



# International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

**For Prelims:** ICDRI, CDRI.

**For Mains:** Disaster Management.

## Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister addressed the inaugural session of the **fourth edition of the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure** via video message.

- ICDRI is the annual international conference of the [Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure \(CDRI\)](#) in partnership with member countries, organizations and institutions to strengthen the global discourse on disaster and climate resilient infrastructure.

## What is CDRI?

- The **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** is a **multi-stakeholder global partnership** of national governments, [UN \(United Nations\)](#) agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions.
  - The **Prime Minister of India launched** CDRI during his speech at the **UN Climate Action Summit** on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019.
- It aims **to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems** to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development.
- **Members:** 30 countries and 8 organizations.
- **Thematic Areas:** Governance and Policy, Risk Identification and Estimation, Standards and Certification, Capacity building, Innovation & Emerging Technology, Recovery and Reconstruction, Finance and Community based approaches.
- The CDRI Secretariat is based in **New Delhi, India**.

## How is Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (DRI) different from Climate Resilient Infrastructure (CRI)?

- DRI also includes addressing disaster risk due to geophysical and geomorphological hazards **such as earthquakes, landslides**, tsunami and volcanic activity. Since infrastructure systems are built for long life cycles, **it is imperative that DRI addresses risks emanating from such low-frequency high impact events**.
- DRI must **deal with technological hazards** like nuclear radiation, dam failures, chemical spills, explosions which are **not directly linked to climate**.
- More than 90% of disasters are a **manifestation of weather and climate-related extreme events**. So, making infrastructure climate-resilient also **contributes to making it disaster resilient**.

- Some **CRI efforts may focus on reducing carbon footprint of Infrastructure**. While this may be a byproduct of DRI, DRI does not explicitly address these aspects.

## What is the Need for CDRI?

- The [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction \(SFDRR\)](#) highlights the role of improved disaster resilience of infrastructure as a cornerstone for sustainable development.
- The SFDRR includes **four specific targets** related to loss reduction:
  - Reduce global disaster mortality;
  - Reduce the number of affected people;
  - Reduce direct disaster economic loss; and
  - Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure.
- **Target (4)** on infrastructure is an important prerequisite to achieving the other loss reduction targets set out in the framework.
- Between 2016 and 2040, the global annual infrastructure investment needs are estimated at **USD 3.7 trillion per year**.
  - Thus, there is a clear case for ensuring that all future **infrastructure systems are resilient in the face of disasters** in order to protect our investments.
- The **challenges faced by island states** due to climate change are a key focus of efforts under the CDRI initiative.
  - Initiative on 'Infrastructure for Resilient Island States' was **launched at COP-26**.

## What is the Initiative on Infrastructure for Resilient Island States?

- India launched this initiative as a part of the CDRI that would focus on building capacity, having pilot projects, especially in small island developing states.
- Small Island Developing States or SIDS face the biggest threat from climate change, India's space agency [ISRO](#) will build a special data window for them to provide them with timely information about cyclones, coral-reef monitoring, coast-line monitoring etc. through satellite.

## What is its Significance for India?

- Provide a platform for **India to emerge as a global leader on climate Action and Disaster Resilience**.
  - CDRI boosts India's soft power, but more importantly it has wider connotation than just economics, as synergy between disaster risk reduction, [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and Climate Accord provides for sustainable and inclusive growth.
- Complement the [International Solar Alliance \(ISA\)](#).
- Facilitate India's support to resilient infrastructure in Africa, Asia, etc.
- Provide access to knowledge, technology, and capacity development for infra developers.
- Create opportunities for Indian infrastructure & technology firms to expand services abroad.

**Source: PIB**