GIFT City becomes India's first UN-recognised MCR2030 Resilience Hub

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News

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) has recognised GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City), near Gandhinagar in Gujarat, as a 'Resilience Hub' under its 'Making Cities Resilient 2030' (MCR2030) initiative – the first Indian city to get this status, it was reported on 17 November 2026. It is the newest Resilience Hub in the Asia-Pacific and is reported to be the 45th city in the global network. GIFT City joined MCR2030 in July 2022 with the help of the Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM), completed a Disaster Resilience Scorecard assessment in June 2023 and finalised a Resilience Action Plan in March 2024; it has completed the first two stages of the roadmap and is in the third (implementation) stage. It has city-, building- and utility-level disaster plans, a Crisis Management Group, an Incident Response System, over 15 mock drills including earthquake and fire drills, and over 36 types of emergency equipment. Its early-warning system combines India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) 'SACHET' alerts, earthquake reports and a local weather station. As a hub it will share its experience and best practices with cities in India and abroad, said Group CEO and MD Sanjay Kaul.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Recognition	MCR2030 'Resilience Hub' – first in India (reported 17 Nov 2026)

Point	Details
Recognised by	UNDRR – UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
Location	On the Sabarmati, between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Joined MCR2030	July 2022 (with GIDM support)
Progress	Scorecard June 2023; Action Plan March 2024; Stage 3 underway
Global position	Newest Asia-Pacific hub; 45th city in global network (reported)
Early warning	IMD + NDMA 'SACHET' + quake reports + local weather station
Head	Sanjay Kaul – Group CEO & MD
MCR2030 launched	October 2020 – UNDRR

Background

- UNDRR: the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is headquartered in Geneva; its key task is helping implement the Sendai Framework 2015–2030. It is headed by the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction – since 2024 India's Kamal Kishore (earlier with India's National Disaster Management Authority; his predecessor was Mami Mizutori of Japan).
- MCR2030: launched by UNDRR on 28 October 2020 to help local governments reduce disaster risk and build climate resilience. Cities move along a three-stage 'resilience roadmap' – awareness, planning and implementation. Cities with experience and political commitment that can guide others become 'Resilience Hubs'; in 2021 the European cities of Barcelona, Greater Manchester, Milan and Helsingborg (Sweden) were named hubs.
- India's disaster management: the Disaster Management Act, 2005 set up national, State and district authorities. Internationally, India launched the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York in September 2019; its secretariat is in New Delhi. In Gujarat, the Gujarat State Disaster Management Act, 2003 was enacted after the 2001 earthquake; GSDMA, set up on 8 February 2001 by a government resolution, got statutory status under this Act, and GIDM is at Raisan, Gandhinagar.
- Economy and geography: GIFT City lies on the Sabarmati between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar over about 4.05 sq km, expanding to 13 sq km with its SEZ and domestic tariff area (reported). The management says resilience is vital for a financial centre – to protect people, keep critical services running and maintain business confidence.

Tamil Nadu link: Chennai, along with Bengaluru, was added in December 2014 to the Rockefeller Foundation's '100 Resilient Cities' network. As part of it, the Greater Chennai Corporation released the 'Chennai Resilience Strategy' on 27 June 2019, covering floods, water bodies, green cover, waste management and rapid urbanisation. Lessons from hubs such as GIFT City can also help Tamil Nadu's flood- and cyclone-prone coastal cities.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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2030' (MCR2030) initiative – the first Indian city to get this status, it was reported on 17 November 2026.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Recognition: MCR2030 'Resilience Hub' – first in India (reported 17 Nov 2026); Recognised by: UNDRR – UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; Location: On the Sabarmati, between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, Gujarat; Joined MCR2030: July 2022 (with GIDM support).

What is the background to this news?

UNDRR: the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction is headquartered in Geneva; its key task is helping implement the Sendai Framework 2015–2030.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which UN body runs the 'MCR2030' initiative under which GIFT City has been recognised as a 'Resilience Hub'?

A) UNEP

B) UN-Habitat

C) UNDRR

D) UNDP

Answer: C – Explanation: UNDRR – the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva). UNEP handles environment (Nairobi); UN-Habitat, human settlements.

2. Which Indian has headed, since 2024, the UN office that runs the MCR2030 initiative?

A) P.K. Mishra

B) Krishna S. Vatsa

C) Kamal Kishore

D) Rajendra Singh

Answer: C – Explanation: Kamal Kishore – head of UNDRR and the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for DRR; earlier with NDMA. Predecessor: Mami Mizutori (Japan).

3. Which organisation pioneered the '100 Resilient Cities' network that Chennai joined in 2014?

A) Gates Foundation

B) Rockefeller Foundation

C) Ford Foundation

D) World Bank

Answer: B – Explanation: The Rockefeller Foundation. Under it, the Greater Chennai Corporation released the 'Chennai Resilience Strategy' on 27 June 2019.

4. Where is the secretariat of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), launched by India at the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit?

A) Geneva

B) New York

C) Tokyo

D) New Delhi

Answer: D – Explanation: New Delhi. The CDRI was launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York in September 2019.

5. In which year was the 'MCR2030' initiative, which builds cities' disaster resilience, launched?

A) 2020

B) 2015

C) 2017

D) 2022

Answer: A – Explanation: October 2020. GIFT City joined in July 2022 and became India's first Resilience Hub in 2026.

Sources: DeshGujarat; Odisha Bytes; ThePrint; UNDRR (MCR2030 launch); UNDRR (European hubs); PSU Watch; GIDM; IISD SDG Knowledge Hub; Business Standard (IANS); DT Next. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.