

**Minutes of the HPC Meeting held on 24/04/2026**

The 07<sup>th</sup> meeting of the High Powered Committee of Uttarakhand Disaster Preparedness & Resilience Project (U-PREPARE) was held on 24/04/2026 under the Chairmanship of Shri Anand Bardhan, Chief Secretary and Chairman High Powered Committee at the Conference Hall in Secretariat, Dehradun for various proposals under U-PREPARE.

The Following were present:

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Dr. R. Meenakshi Sundaram   | Principal Secretary, Planning                                     |
| 2. Shri Vinod Kumar Suman      | Secretary, Disaster Management                                    |
| 3. Shri Anand Swaroop          | Program Director, U-PREPARE                                       |
| 4. Prof. Durgesh Pant          | Director General, UCOST & Director, USAC                          |
| 5. Shri Navneet Pande          | Additional Secretary, Finance                                     |
| 6. Shri Alok Kumar Pandey      | Additional Secretary, Information Technology & Director, ITDA     |
| 7. Shri Mahaveer Singh Chauhan | Addl. Secretary, Disaster Management & PM, PIU-USDMA, U-PREPARE   |
| 8. Ms. Mayavati Dhakriyal      | Additional Secretary, Rural Works Department                      |
| 9. Shri Rajesh Sharma          | E-in-C, Public Work Department                                    |
| 10. Shri Abhishek Kumar Anand  | Finance Controller, U-PREPARE                                     |
| 11. Shri S K Birla             | Additional Project Director, U-PREPARE                            |
| 12. Shri Dayanand              | Chief Engineer, Level I, EAP & PIU-PWD, U-PREPARE                 |
| 13. Shri V. V. Rawat           | Chief Engineer, Rural Works Department                            |
| 14. Shri Rajesh Pant           | Deputy Program Manager, PIU-PWD                                   |
| 15. Shri Anil Kumar            | Deputy Program Manager, PIU-RWD                                   |
| 16. Dr. Mohit Punia            | Deputy Program Manager, PIU-USDMA, U-PREPARE                      |
| 17. Shri S.P. Sinha            | Contract Management Expert, PIU-PWD                               |
| 18. Shri S.K. Rana             | Deputy Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Dehradun              |
| 19. Shri Ashish Upadhyay       | Deputy General Manager, Cyber Security, Government of Uttarakhand |
| 20. Shri Ravi Shankar Singh    | Chief Technology Officer, ITDA                                    |
| 21. Dr. P.D. Mathur            | Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, PIU-USDMA, U-PREPARE  |

Following were the points of discussions, directions and decisions taken during the meeting:

**A. Project Implementation Unit-USDMA, U-PREPARE**

**1. Administrative approval for the proposal of maintenance of Disaster Risk Database (DRDB)**

HPC has been apprised that there is provision for maintenance of DRDB under the Project. The presentation of the proposal is being presented before HPC for approval.

HPC is requested to grant administrative approval of the proposal as presented.

**HPC after discussions accorded in principal approval on the above proposal with the direction to hire the manpower as required against the existing experts available and procure the software. HPC also directed to obtain the source code of the previous DRDB from the concerned agency.**

**2. Administrative approval for "Lighthouse Uttarakhand" (Gyan Stambh)**

This is to apprise that under Project Appraisal Document (PAD) of the U-PREPARE project, it is proposed to establish a Lighthouse Uttarakhand platform, through disseminating lessons learned and good practices in Uttarakhand to other states in India and supporting the exchange of knowledge and strengthening the capacity of institutions in India through partnerships.

The platform will function as a digital library, providing real-time, highly secure data access to key stakeholders—including the USDMA, SEOC, DEOCs, and allied line departments—thereby significantly improving inter-departmental coordination during crisis situations. The proposal is already recommended by Departmental Empowerment Committee (DEC), on 2nd September 2022, to include it under the project having approximate cost of 1.6 Cr.

**HPC approved the above proposal.****3. Administrative & Financial approval of CBDRM Activities.**

It is to apprise the HPC that a provision Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) activity has been proposed under the PAD. The main objective of this initiative is to empower communities and ensure their preparedness, active participation, and prompt response before, during, and post disasters.

