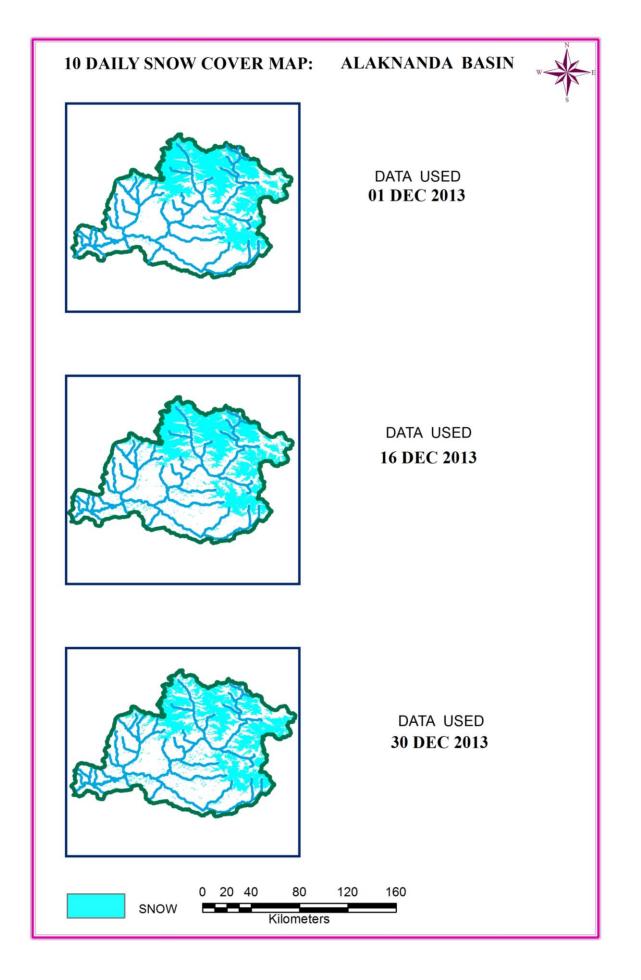


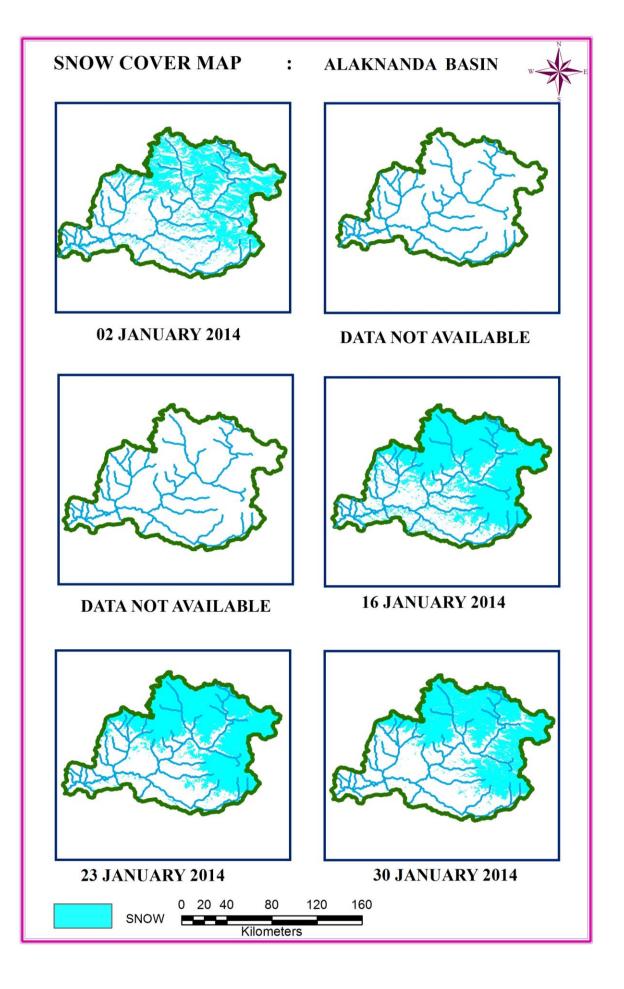


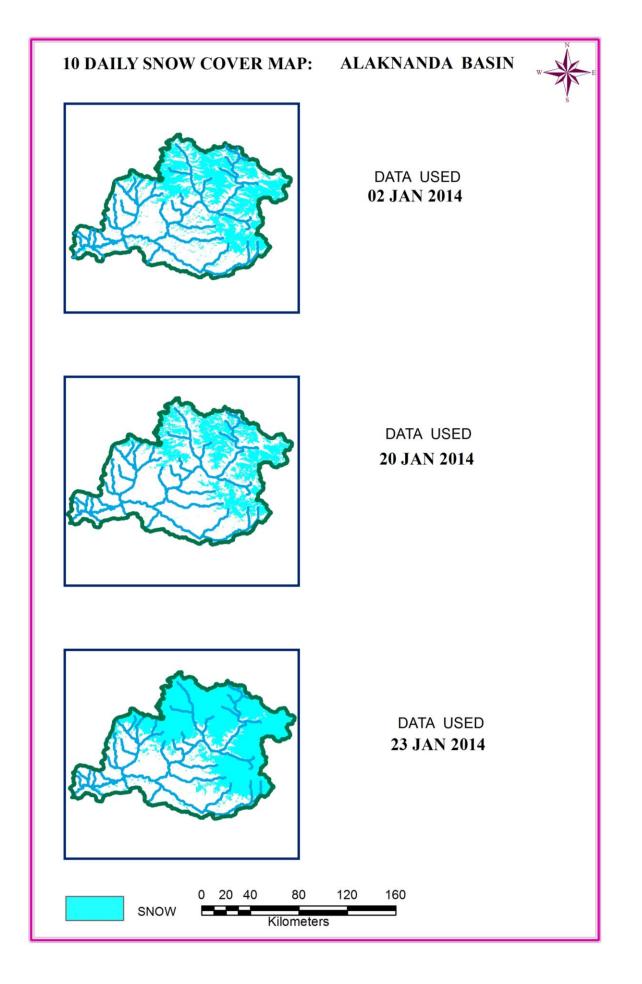


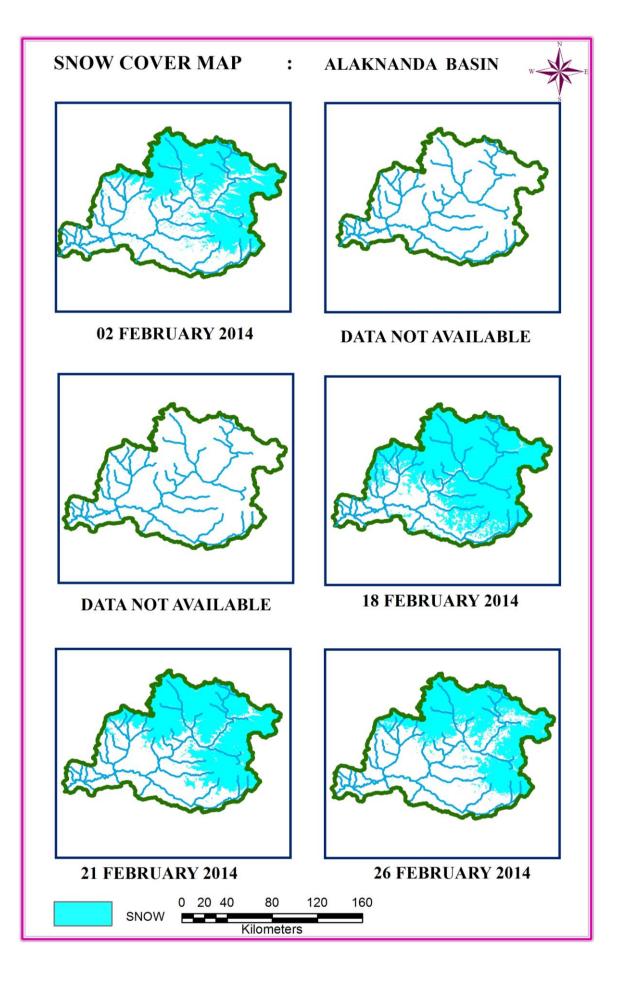


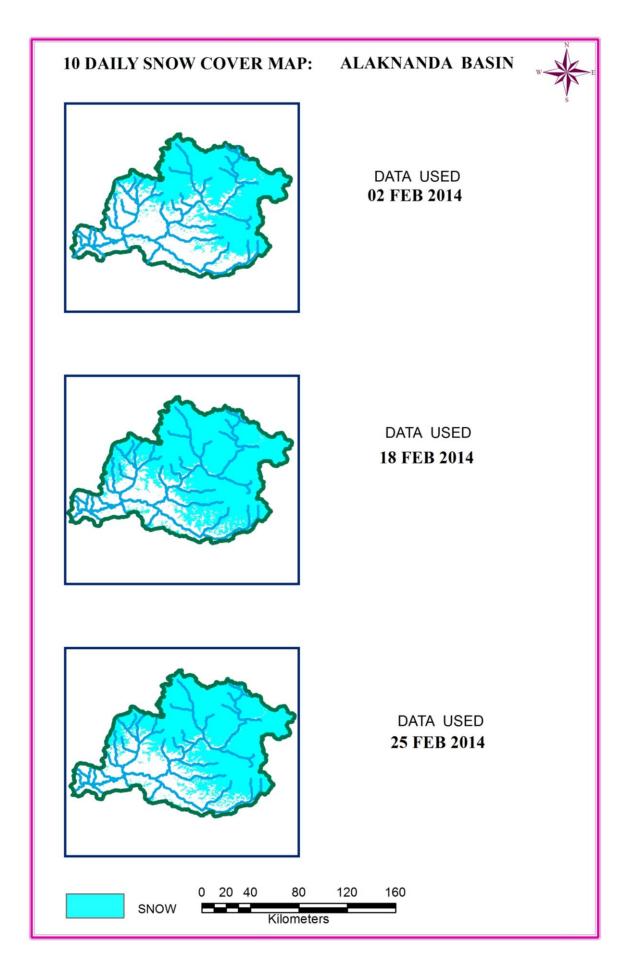


