



Clingendael

Netherlands Institute of International Relations



IPCS

INSTITUTE OF PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

MARCH 2025

India's Institutional Cooperation on Climate Resilience in the Bay of Bengal Region

The Bay of Bengal region – comprising India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Thailand – has been recognised as one of the most climate vulnerable regions in the world. This has significant implications for the security of the 1.7 billion people living in the region. Their interconnectedness further amplifies shared climate vulnerabilities, demanding coordinated cross-border engagement. Over the past decade, India has initiated several cooperative initiatives for climate resilience. However, the policy focus has often been limited to regional platforms with limited knowledge of India's initiatives through alternate channels. This policy brief aims to bridge this gap by mapping and analysing India's engagement across different institutional mechanisms, including bilateral, triangular, regional, and multilateral, to foster climate resilience in the region.

The policy brief focuses on regional cooperation mechanisms, including the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME). It also highlights India's engagement through multilateral initiatives spearheaded by India such as the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and the International Solar Alliance (ISA). Finally, the policy brief outlines opportunities and actionable pathways for India to enhance its engagement with climate resilience, prioritising human security through multi-level partnerships in the Bay of Bengal region.

Introduction

Over the past decade, India's foreign policy calculus has positioned its immediate neighbourhood as integral to its economic growth and security. To this end, New Delhi has increased its regional engagement through the Neighbourhood First and Act East policies.¹

An integral part of India's neighbourhood strategy is cooperation in the Bay of Bengal (BoB) region, comprising India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.²

1 Constantino Xavier, "[Sambandh as Strategy: India's New Approach to Regional Connectivity](#)," Centre for Social and Economic Progress, January 21, 2020.

2 Constantino Xavier and Dhruv Banerjee, "[BIMSTEC and Security Cooperation in the Bay of Bengal](#)," Centre for Social and Economic Progress, August 27, 2024.

This focused approach serves three purposes. First, the expanded regional partnerships and connectivity initiatives enable New Delhi to strengthen regional partnerships and counter China's growing geopolitical influence in the BoB.³ Second, it positions India's neighbourhood as the starting point for its broader ambitions to "amplify the voice" of the Global South and act as a bridge to the Global North.⁴ Finally, it reinforces India's efforts to establish itself as an emerging global leader in key issues such as climate change. Central to these goals is New Delhi's ability to foster knowledge, technology, and financial exchanges for solutions, including in climate mitigation and adaptation, amongst developing countries.

The BoB is home to a quarter of the world's population and amongst the most climate vulnerable. Climate change has induced extreme weather events and modified marine ecosystems in the region through changes in monsoon patterns and ocean acidification. Considering that 200 million people live in coastal communities in the BoB, and are highly dependent on fishing and agriculture, these extreme weather events will severely impact livelihoods.

Furthermore, the effects of climate change in the region impact more than just livelihoods, threatening human security across multiple dimensions. The greater frequency and intensity of cyclones will continue to displace communities, leading to domestic and international migration. While regional estimates are difficult to find, approximately 125 million migrants are predicted to become homeless by 2100 in India and Bangladesh alone.⁵ Flooding

and salinisation will deteriorate the water quality, leading to the spread of waterborne diseases, while severe heat waves increase the rate of heat stress.⁶ Finally, sea level rise threatens mangroves, which help to protect against flooding causing multiplier effects on local ecosystems and coastal infrastructure such as ports, waterways, and roads.⁷

As a result, BoB countries are gradually recognising the need to implement measures to minimise climate impacts on vulnerable communities. Given that India shares climate sensitive eco-systems with its neighbouring countries – such as mangrove forests with Bangladesh and the Himalayan glaciers with Nepal and Bhutan – regional cooperation is critical. While there are existing mechanisms of bilateral, regional, and subregional cooperation, they are weak, and climate resilient cooperation remains nascent.⁸ Therefore, a greater understanding of the level of participation required by different countries is urgently needed.