The project anticipates to enhance community resilience through a progressive expansion of community based various activities which include- formation & orientation of GP/ Village Disaster Management Committees, Hazard, Risk & Vulnerability Assessment, Disaster Mitigation Planning including Mitigation Catalogue, Formation & Training of Task Forces and Development of Training Modules. A Disaster Preparedness Kit will also be distributed to each GP/ Village.

Under these initiatives 50 highly vulnerable GPs/ Village of 05 Districts (Bageshwar, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Champawat & Pauri) will be covered. The estimated cost of this activity is Rs 2,80,25,000/- (Rupees Two Crores Eighty Lakhs & Twenty Five Thousand Only) inclusive of GST.

Therefore, in light of the above, the HPC is requested to accord administrative and financial approval of CBDRM activities.

**HPC after discussion approved the proposal and directed to execute it as defined in the Project Appraisal Document (PAD)**

**B. Project Implementation Unit-PWD, U-PREPARE****1. Administrative & financial approval required for hiring of Consultancy for formulation of Climate Adaptation Policy**

The HPC is apprised that, as per the World Bank's Project Appraisal Document, the Public Works Department (PWD) is required to develop a Climate Adaptation Policy integrating disaster and climate risk management. It is further apprised that the Terms of Reference (ToR) have been approved by the Secretary, PWD, and the World Bank.

Sl	Name of Consultancy proposed	Estimated Cost Including GST ((INR in Cr.)
1	Consulting firm for preparation of Climate Adaptation Policy	6.40

HPC is requested to accord Administrative and financial sanction for the above-mentioned consultancy as mentioned in Table-1.

**HPC after deliberations directed to revisit the proposal.**

**2. Financial sanction required for 08 Road Protection Work & 02 Bridge Works**

The HPC is apprised that administrative approval for 08 road protection works & 02 Bridge Works had been granted. The DPRs for these works have been checked by Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), subsequently approved by Technical Steering Committee (TSC) on 21.04.2026 as indicated in Table 2 below.

Sno	District	Item	Cost approved by TSC (Including GST) (INR in Cr.)	Administrative Approval
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Road Protection Works</b>				
1	Rudrprayag	Jakholi-Guptkashi Motor km 13(SH)	9.57	HPC minutes 189/HPC/01/U-PREPARE/2025 dated 10 July, 2025
2	Rudrprayag	Guptakashi Kalimath Khotma Jal Chaumasi M/R km 17(SH)	11.31	
3	Tehri	Naredranagar-Ranipokhri M/R Km 12(SH)	14.36	HPC minutes 777/U-PREPARE/2025 dated 16 Feb, 2026
4	Tehri	Naredranagar-Ranipokhri M/R Km 08(SH)	13.65	
5	Rudrprayag	Jakholi-Guptkashi Motor km 19(SH)	8.36	

U-PREP-PM	U/21/2026	U-PREPARE-DEPT	U-PWD	Haridwar Khadan Bhitrail Kimadi Dehradun M/R Km 13(SH)	8.44	I/391282/2026
				Pithoragrh Almora Berinag Askot Motor Road Km 123(SH)	14.29	
				Uttarkashi Tyuni Purola Nuagaon M/R Km 55	5.5	
<b>Total cost of Road Protection Works</b>					<b>85.48</b>	
<b>Bridge Works</b>						
1		Uttarkashi	Construction of 120M span pedestrian suspension to connect Malana village with KM 06 of Arakot Chinwa Balcha motor road under Vikaskhand Mori, Uttarkashi.		11.49	HPC minutes 275/UDRP-AF/2023 dated 30 June 2023
2		Chamoli	Construction of 92.156 M total Span motor Bridge at Govindghat, Chamoli.		22.16	HPC minutes 189/HPC/01/U-PREPARE/2025 dated 10 July, 2025
<b>Total cost of Bridge Works</b>					<b>33.65</b>	

The HPC is requested to accord financial sanction as mentioned table 2 above.

HPC after discussions approved the above proposal and directed PIU-PWD to visit and study the 03 landslide sites that have been treated using civil and Bio-engineering solutions under the JICA Project of Forest Department. Also, take the technical details & study from them for incorporation of best practices in this project.

**C. Project Implementation Unit-RWD**

**1. Financial Approval on Consulting Services for Technical Assistance and capacity building for Uttarakhand Fire & Emergencies services**

It is to inform the HPC that financial approval on Consulting Services for Technical Assistance and capacity building for UFES on estimated cost of 2.31 Cr were accorded by HPC vide ref no. 189/HPC/01/U-Prepare/2025, dated 10 July, 2025.