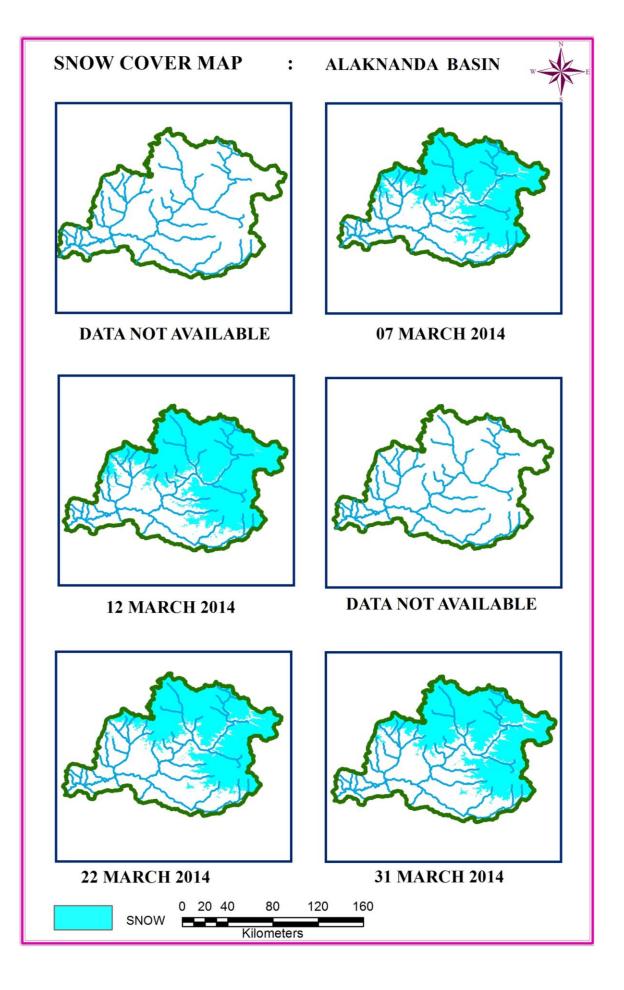


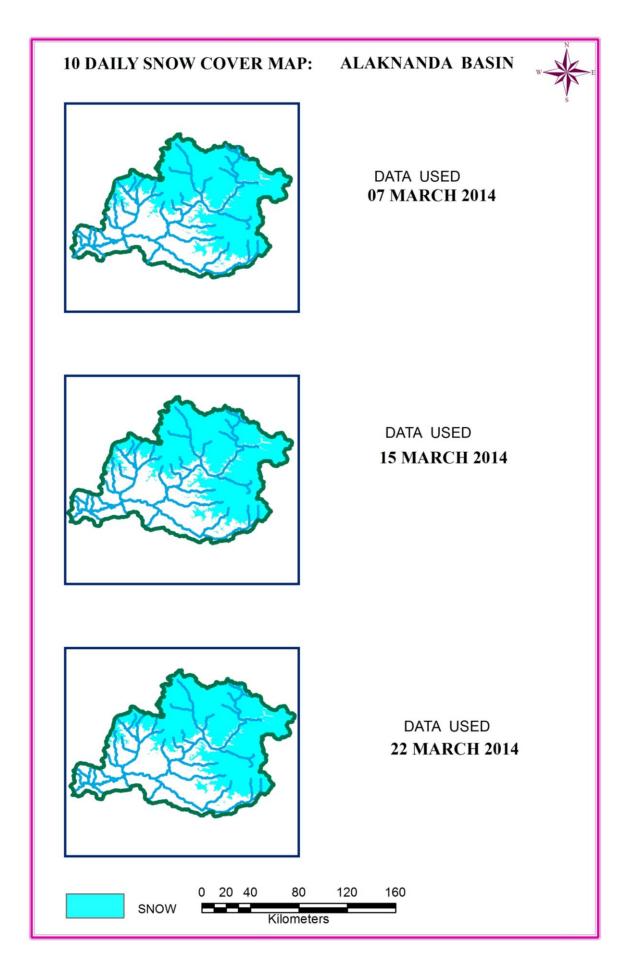


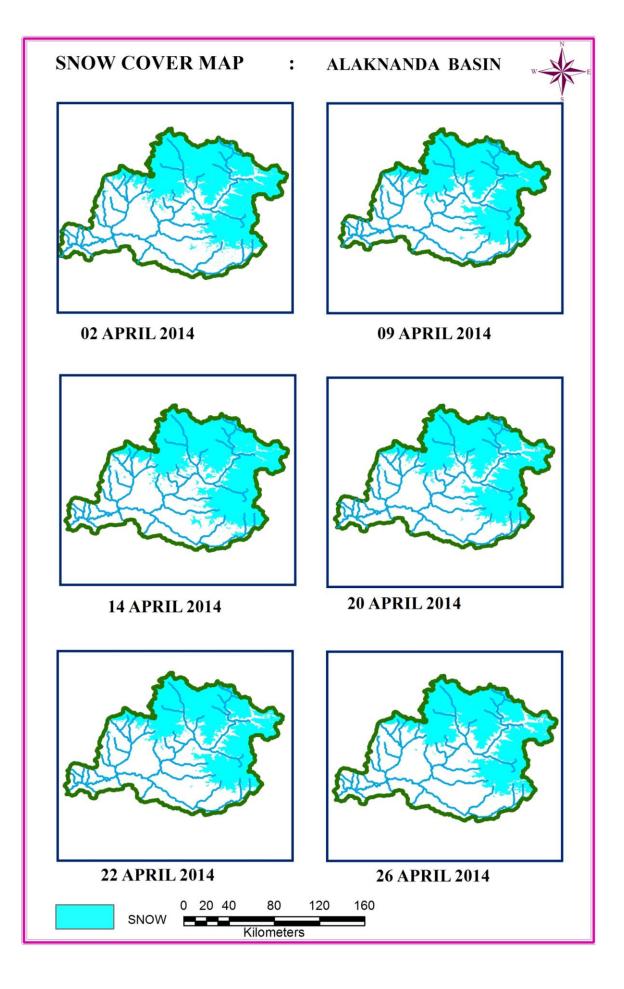


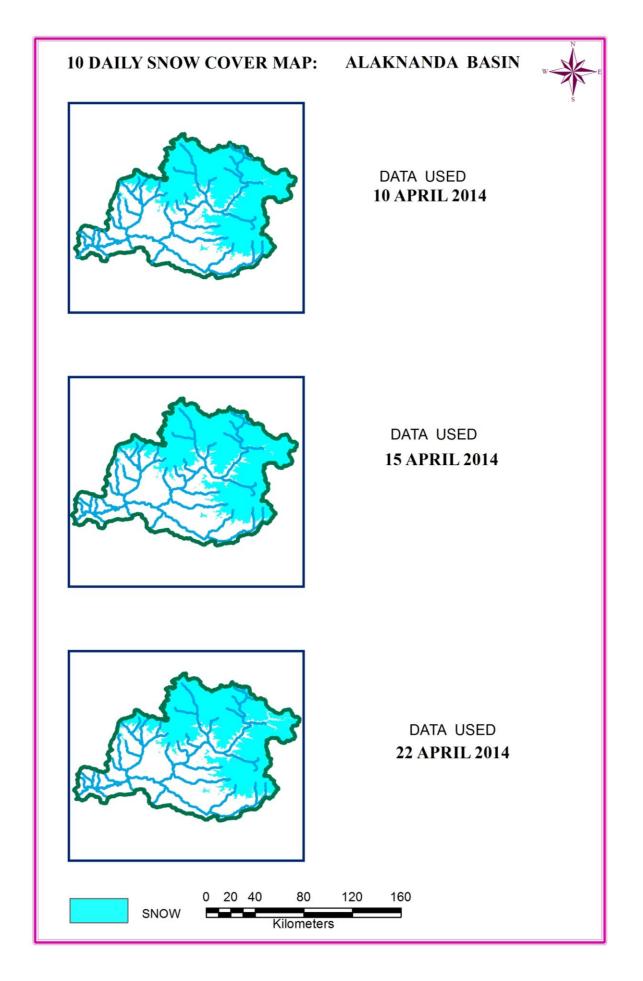


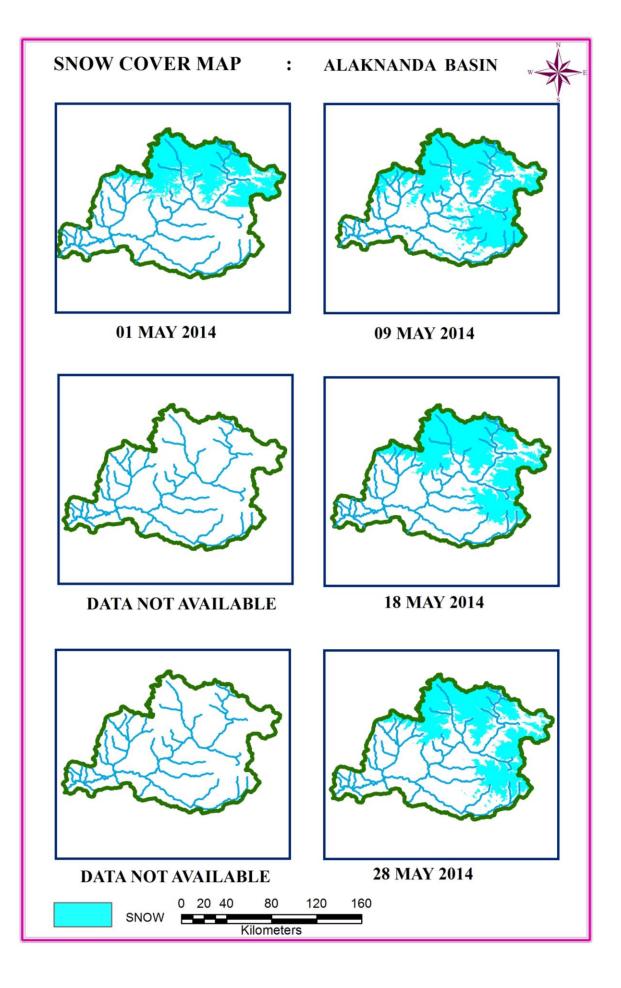


