National Institute of Advanced Studies

The Green Ribbon

*A Monthly Monitor of the **NIAS C3SP initiative** on Climate Change, Civil Society and Peace*

NIAS-STIR Programme

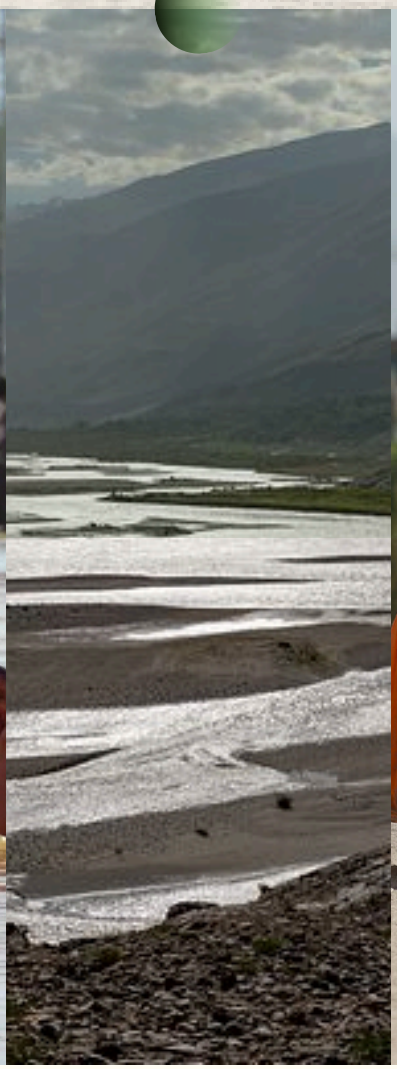
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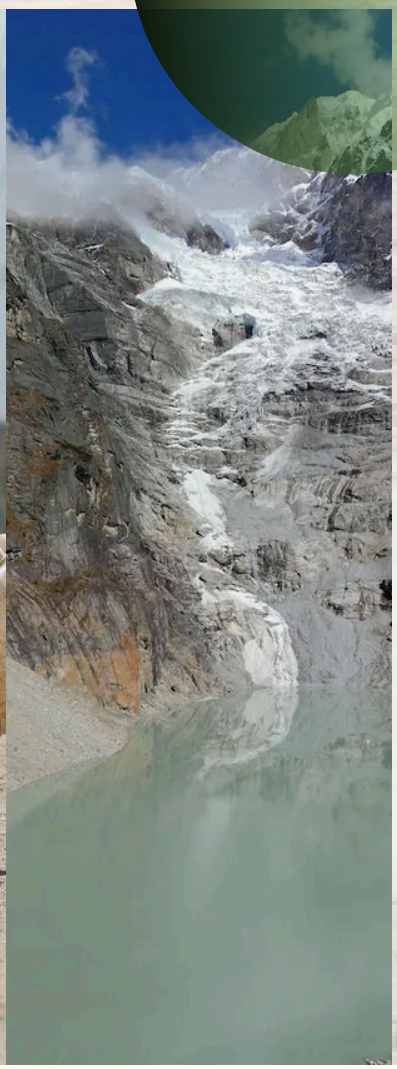
Communities at the Frontlines of Climate Action

Case Studies, Conversations, Capacity Building, Dialogues, and Documentation









The Green Ribbon # 04, July 2026

NIAS Monthly Monitor on Climate Change, Civil Society & Peace supported by GPPAC South Asia and CLIMPSE

National Institute of Advanced Studies
NIAS

About NIAS

National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) was conceived and founded in 1988 by JRD Tata and Dr Raja Ramanna with an objective to nurture a broad base of scholars, managers and leaders who would respond to the complex challenges that face contemporary India and global society, with insight, sensitivity, confidence and dedication.

About NIAS Climate Change, Civil Society & Peace (C3SP) Initiative

The C3SP Monitor is a research initiative at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) dedicated to building a comprehensive database on civic responses to climate change across South Asia. The monitor focuses on four core objectives: tracking regional media coverage of climate events; documenting localized individual and collective adaptation strategies; developing empirical case studies; and curating an open-access resource base.

Beyond data collection, the NIAS C3SP serves as an active capacity-building platform. Aligning with the founding mission of NIAS to nurture the next generation of researchers, the initiative invests in young scholars - equipping them to conduct rigorous fieldwork, capture community narratives, and analyse the intersection of climate resilience, civil society, and peacebuilding.

The Green Ribbon is designed as a NIAS Monthly Monitor, addressing the above two.

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D Suba Chandran

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Padmashree Anandhan
Preetha Renganarayanan

About GPPAC South Asia & the CLIMPSE

The monitor is supported by GPPAC South Asia's Climate, Peace, and Security (CLIMPSE) research initiative. The CLIMPSE initiative aims to strengthen local peacebuilders' capacity by deepening awareness of the links between climate, peace, and security, and strengthening practical skills, local peacebuilders are better equipped to develop and implement climate-sensitive peacebuilding policies, practices, and infrastructures in their communities. It also aims to amplify local knowledge and strengthening their capacity. The CLIMPSE initiative is co-funded by the European Union.

