

IndiaCode

The Civil Defence Act, 1968

(ACT NO. 27 OF 1968)

[*As on the* 1*st June*, 2026]

LIST OF AMENDING ACTS

1. The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act, 1970 (42 of 1970).
2. The Defence and Internal security of India Act, 1971 (42 of 1971).
3. The Delegated Legislation (Amendment) Act, 1983 (20 of 1983).
4. The Civil Defence (Amendment) Act, 2009 (3 of 2010).
5. The *Jan Vishwas* (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 (8 of 2026).

———

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED

Cl.,cls.	. . . . .	*for*	Clause, clauses.
Ins.	. . . . .	„	Inserted.
Notifn.	. . . . .	„	Notification.
S., ss.	. . . . .	„	Section, sections.
Sch.	. . . . .	„	Schedule.
Subs.	. . . . .	„	Substituted.
w.e.f.	. . . . .	„	with effect from.

IndiaCode

THE CIVIL DEFENCE ACT, 1968

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

SECTIONS

1. Short title, extent and commencement.
2. Definitions.

CHAPTER II

POWER OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO MAKE RULES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE

3. Power to make rules for civil defence.

CHAPTER III

CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS

4. Constitution of Civil Defence Corps.
5. Appointment of members and officers.
6. Dismissal of members of Civil Defence Corps.
7. Appeal.
8. Functions of members of Civil Defence Corps.
9. Power to make regulations.

IndiaCode

CHAPTER IV

MISCELLANEOUS

10. Provisions of the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act to apply to injuries sustained by the members of the Corps.
11. Penalties.
11A. Adjudication of penalties.
12. Effect of Act and rules, etc., inconsistent with other enactments.
13. Ordinary avocations of life to be interfered with as little as possible.
14. Savings as to orders.
15. Act not to apply to measures taken for the protection of the Armed Forces.
16. Limitation of prosecutions.
16A. Power of the Central Government to delegate.
16B. Effect of order made by the Central Government, etc.
17. Power to delegate.
18. Protection of action taken in good faith.
19. Authorised persons and members of the Corps to be public servants.
19A. Power of Central Government to make rules.
20. Rules and regulations to be laid before Parliament.

THE CIVIL DEFENCE ACT, 1968

ACT NO. 27 OF 1968

[24*th May*, 1968.]

An Act to make provision for civil defence and for matters connected therewith.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Nineteenth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.—(*1*) This Act may be called the Civil Defence Act, 1968.

(*2*) It extends[1] to the whole of India.

(*3*) It shall come into force in a State or part thereof on such date[2], not being a date earlier than the date of the expiry of the Defence of India Act, 1962 (51 of 1962), as the Central Government may, by notification, appoint and different dates may be appointed for different States or different parts thereof.

2. Definitions.—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(*a*) "civil defence" includes any measures, not amounting to actual combat, for affording protection to any person, property, place or thing in India or any part of the territory thereof against any hostile attack, whether from air, land, sea or other places, or, for depriving any such attack of the whole or part of its effect, whether such measures are taken before, during, at or after the time of such attack[3][or any measure taken for the purpose of disaster management, before, during, at, or after any disaster];

(*b*) "Civil Defence Corps" means the Corps formed wholly or mainly to meet the needs of civil defence and includes an organisation deemed to be a Corps under the proviso to sub-section (*1*) of section 4;

(*c*) "hostile attack" means any attack by any person or body of persons, whether during any war, external aggression, internal disturbance or otherwise which endangers the security of any life, property, place or thing in India or any part of the territory thereof;

(*d*) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette;

(*e*) "personal service injury" has the meaning assigned to it in the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1962 (59 of 1962);

(*f*) "State Government", in relation to a Union territory, means the Administrator of the Union territory;

[3][(*g*) "disaster" means a disaster as defined in clause (*d*) of section 2 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (53 of 2005);

(*h*) "disaster management" means the disaster management as defined in clause (*e*) of section 2 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (53 of 2005).]