India, as the largest security and economic actor in the BoB region and a country with substantial regional resources and domestic technical expertise, is well-positioned to lead climate cooperation efforts. Given the shared climate vulnerabilities across the BoB and India's foreign policy ambitions, this policy brief examines New Delhi's role in fostering collective resilience in the region. The convergence of India's aspirations to be a dominant regional player and an emerging global climate leader presents a unique opportunity to strengthen coordination on climate resilience. However, despite past

3 Riya Sinha and Constantino Xavier, "[Beyond the Coastline: India's Land Connectivity Options around the Bay of Bengal](#)," (Centre for Social and Economic Progress, Working Paper No. 71, March 15, 2024).

4 "[English translation of Prime Minister's opening remarks at the Inaugural Leaders' Session of the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit](#)," Ministry of External Affairs of India, November 17, 2023.

5 Aparna Roy, "[BIMSTEC and climate change: Setting a common agenda](#)," (Observer Research Foundation, Issue Brief No. 203, October 18, 2017).

6 Pritha Datta, Bhagirath Behera and Dil Bahadur Rahut, "[Climate change and water-related threats in the Indian Sundarbans: food security and management implications](#)," International Journal of Water Resources Development 40, no. 3 (2024): 323-344.

7 Sarang Shidore, "[Climate Security and Instability in the Bay of Bengal Region](#)," (Council on Foreign Relations, April 2023).

8 Avinash Godbole, "[Climate change and the Bay of Bengal region: vulnerabilities, risks and the absent cooperation](#)," Australian Journal of Maritime & Ocean Affairs 16, no.3 (2024): 363-378.

engagements, gaps remain in analysing the current state of India's regional climate resilience initiatives.

The convergence of India's aspirations to be a dominant regional player and an emerging global climate leader presents a unique opportunity to strengthen coordination on climate resilience

This brief examines existing channels of climate-resilient cooperation and provides an overview of India's engagement at the bilateral, triangular, regional, and multilateral levels. It further identifies potential gaps where there is opportunity to strengthen these existing initiatives through strategic and institutional-level interventions. Essentially, the policy brief suggests opportunities for India to improve upon its climate resilience engagement putting human security at the forefront in the BoB region.

Scattered Bilateral Initiatives

At the bilateral level, India's focus on climate cooperation initiatives is limited. Out of all the countries in the BoB, India has focused its initiatives with only Bangladesh and Nepal, prioritising the conservation of mangroves and riverine cooperation, respectively.

With regard to the protection of mangroves along the northern BoB, India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Conservation of the Sundarbans with Bangladesh in 2011. It led to the establishment of a joint working group to address the issues of livelihoods, food deprivation, climate-related disasters, pollution, and resource depletion in the mangrove ecosystem shared between the two countries.⁹ This MoU is, however, non-binding. Later in 2015, the MoU was supported by a civil society-led initiative, known as the Bangladesh-India Sundarban Region Cooperation

Initiative (BI-SRCI), formed by a consortium of organisations from both countries.¹⁰ The BI-SRCI, despite creating a proposal for action, never carried on towards implementation.¹¹

In a bid to improve strategic bilateral cooperation, India and Bangladesh signed a Shared Vision for India-Bangladesh Green Partnership in 2024.¹² The vision built on national priorities for climate resilience in India and Bangladesh to emphasise coordinated efforts.¹³ It also aimed to preserve marine and fishery resources through technical cooperation, strengthening renewable energy transition, while proposing to move forward on the action plan of the BI-SRCI. It further proposed that both countries work together through the plurilateral platform of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). While the recent regime change in Dhaka and the establishment of an interim government may lead to delays in implementing this Vision, the shared challenge of climate vulnerability will arguably ensure sustained and strengthened cooperation between the two nations.

Another key issue is riverine cooperation. In this regard, India and Nepal have several agreements on river-sharing for water resources and hydropower plants. However, despite the issue of annual flooding across borders in both countries, a government-led bilateral mechanism on adaptive measures remains missing.¹⁴ At the local level, several cross-border

9 Observer Research Foundation and Institute of Defence Studies & Analysis, "[Bangladesh-India Sunderban Region Cooperation Initiative](#)," The World Bank, May 2018.

10 ORF and IDSA, "[Bangladesh-India Sunderban Region Cooperation Initiative](#)".

11 "[Bangladesh – India Sundarban Region Cooperation Initiative: A Vision for Joint Platform](#)," n.d.

12 Ministry of External Affairs of India (MEA), "[A Shared Vision of India-Bangladesh Green Partnership for a Sustainable Future](#)," MEA, June 22, 2024.

