



GOVERNMENT OF
HIMACHAL PRADESH



REPORT ON UTTARAKHAND VISIT

YAMUNOTRI DHAM

GANGOTRI DHAM

OF
THE HON'BLE
REVENUE MINISTER,
HIMACHAL PRADESH
SH JAGAT SINGH NEGI



30-04-2026 to 05-05-2026

KEDARNATH DHAM

BADRINATH DHAM

Report on Uttarakhand Visit of Hon'ble Chairman of Cabinet Sub-Committee on Disaster Issues Including Rehabilitation

(Constituted vide Notification No. GAD-C(F)10-1/2023 dated 19.08.2024)

1. Background

In the aftermath of the unprecedented disaster during the Monsoon of 2023, the Government of Himachal Pradesh constituted a "Cabinet Sub-Committee on Disaster Issues Including Rehabilitation" to review disaster management practices, rehabilitation measures, and recommend strategies for strengthening disaster resilience in the State. The Cabinet Sub-Committee is headed by Sh. Jagat Singh Negi, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Horticulture & Tribal Development, Government of Himachal Pradesh. The following Hon'ble Ministers are members of the Committee:

1. Sh. Anirudh Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
2. Sh. Rajesh Dharmani, Hon'ble Minister for Town & Country Planning, Government of Himachal Pradesh.

The Director-cum-Special Secretary (Revenue–Disaster Management), Government of Himachal Pradesh, is functioning as the Member Secretary of the Committee.

The Cabinet Sub-Committee has made several recommendations for strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) mechanisms in Himachal Pradesh, many of which were approved by the Council of Ministers in its meeting held on 29.07.2025. The recommendations of the Cabinet sub-Committee were placed before the Council of Ministers and the CMM gave its approval to the recommendations of the Cabinet sub-Committee.

One of the important recommendations of the Committee was to undertake a study visit to Uttarakhand to examine the disaster management systems, restoration mechanisms, mitigation measures, and best practices adopted by the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA), so that suitable practices may be replicated in Himachal Pradesh.

A major focus area of the visit was to study the live monitoring arrangements of the Kedarnath Yatra from the Uttarakhand State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC), with the objective of assessing the feasibility of implementing similar systems in Himachal Pradesh for major pilgrimage routes such as:

- Shri Kailash Manimahesh Yatra;
- Kinner Kailash Yatra; and
- Shrikhand Mahadev Yatra.

Considering that lakhs of devotees undertake these pilgrimages annually, strengthening monitoring, communication, and emergency response systems for such yatras has been identified as a priority area for the State Government.

2. Visit to Uttarakhand

Accordingly, the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Disaster Issues Including Rehabilitation, under the Chairmanship of Sh. Jagat Singh Negi, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Horticulture & Tribal Development, Government of Himachal Pradesh undertook a visit to the State of Uttarakhand from 30.04.2026 to 05.05.2026. He was accompanied by Sh Nishant Thakur, Additional Secretary (Revenue-DM) and Sh. Vinod Sharma, Assistant Controller, DM Cell.

The Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Horticulture & Tribal Development, Government of Himachal Pradesh visited :

- Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA);
- State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC); and
- SDRF establishments and associated disaster management facilities.
- Kedarnath and Badrinath Dham.



Sh Vinod Kumar Suman, Secretary, Disaster Management, Government of Uttarakhand, extended a warm welcome to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, Himachal Pradesh. The Hon'ble Revenue Minister also gave a token of honour to the Sh Vinod

Kumar Suman, Secretary, Disaster Management, Govt of Uttarakhand and other officers of the Uttarakhand SDMA.



The purpose of the visit was to obtain first-hand knowledge regarding the best practices adopted by Uttarakhand in:

- Disaster preparedness;
- Incident response;
- Early warning dissemination;
- Restoration and rehabilitation;
- Community participation; and
- Technology-enabled disaster management systems.

The visit also aimed at identifying suitable mechanisms which can be replicated in Himachal Pradesh for strengthening disaster resilience and emergency response systems.

