



JOINT RELIEF COMMISSIONERS & SDRF CONFERENCE ON
CAPACITY BUILDING DISASTER RESPONSE 2026

Revamping of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)



Disaster Management - Gujarat Perspective

- Gujarat-A Disaster Prone State.
- Seen major disasters like earthquake in 2001, cyclone (Tauate-2021, Biporjoy-2023), floods in Vadodara, Surat/Banaskantha , industrial and chemical disaster (Vadodara/ Bharuch), nuclear and radiological disaster (Kakrapara)
- In **2001, January 26 Earthquake** was an unprecedented calamity for the Gujarat State.
- Our Gujarat State has been traditionally vulnerable to natural disasters of different kinds. The **super cyclone in Kandla/Jamnagar in 1999**
- Setting up of GSDMA in 2001.
- First State in Country to enact DM Act, 2003



Existing status of S.D.R.F.

- ❖ SDRF constituted vide HD GR No.SB-II/DSM/ 122015/1942, dtd. 06.01.2016.
- ❖ Existing 11 flood-relief Coys of SRPF designated as SDRF Coys.
 - Specialized in disaster relief and rescue operations.
 - Multiple operational groups across Gujarat.
 - Rapid response to natural disasters and emergencies.
 - Dedicated to saving lives and protecting citizens



Sanctioned Strength of one S.D.R.F. Coy

PI	PSI	ASI	AHC	APC	Class – IV	Total Strength
1	3	14	20	100	9	147

Platoon/Team- 1		Platoon/Team- 2		Platoon/Team- 3		Admn/Coy HQ		Class – IV	
PSI	1	PSI	1	PSI	1	PI	1	Cook	3
ASI	4	ASI	4	ASI	4	ASI	2	Waterman	2
HC	6	HC	6	HC	6	HC	2	Sweeper	2
APC	30	APC	30	APC	30	PC	10	Dhobi	1
Total	41	Total	41	Total	41	Total	15	Barber	1
								Total	9

Composition of one S.D.R.F. team

CSSR & MFR		Flood & Rescue/ Rope Rescue		Fire & CBRN		Communication		Paramedical		Admin & Axillary	
ASI	01	ASI	01	ASI	01	ASI	01	ASI	00	ASI	00
HC	02	HC	02	HC	02	HC	00	HC	00	HC	00
APC	07	APC	07	APC	07	PC	02	PC	02	PC	06
Total	10	Total	10	Total	10	Total	03	Total	02	Total	06



Preparation of SDRF Coys

Basic training is conducted at 02 places. The duration of the training of the ‘Basic Disaster Responder Course’ is for 6 weeks in which following modules are covered:

- **Medical First Responder (MFR):** This module covers pre-hospital medical treatment, patient assessment and management, basic life support (BLS), CPR with AED, triage principles, and handling of various trauma and injuries.
- **Collapsed Structure Search & Rescue (CSSR):** Trainees learn techniques for urban search and rescue (USAR), including search methods in collapsed buildings, identifying hazards, and using specialized equipment to access trapped victims in rubble fields.
- **Flood Rescue & Motorized Boat Handling:** This involves acquiring life-saving skills for water and flood rescue operations, including handling various types of boats and equipment for surface water rescue.
- **Rope Rescue:** Personnel are trained in rope rescue operations and high-rise rescue techniques.
- **Equipment Maintenance & Handling:** The course familiarizes trainees with the application, maintenance, handling, safety procedures, and troubleshooting of various tools and equipment used in disaster response operations.
- **Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Emergencies:** This module provides familiarity with the pre-hospital medical management and response strategies for CBRN incidents, including the use of protective equipment.



Deployment of S.D.R.F. Coys

- The Administrative and Operational control over these companies remain under Director General & Inspector General of Police, Gujarat State.
- From May to October the companies are placed under the Commissioner of Relief, Revenue Department, Gandhinagar. [***](#)
- SDRF Coys will be deployed in affected areas during various kinds of disasters as per the requirement of Commissioner of Relief (COR)
- While during the rest of the year, they are deployed for Law & Order duties by the Director General of Police, Gujarat State. However, they respond to any disasters.