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) is a global network led by civil society organizations (CSOs) dedicated to preventing violent conflict and promoting more peaceful societies. The network comprises 15 regional networks, each with their own priorities and agendas tailored to their specific environment. The GPPAC South Asia network comprises a dynamic group of members from diverse backgrounds, all working towards conflict prevention and peace promotion in the region. It maintains a mixed membership that includes CSOs, policy research institutes, activists, mediators, and academics.

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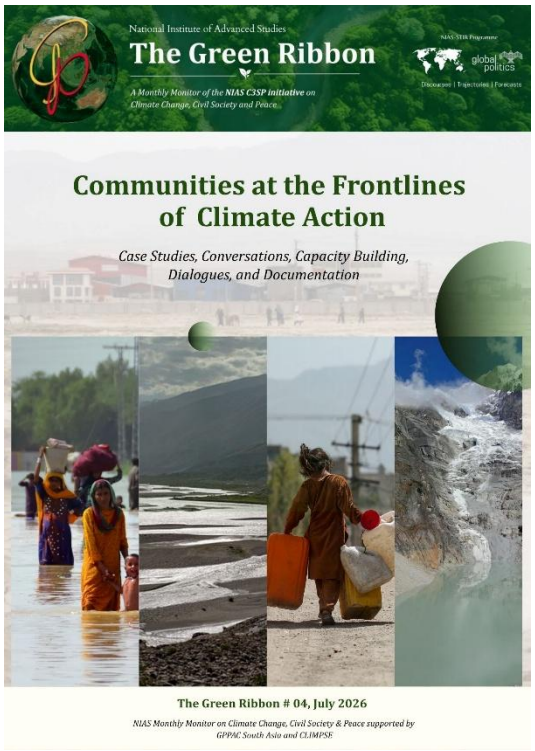
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The Green Ribbon

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Editor's note

June 2026: A month of Dialogues, New Beginnings and Mobilizing Frontlines
D Suba Chandran

Case Studies

The volunteer group that became a model for citizen-led environmental action in Chennai:
How 'Chitlapakkam Rising' combined science, community, and collaboration to reduce flood risk
Preetha Renganarayanan

Conversations

"Local residents and youth volunteers are the first responders"
An Interview with Ms Geetha Ganesh on Floods, Community Leadership, and Citizen Action in Chennai
Preetha Renganarayanan

"Preparedness requires investment before a disaster strikes"
An Interview with Shri Nagendra Kumar Singh on Climate Change, Disaster Preparedness, and Emergency Response in Durg District
Anshika Thakur

Dialogues

NIAS C3SP-GPPAC Workshop on Connecting Communities
An interaction with civil society actors from Karnataka and Kerala on addressing climate-related disaster management and preparedness, conservation, and youth engagement

NIAS–GPPAC South Asia Workshop on Climate Change, Civil Society and Community Resilience
Exploring disappearing water bodies, indigenous knowledge, climate migration, disaster governance, and civil society as zero responders

Capacity Building

Stories from the ground

Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group
Tackling the effects of harmful emissions in the Delhi NCR region through Waste management initiatives
Aarav Bhaskar

Banking on Plates for a Clean World:
How Adamya Chethana, a Bengaluru based non-profit NGO helps address climate change and environmental sustainability with its Plate Bank Service
Acsah H

Lakeika: Breathing Life Back into Puttenahalli
Inside Usha Rajagopalan's commendable efforts in restoring the Puttenahalli Lake through community mobilisation, effective policy framing and conservation initiatives
Ada Khan

The Forest She Built:
How Kollakkayil Devaki Amma transformed adversity into environmental action, creating a lush forest that supports wildlife, water conservation, and climate resilience
Aishal Hab Yousuf

The Forests That Refused to Fall:
Inside Alok Shukla's decades-long fight to protect Hasdeo Aranya and the communities whose future is tied to its survival
Anshika Thakur

Roots, Rain & Renewal:
Inside Thuvakkam's efforts to cool Chennai through urban forests, harvest water sustainably, power schools and communities with solar energy, and uplift the city's most vulnerable
Avaneesh S

The Students Who Heal the Soil and Study the Land:
Behind SAICE's community-driven push for land regeneration in Puducherry and what it means for ecological balance in integral education
Deb Dutta

The Seeds of Change:
Inside VOICE Trust's Sunday Agriculture School, where young people learn farming, seed conservation, and climate responsibility through hands-on experience
Glynnis Winona B

The Climate Classroom:
Parikrma Oxygen is India's first outdoor nature-based school, for children from urban slums - providing an education that is rooted in the living world
Madhura Meenakshi Tanikella

Friends of Lakes:
How Madhuri Subbarao is building a citizen movement to protect Bengaluru's lakes and secure the city's water future
Namrata L Ghanghatkar

Voices for a Changing Climate:
Inside Poovulagin Nanbargal's journey of inspiring climate awareness, defending ecological systems, and empowering communities to respond to environmental challenges in Tamil Nadu
Nithin V

Guardians in Green:
How the women of Sundarbans are using ancient ecological knowledge to protect their communities from climate catastrophe
Priyanka Makhijani