Sh Vinod Kumar Suman, Secretary, Disaster Management, Government gave a detailed report on the Disaster Risk Reduction measures being taken by the Uttarakhand Government. He apprised the Hon'ble Minister that the disaster resilient building of Uttarakhand SDMA has been built under externally aided project and has

the prominent feature of base isolation. More than 250 employees work in the Uttarakhand SDMA. Some of the key features of Disaster Management in Uttarakhand include Decentralised Decision Making and extension of the Incident Response System upto Tehsil Level. The SDRF/NDRF teams have been deployed for the Char Dham Yatra. Quick Response Teams have been set up upto the Tehsil Level. Uttarakhand SDMA has given 75 vehicles to the QRTs. Solar Charged Cameras have been deployed on Kedarnath Dham Yatra route and live monitoring of the Yatra is done from the State Emergency Operations Centre, Dehradun. During any disaster Situation, warning message can be disseminated from the Uttarakhand SEOC itself so that people can be evacuated to safer locations. The Secretary, Disaster Management also highlighted the Dharali Incident of 2025. He apprised the Hon'ble Minister that Dharali Incident in 2025 took place around 1:10 pm and as soon the information reached the State authorities, immediate steps were taken and the Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand was monitoring the Search and Rescue Operation from SEOC Dehradun at 3:00 pm.







3. Institutional Preparedness and Administrative Framework

During the visit, it was observed that Uttarakhand has considerably strengthened its institutional disaster management framework. Approximately 250 personnel are presently engaged in disaster management-related operations, coordination, and preparedness activities.

One of the notable features observed was the incorporation of “Base Isolation” technology in critical infrastructure to enhance earthquake resilience and structural safety.

The State has also established an effective ex-gratia compensation mechanism for wildlife attack incidents, wherein:

- Financial assistance of Rs. 4.00 lakh is provided under SDRF norms; and
- Additional assistance of Rs. 6.00 lakh is extended by the State Government.

The Incident Response System (IRS) is being strengthened up to the Tehsil level and is proposed to be fully operationalized by 2028. Emphasis is being laid on

decentralized decision-making mechanisms to ensure rapid response during emergencies and disasters.

It was informed that the emergency response time in Uttarakhand has been reduced to less than 10 minutes in several operational scenarios, demonstrating the effectiveness of the State's emergency response framework.



4. SDRF Campus Visit

The Hon'ble Chairman also visited the SDRF Campus to study:

- Training infrastructure;
- Emergency response facilities;
- Equipment deployment systems; and
- Operational preparedness mechanisms.

Sh Arpan Yaduvanshi, IPS, Superintendent of Police, SDRF Uttarakhand welcomed the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, Himachal Pradesh and gave a detailed presentation on the steps being taken by the Uttarkhand for Search and Rescue Operations in Uttarakhand.



The SP SDRF, Uttarakhand apprised the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, H.P. that Uttarakhand SDRF was set up on 09th October, 2013, in the aftermath of Kedarnath Tragedy 2013. He briefed the Hon'ble Minister about the Basic and Specialized Trainings being imparted to the SDRF personnel. The SDRF Uttarakhand has the specialized teams for High Altitude Rescue, Chemical Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Disasters, Deep Diving Team and Canine Unit (K-9). The Uttarakhand SDRF has conducted large number of community training programmes and has trained 380584 volunteers. Under YAMS (Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme), 827 Yuva Aapda Mitras have been trained against the target of 1220.