Revamping of SDRF in Gujarat State

- A comprehensive review was carried out of the existing mechanism / capabilities and changes which are needed to be put in place. A change has been made in the policy orientation from post disaster response to mitigation and preparedness.
- ▶ During operations need for more trained specialized manpower alongwith proper rescue equipments were felt. To overcome this bottleneck with the support of NDRF and GSDMA this gap is being bridged.



Revamping State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)

- Vision : Build a professional, tech-enabled rapid-response multi-hazard force
- Clear SOPs for coordination with other agencies
- Golden Hour response doctrine
- Strengthen the existing Coys with manpower, equipments & training
- Hybrid model being adopted with NDRF-SDRF Coys. As a beginning 02 Teams of NDRF are co-located with SDRF.
- Proposal to create independent SDRF Bns. as proposed.



Organizational Restructuring

- Team based on risks
- Central command & control
- Incident Response System



Equipment Modernization

- Equipments worth Rs. 3 Cr (Grant provided by GSDMA) purchased & distributed to all 11 Coys ***
- 11 SPV (one each for Coy has been ordered). These are fully loaded ready to move vehicles. ***
- Uniform for Gujarat SDRF is underway giving them an identity of its own. ***
- This year we are proposing to buy drones for each Coy.



Technology Integration

- GIS platform : It is being developed where real time information is available on the geographical features, roads network, community resources.
- Real-time tracking : SPVs are fitted with GPS.
- Citizen alert : Messages are flashed during heavy rainfalls/floods etc. by GSDMA.



Community Integration

➤ Volunteer network : Aapda Mitra

- Under the **Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme**, till date **5274** persons from 17 districts of Gujarat has been trained as Aapda Mitra.
- Training of **Master Trainers** was conducted for **260** personnel from NSS, NCC, and NYKS, representing five different states/UTs (Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat Daman & Diu) at PTS, Vadodara by SDRF staff.
- Apart from 2 days School Safety Program organised by GSDMA in different districts, SDRF Teams during four month deployment in districts, train school/colleges, villagers about disaster awareness, various precautions and safety measures to be taken during disaster situations

➤ Awareness drives during Cyclone, Heatwaves, Pandemics, Floods, Fire, through social media & regional and community base. (Damini, Sachet Apps etc.)

➤ Village committees: Community resource mapping district wise is underway



Human Resource Reforms

- Dedicated SDRF cadre
- Incentives : Not there. Govt. of Gujarat has been moved to provide incentive at par with NDRF during their period of deployment
- Insurance : Proposal is underway to take life insurance for all SDRF employees



Training & Capacity Building

- SDRF Training Academy : Proposed in the finance commission
- Certifications (CSSR, diving, Medical) : Possibility is being explored that in training some kind of standardization is introduced & certification on lines of ISO etc. can be done.
- Joint drills: with NDMA, DAE, ONGC, SDMA, DGCA, DMs and NDRF separately too are being carried out regularly***



Strengthening of SDRF Coys

The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel undergo a variety of advanced and specialized training courses in coordination with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). These advanced courses are designed to enhance their skills in specific disaster response scenarios beyond basic training.

Advanced courses for SDRF personnel organized by the NDRF include:

- **ToT in CBRN** (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Emergencies): This 4-week course trains personnel to identify and respond to CBRN incidents.
- **MT in CBRN** (Master Trainers): A shorter, 2-week course for those who have already qualified in ToT CBRN, focusing on developing expert trainers.
- **ToT in MFR & CSSR** (Medical First Response & Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue): This 5-week course provides advanced skills in urban search and rescue techniques and medical first aid.
- **MT in MFR & CSSR**: A 1-week course to develop master trainers in MFR and CSSR.
- **ToT in CADRE** (Community Action for Disaster Response): A 2-week course focused on community-based response and preparedness.
- **Bore Well Rescue Course**: A short, 3-day course focusing on specialized rescue techniques for bore well incidents.