13 The national priorities include, *India*: Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), National Mission for Green India; *Bangladesh*: Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan 2041, Bangladesh Climate Development Partnership, Green and Climate Resilient Development, and Delta Plan 2100.

14 Chandra Lal Pandey, "Climate Change in South Asia: Green Bridging between Nepal and India," In *Environmental Security in the Asia-Pacific*, eds. Iain Watson and Chandra Lal Pandey (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), 95-126.

civil society-led engagements have focused on strengthening community responses to flooding. One such initiative by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in 2015 is focused on early warning systems for floods. Initiated in Southern Nepal and later extended to Bihar in India, ICIMOD claims that the initiative annually helps 64,000 people living along a river shared between both countries with flood alerts.¹⁵

Systemic climate risks, such as threats to regional food security and livelihoods, requires coordinated, long-term investment and planning frameworks, which are missing at the bilateral level

Bilateral cooperation between India and the BoB countries faces three key challenges. First, the scope of engagement is limited such that efforts are concentrated on specific issues like the Sundarbans mangroves and cross-border flooding, leaving broader climate risks unaddressed. Second, most agreements, particularly with Bangladesh, lack long-term, enforceable commitments, undermining their effectiveness. Lastly, the fragmented implementation of Projects like the BI-SRCI and riverine cooperation mechanisms are scattered, with weak follow-through on proposed actions. Addressing systemic climate risks, such as threats to regional food security and livelihoods, requires coordinated, long-term investment and planning frameworks, which are missing at the bilateral level.

Emergence of Triangular Platforms

India has increasingly made use of triangular cooperation agreements through which it has engaged with countries in the BoB. Triangular cooperation involves Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries supported by a developed country(ies)/or multi-

lateral organisation(s) to implement development cooperation programmes and projects.¹⁶

India has engaged in triangular cooperation through two mechanisms. The first is through agreements between India and a Global North partner or with a multilateral organisation. An example of the first type being the Triangular Development Partnership (TriDep) with the US or the Developmental Partner Fund with the UN. The second is through India founding multilateral agencies with a facilitating partner to encourage South-South knowledge and technology transfer in a specific sector. India has been engaged in the region through two such initiatives: the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

ISA, founded in 2015 as an India-France initiative, had 117 member countries in 2023. Among the BoB countries, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar have ratified the Framework Agreement, while Nepal is a signatory. ISA's mandate is to accelerate the deployment of solar technologies to provide developmental solutions by focusing on sectors such as health, rural applications, and capacity-building. This means that ISA has not only focused on energy transitions but also on building human security via solar technologies.

Projects in the region include a MoU with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in Sri Lanka on solar irrigation for agricultural resilience. Similarly, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan have received technical assistance on solar water pumping systems through funding received from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The ISA has also established its Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR-C) programme in these three countries to provide curricula to train solar operators and entrepreneurs. In 2023, ISA and the Power Division under the Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources of the

15 Diwakar Pyakurel, "[Community cooperation across Nepal-India border saves lives during floods](#)," The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), February 27, 2023.

16 United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), "[About South-South and Triangular Cooperation](#)," (n.d.).

Government of Bangladesh signed a Country Partnership Agreement, creating initiatives that focus on solar for health centre resilience.¹⁷

The CDRI was founded in 2019 by India, supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). CDRI's mandate is to provide technical knowledge and policy support, and foster knowledge exchange for countries to build climate resilient infrastructure. India holds a permanent position as co-chair and has worked alongside the UK (2019-2022), US (2022-2024) and France (2024-present). As of 2023, CDRI counts among its members 31 countries, six international organisations, and two private companies. Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka are all members of CDRI. Since its inception, CDRI has focused on the BoB with early studies on national infrastructure risk, transboundary cooperation in the Himalayas, power, transport, and health infrastructure resilience; associated strengthening of governance institutions have focused on Bhutan and Nepal.