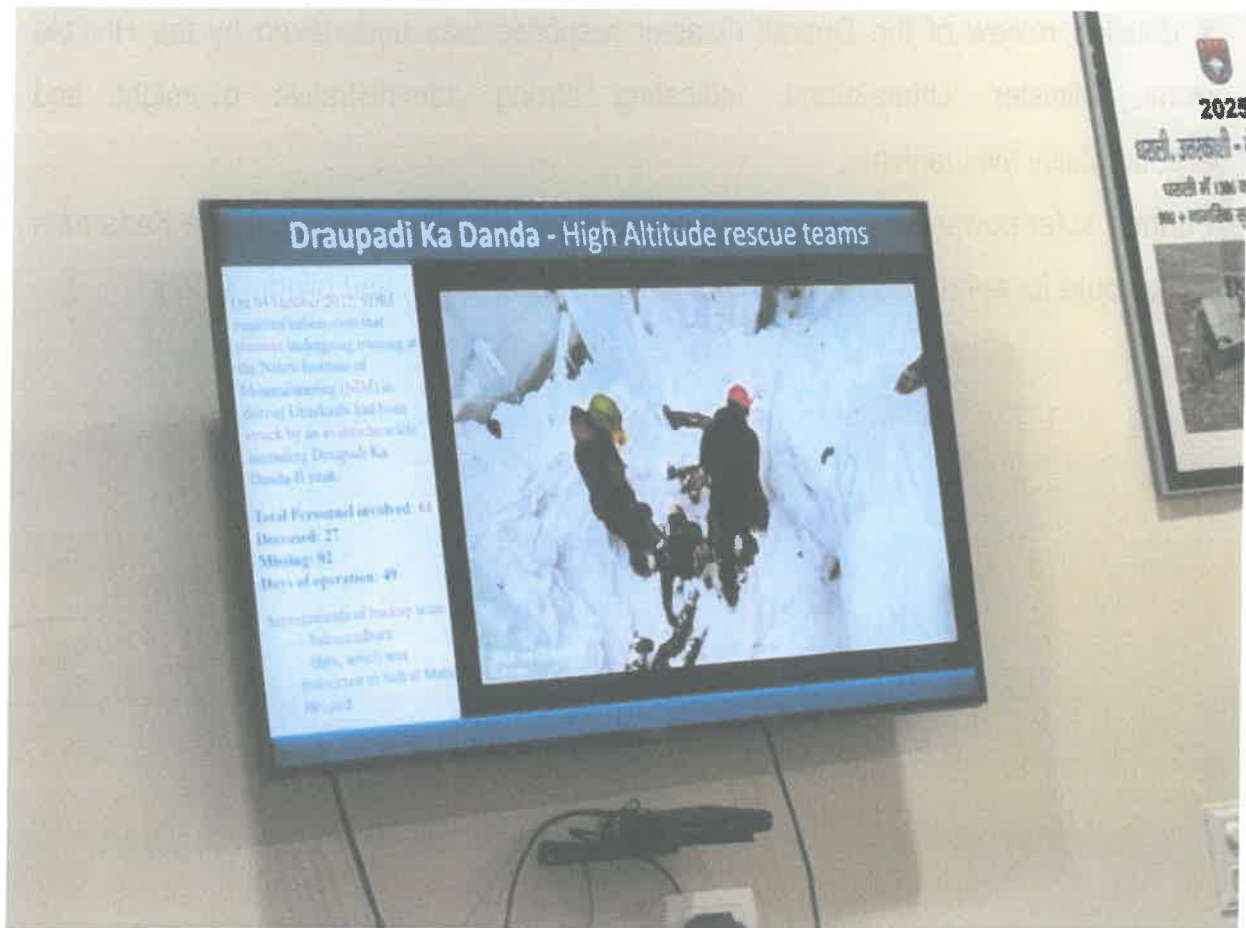
The SP, SDRF, Uttarakhand also briefed the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, H.P. about the plan of the SDRF Campus and said that the SDRF Campus is also being used for training of the newly recruited Police Constables and has all the SAR equipments at par with or even better than NDRF. The Deep Diving Team is permanently stationed at Rishikesh as drowning incidents take place there almost on daily basis.

Draupadi Ka Danda (High Altitude Rescue-2022)

The SP, SDRF Uttarakhand also briefed the Hon'ble Revenue Minister about the ' Draupadi Ka Danda' a High Altitude Rescue Operation carried out by the SDRF Uttarakhand SDRF in the Year 2022.