The Women Who Salt the Earth and Harness the Sun:
Inside SEWA's decade-long effort to replace diesel with solar in the Little Rann of Kutch and what it means for climate justice in India's informal economy
Radhika M Agarwal

Every disaster predicted, Every community ready:
SEEDS has stood at the intersection of technology and humanity, equipping India's most vulnerable with AI-powered early warnings, community training, and the unshakeable belief that no family should face a disaster unprepared
Rakshitha B

Waatavaran and Climate Justice from the Ground Up:
Inside Waatavaran's community-based climate action plan
Siddhi Halyur

Hulimavu's Blue Revolution:
How Hulimavu Kere Tharanga, a community-led initiative, overcame a possible encroachment of their beloved Lake
Sreemaya Nair

Empowering Communities for a Zero-Waste Tomorrow:
A look at VISVA Sustainable Foundation's efforts to transform events, public spaces, and everyday habits through sustainable practices and grassroots engagement
Yesasvi Koganti

From Vulnerability to Resilience, Climate Adaptation Journey:
How communities are adapting to increasing floods, changing rainfall patterns, and environmental uncertainties
Urja K

Climate Change, Civil Society & Peace in South Asia:
News Database
Padmashree Anandhan



Source: Resolve Support Media / ISAF Regional Command, Ahadul Karim Khan / Dhaka Tribune, Ali Raza / AP, UNDP, Mongabay, TBS News, Orissa Post

Editor's Note

June 2026: A month of Dialogues, New Beginnings and Mobilizing Frontlines

This is the fourth issue of *The Green Ribbon*. The previous month (June 2026) witnessed significant developments in the Climate Change, Civil Society and Peace Studies initiative at NIAS. We held the first national activity of GPPAC South Asia at the NIAS campus; a report of this interaction is included as a part of the "Dialogues" in this issue.

At the heart of the July issue of *The Green Ribbon* is our focus on civil society's role during environmental crises. Under our "Dialogues" segment, we report on the first national interaction of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) South Asia, hosted at the NIAS campus. We also convened vital discussions with civil society actors across Karnataka and Kerala, highlighting first-hand insights from responders directly engaged in rescue and relief during the recent Wayanad landslides, as well as local activists working on urban lake conservation in Bengaluru.

Youth engagement and capacity building - two core pillars of the NIAS ethos were at the center stage in July, with the formal inauguration of "The Grass Roots" under C3SP by Dr Shailesh Nayak, our Director. Designed as a youth-led network addressing climate challenges, the initiative was launched with a vibrant poster workshop featuring over 20 students from across India, who visually mapped the contributions of individuals and organizations driving local climate action. Their contributions are featured in our "Stories" segment. In tandem, our "Conversations" segment presents two insightful interviews conducted by young scholars in Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh, examining distinct local dimensions of climate resilience and civic action.

This issue also includes a case study examining the role of civil society in responding to the Chennai floods. Focusing on a specific locality within the city, it explores community-led responses, the challenges encountered, and the lessons learned future disaster preparedness and resilience.

Later in June, GPPAC South Asia held a youth workshop and a conference in Kathmandu. Details of this activity will be briefed in the August issue of the Green Ribbon. The next issue should also contain a few case studies and interviews, reports of the conversations in Kathmandu, and stories authored by young scholars. In August, we intend to organize the next workshop on climate change and gender.

We look forward to your support, as the Green Ribbon unfolds further!

D Suba Chandran
Editor, *The Green Ribbon*.

Case Studies

The volunteer group that became a model for citizen-led environmental action in Chennai:

How 'Chitlapakkam Rising' combined science, community, and collaboration to reduce flood risk

Preetha Renganarayanan



Source: The Better India

In December 2023, as Cyclone Michaung brought record rainfall and widespread flooding across Chennai, many localities struggled with severe inundation, damaged infrastructure, and disrupted lives. However, in one suburb in South Chennai, the story was evidently different. Chitlapakkam, once known for chronic flooding, remained largely flood-free despite receiving nearly 50 centimetres of rainfall within 48 hours. This outcome was not coincidental, it was the result of years of citizen mobilisation, technical planning, environmental advocacy, and collaboration between residents and government agencies. At the centre of this change stood the citizen-action group: The Chitlapakkam Rising. An initiative that began as a small volunteer group to address civic issues eventually took shape as one of Chennai's most recognised examples of citizen-led environmental action, influencing lake restorations and flood mitigation efforts far beyond its own locality.

Understanding Chitlapakkam's flood vulnerability

Located in the southwestern suburbs of Chennai, Chitlapakkam was once highly vulnerable to flooding. The locality sits between the flood plains of Selaiyur Lake and Chitlapakkam Lake, making it particularly sensitive whenever surplus water channels failed to function properly. Repeated flooding in the area prompted local residents to address the issue. Among them was Dayanand Krishnan, a civil engineer and GIS consultant who became actively involved in understanding the area's hydrological challenges. As part of the Chitlapakkam Rising team, he undertook detailed studies of flood surplus discharge patterns, terrain characteristics, contour maps, revenue records, and historical water channels connecting Selaiyur, Chitlapakkam, and Sembakkam lakes. The findings showed that several surplus channels connecting the lakes had either disappeared or reduced significantly over time. Water which naturally moved through these interconnected channels was now hindered, causing the flooding in residential areas. In this context, the residents no longer viewed the problem as just about excessive rainfall. It was increasingly understood as an outcome of disrupted ecological systems and inadequate urban planning.