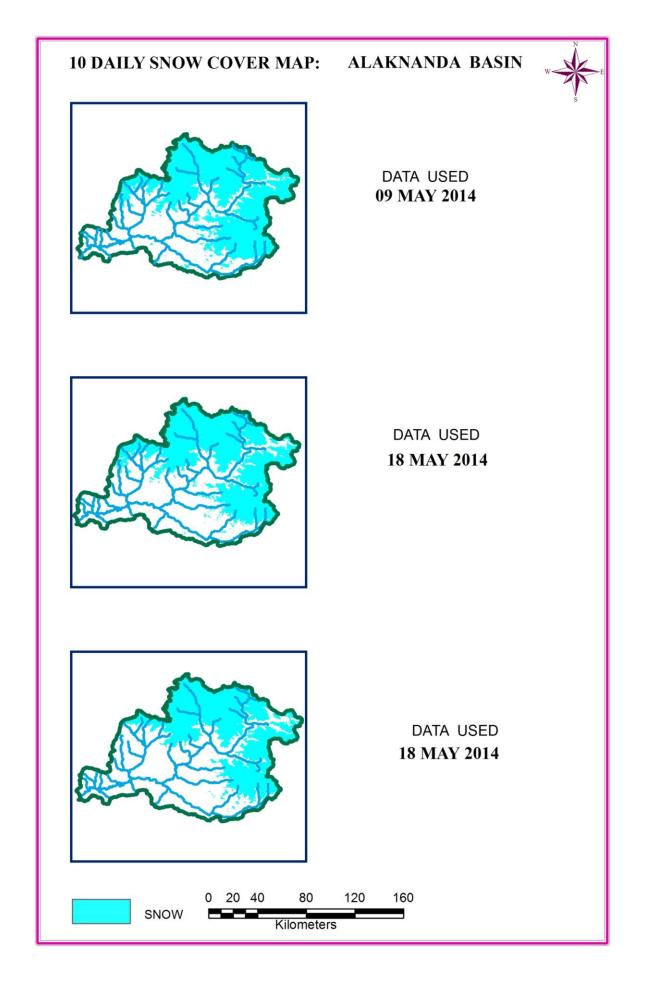


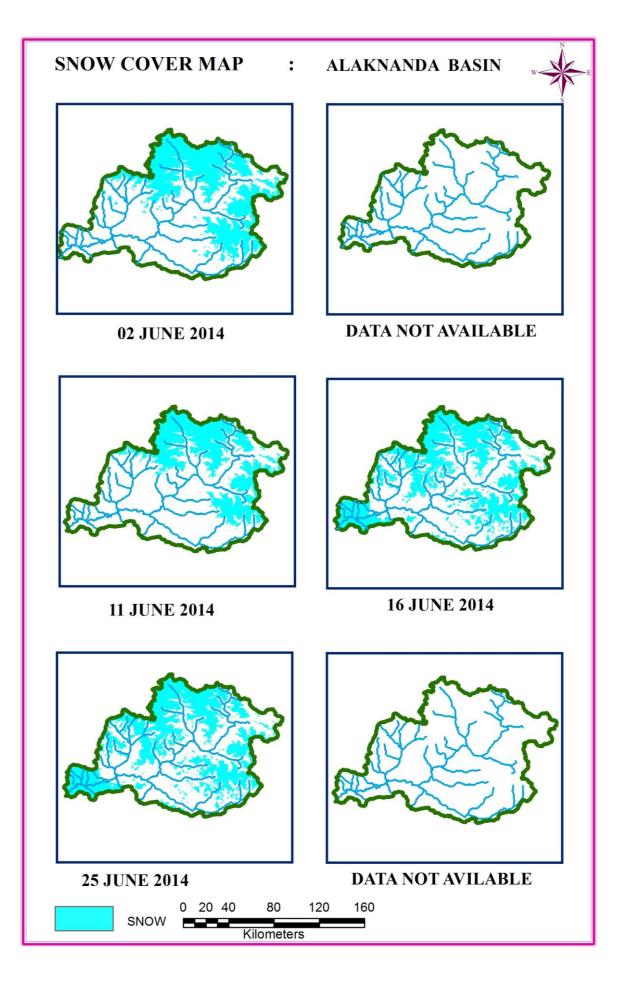


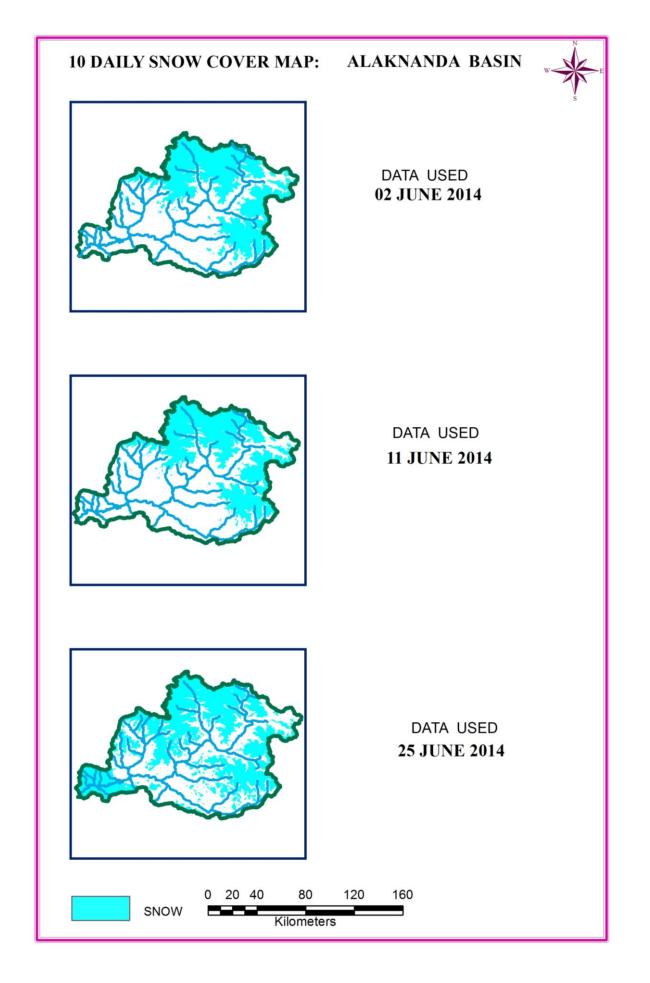












BHAGIRATHI SUB-BASIN

AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (5 DAILY)

