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La Gazette de L'État de Poudouchéry

The Gazette of Puducherry

PART - I

சிறப்பு வெளியீடு

EXTRAORDINAIRE

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GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

PUDUCHERRY STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

[G.O. Ms. No. 30/M-17056(11)/126/2026, Puducherry, dated 24th September 2026]

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the Union territory of Puducherry is vulnerable to various natural and human-induced disasters, including cyclones, storm surges, floods, urban flooding, coastal hazards, structural collapses, fires, industrial incidents and other emergencies requiring prompt and specialised search, rescue and response capabilities;

2. And whereas, the State Disaster Management Plan for the Union territory of Puducherry envisages establishment of a State Disaster Response Force from amongst personnel of the Indian Reserve Battalion, Puducherry Armed Police and Fire Services Department, with appropriate training at the facilities of the National Disaster Response Force and other suitable institutions;

3. And whereas, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 has been amended by the Disaster Management (Amendment) Act, 2025, *inter alia*, by insertion of section 44A, enabling the State Government to constitute a State Disaster Response Force by notification in the Official Gazette for the purpose of specialist response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster;

4. And whereas, the Government of Puducherry considers it necessary to establish a dedicated, trained and readily deployable specialist disaster-response capability for strengthening preparedness and response in the Union territory of Puducherry;

5. Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 44A of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (53 of 2005), read with section 2(s) of the said Act, and all other powers enabling him in this behalf, the Lieutenant-Governor, Puducherry is hereby pleased to constitute the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force (PSDRF) with immediate effect, subject to the following provisions.

1. *Constitution of the Force.*— 1.1 There shall be constituted a specialist disaster-response force to be called the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force (PSDRF).

1.2 The PSDRF shall initially comprise of 70 (seventy) Personnel, drawn from the Indian Reserve Battalion (IRBn).

1.3 The initial strength of the Force shall be inducted in two batches of 35 (thirty-five) Personnel each, in a phased manner, in consultation with the Police Department and the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management.

1.4 The composition and strength of the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force may be reviewed and enhanced by the Government from time to time, having regard to the vulnerability profile of the Union Territory, operational requirements, availability of trained manpower and recommendations of the Puducherry State Disaster Management Authority and in consonance with the directions of the National Disaster Management Authority / Ministry of Home Affairs.

1.5 The Government may, as considered necessary, subsequently include suitable personnel from the Puducherry Armed Police, Fire Services and other appropriate Departments/agencies, Civil Defence volunteers in the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force or its augmentation/ reserve arrangements.

2. *Objective.*— The primary objective of the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall be to provide a trained, specialised and readily deployable first-response capability for dealing with threatening disaster situations and disasters within the Union territory of Puducherry and, when duly authorised, outside the Union territory of Puducherry.

3. *Functions of the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force.*— The Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall, subject to the directions of the Competent Authority, perform the following functions, namely:—

- (a) undertake specialised search and rescue operations during disasters and emergencies;
- (b) undertake flood and water-rescue operations, including evacuation and rescue of persons from inundated areas;
- (c) undertake search and rescue in collapsed structures and other hazardous environments within its trained capabilities;
- (d) undertake rescue operations arising from cyclones, storm surges, severe weather, urban flooding and other hydro-meteorological hazards;
- (e) undertake rope rescue, high-angle rescue and other specialised rescue operations for which the personnel have been trained and equipped;
- (f) assist in evacuation of persons from affected and vulnerable areas;
- (g) provide immediate assistance in locating, extricating and handing over affected persons to appropriate medical and other response agencies;
- (h) assist the Fire Services, Police, Civil Defence, Health Department and other Emergency Support Functions during major emergencies;
- (i) assist District Disaster Management Authorities in specialist response activities;
- (j) participate in disaster preparedness activities, mock exercises, familiarisation exercises and capacity-building programmes;
- (k) maintain operational readiness, including regular training, physical fitness, equipment familiarisation and rehearsals;
- (l) support the State Emergency Operations Centre / Integrated Command and Control Centre and Incident Response System in mobilisation and deployment of specialist response resources;
- (m) undertake such other disaster-response functions as may be assigned by the Competent Authority; and
- (n) render assistance outside the Union territory of Puducherry when specifically authorised by the Government / Competent Authority.