The Bid of above package was published on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2025 and after financial evaluation bid has been cancelled due to evaluated price being 38% higher than estimated budget.

After assessment of the proposals received, it was observed that the remuneration of the support staff was not included in the earlier approved proposal. After inclusion of the required support staff, the revised cost of the consultancy is INR 2.60 Cr (including GST).

In view of the above, HPC is requested to accord the financial approval on the above Package.

**HPC after deliberations approved the above proposal of PIU**

**D. Project Management Unit, U-PREPARE:**

**1. Post facto approval of Reallocation of Project funds:**

It is to apprise the HPC that due to proposed activation of CERC there will be reallocation of project funds. The proposed reallocation of INR 243.77 as provision for CERC has been approved by chief Secretary with the direction for post facto approval in the next HPC. The details of reallocation are tabulated as below:

Description	— ₹ —	As per original allocation	After CERC activation
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	Implementing Agencies	Allocation INR in Cr.	IBRD Financing	State Financing	IBRD Financing (INR in Cr.)	State Financing (INR in Cr.)	Allocation INR in Cr.	IBRD Financing (INR in Cr.)	State Financing (INR in Cr.)	Difference from original Allocation (INR in Cr.)
<b>Component 1 – Enhancing Infrastructure Resilience</b>		<b>435.00</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>348.00</b>	<b>87.00</b>	<b>372.00</b>	<b>297.60</b>	<b>74.40</b>	<b>-63.00</b>
1.a: Enhancing the resilience of transport connectivity	PWD	390.00	80%	20%	312.00	78.00	327.00	261.60	65.40	-63.00
1.b: Providing disaster shelter	RWD & USDMA	45.00	80%	20%	36.00	9.00	45.00	36.00	9.00	0.00
<b>Component 2: Improving Emergency Preparedness and Response</b>		<b>505.00</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>404.00</b>	<b>101.00</b>	<b>435.00</b>	<b>348.00</b>	<b>87.00</b>	<b>-70.00</b>
2.a: Strengthening emergency preparedness	USDMA	85.00	80%	20%	68.00	17.00	85.00	68.00	17.00	0.00
2.b: Strengthening hydromet and early warning systems	USDMA	350.00	80%	20%	280.00	70.00	300.00	240.00	60.00	-50.00
2.c: Strengthening SDRF	RWD & SDRF	70.00	80%	20%	56.00	14.00	50.00	40.00	10.00	-20.00
<b>Component 3: Preventing and Managing Forest and Other Fires</b>		<b>373.00</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>298.40</b>	<b>74.60</b>	<b>316.00</b>	<b>252.80</b>	<b>63.20</b>	<b>-57.00</b>
3.a: Improving general fire management capacity	RWD & UFES	290.00	80%	20%	232.00	58.00	260.00	208.00	52.00	-30.00
3.b: Improving forest fire prevention and management capacity	FD	83.00	80%	20%	66.40	16.60	56.00	44.80	11.20	-27.00
<b>Component 4: Project Management</b>		<b>164.20</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>131.36</b>	<b>32.84</b>	<b>110.43</b>	<b>88.34</b>	<b>22.09</b>	<b>-53.77</b>
<b>Component 5: Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC)</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>243.77</b>	<b>243.77</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Front-end fee		2.80	80%	20%	2.24	0.56	2.80	2.24	0.56	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1480.00</b>			<b>1184.00</b>	<b>296.00</b>	<b>1480.00</b>	<b>1232.76</b>	<b>247.25</b>	<b>-243.77</b>
					<b>1480.00</b>			<b>1480.00</b>		

The above table was shared with the World Bank on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and the following comments was received on 17<sup>th</sup> April via e-mail:

*“As we discussed during the mission, the Bank’s guiding principle is to repurpose any remaining funds that have not yet been allocated to specific activities, rather than reducing budgets for subcomponents that are progressing well and expected to deliver results.*

*With this approach in mind, may I kindly request additional details regarding fund utilization and potential savings for each subcomponent? This information will enable the Bank team to assess the proposal more thoroughly and make informed decisions.”*