BASIN NAME: BHAGIRATHI

BASIN AREA: 7438 sq km

S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)	S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)	
October 2013								
1	04-Oct-13	1312	18	7	18-Oct-13	824	11	
2	05-Oct-13	1594	21	8	21-Oct-13	995	13	
3	07-Oct-13	1063	14	9	27-Oct-13	912	12	
4	09-Oct-13	1452	17	10	28-Oct-13	1803	24	
5	14-Oct-13	4460	60	11	29-Oct-13	1289	17	
6	17-Oct-13	1006	14					
			Novemb	er 2013				
12	02-Nov-13	1341	18	15	17-Nov-13	3225	43	
13	12-Nov-13	3243	44	16	21-Nov-13	2760	37	
14	16-Nov-13	3282	44	17	22-Nov-13	2706	36	
			Decemb	er 2013		-		
18	01-Dec-13	2448	33	23	19-Dec-13	2358	32	
19	10-Dec-13	2150	29	24	25-Dec-13	2087	28	
20	11-Dec-13	1928	26	25	27-Dec-13	913	12	
21	15-Dec-13	1799	24	26	30-Dec-13	2031	27	
22	16-Dec-13	1915	26					
		1	Januar	U	00 I 11	1	1	
27	1-Jan-14	1699	23	31	23-Jan-14	4092	55	
28	11-Jan-14	2957	40	32	28-Jan-14	4057	55	
29	16-Jan-14	3163	43	33	30-Jan-14	3248	44	
30	20-Jan-14	3262	44					
24	02 E-1 14	2699	Februar	•	01 E-1 14	4420	50	
34 35	02-Feb-14	3688	50	<u> </u>	21-Feb-14	4420	59	
35 36	16-Feb-14	5579	75	<u> </u>	25-Feb-14 26-Feb-14	4521 4277	61 58	
50	18-Feb-14	4184	56 Marcł		20-1-00-14	+2//	50	
40	07-Mar-14	4208	57	43	22-Mar-14	4122	55	
40	12-Mar-14	4208	61	44	31-Mar-14	3976	53	
42	12-Mar-14	4463	60	• •		0,10		
	10 mai-14	705	00			I	1	
			April	2014				
45	02-Apr-14	3687	50	51	15-Apr-14	4016	54	

46	05-Apr-14	3879	52	52	22-Apr-14	3719	50	
47	09-Apr-14	4037	54	53	24-Apr-14	3774	50	
48	10-Apr-14	3830	51	54	26-Apr-14	3637	49	
49	12-Apr-14	3820	51	55	28-Apr-14	988	13	
50	14-Apr-14		56					
May 2014								
56	01-May-14	3350	45	61	20-May-14	3363	45	
57	03-May-14	4668	63	62	21-May-14	3093	42	
58	04-May-14	5263	71	63	25-May-14	3504	47	
59	16-May-14	3505	47	64	28-May-14	3150	42	
60	18-May-14	3666	49					
			June	2014				
65	02-Jun-14		39	70	16-Jun-14	4124	54	
66	04-Jun-14	2675	36	71	25-Jun-14	2398	32	
67	09-Jun-14	2380	32	72	28-Jun-14	1961	26	
68	13-Jun-14	2176	29	73				
69	14-Jun-14	2132	29	74				

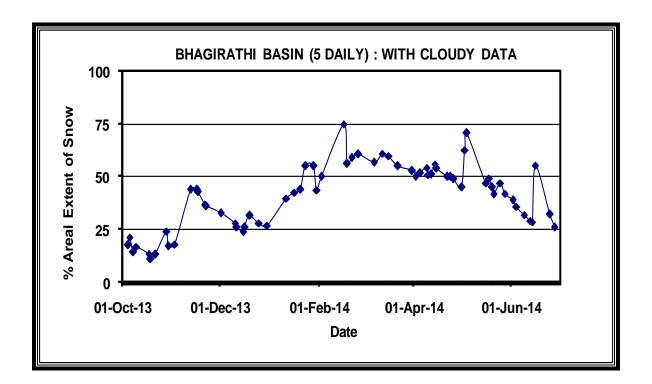
AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (10 DAILY)

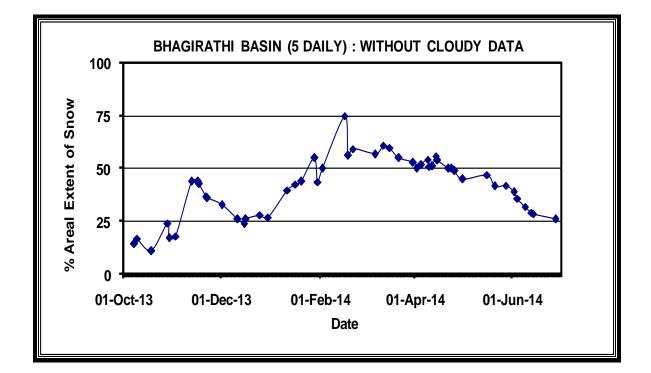
BASIN NAME: BHAGIRATHI

BASIN AREA: 7438 sq km

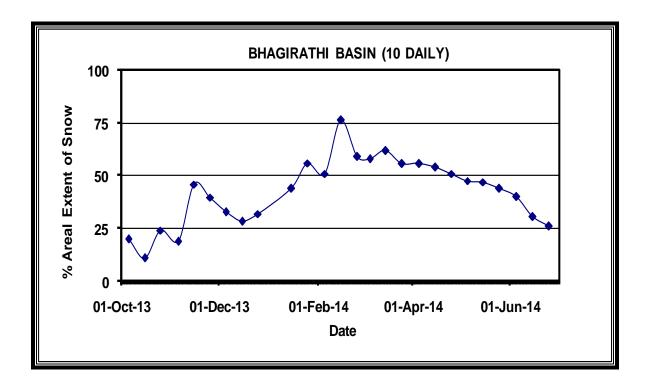
S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)	S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)	
October 2013				November 2013				
1 05-Oct-13 1488 20			4	05-Nov-13	1413	19		
2	15-Oct-13	818	11	5	15-Nov-13	3421	46	
3	25-Oct-13	1803	24	6	25-Nov-13	2960	40	
	Decer	mber 2013	1		Janu	ary 2014	L	
7	05-Dec-13	2455	33	10	15-Jan-14	3273	44	
8	15-Dec-13	2108	28	11	25-Jan-14	4165	56	
9	25-Dec-13	2380	32					
	Febr	uary 2014		March 2014				
12	05-Feb-14	3793	51	15	05-Mar-14	4314	58	
13	15-Feb-14	5692	77	16	15-Mar-14	4612	62	
14	25-Feb-14	4388	59	17	25-Mar-14	4146	56	
	Ар	ril 2014		May 2014				
18	05-Apr-14	4158	56	21	05-May-14	3537	48	
19	15-Apr-14	4017	54	22	15-May-14	3496	47	
20	25-Apr-14	3793	51	23	25-May-14	3273	44	
June 2014								
24	05-Jun-2014	2975	40					
25	15-Jun-2014	2289	31					
26	25-Jun-2014	1934	26					