On 04th October, 2022, the SDRF received the information that trainees undergoing training Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM)in the District Uttarakashi had been struck by an avalanche while ascending the Draupadi Ka Danda-II Peak. There were total 61 SDRF personnel involved in the Rescue Operation which lasted for

49 days. There were total 27 Casualties in this incident and 2 missing persons could not be traced till date.



The visit to the SDRF Campus at Jolly Grant Airport Dehradun provided valuable insights into strengthening institutional preparedness, operational readiness, and response capabilities for Himalayan States. The Uttarakhand Government has established a well-defined emergency response mechanism with structured deployment protocols for SDRF and NDRF resources.

The following important measures were observed:

- Quick Response Teams (QRTs) have been established in approximately 70 Tehsils;

- Around 75 vehicles have been provided by USDMA for strengthening mobility and operational effectiveness of QRTs at Tehsil level; and
- One helicopter has been exclusively dedicated for disaster response and emergency operations.

A detailed review of the Dharali disaster response was undertaken by the Hon'ble Home Minister, Uttarakhand, indicating strong administrative oversight and accountability mechanisms.

Further, solar-powered surveillance cameras have been installed along the Kedarnath Yatra route for enhanced monitoring, situational awareness, and pilgrim safety.



Hon'ble Chairman of Cabinet Sub-Committee

interacting with UK-SDRF and knowing about SAR Equipments

5. Early Warning, Monitoring and Communication Systems

The State has developed a robust communication and warning dissemination mechanism. It was informed that warning messages can be transmitted directly from the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) to ten strategic locations along the Kedarnath route.

The Committee particularly studied the live monitoring system being used for the Kedarnath and Badrinath Yatras through the Uttarakhand SEOC. The system enables real-time monitoring of pilgrim movement, weather conditions, vulnerable locations, and crowd management, thereby improving response capability during emergencies.



The Committee observed that similar monitoring arrangements could be highly beneficial for Himachal Pradesh in managing pilgrimages such as:

- Kailash Manimahesh Yatra;
- Kinner Kailash Yatra; and
- Shrikhand Mahadev Yatra.

A “Community Hosting Protocol” has also been developed in Uttarakhand, wherein stranded tourists and pilgrims can be temporarily accommodated by local communities during emergency situations.

Preparedness measures undertaken by the State prior to disasters include:

- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures;
- Mitigation planning; and
- Preparedness and Capacity Building (P&CB) activities.

The State has also prepared:

- Standardized operational booklets;
- Blank as well as filled sample forms; and
- Preparedness checklists for field-level implementation and rapid response.

6. Dharali Disaster Management and Post-Disaster Actions

The Dharali disaster management framework was studied in detail during the visit. It was informed that:

- The disaster occurred around 1:10 PM; and
- A meeting of the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) was convened by 3:00 PM on the same day, reflecting prompt emergency coordination and response.

Post-disaster measures included:

- Conduct of Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)-related activities;
- Distribution of relief within 24 hours; and
- Rapid restoration and rehabilitation planning.

Under rehabilitation initiatives:

- Approximately Rs. 25 crore was spent for rehabilitation of more than 100 villages;
- Financial assistance up to Rs. 4.65 lakh was provisioned for rehabilitation purposes; and
- A separate State Budget allocation of Rs. 25 crore was earmarked for restoration and rehabilitation activities.

Special emphasis was laid on:

- Restoration of livelihoods;
- Documentation of damaged assets; and
- Long-term rehabilitation planning.

A comprehensive “Dharali Aapda” documentation report comprising nearly 350 pages was also prepared for future reference and institutional learning. It was informed that 52 persons reportedly went missing during the incident.

The State has additionally prepared Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) regarding declaration of missing persons as deceased in prolonged disaster situations.



7. Preparedness Documentation and Mock Drills

The State has prepared operational manuals and booklets containing both blank and filled sample forms to facilitate rapid deployment and uniformity in field-level operations during emergencies.

Regular in-house mock drills are also conducted across departments and agencies in Uttarakhand to test preparedness levels, coordination mechanisms, and response efficiency.

8. Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives

The “Aapda Mitra” initiative was found to be an important community-level disaster preparedness and volunteer engagement programme. It was informed that an honorarium of approximately Rs. 500–700 is being proposed for volunteers associated with the programme.

Village-level Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) planning is also being strengthened, with nearly 150–200 villages being identified for implementation of DRR measures.

It was further informed that Uttarakhand has approximately 7,800 Panchayats, which are being actively integrated into community-based disaster preparedness and response activities.

9. Technological Interventions and Early Warning Systems

One of the major technological initiatives observed during the visit was the “BhuDev App,” developed by IIT Roorkee.

The application is integrated with the Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) system and provides:

- Advance warning time ranging from 10 to 30 seconds;
- Integration with 169 sensors and 112 sirens; and
- Mobile-based public alert dissemination systems.

It was informed that nearly one lakh users have downloaded the BhuDev App.

The proposal for live-streaming of the Badrinath route and other vulnerable locations was also discussed for improving real-time monitoring and situational awareness.

Additionally, approximately 460 I-SAT communication devices have reportedly been distributed throughout the State to strengthen communication capabilities during disasters and emergencies.

10. Hydro meteorological Risk Management and Coordination Issues

Discussions were also held regarding hydrometeorological disaster management issues and related policy matters. It was informed that:

- Hearings related to hydro meteorological concerns are being conducted at policy level; and
- Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand may jointly pursue matters related to service norms and hydro meteorological risk management.

The discussions particularly focused on landslide management issues and related challenges in Himalayan regions.

11. Kedarnath Visit of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister

On 1st May 2026, the Hon'ble Revenue Minister visited Kedarnath in order to see the Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation measures being done by the Uttarakhand Government on Gaurikund to Kedarnath route and at Kedarnath temple. In order to have the first hand experience of the DRR and mitigation measures in the Kedarnath region, the Hon'ble Revenue Minister opted for the journey from Gaurikund to Kedarnath by riding the Horse and on foot.



The Hon'ble Revenue Minister experienced that the Yatra route lacks proper planning and there is huge inflow of the pilgrims and 5000-6000 horses plying everyday between Gaurikund and Kedarnath and hundreds of Palkiwalas causes a great discomfort to the pilgrims going on foot to Kedarnath. The Hon'ble Minister also was