Training of SDRF Personnel



Collapse Structure
Search & Rescue (CSSR)



Rope Rescue



Medical First
Responder (MFR)



CBRN



Collapse Structure
Search & Rescue (CSSR)



Rope Rescue



Flood Rescue





Logistics & Mobility

- Pre-positioning resources : May to October ***
- Air Lifting protocols : As per SEOC done by Coast Guard and IAF
- Mobile Command units



Exercise/Mockdrill for Chemical Disaster preparedness



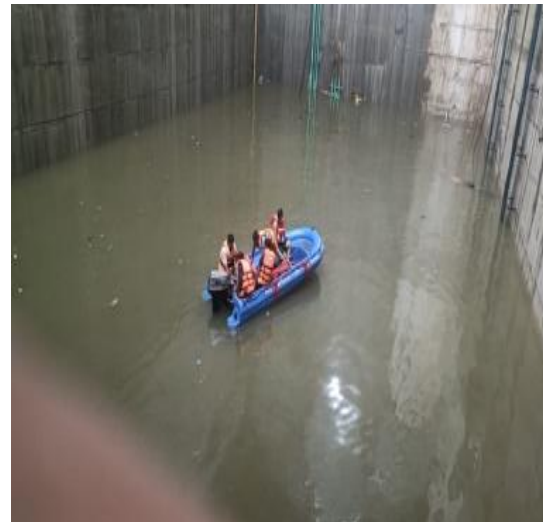


Gujarat Case studies: Examples of effective coordination & lessons

Hydro Power Turbine Under Water Ops (2025) Date 04/09/2025 15:50

Incident: 5 People Strangled near Kadana Dam water released suddenly

- **Location:** Deep pit (100ft×80ft×130ft) – Dolatpura Hydro project
- **Workers:** 20 escaped, 5 submerged in deep turbines shell under water
- **Action:** Rescued workers from dangerous pit conditions
- **Use of Remote Operating Vehicle (ROV) in Under Water Operations** ***





Gujarat Case studies: Examples of effective coordination & lessons

Air India Plane Crash (2025)

In response to the tragic Air India crash, SDRF, Aapda Mitra, Civil Defence, Fire Department, and the Army jointly undertook the critical task of rescue and recovery. Aapda Mitra volunteers reached the site within 20 minutes to assist SDRF, Gujarat Police, Civil Defence, and Fire Services. The SDRF team recovered 58 bodies from one location and 23 more from the fuselage and cockpit areas. Over 70 lives were saved from the nearby medical college hostel and mess. Rescue operations began promptly after the fire was controlled—about four hours post-crash. Commendable efforts were made by the Fire Department, RSS volunteer Shri Ketanbhai, Aapda Mitra Dr. Shah, Civil Defence Officer Shri Suryavanshi, and their teams of volunteers. Bodies were retrieved from the severely burnt wreckage—including the tail section, business class, and cockpit—by cutting through the aircraft. Aapda Mitra, Civil Defence, and NGO volunteers facilitated the transfer of bodies to Civil Hospital for DNA sampling and identification.





Gujarat Case studies: Examples of effective coordination & lessons

Ghambhira Bridge Tragedy (2025): Mahisagar River Bridge Collapse (HYBRID DISASTER)

Location: Near Mujpur Gambhira village, Padra Taluka, Vadodara District

Date of Incident: 09 July 2025

- Information received regarding collapse of a portion of the Mahisagar River bridge, Vehicles fell into the river: **two trucks, one pickup, one Eco car, three motorcycles.**
- Two rescue teams from Vadodara SDRF moved immediately for search & Rescue within 20 minutes.
- Boats launched; heavy mud, Sulphuric acid, oil and slush hindered operations.
- **Rescue:** One 8-year-old girl recovered semi-conscious from Echo car and handed to 108 emergency service.
- **Casualties:** 12 dead bodies recovered and handed to local police. Vehicles pulled out with
- Full moon caused seawater backflow, creating difficulties in search & Rescue operation.
- **Use of Remote Operating Vehicle (ROV) in Under Water Operations**



THANKS