

Training Programme on **Disaster Victim Identification and Management**

24-25 June 2026

Organized by
Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management

In Collaboration with
National Disaster Management Authority
National Forensic Science University



Background and Context

Gujarat has made significant progress in strengthening disaster risk management systems through robust institutional frameworks and coordinated response mechanisms. However, disasters involving mass fatalities present complex operational, legal and humanitarian challenges that require specialized capacity.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), through its Guidelines on Disaster Victim Identification and Management (2026), provides a structured framework for managing such incidents using scientific, standardized and multidisciplinary approaches. These guidelines are closely aligned with globally accepted protocols, particularly those developed by INTERPOL, which define internationally recognized Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) procedures.

DVI is a systematic and scientific process involving:

- Scene management
- Post-mortem data collection
- Ante-mortem data collection
- Reconciliation

It utilizes validated identification methods such as fingerprint analysis, dental comparisons and DNA profiling, ensuring accuracy, legal validity and dignity of the deceased. NDMA emphasize that DVI is not merely a forensic exercise but a legal and humanitarian obligation, essential for:

- Establishing identity
- Enabling legal processes and compensation
- Providing closure to families

While Gujarat has strong disaster response systems, there is a need to further strengthen operational readiness in DVI, particularly in:

- Standardized documentation
- Scientific identification methods
- Data management systems
- Inter-agency coordination

In this context, it is proposed to organize a specialized training program to operationalize the NDMA-prescribed standards at the State level.

Aim of the Program

To strengthen Gujarat's preparedness for mass fatality incidents by building a trained, multidisciplinary workforce capable of implementing standardized Disaster Victim

Identification (DVI) procedures in line with NDMA Guidelines and globally accepted best practices.

Objectives

- Develop a clear understanding of DVI principles as per NDMA Guidelines and internationally accepted frameworks;
- Build operational competencies across all phases of DVI;
- Enhance skills in scientific identification methods (fingerprints, dental analysis and DNA);
- Familiarize participants with standardized DVI forms, documentation and chain-of-custody protocols;
- Strengthen understanding of legal, ethical and humanitarian aspects;
- Improve inter-agency coordination and role clarity;
- Support development of State-specific DVI Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and a State DVI team.

Program Structure and Approach

The program will be conducted over two days in a residential format, adopting a blended learning approach comprising expert-led sessions, case studies, practical demonstrations and tabletop and simulation exercises. The curriculum will be structured around the four standard phases of Disaster Victim Identification, i.e. scene management, post-mortem data collection, ante-mortem data collection and reconciliation. Key thematic areas will include the legal and regulatory framework, forensic identification techniques, standardized DVI documentation and forms, data management and coordination protocols, as well as psychosocial and ethical considerations.

Target Audience

A multidisciplinary group of officials involved in disaster response, including:

- Forensic Medicine Experts
- Medical Officers (Emergency/ Mortuary)
- Dental Surgeons and forensic dentists
- Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) Experts
- Police Officers (Investigation & Scene Management)
- NDRF/ SDRF personnel
- Health Administrators & Hospital Managers
- Urban Local Body Officials
- SDMA and GIDM officers

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced capacity to conduct DVI in accordance with national guidelines and global best practices
- Improved accuracy and timeliness in victim identification
- Strengthened inter-agency coordination and operational clarity
- Creation of a trained pool of DVI professionals
- Development of Gujarat-specific DVI SOPs
- Improved compliance with legal and documentation requirements
- Promotion of dignified and humane management of deceased persons
- Establishment of a structured State-level DVI framework and creation of State DVI team

Date and Venue

24-25th June 2026



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