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# Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States

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**Why is in news?** Ministry of Home Affairs, launches “Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States” with a total outlay of Rs.5,000 Crore

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation had announced the scheme while chairing a meeting with Ministers of Disaster Management of the States/Union Territories in New Delhi on **13th June, 2023**.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has launched a “Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States” from the earmarked allocation of **Preparedness and Capacity Building Funding Window** under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for strengthening fire services in the States with a total outlay of Rs. 5,000 crore.

Under able guidance of Prime Minister, several key initiatives are being taken **to ensure ‘zero death’ and minimum loss of property during disasters by strengthening disaster risk reduction system** in India to make it disaster resilient.

The Scheme finds its **origin from the recommendation of the Fifteenth Finance Commission** which allows an **allocation of 12.5 percent of each of the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)** [10% of the total corpus of the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) and the State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF)] for the Funding Window of Preparedness and Capacity Building.

Objective of the scheme is to **expand and modernize Fire Services** in the States with a view that activities for strengthening of fire services at the State-level through preparedness and capacity-building component of the NDRF will be ensured.

For seeking funds for the projects/proposals under the Scheme, the **concerned State Governments shall have to contribute 25%** (except for the North-Eastern and Himalayan (NEH) States which shall contribute 10%) of total cost of such projects / proposals from their budgetary resources.

Out of the total NDRF corpus, an amount of Rs. 5,000 Crore was earmarked for priority **"Expanding and Modernization of Fire Services"**.

The amount of Rs. 500 crores, out of the total outlay, has been kept for incentivizing the States on the **basis of their legal and infrastructure-based reforms**.

## National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF):

**National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was renamed as National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)** with the enactment of the Disaster Management Act in 2005.

It is defined in **Section 46 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005** (DM Act).

**Kamaraj IAS Academy**

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

It is **placed in the “Public Account”** of Government of India **under “reserve funds not bearing interest”**.

Public Accounts: It was constituted under **Article 266 (2) of the Constitution**. It accounts for flows for those transactions where the government is merely acting as a banker eg. provident funds, small savings etc.

**Role:**

It is **managed by the Central Government** for meeting the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation due to any threatening disaster situation or disaster.

It supplements the SDRF in case of a disaster of severe nature, provided adequate funds are not available in the SDRF.

**SDRF is the primary fund** available with the State governments for responses to notified disasters to meet expenditure for providing immediate relief.

Financed through the **levy of a cess on certain items**, chargeable to excise and customs duty, and **approved annually through the Finance Bill**.