

India's Minimum Standards for Mortuaries

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Why in News?

Recently, India introduced its first national minimum standards for mortuary and post-mortem infrastructure.

National Standards for Mortuary & Post-Mortem Facilities

- **Finalised by** - National Council for Clinical Establishments under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).
- **Implementation by** - States and Union Territories.
- **Aim** - To bring **uniformity in mortuary facilities**, which were earlier largely governed by state police manuals and medico-legal rules.
- **Frameworks** - It applies to **public and private hospitals** in States/UTs that have adopted the **Clinical Establishments Act**.
- Basement morgues and locations near hospital waste/refuse areas are prohibited.

- North-West Frontier:

Kandahar (Afghanistan) and
Shahbazgarhi (Pakistan).

- Southern Limits:

Maski, Brahmagiri, and
Yerragudi.

- Eastern Border:

The Dhauli and Jaugada rock
edicts in Odisha.

- **Significance**

- **Standardisation** - It establishes uniform technical standards across mortuary facilities.
- **Traceability** - Implementation of unique numbering systems minimises the risk of errors in body identification.
- **Forensic quality** - It enhances the infrastructure supporting **medico-legal investigations and autopsy procedures**.
- **Public dignity** - It facilitates safer and more dignified management of deceased

individuals.

- **Better infrastructure planning** – It aligns staffing levels and facility resources with the actual volume of autopsy cases.

Reference

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