

## Civil Defence

The concept of Civil Defence in India originated from the erstwhile Air Raid Precautions (ARP) organization, which was established and operated during the Second World War. Its primary aim was to safeguard the lives and property of the civilian population and to maintain the continuity of productive and economic activities during wartime crises. In light of the significant loss of life and property due to fires and damage to buildings from air raids on Indian cities during the Indo-China War in October 1962, the Government of India issued a notification in November 1962 for the formation of the Civil Defence Department. Subsequently, on 13 November 1962, the Government of Rajasthan issued a notification establishing Civil Defence units in 12 border towns of the state that were likely to be affected by air raids (external aggression).

The Civil Defence Organization played an active role during the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971, providing commendable support in reducing the loss of life and property in the state through effective search and rescue operations. In view of the loss of life and property in the country due to the Gujarat earthquake in 2001 and the tsunami in the southern states in 2004, as well as the increasing incidence of natural and man-made disasters, the Government of India implemented the Disaster Management Act in 2005. To effectively utilize the disaster management-trained officers, personnel, and volunteers of the Civil Defence Department during air strikes and disasters, the Government of India made partial amendments to the Civil Defence Act of 1968 in 2009, assigning the important responsibility of disaster management to the Civil Defence Department.

On 27 July 2015, the State Government issued a notification separating the Civil Defence Department from the Home Guard Department and placing it under the Disaster Management and Relief Department. In 2017, all districts of the state were declared Civil Defence Districts, thereby expanding the operational area of Civil Defence from urban limits to the entire district. This development made Rajasthan the first state in the country to establish and activate Civil Defence units in all its districts.