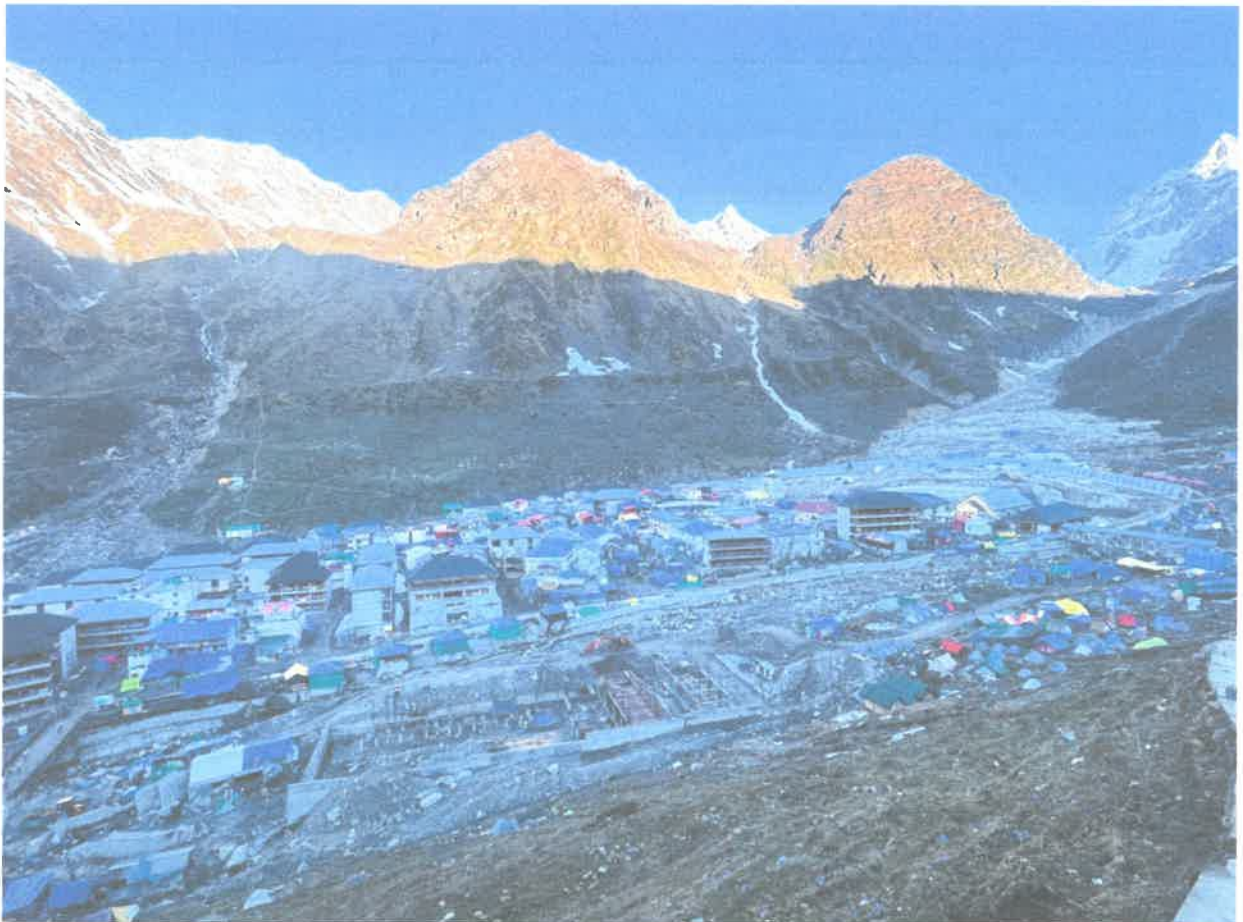
not satisfied with the deployment of SDRF and NDRF on Yatra route as there was neither SDRF nor NDRF pre-positioned at the critical places on Yatra route.

At Kedarnath Temple, the Hon'ble Minister took a walk around the temple and saw the disaster mitigation works being done in Kedarnath. The Yatra Magistrate-SDM Incharge, Kedarnath briefed the Hon'ble Minister about the Mitigation and DRR measures being undertaken in Kedarnath in the post 2013 Disaster. He briefed the Minister that heavy machinery was brought to Kedarnath through Helicopter in order to clear the debris around the temple to and in order to channelize the water flow of Mandakini river. He briefed the Hon'ble Revenue Minister that a Protection wall has been constructed around the temple so that the heavy flow of the water coming from the upstream is diverted and the temple can be protected from any impending disaster. The Hon'ble Revenue Minister was satisfied with the facilities being provided to the pilgrims.



However, the Hon'ble Minister realized that the construction work taking place in the river course may prove risky in future in the event of any disaster. There is need to

carry out the construction work in a planned manner so that the human lives can be saved from the disasters.



The Hon'ble Minister recommended that steps being taken by the Uttarakhand Government for Crowd management in Kedarnath can be replicated by Himachal Pradesh Government in Mani Mahesh Yatra, Kinner Kailash and Shrikhand Mahadev Yatra routes. Installation of Solar powered Cameras for live monitoring of Yatra routes from the SEOC/DEOCs can be considered. The Hon'ble Minister was also impressed with the steps being taken by the Nagar Panchayat, Kedarnath for maintaining cleanliness in the holy shrine.



12. Badrinath Dham visit of Hon'ble Revenue Minister

On the 3rd May 2026, the Hon'ble Minister visited the Badrinath Town to see the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Crowd Management Initiatives in the Dham in order to ensure the safety of the pilgrims.