Beyond this, the CDRI has an annual grant-based fellowship programme which seeks to create a collective of professionals engaged in peer learning and capacity development for resilient infrastructure. The first two cohorts of fellows have featured scholars from all the BoB countries except Myanmar. CDRI has also collaborated with regional organisations that involve BoB countries, such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) to carry out capacity building activities.^{18,19,20}

India prefers engaging through institutions like the ISA and CDRI in triangular partnerships, rather than through existing triangular agreements with Western countries like France, Germany, the UK, and the US. New Delhi is

cautious that these agreements should not disrupt bilateral ties with neighbouring countries, calling them “another important vehicle” alongside existing channels.²¹ These partnerships help expand India's developmental reach in regions where it has less influence.²²

Despite the potential for impactful regional collaborations, triangular initiatives like ISA and CDRI have yet to fully integrate a broader, inter-connected climate strategy

While India has engaged with a wider array of countries in the BoB region than through its bilateral agreements, some countries such as Thailand and Myanmar, are still absent, possibly due to their increased regional affiliations with ASEAN. Additionally, despite the potential for impactful regional collaborations, triangular initiatives like ISA and CDRI have yet to fully integrate a broader, inter-connected climate strategy. There are one-on-one projects ongoing with neighbouring countries, but a lack of a joint framework which takes into consideration the shared vulnerabilities of the BoB region. With its convening power, triangular platforms will ideally be suited to create initiatives for the BoB region, similar to an existing programme that focuses on projects in large ocean states under CDRI.²³

Regional Participation

India is part of regional initiatives in the BoB, particularly focused on natural disaster management and risk reduction. The Ministry of Home Affairs lists Indian membership in eight such disaster management regional forums.²⁴ In 2005, India was the founding member of the

17 International Solar Alliance (ISA), “[Annual Report 2023](#),” (ISA, 2023), 49.

18 Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), “[Annual Report 2022-23](#),” (CDRI, 2023).

19 Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), “[Annual Report 2021-22](#),” (CDRI, 2022).

20 Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), “[Annual Report 2020-21](#),” (CDRI, 2021).

21 Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), “[Remarks by Secretary \(ER\) on the Delhi Process V South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Exploring New Opportunities and New Partnerships Post-BAPA+40 in New Delhi](#),” MEA, August 22, 2019.

22 Ramamurthi, [India's Triangular Cooperation Strategies – Not a One-size-fits-all Model](#), Centre for Social and Economic Progress, September 26, 2024.

23 Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), “[Infrastructure for Resilient Island States](#),” (CDRI, n.d.).

24 “[Membership of International Forums](#),” Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, accessed on September 27, 2024.

Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), and is currently serving as the Chair for 2024–25. Since its establishment, national, sub-national, and civil society actors from India have been engaged as recipients and providers of policy planning, capacity building, technical assistance, and project implementation in ADPC. Other than capacity building, India has made modest contributions (US\$ 1 million) to initiatives such as the UNESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries, to help coastal communities receive timely warning information for coastal hazards, floods, and cyclones.²⁵

Another regional initiative is the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) project. Running between 2009 and 2015, it brought together eight countries of the region – Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand – to enhance coastal resilience and manage regional fisheries. BOBLME is supported by key international players such as the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and the Norway and Swedish developmental agencies amongst others.²⁶

The first phase concluded with the creation of a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) to strengthen community resilience in the region. The second phase of the BOBLME project, launched in December 2023, focuses on the implementation of the SAP. Key priorities include ecosystem-based fisheries management, combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, developing marine managed areas, controlling pollution, improving livelihoods, and establishing a regional coordination mechanism. The BoB Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), active since 2003, is leading this

phase in Bangladesh, India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka, working closely with national agencies.²⁷

Finally, India is also engaged with the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) to strengthen regional collaboration. In March 2014, BIMSTEC countries signed an agreement to establish the BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate (BCWC). The Centre's Government Advisory Board and Scientific Advisory Council first met in New Delhi in 2018. In 2023, India signed a host country agreement with the BIMSTEC Secretariat to house the BCWC at the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.²⁸

While more initiatives exist at the regional level than at the bilateral and triangular level, India's engagement through regional platforms is marked by several challenges

While more initiatives exist at the regional level than at the bilateral and triangular level, India's engagement through regional platforms is marked by several challenges. First, the initiatives often suffer from lengthy timelines, from agreement finalisation to implementation, as seen in the BOBLME project and BIMSTEC programmes. Second, there is limited public data and analysis on the effectiveness and measurable impact of these initiatives. Finally, India's financial and technical contributions to some regional projects, while notable, remain modest compared to the scale of the action required. Addressing these challenges is critical for enhancing the effectiveness and impact of the rapidly growing threat of climate change in the region.