The origins of collective action in Chitlapakkam

Long before Chitlapakkam Rising, the locality had already developed a tradition of civic participation. During the 1990s, residents began organising themselves through various Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) in response to concerns over lake encroachments and environmental degradation. These efforts

eventually led to the formation of the "Coordination Committee of Chitlapakkam Associations," which became an important platform for addressing shared civic concerns. One of its earliest campaigns focused on protecting Chitlapakkam Lake from development proposals by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board (TNHB). The TNHB proposed to construct tenements in the area, this prompted the residents to organise peaceful demonstrations, form human chains, submit representations, and create a dedicated "Chitlapakkam Lake Preservation Committee." Residents also collectively contributed funds to construct a protective bund around the lake, acknowledging that safeguarding the water body was essential to the future of the locality. These efforts proved critical. As without the bund and continued citizen action, residents believe that large portions of the lake may have been lost to encroachment decades ago. The story of Chitlapakkam Rising therefore did not begin with a single campaign or flood event. It came from a much longer culture of community ownership and collective action in the locality.



Source: Good Food Movement

The Chitlapakkam Rising: From weekly clean-up drives to addressing broader ecological concerns

After spending fourteen years in the United States, software professional Sunil Jayaram returned to Chennai and was alarmed by the deteriorating condition of the Chitlapakkam Lake. Once core to the area's identity, the lake had become heavily polluted and surrounded by waste. This became the starting point for Jayaram, and fellow residents Udaya Utthandi and Ezhildasan, who began organising small civic initiatives. In the beginning, these efforts focused on weekend clean-up drives, painting anti-littering messages, and encouraging neighbourhood participation. Eventually, these discussions went beyond waste management to broader questions of environmental degradation, governance failures, and water security. This resulted in the formation of Chitlapakkam Rising in the October of 2014. Over the next decade, the initiative grew from a handful of volunteers into a collective involving thousands of residents, supported by a core team of environmental advocates, technical experts, retirees, homemakers, engineers, and professionals.

Science, citizens, and the making of a restoration model

One of the defining features of the Chitlapakkam Rising group is the combination of community participation with technical knowledge. Instead of relying solely on advocacy, volunteers utilised their technical background to understand the scientific and hydrological dimensions of flooding and lake degradation. Through detailed mapping exercises, terrain analysis, and flood modelling, members of Chitlapakkam Rising identified critical gaps in drainage infrastructure and lake management. This knowledge informed a series of proposals submitted to the Government of Tamil Nadu.

One of the most significant interventions was the construction of a **macro cut-and-cover drain**. The project became one of the first interventions of its kind in Chennai and helped address flooding in vulnerable residential stretches. Alongside this, the group developed what became known as the **DDD approach: Deflect, Drain, and Desilt-Deepen.** The strategy involved:

- Deflecting sewage away from the lake.
- Draining polluted water from the water body.
- Desilting and deepening the lake to improve rainwater storage and groundwater recharge.

Residents also proposed solutions such as sewage interception systems, collection wells, and controlled inlet structures designed to prevent untreated wastewater from entering the lake. Many of these proposals were later adopted and implemented through collaboration with government agencies. The result was not just the restoration of a lake but the creation of a technically informed model of urban climate adaptation.



Source: Preetha Renganarayanan

When citizen action influenced policy

The Chitlapakkam experience shows that citizen action can influence public policy when supported by sustained engagement and credible technical evidence. The findings generated by residents and technical experts were presented to the Water Resources Department (WRD), local authorities, and elected representatives. It also attracted support from civil society organisations and environmental advocates. In 2018, the Government of Tamil Nadu approved approximately INR 17.5 crore for the construction of the macro cut-and-cover drain. In 2019, a further INR 25 crore was sanctioned for lake restoration activities, including desilting, deepening, sewage diversion, and restoration of rainwater inlets.

The Test: Cyclone Michaung

The true test of the restoration effort arrived in December 2023 when Cyclone Michaung brought some of the heaviest rainfall Chennai had experienced in recent years. Historically, such rainfall would have resulted in severe flooding across Chitlapakkam. This time, however, the outcome was evidently different with residents reporting that streets became free of inundation within approximately twelve hours despite nearly 50 centimetres of rainfall being recorded over two days. For those involved in the restoration effort, the event stood as evidence that the lake's storage capacity had enhanced significantly. Improved drainage systems, restored hydrological connections, and strengthened infrastructure collectively helped reduce flood impacts. For many residents, Cyclone Michaung provided tangible proof that environmental restoration and flood mitigation are not separate objectives but closely interconnected ones.

Beyond Chitlapakkam: Ripple effects across Chennai

The influence of Chitlapakkam goes well beyond its own geographical boundaries. One of the most striking examples was seen in neighbouring Medavakkam. Following the devastating floods of 2023, residents including Arjun Shankar began studying the Chitlapakkam experience to understand how similar interventions might be adapted locally. They consulted technical experts, interacted with residents involved in Chitlapakkam Rising, and drew lessons from the locality's flood mitigation strategies.

