



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

## Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has launched a “**Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States (SEMFSS)**” under the [National Disaster Response Fund \(NDRF\)](#) for strengthening fire services in the States.

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

- **About:**
  - The Scheme finds its origin from the recommendation of the [Fifteenth Finance Commission \(XV-FC\)](#) which allows an allocation of 12.5 % of each of the NDRF and [State Disaster Response Fund \(SDRF\)](#) for the Funding Window of Preparedness and Capacity Building.
- **Objective:**
  - The 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 components of the NDRF will be ensured.
- **Fund Allocation:**
  - 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**.
- **Funding Pattern:**
  - 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.

## What is the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)?

- **Formation:**
  - **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)**.
  - 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.

▪ **Financing:**

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

**Source: PIB**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/scheme-for-expansion-and-modernization-of-fire-services-in-the-states>