Snow cover depletion curve

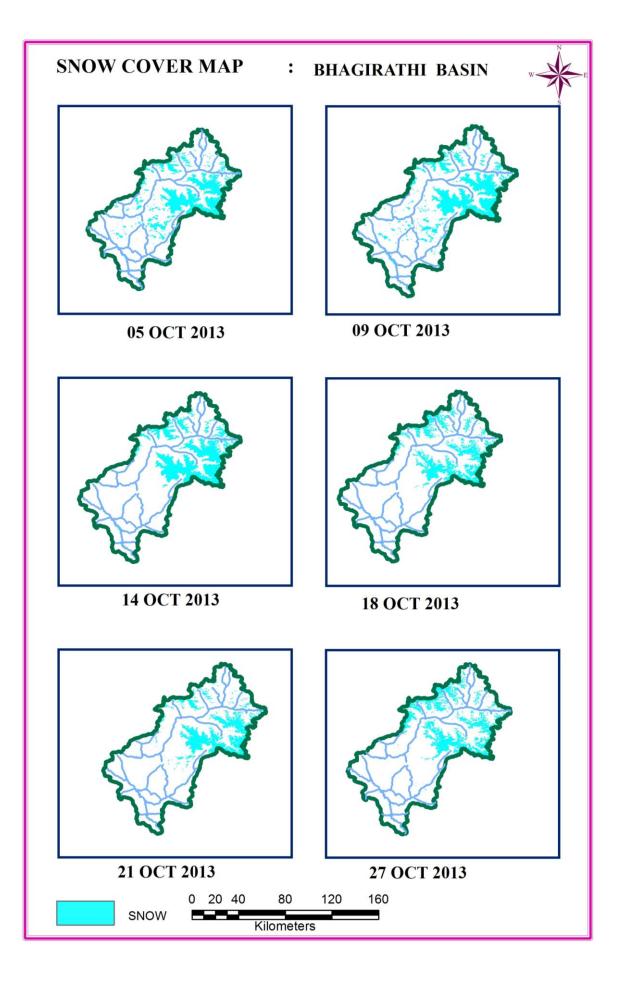




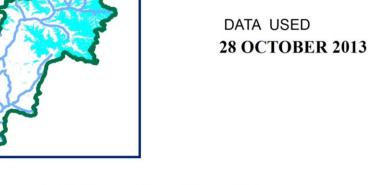
Snow cover depletion curve



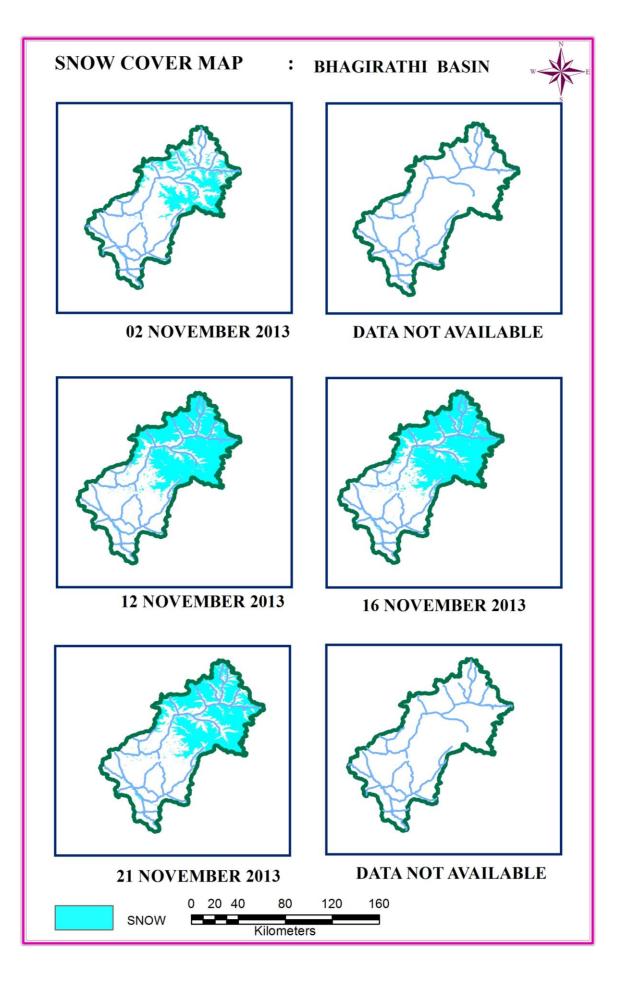
SNOW COVER MAP

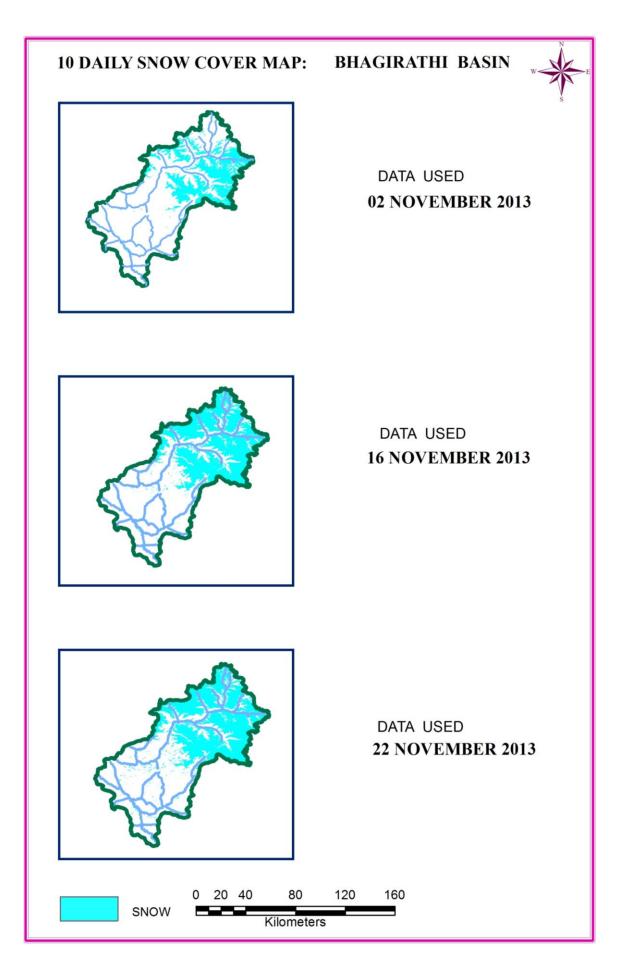


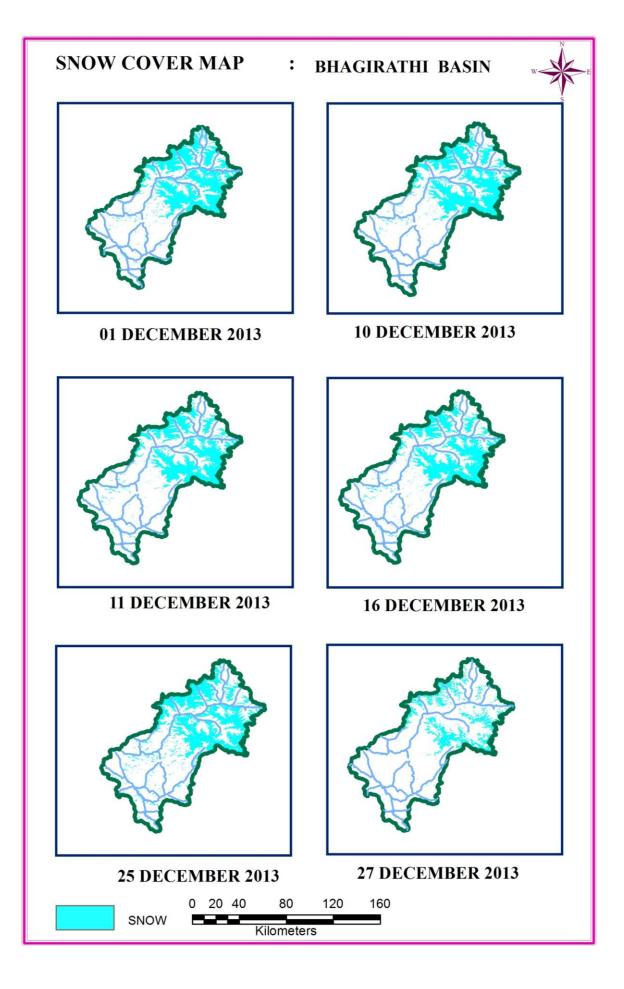
10 DAILY SNOW COVER MAP: BHAGIRATHI BASIN DATA USED **07 OCTOBER 2013** DATA USED **18 OCTOBER 2013**



0 20 40 80 120 160 SNOW Kilometers



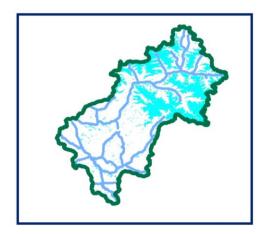




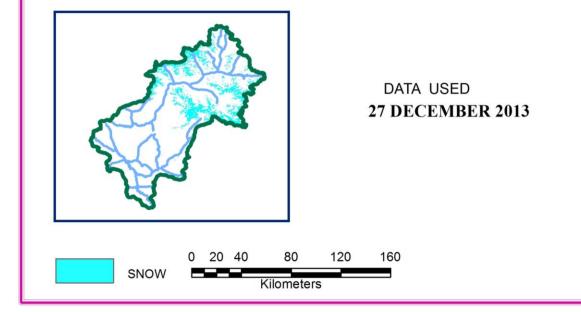
10 DAILY SNOW COVER MAP: BHAGIRATHI BASIN