Inspired by these efforts, Medavakkam residents later facilitated the construction of a cut-and-cover drain near the Medavakkam Periya Eri through CSR support. For Arjun, the significance of Chitlapakkam was not only in its environmental achievements but in its ability to generate transferable knowledge. It showed that successful citizen-led initiatives can create ripple effects, inspiring similar efforts in other localities facing comparable environmental challenges.

First mile connectivity and the limits of citizen action

The Chitlapakkam experience also highlights certain key challenges. Citizen action alone cannot substitute for effective governance. Environmental restoration also requires consistent interaction with multiple government departments, media support, legal processes, funding

mechanisms, and so on. Civil society organisations such as Arappor Iyakkam played an important role in supporting environmental accountability, including efforts to address encroachments through Public Interest Litigation (PIL). In 2022, the Madras High Court closed the petition after the State government informed the court that most encroachments on the lake had been removed. However, such avenues remain difficult for many residents to access due to financial, legal, and procedural barriers. The case therefore raises important questions about First Mile Connectivity - the relationship between communities and formal governance systems before, during, and after environmental crises. While citizen groups increasingly produce knowledge, mobilise communities, and advocate for environmental protection, effective solutions ultimately depends on institutions engaging with these efforts consistently.

Conclusion

The story of Chitlapakkam Rising reflects a case of how a community moved from environmental concern to technical expertise, and from local advocacy to influencing actionable policy. With time, residents changed themselves into environmental stewards, producing knowledge, building partnerships, and shaping climate resilience from the ground up. The success of Chitlapakkam shows that climate adaptation is not just an engineering challenge, it is as much a social process built on community ownership, collective action, scientific understanding, and sustained civic engagement.

Today, the impact of Chitlapakkam goes beyond its restored lake and improved flood resilience. Its lessons continue to inform environmental initiatives in neighbouring localities including Medavakkam and offer a practical template for citizen-led environmental action in rapidly urbanising cities. As Chennai and other Indian cities increasingly confront climate challenges, the experience of Chitlapakkam suggests that some of the most effective solutions come from organised grassroots communities, who naturally serve as the zero responders during disasters.

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About the author

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Conversations

"Local residents and youth volunteers are the first responders"

An Interview with Ms Geetha Ganesh on Floods, Community Leadership, and Citizen Action in Chennai

Preetha Renganarayanan



Source: Geetha Ganesh

As part of the NIAS Climate Change, Civil Society and Peace (C3SP) initiative in collaboration with GPPAC South Asia, Preetha Renganarayanan, Research Assistant at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru, interviewed ***Geetha Ganesh****, Secretary of the AGS Colony Resident Welfare Association (ACRWA), Velachery West, Chennai. Located in one of Chennai's flood-prone localities, AGS Colony has witnessed repeated flooding during major rainfall events, including the devastating Chennai floods of 2015 and Cyclone Michaung in 2023. Over the years, residents have navigated severe inundation, infrastructure failures, and recurring flood risks, while simultaneously working to strengthen local preparedness and resilience.*

In this interview, Geetha Ganesh reflects on the experiences of AGS Colony during major flood events, the role played by residents and community organisations, contributions of women, and the lessons Chennai must learn as climate-related disasters become more frequent and intense.

AGS Colony has experienced some of Chennai's most severe flooding events. Looking back, how do you remember the floods of 2015 and 2023?

During the 2015 floods, AGS Colony was badly affected by severe waterlogging, power cuts, and shortages of essential supplies such as drinking water, milk, medicines, and groceries. Many residents remained trapped inside their apartments for days. There was also almost no mobile network connectivity for extended periods, making communication extremely difficult. Families had to depend on volunteers and outsiders who waded through hip-deep water to deliver supplies and information. The 2015 floods also became a turning point for the community. The floods led to the formation of our Resident Welfare Association. Before that, not many residents actively participated in civic issues.

While the 2015 floods are often remembered as one of Chennai's worst disasters, the impact of Cyclone Michaung in 2023 felt even more severe within AGS Colony. Several roads were submerged under nearly six feet of water, making movement almost impossible. Water entered homes and apartment basements, causing widespread damage. Residents estimate that overall material losses exceeded INR 50 crore. One major factor behind the flooding was the overflowing of the Veerangal Odai. At the time, the channel lacked a proper boundary wall, allowing floodwaters to flow directly into residential areas.

Based on your experience in AGS colony, whom would you identify as first responders during such disasters?

Local residents and youth volunteers were usually the first responders. Apartment communities and neighbours immediately began helping one another long before external assistance arrived. Because mobile networks often failed during major flood events, residents depended heavily on direct communication and volunteers physically moving between streets and apartment blocks to share information and check on vulnerable households. Government teams and corporation workers came later mainly for drainage work, clearing roads, and relief support.