4. *Deployment.*—

4.1 The Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall be maintained in a State of operational readiness for immediate deployment.

4.2 The Force may be deployed in any part of the Union territory of Puducherry, including Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam, depending upon the nature and scale of the incident and operational requirements.

4.3 The Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall ordinarily be deployed through the established disaster-management and Incident Response System and shall function in coordination with the State Emergency Operations Centre, District Emergency Operations Centres, District Disaster Management Authorities, Incident Commanders and other responding agencies.

4.4 The Force may be deployed in support of the District Administration, Police, Fire Services and other Emergency Support Functions when specialist search-and-rescue capability is required.

4.5 Deployment outside the Union territory of Puducherry shall be undertaken only with the approval of the Competent Authority and in accordance with the applicable instructions/ Guidelines of the Government of India.

5. *Command and Control.*—

5.1 The Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall function under the overall administrative framework as prescribed by the Government of Puducherry.

5.2 The operational command of the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall vest with an Officer designated by the Government.

5.3 The detailed command structure, duties and responsibilities of the Officers and personnel of the Force shall be as prescribed separately by the Competent Authority.

5.4 During disaster operations, the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall function within the Incident Response System and shall comply with the directions of the Designated Incident Commander/Competent Disaster-Management Authority, without prejudice to its internal discipline and operational command.

6. *Training.*—

6.1 All personnel inducted into the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall undergo the specialised disaster-management and search-and-rescue training before being deployed for the specialist response duties.

6.2 The initial basic training shall, as far as practicable, be conducted through the 4th Battalion, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Arakkonam, or such other training institution as may be approved by the Competent Authority.

6.3 The initial training programme may comprise approximately 8 weeks and 3 days of Basic Disaster Management Training subject to confirmation by the training institution and the approved training curriculum.

6.4 The training programme shall include, *inter alia* :

- (i) disaster management and incident response;
- (ii) flood and water rescue;
- (iii) search and rescue;
- (iv) collapsed-structure search and rescue;
- (v) rope and high-angle rescue;
- (vi) first aid and casualty management;

- (vii) emergency evacuation;
- (viii) communications and coordination;
- (ix) use, care and maintenance of rescue equipment;
- (x) personal safety and protective measures; and
- (xi) mock exercises and field familiarisation.

6.5 Refresher, advanced and specialised training shall be conducted periodically to maintain operational readiness.

7. Equipment and logistics.—

7.1 The Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall be provided with suitable specialised equipment, vehicles, communication facilities, protective equipment and logistics support commensurate with its approved capabilities and the hazard profile of the Union territory of Puducherry.

7.2 The equipment scale shall be determined on the basis of identified operational capabilities and shall be reviewed periodically.

7.3 Procurement and augmentation of equipment shall be undertaken in accordance with the applicable financial rules, procurement procedures and Government/ National Disaster Management Authority/Ministry of Home Affairs instructions.

7.4 The Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall maintain proper records of equipment, periodical inspection, maintenance, servicing and replacement.

8. *Coordination with other Agencies.—* The Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall maintain close operational coordination with:

- (a) Puducherry State Disaster Management Authority;
- (b) Department of Revenue and Disaster Management;
- (c) State Emergency Operations Centre/ Integrated Command and Control Centre;
- (d) District Disaster Management Authorities;
- (e) Police Department;
- (f) Fire Services Department;
- (g) Civil Defence and Home Guards;
- (h) Health Department and Emergency Medical Services;
- (i) Public Works Department;
- (j) Electricity Department;
- (k) Local Administration Department;
- (l) Fisheries Department;
- (m) Coast Guard and other maritime agencies, wherever relevant;

- (n) National Disaster Response Force;
- (o) Armed Forces and other Central Government agencies, wherever deployed; and
- (p) other Emergency Support Functions, Statutory Authorities, Local Bodies and Agencies, as required.

9. *Training, exercises and preparedness.*—

9.1 The Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall participate in periodic mock-exercises, table-top exercises, familiarisation exercises and multi-agency drills.

