



India Approves Ratification of HQ Agreement with CDRI

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Cabinet has given its approval for ratifying the **Headquarters Agreement (HQA)** between the Government of India and the [Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure \(CDRI\)](#).

What is CDRI?

- **About:**
 - CDRI is a global partnership of national governments, [United Nations](#) agencies, multilateral development banks, private sector, and academic and knowledge institutions that work on **promoting the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks**.
- **Aim:**
 - Ensure [sustainable development](#) by supporting countries in developing policies, standards, guidelines, and best practices for resilient infrastructure.
- **Members:**
 - Since its inception, **31 countries, 6 international organizations and 2 private sector organizations** have joined CDRI as members.
 - **6 International Organizations:** [Asian Development Bank \(ADB\)](#), [World Bank Group](#), [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#), [United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction \(UNDRR\)](#), [European Union](#), [European Investment Bank](#).
- **Benefits of Ratifying the HQA:**
 - Ratifying the HQA will facilitate the grant of **exemptions, immunities and privileges to CDRI** as contemplated under Section-3 of the **UN (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947**.
 - This will enable **CDRI to operate effectively as an international organization** and to **collaborate with other international entities** in pursuing its objectives.
 - This will also enhance **India's credibility and visibility** as a founding member and **host country of CDRI**.
- **Significance for India:**
 - CDRI provides a platform for **India to emerge as a global leader in climate Action and Disaster Resilience**.
 - It 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 accords.

What are the Initiatives of CDRI?

- **Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS):**
 - India launched this initiative as a part of the CDRI that would focus on building capacity, and having pilot projects, especially in [Small Island Developing States or SIDS](#).
- **Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund:**
 - The Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund is a fund supported by both the [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#) and [United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction \(UNDRR\)](#).
 - It is a trust fund that will be managed by the **UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (UN MPTFO)** to help in improving the ability of infrastructure systems to withstand disasters,

with a special focus on developing countries and SIDS.

Source: PIB

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