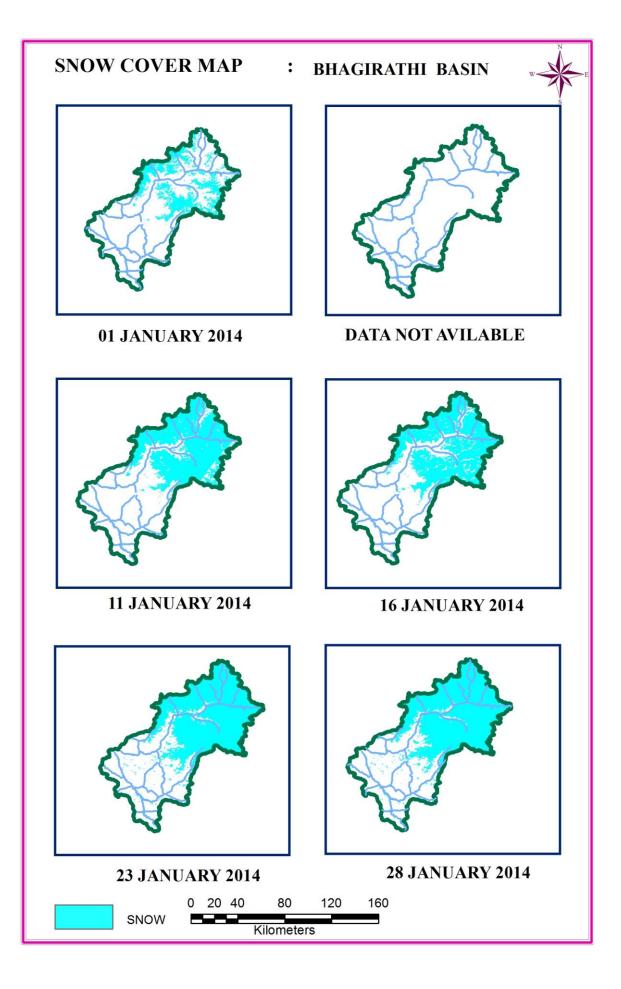


DATA USED 01 DECEMBER 2013



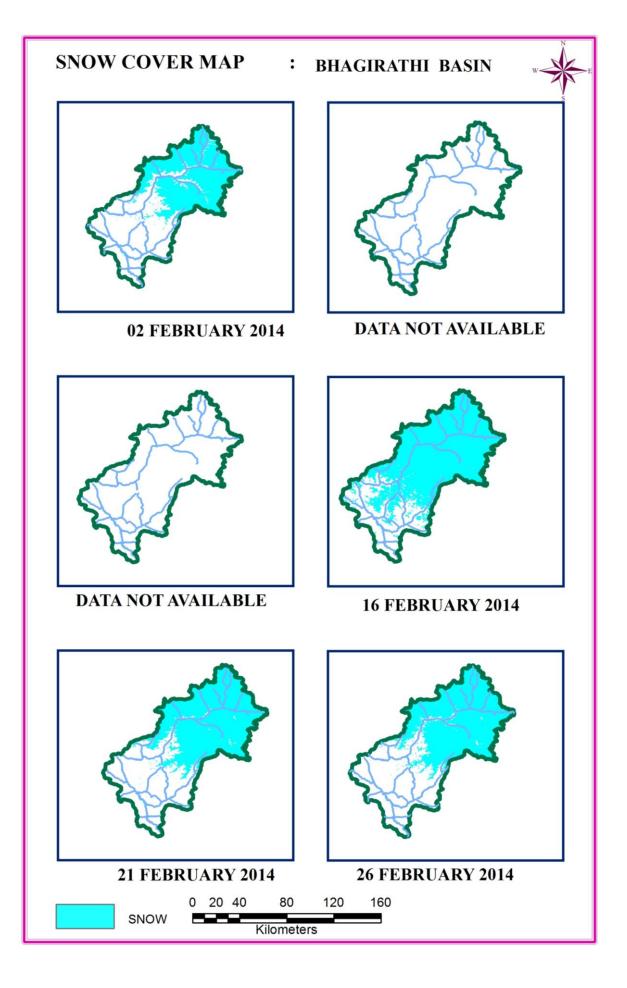
DATA USED 11 DECEMBER 2013

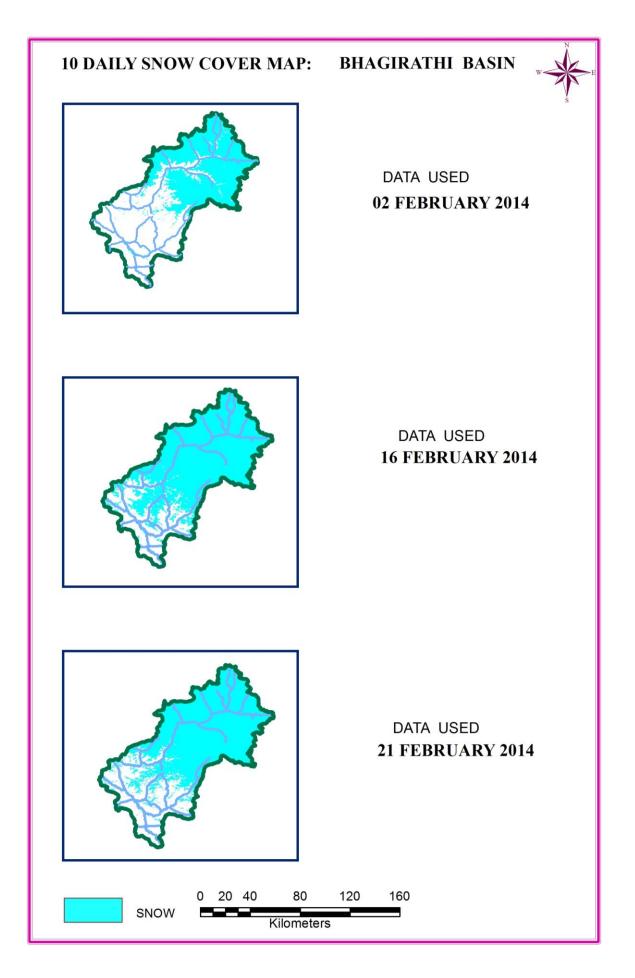


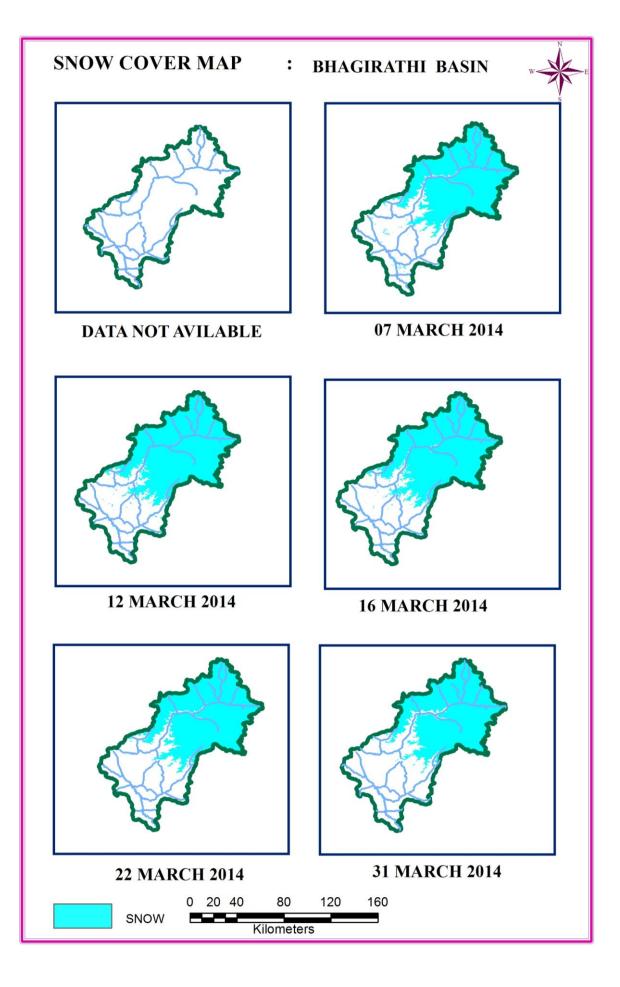


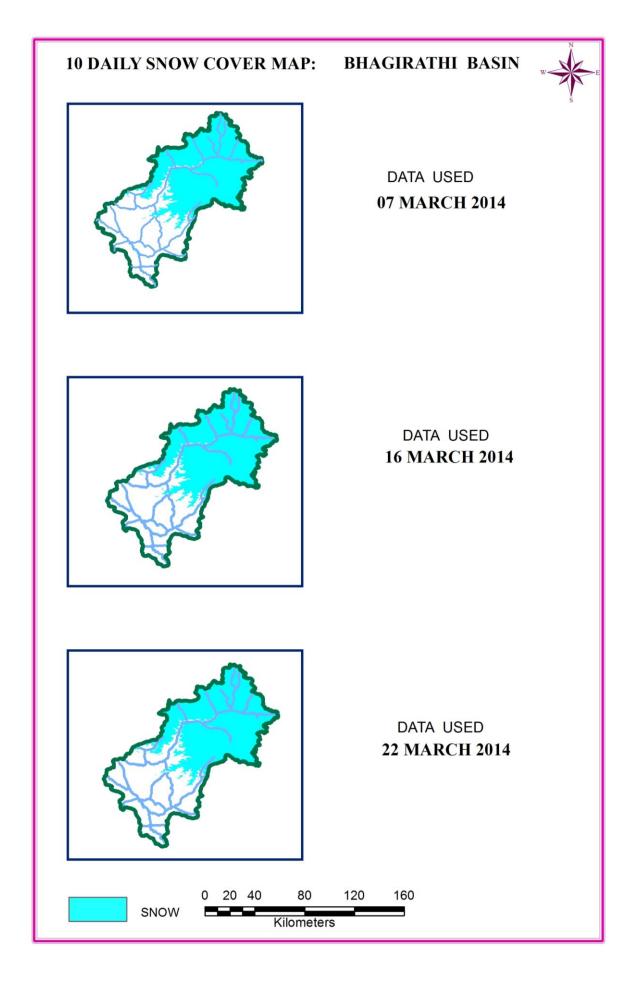
10 DAILY SNOW COVER MAP: BHAGIRATHI BASIN DATA USED 01 JANUARY 2014 DATA USED 16 JANUARY 2014 DATA USED **28 JANUARY 2014** 120 160 0 20 40 80 SNOW