As per the instructions of the World Bank and the potential savings under the project, the reallocation is being revised based on the World Bank approach and is tabulated below for submission to the World Bank

Description	Implementing Agencies	As per original allocation					After CERC activation		
		Allocation INR in Cr.	IBRD Financing	State Financing	IBRD Financing (INR in Cr.)	State Financing (INR in Cr.)	Allocation INR in Cr.	IBRD Financing (INR in Cr.)	State Financing (INR in Cr.)
<b>Component 1 – Enhancing Infrastructure Resilience</b>									
1.a: Enhancing the resilience of transport connectivity	PWD	390.00	80%	20%	312.00	78.00	390.00	312.00	78.00
1.b: Providing disaster shelter	RWD & USDMA	45.00	80%	20%	36.00	9.00	45.00	36.00	9.00
<b>Component 2: Improving Emergency Preparedness and Response</b>									
2.a: Strengthening emergency preparedness	USDMA	85.00	80%	20%	68.00	17.00	85.00	68.00	17.00
2.b: Strengthening hydromet and early warning systems	USDMA	350.00	80%	20%	280.00	70.00	216.21	146.21	70.00
2.c: Strengthening SDRF	RWD & SDRF	70.00	80%	20%	56.00	14.00	52.05	38.05	14.00

Component	Preventing and Managing Forest and Other Fires									1/31/2026
3.a: Improving general fire management capacity	RWD & UFES	290.00	80%	20%	232.00	58.00	267.32	209.33	58.00	
3.b: Improving forest fire prevention and management capacity	FD	83.00	80%	20%	66.40	16.60	67.00	50.40	16.60	
<b>Component 4: Project Management</b>		<b>164.20</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>130.80</b>	<b>33.40</b>	<b>110.85</b>	<b>77.45</b>	<b>33.40</b>	
<b>Component 5: Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC)</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>243.77</b>	<b>243.77</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
Front-end fee		2.80	100%	0%	2.80	0.00	2.80	2.80	0.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1480.00</b>			<b>1184.00</b>	<b>296.00</b>	<b>1480.00</b>	<b>1184.00</b>	<b>296.00</b>	
					1480.00			1480.00		

HPC is requested to approve the above revised allocation table for submission to the World Bank.

**HPC after due deliberations approved the revised proposal as above.**

## 2. Approval of H R Policy of the Project.

- The Human Resource (HR) Policy of the U-Prepare Project has been developed and approved by the World Bank to establish a transparent, accountable and performance-oriented framework for managing human resource in alignment with the projects objectives. HPC is requested to kindly approve the HR Policy of the project.
- It is also to inform that, the structure of U-PREPARE was approve vide GO no 154649/XVIII-(B-2)/23/20(UDRP-AF) 2023 dated 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023. In point no 2 of the GO, the increment criteria have been mentioned as tabulate below:

Sl	Salary Range	Increment as per GO
1	1,00,000 and above	5% of their salary
2.	50000/-to 99999/-	6% of their salary
3.	18000/-to 49999/-	10% of their salary

Further, it is to appraise the HPC that since the past two years no increment has been given to the contractual staff. Hence, HPC is requested to approve the release of increment to existing contractual staff including arear based on their performance appraisal.

HPC is requested to approve the above proposals as proposed.

**HPC after discussions approved the HR Policy and directed to release increments as per the Government Order on the basis of performance of FY 2025-26 . This will be effective from FY 2026-27. No arear will be given. HPC also directed that the matters which are under the jurisdiction of Program Director, should not be presented to HPC, in future.**

## 3. General Directions

- Grievance Redressal Mechanism has been established under the project. A toll free no 1800 180 4276 is already in existence and displayed at all the sites as well as project office. An IVR system will also be integrated in the near future. Further, it is directed that the GRM number should be given wide publicity across the project works.
- The Delegation of Power to respective Program Managers was already notified on 30/01/2026 vide 738/02/PMU/U-PREPARE/2025 with the instructions that in the initial stage, the procurement done by PMU, shall be carried forward by the PMs. Therefore, all PMs are directed to expedite the payments of outstanding bills at the earliest.
- All concerned PIUs are directed to finalize technical specifications for procurement of equipment under CERC and begin procurement by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026
- All concerning PIUs of CERC are directed to complete preparation of DPRs for civil works and start procurement by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