CHAPTER II

POWER OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO MAKE RULES FOR CIVIL DEFENCE

3. Power to make rules for civil defence.—(*1*) The Central Government may, for securing civil defence, by notification, make rules providing for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(*a*) preventing the prosecution of any work likely to prejudice civil defence;

---

1. 1st October, 1975, *vide* notifn No. S.O.478(E), dated 8th September, 1975, extended and brought into force in the State of Sikkim.
2. 10th July, 1968, *vide* notifn. No. S.O.2435(E), dated 5th July, 1968, *see* Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, sec. 3 (*ii*).
3. Ins. by Act 3 of 2010, s. 2 (w.e.f. 21-1-2010).

(*b*) instruction of members of the public regarding civil defence and their equipment for the purposes of such defence;

(*c*) provision, storage and maintenance of commodities and things required for civil defence;

(*d*) prohibiting or regulating traffic, and the use of vessels, buoys, lights and signals in ports and territorial, tidal and inland waters;

(*e*) control of lights and sounds;

(*f*) protection of life and property by taking fire prevention and other measures;

(*g*) securing of any buildings, premises or other structures from being readily recognisable in the event of a hostile attack;

(*h*) for the prevention of danger to life or property, the demolition, destruction or rendering useless, of any building, premises or other structures or any other property;

(*i*) prohibiting or regulating the possession, use or disposal of—

(*i*) explosives, inflammable substances, corrosive and other dangerous substances or articles, arms and ammunition;

(*ii*) vessels;

(*iii*) wireless telegraphic apparatus;

(*iv*) aircraft; and

(*v*) photographic and signalling apparatus and any means of recording information;

(*j*) evacuation of areas and the removal of property or animals therefrom;

(*k*) accommodation in any area of persons evacuated from another area and the regulation of the conduct of evacuated persons accommodated in such area;

(*l*) billeting of evacuated person or persons authorised to perform functions under this Act;

(*m*) salvage of damaged buildings, structures and property and disposal of the dead;

(*n*) seizure and custody or destruction of injured, unclaimed or dangerous animals;

(*o*) ensuring the safety of—

(*i*) ports, dockyards, lighthouses, lightships, aerodromes and facilities associated with aerial navigation;

(*ii*) railways, tramways, roads, bridges, canals and all other means of transport by land or water;

(*iii*) telegraphs, post offices, signalling apparatus and all other means of communication;

(*iv*) sources and systems of water supply, works for the supply of water, gas or electricity and all other works for public purposes;

(*v*) vessels, aircraft, transport vehicles as defined in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (4 of 1939), and rolling stocks of railways and tramways;

(*vi*) warehouses and all other places used or intended to be used for storage purposes;

(*vii*) mines, oilfields, factories or industrial or commercial undertakings generally, or any mine, oilfield, factory or industrial or commercial undertaking in particular;

(*viii*) laboratories and institutions where scientific or technological research or training is conducted or imparted;

(*ix*) all works and structures being part of, or connected with, anything earlier mentioned in this clause; and

IndiaCode

(*x*) any other place or thing used or intended to be used for the purposes of Government or a local authority or a semi-Government or autonomous organisation, the protection of which is considered necessary or expedient for securing civil defence;

(*p*) control of any road or pathway, waterway, ferry or bridge, river, canal or other source of water supply;

(*q*) precautionary measures, which the Government or any department thereof or any local authority, members of police force, fire brigade and members of any other service or authority employed primarily for purposes other than civil defence purposes should be required to take within their respective jurisdictions or with respect to any personnel employed by them;

(*r*) preventing or controlling any use of uniforms, whether official or otherwise, or flags or official decorations like medals, badges or other insignia or anything similar thereto, the wearing of which is calculated to deceive or to prejudice civil defence;

(*s*) precautions to be taken or action to be taken by persons or authorities with a view to protecting or acquainting the general public or any members thereof against the dangers involved in any apprehended hostile attack;

(*t*) requiring the owner or occupier of any building, structure or premises to make or carry out such arrangements as may be necessary for the purposes of detection and prevention of fire;

(*u*) taking of specified measures for dealing with outbreaks of fire;

(*v*) directing that, subject to any specified exemption, no person present in any specified area shall, between such hours as may be specified, be out of doors except under the authority of a written permit granted by a specified authority or person;

(*w*) (*i*) prohibiting the printing and publication of any newspaper, news-sheet, book or other document containing matters prejudicial to civil defence;

(*ii*) demanding security from any press used for the purpose of printing or publishing, and forfeiting the copies of, any newspaper, news-sheet, book or other document containing any of the matters referred to in sub-clause (*i*);

(*x*) regulating the conduct of persons in respect of areas the control of which is considered necessary or expedient, and removal of persons from such areas;

(*y*) requiring any person or class of persons to comply with any scheme of civil defence;

(*z*) any other provision which may be necessary for the purposes of civil defence.