How did the Resident Welfare Association and the wider community contribute to both flood response and long-term flood mitigation efforts?
The AGS Colony Resident Welfare Association played an important role not only during flood emergencies but also in addressing the underlying causes of flooding. One of the association's major achievements was securing a permanent pump house for the locality. Following repeated representations by the ACRWA regarding chronic flooding issues, a pump house, considered the first of its kind in South Chennai, was constructed in 2020 and became operational in December that year. The facility has significantly improved water drainage during normal and moderate rainfall events. The association also regularly coordinated with residents, documented local flooding issues, submitted complaints to government departments, and maintained follow-up with WRD and other officials. One notable outcome was the construction of the Veerangal Odai boundary wall in 2024 following Cyclone Michaung. The intervention helped prevent floodwaters from entering residential streets during subsequent rains. During the 2024 rains, the water flow in the odai did not enter the residential area like before, which residents felt was a major improvement.

Why do localities such as Velachery continue to experience recurring flooding?
Recurring flooding in Velachery is rooted in a combination of environmental and planning challenges. Poor drainage systems, shrinking lakes and wetlands, blocked stormwater drains, rapid urbanisation, and construction in naturally low-lying areas have collectively increased flood vulnerability. Velachery historically functioned as a natural water-holding region. Large-scale development without adequate planning has worsened the flooding situation.

What does the relationship between communities and government systems look like during flood situations?
Coordination works best at the community level. Neighbours often respond faster than formal institutions during the initial stages of a disaster because they understand local conditions and can quickly identify those in need. The experience of AGS Colony also shows that sustained engagement between communities and government agencies can produce tangible results. The construction of both the pump house and the Veerangal Odai boundary wall came from years of follow-up and dialogue between residents and public authorities. At the same time, challenges remain. Coordination often breaks down because of delayed responses, communication failures, and limited coordination between different departments during emergencies.

What aspects of Chennai's flooding experience do you think are often overlooked in public discussions?
Public discussions on floods often focus primarily on rainfall or government responses while overlooking the lived experiences of affected communities. The scale of property destruction, emotional stress, recurring fear during every monsoon season, and the important role played by local communities and resident associations in survival and recovery are often overlooked.

What are some important lessons Chennai should learn from these floods?
Chennai requires stronger long-term urban planning, restoration of wetlands and water bodies, regular maintenance of stormwater drainage systems, reliable emergency communication networks, and greater investment in local disaster preparedness. For localities such as AGS Colony, improving drainage and preventing overflow from channels such as the Veerangal Odai remain key priorities. One major lesson from the floods is that strong resident associations and sustained community engagement with government authorities can genuinely improve flood resilience.

About the author
Preetha Renganarayanan is a Research Assistant at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru.

Conversations

"Preparedness requires investment before a disaster strikes"

An Interview with Shri Nagendra Kumar Singh on Climate Change, Disaster Preparedness, and Emergency Response in Durg District

Anshika Thakur



*As part of the NIAS Climate Change, Civil Society and Peace (C3SP) initiative in collaboration with GPPAC South Asia, Anshika Thakur, undergraduate student at Mount Carmel College, Bengaluru, interviewed **Shri Nagendra Kumar Singh**, District Commandant, State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) in Durg district. Working across disaster preparedness, emergency response, flood management, and inter-agency coordination, he oversees efforts to strengthen institutional preparedness and disaster response in one of Chhattisgarh's rapidly developing districts.*

In this interview, Shri Nagendra Kumar Singh reflects on how climate change is reshaping disaster management, the growing importance of preparedness and early warning systems, institutional coordination during emergencies, logistical challenges faced by response agencies, and the need to integrate climate adaptation into disaster risk reduction as extreme weather events become more frequent and intense.

What does disaster management involve beyond emergency response?

Most people think disaster management begins after a flood, fire, or accident occurs. In reality, most of our work happens before any disaster takes place. Disaster management is not handled by a single department. The administration, police department, health services, municipal bodies, Public Works Department (PWD), SDRF, NDRF, fire services, revenue officials, and local governance institutions all work together. We operate through a district control room and Emergency Operations Centre which serves as the central communication hub during emergencies. Regular preparedness reviews, inter departmental meetings, contingency planning exercises, and risk assessments are conducted throughout the year.

What impact has climate change had on disaster management planning?

The weather is no longer behaving according to the patterns we were used to. That makes planning more difficult. We are witnessing rising temperatures, changing rainfall cycles, prolonged droughts, urban flooding, forest fires, and increasingly severe heatwaves. Climate change does not always create new disasters, but it amplifies existing vulnerabilities. Heat-related challenges now affect public health, labour productivity, transportation systems, emergency response operations, and infrastructure. There have been reports from different parts of India of railway tracks deforming under prolonged high temperatures. Some of the most climate-sensitive regions in the district include areas around Tandula Reservoir, Kharkhara Reservoir, and parts of Nandgaon, where changing rainfall patterns and water management challenges require continuous monitoring.

What are the key components of flood preparedness and early warning at the district level?

Flood forecasting begins long before flooding occurs. We continuously monitor information received from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Central Water Commission (CWC). Reservoir capacities, river basin levels, rainfall forecasts, water release schedules, and danger levels are assessed regularly.

During the monsoon season, dedicated review meetings are conducted to evaluate risks and prepare response strategies. Environmental changes have made forecasting more complicated. Areas that were previously considered safe may now experience flooding. Monsoon preparedness remains one of the biggest responsibilities of the district administration.