9.2 The Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall maintain updated standard operating procedures, checklists, contact directories, equipment inventories and deployment plans.

9.3 The operational readiness of the Force shall be periodically reviewed by the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management in coordination with the Police Department and the Puducherry State Disaster Management Authority.

10. *Interstate deployment.*—

10.1 The Puducherry State Disaster Response Force may be deployed outside the Union territory of Puducherry for specialist disaster-response operations when requested by another State/ Union Territory and authorised by the Competent Authority.

10.2 Such deployment shall be subject to availability of personnel, operational requirements within the Union Territory and applicable Government of India Guidelines.

10.3 Personnel deployed outside the Union territory of Puducherry shall remain subject to their applicable service rules and disciplinary jurisdiction.

11. *Service conditions.*—

11.1 The personnel of the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall continue to be governed by the service rules and conditions applicable to their parent Department/Cadre unless otherwise specifically ordered by the Government.

11.2 No permanent change in cadre, seniority, pay, promotion or other service condition shall be deemed to arise merely by virtue of induction into the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force unless separately ordered by the Competent Authority.

11.3 The terms and conditions relating to deployment, training, allowances, discipline and other service matters shall be governed by applicable rules/orders issued by the Government from time to time.

12. *Administrative arrangements.*—

12.1 The Department of Revenue and Disaster Management shall coordinate with the Police Department and other concerned Departments for phased operationalisation of the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force.

12.2 The Police Department shall identify and make available the personnel approved for induction into the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force in accordance with the approved strength and deployment Schedule.

12.3 Detailed administrative, accommodation, transport, communications and logistics arrangements shall be worked out separately by the concerned Departments.

13. *Financial arrangements.*—

13.1 Expenditure towards the training, equipment, vehicles, communications, protective gear, maintenance, and operational requirements of the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall be met from the appropriate budgetary provisions or the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), as per applicable financial rules and State Disaster Response Fund Guidelines for Puducherry.

13.2 Separate proposals for sanction of expenditure, procurement of specialised equipment and creation/augmentation of infrastructure, wherever necessary, shall be submitted to the Competent Authority.

14. *Review and augmentation.*— The Government may, on the recommendation of the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management/ Puducherry State Disaster Management Authority, review the strength, organisation, capabilities, training requirements and deployment pattern of the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force from time to time.

15. *Power to issue instructions.*— The Government may issue such further Instructions, Operational Guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures and Orders as may be necessary for the effective implementation of the Puducherry State Disaster Response Force.

16.1 Nothing contained in this Notification shall affect the existing Statutory powers, functions or responsibilities of the Police Department, Fire Services, Civil Defence, District Administration, District Disaster Management Authorities or any other Agency.

16.2 The Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall supplement and strengthen, and not replace, the existing first-response and Emergency Support Function arrangements of the Union territory of Puducherry.

17. This Notification shall come into force on and from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of the Government of Puducherry.

SCHEDULE – I

Core Operational Capabilities

The Puducherry State Disaster Response Force shall progressively develop the following core capabilities, subject to training and availability of appropriate equipment:

- (1) Flood and water rescue;
- (2) Search and rescue;
- (3) Collapsed-structure search and rescue;
- (4) Rope and high-angle rescue;
- (5) Cyclone and storm response;
- (6) Urban emergency response;
- (7) Evacuation and casualty assistance;
- (8) Emergency communications;
- (9) Basic medical first response;
- (10) Disaster equipment operation and maintenance; and
- (11) Other specialist capabilities identified on the basis of the hazard and vulnerability profile of the Union territory of Puducherry.

SCHEDULE – II

PHASED OPERATIONALISATION

- Phase-I :** Identification of first batch of 35 personnel, completion of basic disaster-management and specialist response training and establishment of initial operational capability.
- Phase-II :** Identification and training of the remaining 35 personnel, augmentation of operational teams and establishment of full initial strength of 70 personnel.
- Phase-III:** Progressive enhancement of specialised capabilities, equipment, training, inter-agency exercises and deployment arrangements based on operational assessment.

(By order of the Lieutenant-Governor)

KULOTHUNGAN. A., I.A.S.,
Special Secretary (Revenue) Department of
Revenue and Disaster Management.