(*2*) Any rule made under sub-section (*1*) may provide that orders with regard to the matters specified therein may be made by the State Government.

[1](*3*) Any rule made under sub-section (*1*) may provide that a contravention thereof or any order made thereunder shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, and where the contravention is a continuing one, with a further fine which may extend to fifty rupees for every day, after the first, during which such contravention continues.]

CHAPTER III

CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS

4. Constitution of Civil Defence Corps.—(*1*) The State Government may constitute, for any area within the State, a body of persons to be called the Civil Defence Corps (hereinafter referred to as the "Corps") and may appoint a person, not being, in its opinion, below the rank of a District Magistrate (to be known as the "Controller") to command such Corps:

---

1. Subs. by Act 42 of 1971, s. 6 (during emergency and six months thereafter) (w.e.f.3-12-1971).
"(*3*) Any rule made under sub-section (*1*) may provide that a contravention thereof or any order made or direction given thereunder shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.".

Provided that if there is in existence in any area in a State, immediately before the commencement of this Act in that area, an organisation which, in the opinion of the State Government, may be entrusted with the functions of the Corps, the State Government may, instead of constituting a separate Corps for such area, call upon that organisation to take over or discharge the functions of the Corps in that area, and thereupon such organisation shall be deemed, for the purposes of this Act, to be the Corps for that area.

(*2*) The State Government may, for the purpose of co-ordinating the activities of the Controllers within the State, appoint a Director of Civil Defence and every Controller shall comply with the directions given by such Director.

5. Appointment of members and officers.—(*1*) The State Government may appoint as members of the Corps persons who are fit and willing to serve as such and the Controller may appoint any member so appointed to such office or command in the Corps, as such member is, in the opinion of the Controller, fit to hold.

(*2*) Every person appointed to be a member of the Corps shall be given a certificate of membership in such form as may be prescribed.

6. Dismissal of members of Civil Defence Corps.—(*1*) Where any member of the Corps fails or has failed, in the opinion of the Controller, to discharge his duties as such member satisfactorily or is or has been found guilty of any misconduct in the discharge of his duties as such member, the Controller may, after an inquiry in which such member of the Corps has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of the charges against him, by an order, dismiss such member from the Corps.

(*2*) Where the Controller is of opinion that the continued presence of any member of the Corps is undesirable, he may, without assigning any reason, summarily dismiss such member from the Corps.

7. Appeal.—A member of the Corps who is dismissed from the Corps under section 6 may prefer an appeal to the State Government within thirty days from the date of such dismissal and that Government may, on such appeal, confirm, modify or reverse the order made by the Controller or other authority.

8. Functions of members of Civil Defence Corps.—(*1*) The members of the Corps shall perform such functions in relation to the carrying out of measures for civil defence as may be assigned to them by rules made under this Act or by any other law for the time being in force.

(*2*) The State Government or the Controller may, by order, call out a member of the Corps for training or for discharging such functions in relation to the carrying out of measures for civil defence as may be specified in such order.

(*3*) Subject to such orders as the Central Government may make in this behalf, any member of the Corps of any State may at any time be required, by order, to discharge functions in relation to civil defence in any other State and shall while discharging such functions, be deemed to be a member of the Corps of that other State and be vested with the powers, functions and privileges and be subject to the liabilities of a member of the Corps in that other State.

9. Power to make regulations.—(*1*) The Central Government may, by notification, make regulations for carrying out the purposes of this Chapter.

(*2*) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such regulations may—

(*a*) prescribe the functions of the members of the Corps and regulate the manner in which they may be called out for service;

(*b*) regulate the organisation, appointment, conditions of service, discipline, accoutrement and clothing of members of any or all of the Corps;

(*c*) prescribe the form of certificates of membership of any or all of the Corps.