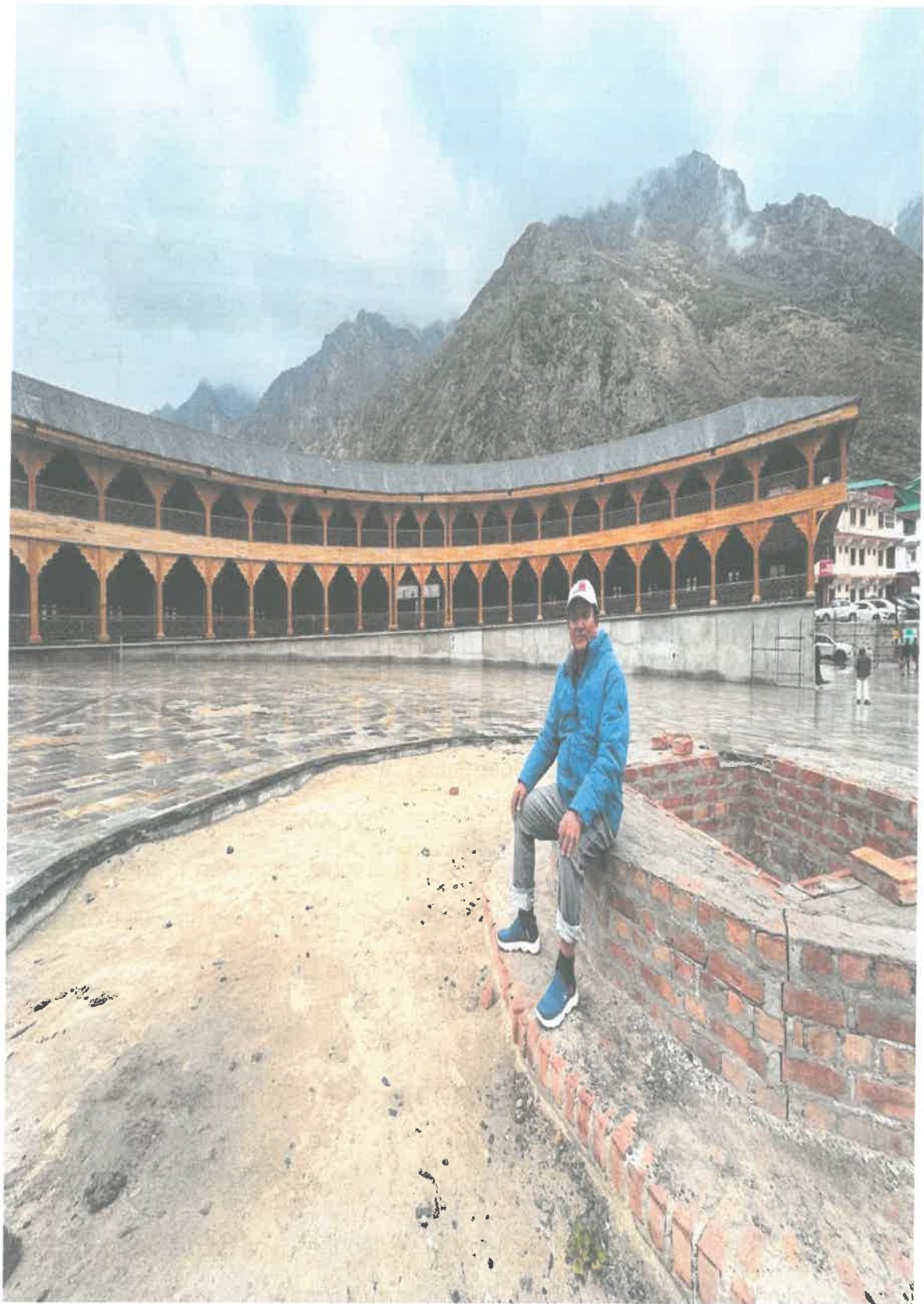
The Revenue Officials at Badrinath apprised the Hon'ble Minister that for better crowd management at the Dham, the 70 meters land around the Badrinath Temple is being acquired so that the campus can be beautified and more space can be created for safe dispersal of the huge gatherings. This will happen in the safe movement of the pilgrims.