25 Embassy of India in Thailand, "[ESCAP-India partnership to strengthen disaster early warning systems in Asia-Pacific](#)," Embassy of India in Thailand, September 21, 2015.

26 Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME), "[Strategic Action Programme](#)," 2015.

27 "[BOBLME Phase II Project Launched: A Platform for Cooperative and Coordinated Action in the Bay of Bengal Region](#)," Bay of Bengal Programme, December 14, 2023.

28 "[BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate](#)," Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), accessed on September 27, 2024.

Policy recommendations

1. Establish milestones and binding agreements

A key challenge in India's engagement on climate cooperation is the non-binding nature of existing agreements. While these serve as a foundation for cooperation, the lack of enforceable commitments limits their long-term sustainability. To create an accountable framework for climate resilience, India can shift towards including clear milestones and timelines for implementation, and impact assessment.

India's climate cooperation with Nepal and Bhutan could benefit from more structured, enforceable agreements that focus on shared water resources and disaster preparedness in the vulnerable areas of the Himalayas

For instance, the 2024 Shared Vision for India-Bangladesh Green Partnership is only a first step toward greater collaboration, which requires formalisation through establishing clear goals, accountability mechanisms, and outcomes which are measurable. Similarly, India's climate cooperation with Nepal and Bhutan could benefit from more structured, enforceable agreements that focus on shared water resources and disaster preparedness in the vulnerable areas of the Himalayas. In the few agreements where there were formalised milestones, success was evident. As a case-in-point, the first India-Nepal petroleum pipeline, inaugurated in 2019, was completed fifteen months ahead of schedule.²⁹ This is in line with the completion of several other new infrastructure projects in the last decade, including land ports.³⁰ Establishing such agreements with actionable goals could provide continuity, ensuring that climate action transcends political changes and shifting priorities.

29 ["India, Nepal open first cross-border pipeline in South Asia,"](#) The Times of India, September 11, 2019.

30 Riya Sinha, ["Linking Land Borders: India's Integrated Check Posts,"](#) (Centre for Social and Economic Progress, Working Paper no. 9, June 21, 2021).

2. Bolster regional mechanisms for financing and resource pooling

International climate adaptation finance is often harder to access than for mitigation, which makes it important for India to pursue different approaches to gain adequate resources. Climate resilience is only possible with a comprehensive climate strategy that addresses the interconnectedness of ecosystems while promoting the well-being and economic stability of vulnerable populations. Regional cooperation tends to attract greater funding from global institutions, such as the World Bank, the ADB, and certain climate-specific funds. A regional climate resilience initiative in the BoB can address issues like flooding, marine resource depletion, and ecosystem degradation more holistically, drawing in financial support from a diverse array of global donors. For example, a regional initiative led by the World Bank, known as the South Asia Water Initiative (SAWI), was supported through grants from the UK, Australia, and Norway.³¹

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India can play a key role in establishing networks that connect organisations across the region. Pooled funding can be used for grassroots level capacity-building programmes to equip local leaders with the necessary tools and knowledge to manage ecosystems and respond to climate risks. India can leverage its experiences in its Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme to support these capacity building efforts. Regional mechanisms such as BIMSTEC and BOBLME offer an important blueprint to pool resources to foster coordination and collective action, creating stronger and sustainable solutions to climate risks.

31 ["South Asia Water Initiative \(SAWI\),"](#) The World Bank, accessed on September 27, 2024.

3. Standardise norms and regulations across the Bay of Bengal

A key impediment to cross-border resilience initiatives is a lack of consistent norms and implementation standards. For instance, with countries facing varying levels of exposure to climate risks, there is a lack of clarity on what constitutes resilient infrastructure. Globally, UNDRR and CDRI have developed a methodology for sectoral review of infrastructure.³² However, by establishing context-specific regional shared norms, countries can align their efforts and ensure consistency in the quality and sustainability of infrastructure projects.