CHAPTER IV

MISCELLANEOUS

10. Provisions of the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act to apply to injuries sustained by the members of the Corps.—The provisions of the Personal Injuries (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1962 (59 of 1962), and of every scheme made thereunder shall apply, so far as may be, to every personal service injury sustained by any person appointed to be a member of the Corps as they apply to personal service injury sustained by a civil defence volunteer, subject to the modifications that—

(*a*) any reference to a civil defence volunteer under that Act or any scheme made thereunder shall be construed as reference to a member of the Corps; and

(*b*) any reference therein to the period of emergency shall, in relation to a member of the Corps, be construed as the period during which this Act is in force.

11. Penalties.—(*1*) If any member of the Corps on being called out by an order under sub-section (*2*) of section 8 neglects or refuses without sufficient excuse to obey such order or to discharge his functions as such member or to obey any lawful order or direction given to him for the performance of his functions, he [1][shall be liable to penalty which may extend to five hundred rupees, and where such neglect or refusal is a continuing one, with a further penalty which may extend to fifty rupees] for every day, after the first, during which such contravention continues.

[2][(*2*) If any person neglects or fails without any reasonable excuse to obey any order made or direction given to him under this act or rules made thereunder, he [3][shall be liable to penalty which may extend to five hundred rupees, and where such negligence or failure is a continuing one, with a further penalty which may extend to fifty rupees] for every day, after the first, during which such negligence or failure continues.]

[4][**11A. Adjudication of penalties.—**(1) For the purpose of adjudicating penalties under sub-sections (*1*) and (*2*) of section 11, the State Government may appoint the Controller of Civil Defence as an adjudicating officer for holding an inquiry and imposing penalties in such manner as may be prescribed:

Provided that the State Government may appoint as many adjudicating officers as may be required:

Provided further that no such penalty shall be imposed without giving the person concerned a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(*2*) Any person aggrieved by an order of the adjudicating officer under sub-section (*1*), may, within thirty days from the date of receipt of such order, prefer an appeal to such officer, at least one rank higher than the adjudicating officer, as may be appointed by the State Government as an appellate authority, in such form and manner as may be prescribed.

(*3*) An appeal may be admitted after the expiry of the period of thirty days if the appellant satisfies the appellate authority that he had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal within that period.

(*4*) The appellate authority may, after giving the parties to the appeal an opportunity of being heard, pass such order as he may think fit.

(*5*) An appeal under sub-section (*2*) shall be disposed of within sixty days from the date of filing.

(*6*) If a penalty imposed by the adjudicating officer under sub-section (*1*) or by an order of the appellate authority under sub-section (*4*), as the case may be, is not deposited, the amount shall be recovered as an arrear of land revenue.]

---

1. Subs. by Act 8 of 2026, s. 2 and Sch., for certain words (w.e.f. 15-5-2026).
2. Sub-section (*2*) omitted by Act 42 of 1971, s. 6 (during emergency and six months thereafter) and restored thereafter (w.e.f. 3-12-1971).
3. Subs. by Act 8 of 2026, s. 2 and Sch., for certain words (w.e.f. 15-5-2026).
4. Ins. by s. 2 and Sch., *ibid*. (w.e.f. 15-5-2026).

12. Effect of Act and rules, etc., inconsistent with other enactments.—(*1*) The provisions of this Act or any rules made thereunder or any order made under this Act or any such rule shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any enactment other than this Act or in any instrument having effect by virtue of any enactment other than this Act.

(*2*) Every appointment, order or rule made in relation to civil defence before the commencement of this Act by or under any law relating to civil defence shall, in so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, continue to be in force until it is rescinded or altered under this Act, and be deemed to have been made under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

Explanation.—"Commencement of this Act", in relation to any provision or area, means the commencement of that provision or, as the case may be, the commencement of this Act in that area.

13. Ordinary avocations of life to be interfered with as little as possible.—Any authority or person acting in pursuance of this Act shall interfere with the ordinary avocations of life and the enjoyment of property as little as may be consonant with the purpose of ensuring the public safety and civil defence.

14. Savings as to orders.—(*1*) No order made in exercise of any power conferred by or under this Act shall be called in question in any court.

(*2*) Where an order purports to have been made and signed by any authority in exercise of any power conferred by or under this Act, a court shall, within the meaning of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (1 of 1872), presume that such order was so made by that authority.

