

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

16-05-23

India can guide G20's disaster management initiatives

- Source: INDIAN EXPRESS

Prelims:

Current events of international importance, G20, Global south, Inflation etc.

Mains GS Paper II & III:

Significance of G20 countries, Bilateral, regional and global grouping and agreements involving India or affecting India's interests.

Context:- Recently, India has endorsed a new Working Group On **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** under its G20 presidency. This makes it well-positioned to prioritise disaster risk financing to achieve the targets set by Sendai framework for 2030.

G20:

- The G20 is an informal group: **19 countries and the European Union**, with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- The **G20 Presidency rotates annually**: according to a system that ensures a regional balance over time.
- For the selection of the presidency: 19 countries are divided into 5 groups, each having no more than 4 countries.
- The presidency rotates between each group.
- Every year the G20 selects a country from another group to be president.
- India is in Group 2 which also has Russia, South Africa, and Turkey.
- The G20 **does not have a permanent secretariat** or Headquarters.

State of Disaster Management:

- **The total cost of disaster events in the USA** in 2023, including five severe weather events, one winter storm and a flooding event, exceeded \$19 billion and resulted in 97 direct and indirect fatalities, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (**NOAA**) **report 2023**.
- **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) report of 2022** says India has witnessed a climate change-induced natural disaster almost every day in 2022.
 - These disasters have claimed about 2,755 lives, affected almost 1.8 million hectare of crop area, destroyed over 416,667 houses and killed close to 70,000 livestock.
 - These include **Amarnath floods, up Floods, Manipur Landslides, Cyclone Asani, Uttarkhanad Avalanche, etc.**

- **The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)’s Sixth Assessment Report** highlights that significant number of people live in areas that are highly vulnerable to climate change especially South Asia.
- **India came in third place** after USA and China among the top 50 nations **most in danger** from the effects of **climate change** in 2050, according to the **XDI Assessment Report 2023**.

Steps Taken :- At the International level

G20’s Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group 2022

It focuses on encouraging collective work by the G20, undertaking multi-disciplinary research and exchanging best practices on disaster risk reduction. It prioritises:

- Global coverage of Early Warning Systems for all hydro-meteorological disasters.
- Increased commitment towards making infrastructure systems disaster and climate resilient.
- Stronger national financial frameworks for disaster risk reduction.
- Strengthened national and global disaster response system to address the consequences of increasing frequency and intensity of disasters.
- Increased application of ecosystems-based approaches to disaster risk.

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2022

The outcome was summarised in the Bali Agenda for Resilience. Its theme was “From Risk to Resilience: Towards Sustainable Development For All in a Covid-19 Transformed World.” It focused on:

- A **whole-of-society approach** to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), ensuring no one is left behind.
- To keep DRR at the **core** of development and finance policies, legislation and plans to achieve the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.
- Limiting **greenhouse gas emission levels below mitigation capacity**, to reduce frequency and intensity of catastrophic events.
- Both DRR and **climate change adaptation** aim at **reducing vulnerability and enhancing capacity as well as resilience**.

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) 2016

- It is an international coalition of countries, United Nations (UN) agencies, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and academic institutions, that aims to promote disaster-resilient infrastructure.
- It was **launched by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit** in September 2019.
- CDRI’s initial focus is on developing **disaster-resilience in ecological, social, and economic infrastructure**.
- Its objective is to promote research and knowledge sharing in the fields of **infrastructure risk management, standards, financing, and recovery mechanisms**.
- It aims to achieve substantial changes in member countries’ **policy frameworks and future infrastructure investments**, along with a major decrease in the economic losses suffered due to disasters.

Sendai Framework 2015

It was adopted at the Third **United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction**, held in 2015 in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan. The Sendai Framework is the **successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)**.

- The present Framework applies to the risk of **small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards**, as well as related **environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks**.
- It aims to guide the multi hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors.

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

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- It is a global framework established within the United Nations for promoting action to decrease social vulnerability and natural hazards risks and related technological and environmental disasters.
- The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction now in its current form is known as the **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**.
- It builds upon the experience gained during **1990 – 1999** which had been designated as the **International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction**.
- The UNDRR incorporates the principles which were adopted in the above-mentioned Decade including **Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action Geneva Mandate** on Disaster Reduction.

The Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS):

- The specialized Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) an initiative under World Meteorological Organization, saves lives, assets and livelihoods through increased access to early weather warnings and risk information for people in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Steps Taken :- At National Level

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure Society (CDRIS):

- CDRIS is a global partnership of national governments, United Nations agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and academic and research institutions.
- It aims to increase the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.

National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP):

- Its primary purpose is to coordinate response to natural or man-made disasters and for capacity-building in disaster resiliency and crisis response.
- It lays down policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters

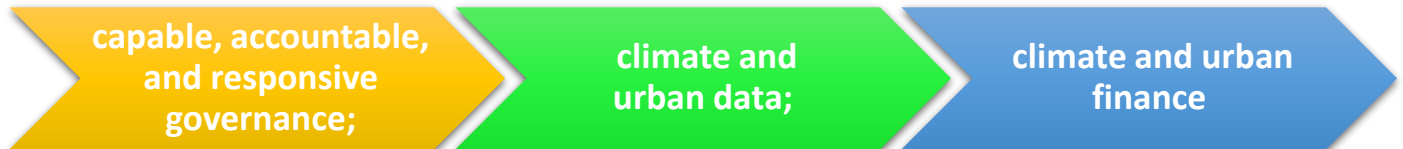
G20's new Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG):

- It has recognised the importance of prioritizing disaster risk financing.
- **By emphasizing the importance of disaster risk financing**, the G20 can help governments worldwide to manage risk more effectively and ensure sustainable development.
- The **DRRWG will offer** an extensive overview of disaster risk assessment and financing practices across a wide range of economies.
- **It can support the harmonization of definitions and methodologies** for data collection and analysis to improve access to international (re)insurance markets.
- The **second DRRWG** meeting in Mumbai will strive to create vital links between public and private actors' investment and financial decision-making.
- It will encompass a wide range of hazards and identify strategies to address them.
- The **DRRWG will strive to address** all the key components of a comprehensive financial management strategy for disaster risks.

Way Forward

- **Insurance:** To boost resilience, insurance products that cover both house and household assets are needed for climate resilience.
- **Minimising Response Time:** Between exposure to climate risk and the accrual of benefit is necessary whether from the State or insurance firms.
 - The **direct benefit transfer (DBT)** architecture can be leveraged.

- **Integrated Approach:**
 - Across six policy areas (social protection, public health, livelihood, housing, community infrastructure, and urban planning) at different scales (household, community, and city levels).
- **Three enabling factors –**



- These need to be put in place to ensure that pro-poor climate resilience solutions to reduce vulnerability.
- **Data Governance:** Satellite imagery to identify flooded areas, and government databases to identify beneficiaries can be collaborated.
- **Role of Local Governments:**
 - City governments are the drivers for addressing risks by providing basic services which are critical to improving the resilience of the urban poor.
 - City officials can build resilience by mainstreaming risk reduction into urban management.
- **Public Participation:** People are the first responders to any climate risk and their active support will enhance risk reduction before any major damage.
- **Financial Independence** and Higher financial support is needed through devolution of funds, functions and functionaries.