

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Identification of Unidentified Dead Bodies by using various mechanisms including Aadhaar Framework.

The identification of Unidentified Dead Bodies (UIDB) is needed for facilitating criminal investigation and also handing over dead persons to their families after identification. Despite the availability of various identification mechanisms, a significant number of dead bodies remain unidentified even after exhausting all the available methods.

2. In order to strengthen the identification process through the use of technology while ensuring adherence to legal safeguards, it is important to lay down procedure for identification of UIDBs by using various mechanisms including Aadhaar-related information, strictly within the framework of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, particularly the section 33 thereof. The procedure will be in addition and supplemental to any existing procedure being followed by the police in this regard.

3. In the event of recovery of an UIDB, the following steps shall be taken by the Investigating Officer (IO) for establishing identity of the recovered UIDB:

(i) An entry in Daily Diary should be lodged at the Police Station or Police Post, as soon as the information about UIDB is received and placed from where dead body was recovered/found shall be visited by the IO/SHO. Thereafter, enquiries may be made at the place of recovery of the UIDB, regarding facts and the circumstances under which the body was recovered.

(ii) Forensic Experts (CFSL/FSL in the districts/ Unit) shall be called by the IO/SHO at the place of recovery of UIDB. The forensic expert/photographer will take high resolution photographs of the dead body from different angles and high-resolution photographs of face and capture identifying marks clearly. Besides, finger-prints of the dead body shall also be taken properly. Forensic expert shall also collect sample for DNA test.

(iii) The clothes, ornaments and other articles etc. found on the deceased shall be taken into possession through proper seizure memo and e-Sakshya ID and preserved. Any birth mark scar, tattoo mark, Dhobi/Tailor Mark on the clothing, deformity on the body, etc. shall be clearly recorded. The recovered articles

should be carefully examined to determine whether it can help in establishing the identity of the deceased.

(iv) The District Missing Persons Unit (DMPU)/Missing persons Squad (MPS) shall be informed to check if any person of similar description is missing from any other police station. SO, his/her If relatives/acquaintances should be informed.

(v) Wireless Messages shall be flashed to all Station House Officers of the districts and to all District Superintendents of Police (SSP)/Commissioners of Police (CsP) in the Country. Hue and Cry notices with the photographs of the deceased will be distributed/circulated through the Cri-MAC Portal of CCTNS all across the country.

(vi) Reserve Image search based on Facial Recognition under NATGRID solution and search on CrP1 application under NCRB shall be utilized by 10 to establish identity of the UIDB. The fingerprints search of Un-Identified Dead Body (UIDB) should also be run on AFPIS/NAFIS/Finger Print for possible identification.

(vii) Wide publicity should be given through the electronic/digital and print media. State Crime Record Bureau (SCRB) and National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) shall also be informed about the UIDB.

(viii) In case identify of the dead body cannot be established from above mechanisms in 72 hours of its recovery, a report to the Superintendent of Police having jurisdiction be submitted detailing all relevant facts and the necessity of establishing the identity of the deceased through Aadhaar-based biometric data. The Superintendent of Police shall, on the same day, forward such request to the State Police Nodal Officer (to be appointed by states/UTs not below the rank of Superintendent of Police). He shall be responsible for scrutinizing each request, ensuring compliance with legal provisions of section 33 of Aadhaar Act and forward the request with proper justification to the Joint Secretary (IS-I), Ministry of Home Affairs to take up the matter relating to use of Aadhaar data with the

Unique Identification Authority of India under section 33 of the Aadhaar Act. Access of Aadhaar-related information shall be strictly governed by section 33 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016. All such requests shall be need-based, proportionate, and case-specific. Bulk requests, exploratory queries, or any form of request for unauthorized access etc, shall not be made.

4. It is hereby clarified that Aadhaar-based identification shall be resorted to only as a measure of last resort and strictly after exhausting all conventional means of identification, including but not limited to local verification, publication of photographs, dissemination through missing persons portals, fingerprint and DNA database matching, use of facial recognition systems, and verification through personal belongings or distinguishing marks etc.