What role do mock drills and preparedness exercises play in disaster response?
Mock drills are essential because disasters do not give warnings. We regularly conduct flood simulations, evacuation exercises, rescue operations, and fire emergency drills. These exercises help identify weaknesses in coordination systems before an actual emergency occurs. Preparedness is becoming increasingly important because climate change is increasing uncertainty and the frequency of extreme weather events. At present, we have approximately 360 trained volunteers and nearly 900 emergency volunteers who can assist during large-scale emergencies.

How is disaster-related information disseminated to rural communities?
The first responders are often local people themselves. Warnings and emergency information are disseminated through Sarpanches, Kotwars, Gram Panchayat Secretaries, Revenue Inspectors, SDM offices, NGOs, local media, Rajswani Rakshaks, and community volunteers. Without community participation, disaster management becomes much more difficult. Our objective is to ensure that evacuation notices, warnings, and emergency instructions reach vulnerable populations as quickly as possible.

What according to you are some of the key challenges in disaster response?
Resources remain one of our biggest challenges. In many situations we are required to cover large geographical areas with limited manpower and equipment. Many specialised rescue technologies used internationally are either unavailable in sufficient quantities or must be imported because India does not manufacture them. Equipment such as aluminium rescue boats, hydraulic platforms, advanced rescue systems, and technical extraction equipment are difficult to obtain. At present, many operations continue to rely on plastic rescue boats, which are less durable and can be dangerous under certain rescue conditions. Disaster funding is often linked to emergency periods rather than being maintained consistently throughout the year. Preparedness requires investment before a disaster strikes, not only after.

What are the key aspects involved in post-disaster management?
Response is only the first stage. Recovery often takes much longer than rescue operations. Post-disaster work includes damage assessment surveys, compensation mechanisms, insurance assistance, relief distribution, and rehabilitation programmes. Restoring livelihoods, rebuilding infrastructure, and supporting affected communities often requires long-term intervention. The objective is not simply to respond to disasters, but to help communities recover from them.

How are disaster risks evolving across India in the context of climate change?
Different regions face different threats. Coastal areas remain vulnerable to cyclones and storm surges. Himalayan states such as Himachal Pradesh face landslides, flash floods, and extreme rainfall events. Heatwaves, droughts, forest fires, and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe across the country. At present, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams are deployed across multiple states depending on seasonal risks and emerging threats. Coastal regions receive particular attention during cyclone seasons. Disaster management institutions now have to think beyond response and incorporate climate adaptation into planning frameworks.

About the author
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Dialogues

NIAS C3SP-GPPAC Workshop on Connecting Communities

An interaction with civil society actors from Karnataka and Kerala on addressing climate-related disaster management and preparedness, conservation, and youth engagement



*As part of the NIAS Climate Change, Civil Society and Peace (C3SP) initiative in collaboration with GPPAC South Asia, the workshop on "**Building Capacity, Chronicling Resilience, Connecting Communities, Mapping Data**" was held on 03–04 June 2026 at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru. One of the sessions titled "Connecting Communities," brought together civil society practitioners, local government representatives, and community leaders from Karnataka and Kerala to share their experiences in disaster response, environmental conservation, and citizen-led climate action.*

Drawing on experiences from the Wayanad landslides, Bengaluru's lake conservation movement, and youth-led environmental communication initiatives, the session explored how local communities, civil society organisations, and public institutions are strengthening disaster preparedness, ecological restoration, and climate resilience. The discussion highlighted the importance of local knowledge, community participation, and long-term environmental stewardship in responding to increasingly frequent climate-related challenges.

Community Response and Recovery after the Wayanad Landslides

K K Sahad, Sibi Varghese & Krishnakumar KI

Reflecting on the aftermath of the Wayanad landslides, K K Sahad, Sibi Varghese, and Krishnakumar K I discussed the complex challenges of disaster response and long-term recovery. Identifying victims was one of the most distressing aspects that was observed during the post-disaster recovery process. In most instances, only scant fragments were recovered, and identification was not possible visually. To confirm identities and to return "remains" to the appropriate families, DNA testing was therefore used. The speakers also noted that a few victims had initially been buried following incorrect religious practices before DNA verification, after which the remains were respectfully exhumed and reinterred.

The discussion also highlighted the remarkable solidarity displayed during the disaster. Victims from the villages of Mundakkai and Chooralmala were buried in a common cemetery irrespective of religion, caste, or community, reflecting a shared sense of humanity during a period of immense tragedy.

The speakers recalled several deeply moving experiences, including that of a family that lost three children and an elderly mother during the disaster. Both parents survived but are still visiting the graveyard and respecting the memory of their children. Local communities played an important role in rescuing and rehabilitating the victims, which was clearly seen.

Community participation came about as one of the defining features of the response. Local clubs and volunteers, as well as religious and community groups, came forward to provide initial support, organise rescue missions, and to support affected families. Local knowledge's importance in disaster preparedness was also highlighted.

The government subsequently provided temporary housing, rental assistance,

livelihood support, and constructed a permanent township in Meppadi, where 178 affected families have since been resettled. However, concerns remain regarding the long-term welfare of children who lost parents or livelihoods, many of whom continue to require educational and financial support.