Establishing context-specific regional shared norms, countries can align their efforts and ensure consistency in the quality and sustainability of infrastructure projects

The Pacific Islands Forum has developed region-wide frameworks for disaster resilience, including the Pacific Resilience Facility that highlights financing and governance mechanisms, offering a model for BoB countries.³³ Similarly, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) – an inter-governmental network of independent emergency units – has financing facilities for community-led disaster risk reduction and risk management to coordinate the establishment and enhancement of disaster responses among participating states.³⁴ These approaches emphasise collaboration across governments and sectors, ensuring that resilience efforts are informed by best practices and are scalable across different countries. India through its participation in regional and triangular platforms can play a convening role in bringing together BoB countries in establishing these norms and standards.

Conclusion

India is increasingly positioning itself as a leader of the Global South and a developmental partner that can help countries address their sustainability challenges. This was recently seen during the country's G20 presidency, where India championed the inclusion of the African Union, and the announcement of the Global Development Pact at the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit. Climate and clean energy were emphasised as key pillars for engagement.

Focusing on climate resilience in the BoB region is crucial for India for three reasons. First, climate change-driven displacement and loss of livelihoods could increase cross-border migration, particularly from Myanmar, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Strengthening domestic climate adaptation frameworks in these countries could prevent such conflicts and benefit India.

Second, India aims to provide knowledge, technology, and financial solutions to developing countries. With shared cultural and geographic contexts, India's innovations – such as coastal resilience programmes and climate-resilient agriculture – will be most appropriately applied in its neighbourhood showcasing India's capabilities. While India has long engaged in disaster management, its efforts in health, food, and livelihood resilience are sporadic, thus offering scope for expansion.

Finally, climate resilience can open pathways for regional cooperation in an otherwise poorly connected and geopolitically tense region. For example, despite tensions, China provides India with real-time water data under bilateral MoUs, demonstrating how shared environmental concerns can foster collaboration.³⁵ Strengthening such efforts can help India cement its role as a regional leader while addressing shared vulnerabilities. In conclusion India with its intention to be a climate leader, can play a pivotal role in the BoB, helping countries safeguard human security and drive long-term resilience.

32 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), "[Global Methodology for Infrastructure Resilience](#)," accessed on September 27, 2024.

33 Pacific Island Forum (PIF), "[Pacific Resilience Facility: Fact Sheet](#)," accessed on September 27, 2024.

34 Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), "[About us](#)," accessed November 20, 2024.

35 Neeraj Singh Manhas, "[A fragile lifeline: India and China must collaborate on water](#)," The Interpreter, The Lowy Institute, November 21, 2023.

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www.clingendael.org
info@clingendael.org
+31 70 324 53 84

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www.ipcs.org
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About the authors

Dr. Pooja Vijay Ramamurthi is an Associate Fellow in the Foreign Policy and Security vertical at CSEP. She has a PhD in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy at the School of Public and international Affairs (STEP) at Princeton University. She studies climate and energy transition policy, particularly focusing on the role that India can play in accelerating domestic and international action towards decarbonisation. Her work has always been multidisciplinary, where she looks at techno-economic, social and political dimensions of sustainability. She has worked at premier think tanks in India, including the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago and the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy. She has also worked on projects in Ghana and Cambodia. Her work has resulted in her being invited to international level conferences and publications in peer reviewed journals and leading newspapers. She is a recipient of the Prize Fellowship for Social Sciences at Princeton University. She has also received her double Master's degree in Sustainable Energy from the Royal institute of Technology, Sweden and Instituto Superior Tecnico, Portugal via the Innoenergy scholarship granted by the European Union.

Riya Sinha is an Associate Fellow in the Foreign Policy and Security vertical at CSEP. She was recently the 2024 Maitri Fellow at the United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney and was also the 2022 Visiting Fellow at the Stimson Centre in Washington, DC. At CSEP, Riya coordinates the Sambandh Regional Connectivity Initiative, focussed on conducting data-driven research to map India's links with its neighbouring countries. Her research interest includes regional economic connectivity in South Asia, particularly in the area of trade, logistics, infrastructure, and border management. Prior to joining CSEP, Riya was a researcher at the Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF), where she conducted research on regional supply chains, Cross-Line of Control Trade in Jammu and Kashmir and steered time-release studies across various sea ports for ease of doing business (trading across borders) in India.