

them have been found to be 125–200 years in age, through tree-ring counting by one of us (A.B.).

Since the last three decades or so, the retreat is very rapid (approx. 25–28 m/yr)^{6,8}, which is quite alarming. This is probably due to rising temperature during the past several decades¹⁹. Tree-ring data also suggest that higher growth in *Pinus wallichiana* of this region since 1950 AD is related to the increasing trend of winter temperature. This higher temperature might have ascended dry temperate pine deodar forest close to Chirbas (9 km downstream from the snout) that is overtopped by open birch–willow–juniper forest at the vicinity of the site. Increased anthropogenic activities, mainly the cutting of forests all around the Gangotri region, might also be one of the important factors in the change of climate, particularly around Bhujbas. This site was well-forested by *B. utilis* (Bhojpatra) in the not-so-distant past. It is now surrounded by just a few patches of greenery. From the environmental point of view, restriction of human activities might be important, but would it stop the glacier from receding? Almost all the Himalayan glaciers, even those having no direct human interference are still reported to be in the receding stage. Thus the impact of global climatic changes towards warming seems to be a major factor responsible for the retreat of the Gangotri Glacier.

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Errata

New initiatives for science in India

[*Curr. Sci.*, 2002, **82**, 128–129]

The following title footnote was missing: ‘This is the text of a document submitted by the Indian National Science Academy to the Government of India.’

Compressed natural gas: A problem or a solution

Sandhya Wakdikar

[*Curr. Sci.*, 2002, **82**, 25–29]

Page 26, column 2, line 4 should read: ‘Higher octane rating . . . , reducing carbon emissions’, instead of ‘. . . carbon dioxide emissions.’

Remembering Satish Dhawan

Amulya K. N. Reddy

[*Curr. Sci.*, 2002, **82**, 226]

The last sentence of the third paragraph in the third column on page 226 should read (the italicized sentences were inadvertently omitted in the original): ‘But I cannot imagine him *donning army fatigues to please any government. From the deep impression that Andrei Sakharov’s Memoirs made on him, my guess is that Satish would have had many significant things to say had he written his memoirs.*’

The omissions are regretted.