15. Act not to apply to measures taken for the protection of the Armed Forces.—Nothing contained in this Act or any rule, regulation or order made thereunder shall apply to the Armed Forces of the Union or to any measures taken by any of the authorities in control of the Armed Forces of the Union for the purpose of securing civil defence or safety of such forces or for the protection of any naval, military or air force installations or stores.

16. Limitation of prosecutions.—No prosecution for any offence punishable under this Act shall be instituted against any person except by, or with the consent of, the Controller or any person authorised by the Controller in this behalf.

[1][**16A. Power of the Central Government to delegate**.—The Central Government may, by order, direct that any power or duty, which by this Act or any rule made thereunder is conferred or imposed upon the Central Government shall, in such circumstances and under such conditions, if any, as may be specified in the direction, be exercised or discharged also by any officer or authority subordinate to the Central Government.

16B. Effect of order made by the Central Government, etc.—Any order made by the Central Government or the officer or authority authorised by it under section 16A in relation to a matter to which this Act or any rule made thereunder relates shall have effect, notwithstanding anything contained in any order made by the State Government or any other authority with regard to such matter.]

17. Power to delegate.—The State Government may, by notification, direct that—

(*a*) all or any of the powers which may be exercised by it under this Act shall, in such circumstances and under such conditions, if any, as may be specified in that notification, be exercised also by such officer, not being, in the opinion of the State Government, inferior in rank to that of a District Magistrate, as may be specified in the said notification;

(*b*) all or any of the powers which may be exercised by the Controller under this Act shall, in such circumstances and under such conditions, if any, as may be specified in that notification, be exercised also by such officer, not being, in the opinion of the State Government, inferior in rank to that of a Sub-Divisional Magistrate, as may be specified in the said notification.

18. Protection of action taken in good faith.—(*1*) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Government, the Director or the Controller or any person, authorised by the

1. Ins. by Act 42 of 1971, s. 6 (during emergency and six months thereafter) (w.e.f. 3-12-1971).

Government or the Controller, for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or any rules or orders made thereunder or any orders issued under any such rule.

(*2*) No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Government, the Director or the Controller or any person, authorised by the Government or the Controller, for any damage caused or likely to be caused by anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or any rule made thereunder or any order issued under any such rule.

19. Authorised persons and members of the Corps to be public servants.—Any person authorised by [1][the Central Government] the Controller or the State Government under this Act and every member of the Corps, while functioning as such, shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860).

[1][**19A. Power of Central Government to make rules.—**(*1*) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(*2*) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(*a*) the manner of holding an inquiry and imposing penalties under sub-section (*1*) of section 11A;

(*b*) the form and manner of preferring appeal to the appellate authority against the order of adjudicating officer under sub-section (*2*) of section 11A.]

20. Rules and regulations to be laid before Parliament.—Every rule and every regulation made by the Central Government under this Act shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or [2][in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid], both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or regulation or both Houses agree that the rule or regulation, as the case may be, should not be made, the rule or regulation shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or regulation.

1. Ins. by Act 8 of 2026, s. 2 and Sch. (w.e.f. 15-5-2026).
2. Subs. by Act 20 of 1983, s. 2 and the Sch., for certain words (w.e.f. 15-3-1984).

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

After the Chinese invasion of our country in 1962 it was felt that in order to minimise loss of life, to maintain continuity of production and to restore quickly the disrupted civic services, Civil Defence measures should be adopted in places which were the most likely target of enemy air attack. With a view to providing the necessary legal cover, a Chapter on the subject was included in the Defence of India Act, 1962 and rules for Civil Defence services were framed there under.

2. This law will, however, cease to be operative six months after the revocation of the emergency but the Civil Defence organisation as such has to be retained to provide the necessary machinery for raising and training the volunteers to man the various Civil Defence services and also to make other preparations so as to enable the authorities to adopt Civil Defence at short notice wherever necessary.

3. The Bill aims at providing for continued maintenance of Civil Defence services which are already in position in the States and Union territories. It also enables the Central Government and the State Governments to extend the scope of Civil Defence if and when it may become necessary to do so.

4. This Bill incorporates all the provisions of Chapter III of the Defence of India Act and other relevant provisions spread over other Chapters of the Defence of India Act and Rules. It also provides for payment compensation to Civil Defence volunteers for injuries sustained while on duty.

IndiaCode

NEW DELHI;

The 4th December, 1967. Y.B. CHAVAN.