Online Training Program on Drought Preparedness, Mitigation and Response Plan in Gujarat
Through Google Meet Platform
30th June 2026 (Time: 15:00 to 17:00 Hrs.)

Concept Note:

Drought is one of the most complex and recurring natural hazards affecting India and particularly the State of Gujarat. Unlike sudden-onset disasters, drought develops gradually over a prolonged period due to deficiency in rainfall, resulting in water scarcity, reduced agricultural productivity, environmental degradation, and socio-economic stress. Its impacts extend beyond agriculture and affect drinking water supply, livestock, rural livelihoods, food security, ecosystems, and local economies.

Gujarat falls largely within arid and semi-arid climatic regions and remains one of the most drought-prone states in the country. Large parts of Kachchh, Saurashtra, North Gujarat, and several inland districts experience frequent drought conditions due to high rainfall variability, prolonged dry spells, increasing temperatures, declining groundwater levels, and recurring monsoon uncertainties. Historical records indicate that drought-like conditions affect different regions of the state at regular intervals, placing considerable stress on agriculture, water resources, and rural communities.

Agriculture continues to be the primary livelihood source for a significant proportion of Gujarat's rural population. Rainfed farming systems, limited irrigation coverage in some regions, and increasing climate variability make the agricultural sector particularly vulnerable to drought. Drought conditions often lead to crop losses, reduced fodder availability, water shortages, livelihood disruptions, migration, and increased pressure on natural resources.

Climate change has further amplified drought risks by increasing the frequency of extreme weather events, irregular rainfall distribution, rising temperatures, and changing monsoon behaviour. These emerging challenges necessitate strengthening preparedness, mitigation, and response mechanisms through scientific monitoring, early warning systems, risk-informed planning, and coordinated institutional action.

The Government of India and the Government of Gujarat have established various mechanisms for drought monitoring, assessment, declaration, preparedness, mitigation, and response. The Drought Manual 2020, remote sensing-based monitoring systems, Krishi-DSS, weather forecasting services, drought early warning systems, watershed management programmes, water conservation initiatives, and climate-resilient agricultural practices have significantly strengthened drought management efforts in recent years.

Effective drought management requires a proactive approach involving preparedness, mitigation planning, early warning dissemination, resource management, inter-departmental coordination, and community participation. Therefore, it is important that officials from agriculture, water resources, forest, and allied sectors remain updated regarding drought preparedness measures, technological tools, institutional mechanisms, and response strategies.

In this context, Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) proposes to organize an online training program on **"Drought Preparedness, Mitigation and Response Plan in Gujarat"** to enhance the understanding of stakeholders regarding drought risk management and strengthen preparedness at the field level.

Objectives:

1. To provide an overview of drought risk, vulnerability, and disaster risk management concepts.
2. To enhance understanding of drought monitoring, early warning systems, and technological applications in drought management.
3. To familiarize participants with drought preparedness, mitigation, and response planning mechanisms in Gujarat.
4. To discuss challenges, good practices, and institutional arrangements for drought risk reduction.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Improved understanding of drought risk and vulnerability in Gujarat.
2. Enhanced awareness regarding drought monitoring, early warning systems, and geospatial applications.
3. Strengthened capacity of field officials to undertake preparedness and mitigation measures.
4. Better understanding of institutional mechanisms for drought response and management.
5. Improved coordination among departments involved in drought management.
6. Increased adoption of risk-informed planning approaches for reducing drought impacts.