

COALITION FOR DISASTER RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE (CDRI) - GEOGRAPHY

NEWS: Recently, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) conducted a comprehensive study to develop a Disaster Risk and Resilience Assessment Framework (DRRAF) for the telecommunications sector.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Study on Disaster Risk and Resilience Assessment Framework (DRRAF) for the Telecommunications Sector

- The **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** recently conducted a **detailed study** to develop a **Disaster Risk and Resilience Assessment Framework (DRRAF)** for the **telecommunications sector**.
- This study was conducted in **collaboration** with the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** and the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India**.
- The study aims to **assess disaster risks and enhance the resilience of India's telecommunications network**, which is a **critical infrastructure spanning the entire country**.

Vulnerability of India's Infrastructure to Disasters

- India is **highly vulnerable** to various natural disasters, and its infrastructure faces **significant risks** due to frequent calamities.
 - **58% of India's land area** is prone to **earthquakes**.
 - **12% of the country** experiences **regular floods**.
 - **15% of the landmass** is vulnerable to **landslides**.
 - **More than 10%** of India's forests are **prone to wildfires**.
 - Out of India's **7,516 km-long coastline**, nearly **5,700 km** is at **high risk from cyclones and tsunamis**.
- As **telecommunications infrastructure** is widely spread across the country, it remains **highly susceptible to damage** during such disasters.

About the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

- The **CDRI was established in 2019** at India's initiative as an **international platform** for promoting the **resilience of new and existing infrastructure** against climate and disaster risks.
- It is a **multi-stakeholder partnership** that includes **national governments, UN agencies, multilateral development banks, private sector entities, and knowledge institutions**.
- The **primary goal** of CDRI is to strengthen the ability of countries to **build and maintain disaster-resilient infrastructure systems** to support **sustainable development**.

CDRI MISSION

Increase awareness and commitments of governments and other stakeholders

Improve availability of knowledge systems

Increase availability of technical assistance and improve capacities



Governance & Policy



Risk Identification & Estimation



Resilience Standards & Certification



Capacity Development



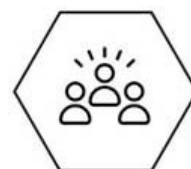
Innovation & Emerging Technology



Recovery & Reconstruction



Finance



Community Awareness & Capacity

Purpose and Scope of CDRI

- **Facilitates International Knowledge Sharing**
 - CDRI helps countries exchange best practices and learn from each other to develop disaster-resilient infrastructure.
- **Focus on Networked Infrastructure Systems**
 - Modern infrastructure extends beyond national boundaries, and damage to a single node (e.g., a power plant, a railway network, or a highway) can have cascading effects on the entire system.
- **CDRI Does Not Finance or Implement Infrastructure Projects**
 - The coalition does not directly fund or execute infrastructure projects in member countries.
 - Instead, it works on developing standardized processes, capacity building programs, and best practices to ensure disaster resilience.
- **Economic Benefits of Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure**
 - According to CDRI estimates, every \$1 invested in making infrastructure resilient can help prevent over \$4 in future losses in low- and middle-income countries.

Key Initiatives Under CDRI

A. Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)

- The **IRIS initiative** was launched at COP26 in 2021 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- It specifically **supports small island developing states (SIDS)** that are extremely **vulnerable to climate change** and **rising sea levels**.
- Many small island nations have already **lost up to 9% of their GDP** in a **single disaster event**.
- IRIS focuses on **developing climate-resilient infrastructure** to prevent **economic losses and displacement of populations** in these vulnerable regions.

B. Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF)

- IRAF was **announced at COP27 in 2022** in Egypt.
- The fund has been established with the **support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**.
- It is aimed at **financing disaster-resilient infrastructure projects** in **developing nations and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**.

Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024

A. Background and Need for Amendment

- The **Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024** amends the existing **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- The **original Act** was enacted in response to the **2004 Indian Ocean tsunami**, which caused **widespread destruction and loss of lives**.
- The Act aimed to create a **structured framework** for disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.

B. Key Provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005

- **Establishment of Disaster Management Authorities**
 - **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):**
 - **Headed by the Prime Minister** and responsible for **formulating disaster management policies and guidelines**.
 - **State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs):**
 - Led by **respective Chief Ministers** and focus on **state-level disaster preparedness and response**.
 - **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF):**
 - A specialized force **trained for disaster response and relief operations**.
 - **National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM):**
 - Focuses on **research, training, awareness campaigns, and capacity building** in disaster management.
- **Key Disaster Management Policies**
 - The **National Disaster Management Policy (2009)** was formulated to **guide the implementation of disaster response mechanisms**.

- The **National Disaster Management Plan (2016)** provides a **detailed roadmap for preparedness, mitigation, and post-disaster rehabilitation efforts.**

C. Key Amendments Introduced in the 2024 Bill

1. Creation of Urban Disaster Management Authorities (UDMAs)

- The amendment **introduces Urban Disaster Management Authorities (UDMAs)**, which will be **headed by Municipal Commissioners** in large metropolitan cities.
- This recognizes that **major cities often extend across multiple districts** and require a **unified and coordinated approach to urban disasters** such as **flooding, fires, and building collapses.**

2. State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) Now Mandatory

- The SDRF was **previously an optional mechanism**, but the amendment now **makes it compulsory for all states** to maintain this fund.
- This ensures **adequate financial resources are always available for disaster response and recovery efforts** at the state level.

3. Legal Recognition of National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)

- The **National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)**, which was previously an **advisory body**, has now been granted **legal status.**
- This **strengthens its authority** in coordinating disaster relief efforts at the **national level.**

4. Creation of a National Disaster Database

- The NDMA will now be **responsible for maintaining a comprehensive disaster database.**
- This database will include **disaster assessments, fund allocations, expenditures, preparedness plans, and mitigation measures.**

5. Minimum Standards for Disaster Relief

- The NDMA will **establish clear guidelines on the minimum standards of relief** that must be provided to disaster-affected individuals.
- This will ensure **uniformity and adequacy** in relief efforts across the country.

Significance of These Developments

- **Strengthening India's Disaster Preparedness**
 - The new amendments ensure **better coordination and governance** in disaster management, especially in **urban areas.**
- **Enhancing Global Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)**
 - The **CDRI and its initiatives (IRIS, IRAF)** align with **international efforts** to improve disaster resilience, particularly in **climate-vulnerable regions.**
- **Financial and Legal Strengthening of Disaster Management**
 - The **legal status given to NCMC and SDRF** ensures **better funding, transparency, and coordination** for disaster relief operations.
- **Improving Infrastructure Resilience in India and Globally**

- The development of **disaster-resilient infrastructure** through **CDRI initiatives** will **reduce economic losses and save lives** in the long run.

Conclusion

India has taken **major steps in strengthening its disaster management framework**, both at the **national and international levels**. The **CDRI framework** fosters **global cooperation** on infrastructure resilience, while the **Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024** enhances **India's legal and institutional capacity** for disaster response.

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