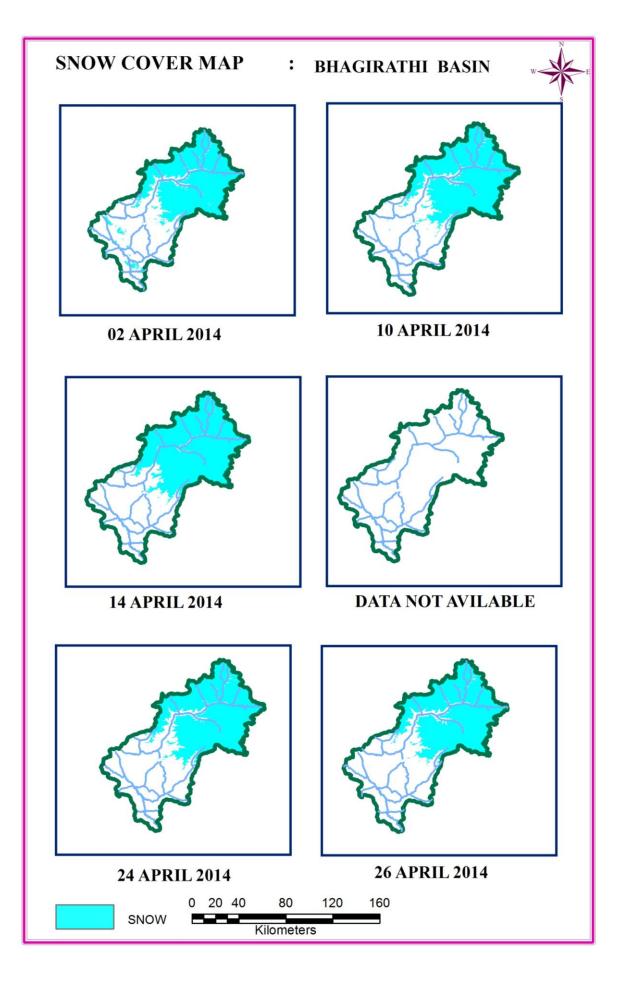
Kilometers

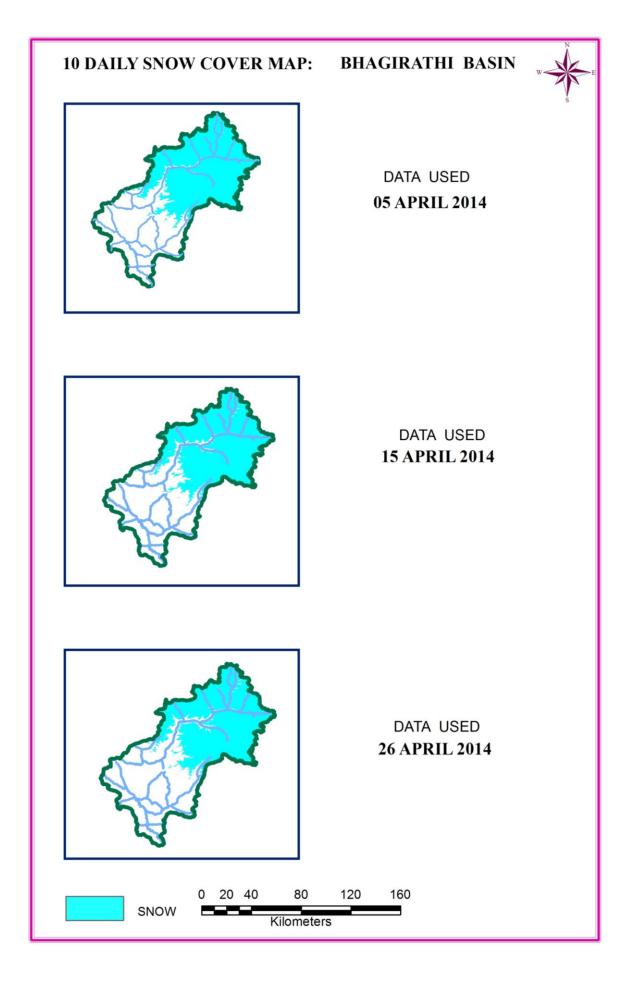


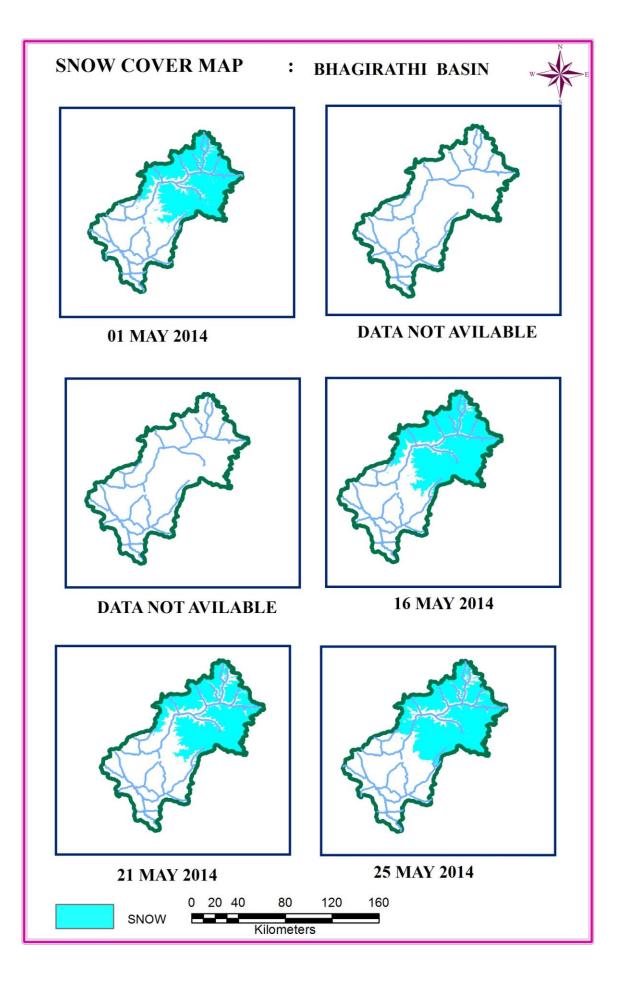


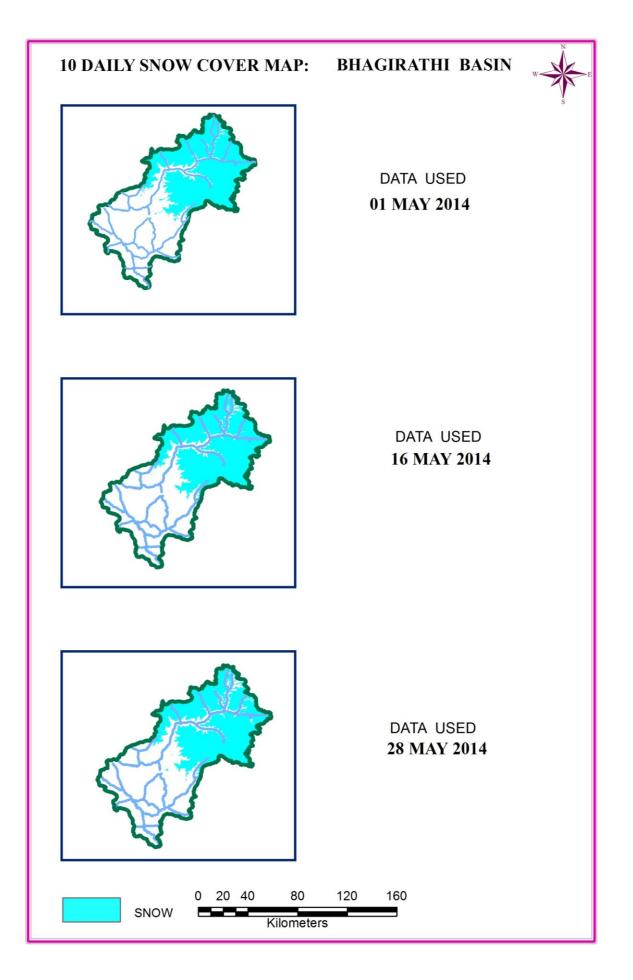


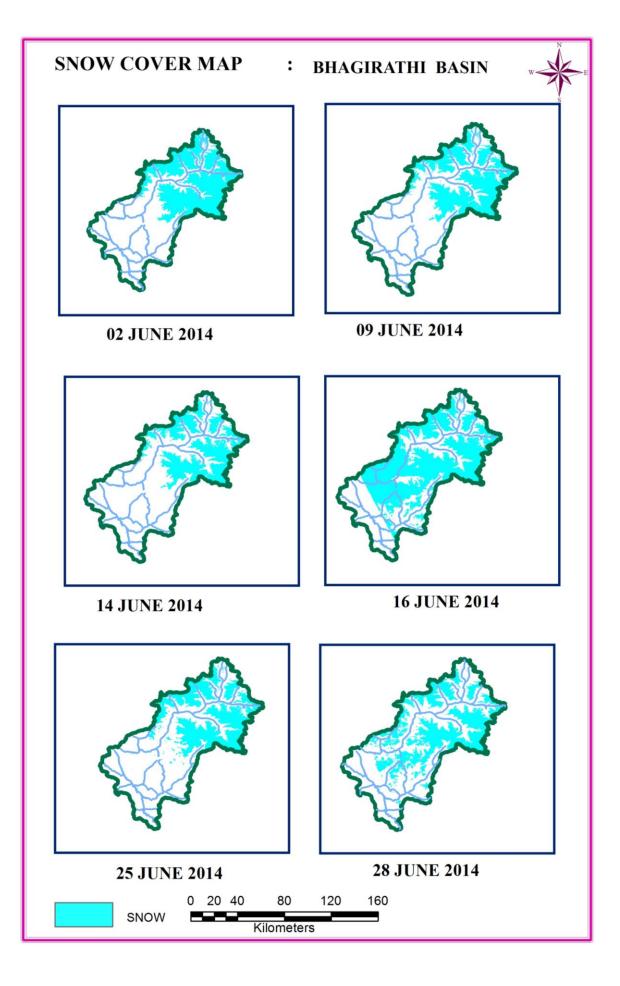


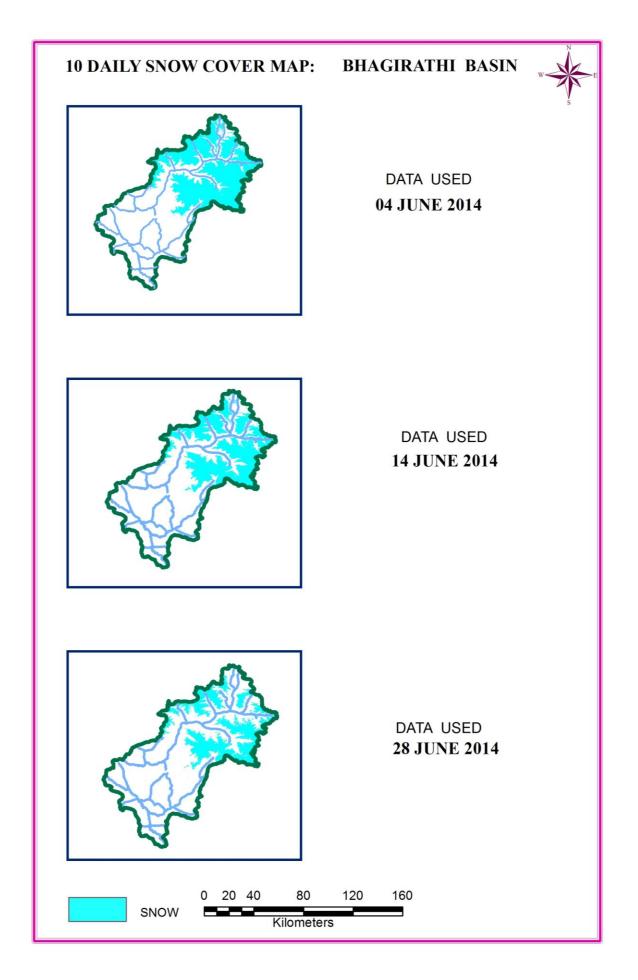












YAMUNA SUB-BASIN

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 (%)		
October 2013									
1	04-Oct-2013	462	13	6	17-Oct-2013	243	7		
2	05-Oct-2013	256	7	7	18-Oct-2013	329	9		
3	07-Oct-2013	272	8	8	28-Oct-2013	353	10		
4	09-Oct-2013	324	9	9	29-Oct-2013	225	6		
5	14-Oct-2013	401	11						
			Novemb	per 2013	·				
10	02-Nov-2013	436	12	13	17-Nov-2013	1084	31		
11	12-Nov-2013	1265	36	14	21-Nov-2013	1035	29		
12	16-Nov-2013	1067	30	15	22-Nov-2013	408	12		
			Decemb	er 2013					
16	01-Dec-2013	717	20	22	19-Dec-2013	678	19		
17	10-Dec-2013	738	21	23	20-Dec-2013	919	26		
18	11-Dec-2013	707	20	24	25-Dec-2013	1526	43		
19	15-Dec-2013	664	19	25	27-Dec-2013	696	20		
20	16-Dec-2013	330	9	26	30-Dec-2013	1482	42		
21	18-Dec-2013	340	10						
			Januar	ry 2014					
27	1-Jan-14	986	28	30	20-Jan-14	1375	39		
28	11-Jan-14	1395	40	31	23-Jan-14	2433	69		
29	16-Jan-14	1222	35	32	28-Jan-14	2507	71		
			Februa	ry 2014					
33	2-Feb-14	584	17	36	21-Feb-14	2444	69		
34	16-Feb-14	3185	90	37	25-Feb-14	2696	76		
35	18-Feb-14	2646	75	38	26-Feb-14	556	16		
	Γ	ſ	Marcl		1				
39	7-March-14	1911	54	42	22-March-14	572	16		
40	12-March-14	2324	66	43	31-March-14	1458	41		
41	16-March-14	2091	59						
April 2014									
44	2-April-14	2273	64	48	14-April-14	1530	43		
45	5-April-14	1634	46	49	15-April-14	589	17		
46	9-April-14	1971	56	50	26-April-14	1138	32		