The Officials of the Public Works Department working in the Project Implementation Unit of the Badrinath Dham Master Plan, apprised the Hon'ble Minister that new campus is being built up in order to create more space for the pilgrims to take rest so that they do not to wait in the long queues for Darshan. The pilgrims will move for Darshan only when their token number is displayed on the screen.

This will help in better crowd management at the Badrinath Dham. This model can be replicated for crowd management in the Shaktipeeths of Himachal Pradesh where lakhs of pilgrim come for darshan round the year.



Clock Tower coming up at Badrinath Dham complex.





The Hon'ble Revenue Minister while interacting with the officials of the Project Implementation Unit of Badrinath Dham Master Plan suggested that in the new Campus , which is coming up, there should be a memorial dedicated to the Garhwal Rifles and ITBP so that their contribution in the national security can be well exhibited and the people can see their brave history while visiting the Dham.

13. Visit of the Hon'ble Minister to ITBP Northern Frontier Headquarters at Dehradun

On 04th May 2026, the Hon'ble Revenue Minister visited the Headquarters of the ITBP Northern Frontier at Dehradun. The **ITBP Northern Frontier** is one of the primary regional headquarters of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), headquartered in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**. It is responsible for guarding the highly sensitive mountainous stretches of the India-China border and frequently conducts high-altitude mountaineering expeditions and rescue operations in the region.



Sh Manu Maharaaj, IPS, Inspector General of Police, ITBP Northern Frontier welcomed the Hon'ble Revenue Minister and presented a memento to the Minister. The Revenue Minister also honoured the IGP Northern Frontier. A detailed was given by the ITBP Officers regarding deployment of ITBP in Himachal Pradesh and also on the important role played by the ITBP in Rescue Operations in Himachal Pradesh during disasters. The Detailed discussions also took place on the providing local vegetables, milk and other food items to the ITBP. The Hon'ble Minister was of the opinion that local Co-operative Societies can play very important role in providing fresh food items to the ITBP. This will not only help in providing fresh items to the ITBP Officials bu will also help in strengthening the local economy.

The detailed discussions, regarding role of ITBP in Search and Rescue Operations during disasters, also took place between the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, H.P. and IGP, ITBP Northern Frontier Sh Manu Maharaj, IPS. Hon'ble Minister was of the opinion that ITBP can play important role in training the Aapda Mitras and Volunteers in Deep diving so that they can play important role in Search and Rescue operations during drowning incidents. The Hon'ble Revenue Minister directed that the DM Cell and ITBP will work out a Draft MOU for collaboration between ITBP and HPSDMA.

14. Key Learnings for Himachal Pradesh

Based on the observations and interactions during the visit, the following key learnings may be considered for implementation in Himachal Pradesh:

- Strengthening of Incident Response System (IRS) up to Tehsil level;
- Establishment of dedicated Quick Response Teams (QRTs) with vehicle support;
- Provision of dedicated air support for emergency response;
- Development of live monitoring systems for pilgrimage routes;
- Strengthening of community-hosting mechanisms for stranded tourists and pilgrims;

- Standardization of disaster documentation and reporting formats;
- Enhancement of mock drills and preparedness exercises;
- Expansion of Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) and early warning systems;
- Strengthening of village-level DRR planning and Panchayat integration; and
- Wider deployment of satellite-based communication systems in remote and vulnerable areas.
- Collaboration with ITBP for training Aapda Mirta and Youth Volunteers in Deep Diving for Search and Rescue in Drowning incidents.

15. Conclusion

The Uttarakhand visit provided valuable insights into best practices in disaster preparedness, emergency response, rehabilitation planning, and technology-enabled disaster risk reduction mechanisms. The institutional coordination systems, decentralized disaster management structure, community-based preparedness initiatives, and advanced monitoring and early warning mechanisms adopted by Uttarakhand may serve as important reference models for strengthening disaster management systems in Himachal Pradesh.

The learnings and observations from the visit may be utilized for further strengthening preparedness, response, mitigation, and rehabilitation mechanisms in the State, particularly in the context of increasing hydro-meteorological and climate-induced disasters in Himalayan regions.