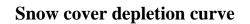
47	10-April-14	1418	40	51	28-April-14	1336	38			
	May 2014									
52	1-May-14	1218	35	57	18-May-14	1159	33			
53	3-May-14	2088	59	58	20-May-14	1036	29			
54	4-May-14	2104	60	59	21-May-14	416	12			
55	8-May-14	1175	33	60	25-May-14	1059	30			
56	16-May-14	1105	31	61	28-May-14	980	28			
			June	2014						
62	2-June-14	548	16	67	13-June-14	714	20			
63	4-June-14	756	21	68	14-June-14	443	13			
64	6-June-14	856	24	69	16-June-14	2826	80			
65	9-June-14	747	21	70	25-June-14	2139	61			
66	11-June-14	756	21	71	28-June-14	586	17			

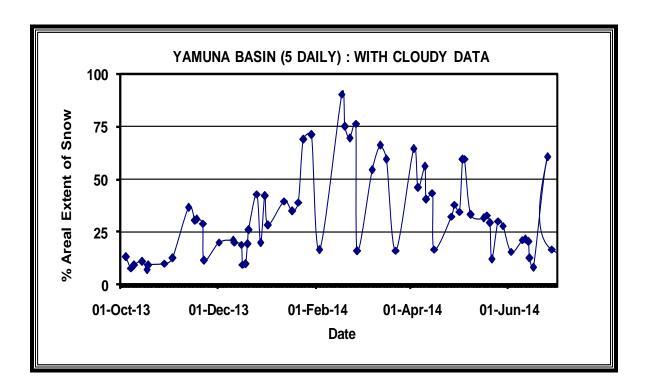
AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (10 DAILY)

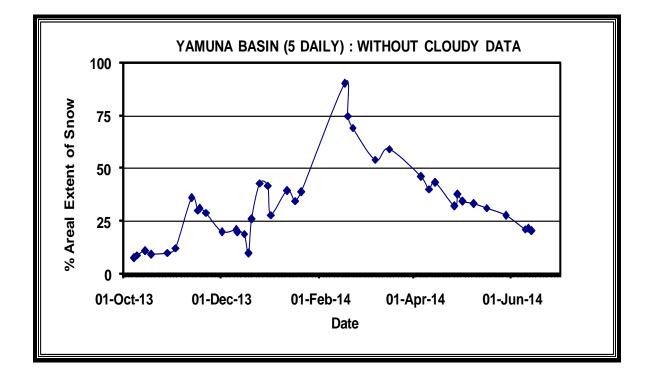
BASIN NAME: YAMUNA

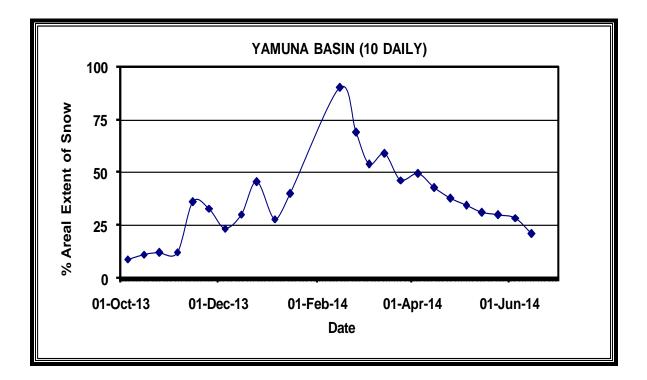
BASIN AREA: 3527 sq km

S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)	S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)
			Octobe	er 2010			
1	5-Oct-13	317	9	3	25-Oct-13	424	12
2	15-Oct-13	400	11				
	·		Novemb	er 2010			·
4	5-Nov-13	436	12	6	25-Nov-13	1168	33
5	15-Nov-13	1281	36				
L			Decemb	er 2010			
7	5-Dec-13	834	24	9	25-Dec-13	1611	46
8	15-Dec-13	1070	30				
			Januar	y 2011			
10	5-Jan-14	988	28	11	15-Jan-14	1411	40
			Februa	ry 2011			
12	15-Feb-14	3185	90	13	25-Feb-14	2433	69
	1	1	March	n 2011	1		
14	5-March-14	1910	54	16	25-March-14	1641	47
15	15-March-14	2081	59				
			April	2011			
17	5-April-14	1743	49	19	25-April-14	1339	38
18	15-April-14	1516	43				
			May	2011			
20	5-May-14	1218	35	22	25-May-14	1060	30
21	15-May-14	1104	31				
			June	2014			
23	5-June-14	1013	29	24	15-June-14	745	21









Snow cover depletion curve

SNOW COVER MAP