Citizen-led Lake Conservation in Bengaluru

Madhuri Subbarao



Drawing on more than three decades of environmental work, Madhuri Subbarao reflected on Bengaluru's rapidly changing urban landscape and the role of citizen action in conserving its lake ecosystems.

Once known as the "City of Lakes," Bengaluru possessed nearly a thousand interconnected rain-fed and stormwater-fed lakes linked to river systems such as the Kaveri, Arkavathi, Vrishabhavathi, and Dakshina Pinakini. However, rapid urbanisation and decades of neglect have severely degraded these ecosystems. Many lakes now fall under Category E of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board classification, indicating conditions in which birds and animals struggle to survive.

Through the work of Friends of Lakes, extensive efforts have been undertaken to restore and protect Bengaluru's lakes. These initiatives have included lake clean-up drives, community engagement programmes, scientific water-quality assessments, and collaboration with government agencies to address pollution, fish deaths, debris dumping, and eutrophication. Public awareness campaigns such as Kere Habbas and advocacy against Plaster of Paris idol immersions have also contributed to conservation efforts. The organisation also mobilised local communities to prevent encroachments and protect lakes from commercial development. However, she also raised concerns regarding the transformation of lakes into recreational parks, which often fail to preserve aquatic biodiversity.

Madhuri Subbarao also noted that years of conservation work have revealed that environmental degradation continues largely because of a growing disconnect between people and nature. This understanding led to the establishment of Earthitude Research World, which focuses on climate resilience, sustainability, desertification, and environmental behaviour. Bengaluru's increasing water scarcity, declining green cover, and recurring floods demonstrate the urgency of these challenges.

The session concluded by emphasising that conservation begins with everyday behavioural changes. Human well-being remains inseparable from nature, and coexistence, sustainability, and interdependence are essential for a resilient future.

Youth-led Environmental Communication and Community Engagement

Dhruthi Anish & Namrata L. Ghanghatkar

Dhruthi Anish and Namrata L. Ghanghatkar presented the work of The Bangalore Stringer, a youth-led environmental media initiative established to bridge the growing disconnect between people and the environment through storytelling and public engagement. Founded by students from Mount Carmel College, the initiative seeks to make environmental issues more accessible by documenting local biodiversity, grassroots conservation efforts, and community-led environmental action.



The idea emerged from a shared interest in environmental issues and was strengthened through collaboration among individuals from diverse academic backgrounds, enabling a multidisciplinary approach to conservation and public engagement. A key concern identified was the tendency to view nature as separate from human life. Environmental discussions often focus on large-scale issues or charismatic wildlife while overlooking local biodiversity and the role of communities in conservation. Bangalore Stringer was therefore established to make environmental issues more accessible, relatable, and inclusive for the public.

The initiative functions as a nature-centred media platform that promotes the principles of the circular economy, encouraging reuse, recycling, and sustainable resource management. Storytelling forms the core of its work, with a focus on documenting environmental challenges and highlighting grassroots efforts led by young people and local communities. The platform seeks to empower environmental communicators through networks of writers, storytellers, videographers, and content creators.

One of the organisation's notable projects, Cash Your Trash, was designed to encourage proper waste segregation through technology and behavioural incentives. The proposed mobile application would guide users in classifying waste, reward responsible disposal practices, and support community-based waste management systems such as vermicomposting. The project aimed to create an integrated model connecting households, recyclers, farmers, businesses, and environmental organisations. Another major initiative, Wake Up Bengaluru, focuses on raising awareness about environmental issues through an online newspaper, social media platforms, and digital content. Collaborations with conservation organisations further strengthened public engagement. The session concluded by emphasising that meaningful environmental change often begins through small but sustained community actions. Experiences from groundwater recharge projects and local conservation campaigns showed that collective citizen participation can create significant environmental outcomes while strengthening long-term climate resilience.

Concluding reflections

The session showed that strengthening climate resilience extends far beyond infrastructure and policy interventions. Whether responding to disasters in Wayanad, restoring Bengaluru's urban lakes, or mobilising young people through environmental storytelling, the discussions repeatedly highlighted the key role of communities in addressing climate-related challenges. Local knowledge, citizen participation, collaboration between civil society and public institutions came about as common threads connecting diverse experiences across Karnataka and Kerala. Collectively, these examples showed how resilient communities are built through informed, organised, and engaged citizens.

About the speakers

K K Sahad
Member of Panchayat and Former President, Meppadi Grama Panchayat, Wayanad.

Sibi Varghese
Assistant Director, Local Self-Government Department, Kerala.

Krishnakumar KI
Department of Health Services, Kerala.

Madhuri Subbarao
Curator, Friends of Lakes and Founder, Earthitude Research Forum, Bengaluru.

Dhruthi Anish & Namrata L. Ghanghatkar
Founders, The Bangalore Stringer.

Dialogues

NIAS–GPPAC South Asia Workshop on Climate Change, Civil Society and Community Resilience

Exploring disappearing water bodies, indigenous knowledge, climate migration, disaster governance, and civil society as zero responders

*As part of the NIAS Climate Change, Civil Society and Peace (C3SP) initiative in collaboration with GPPAC South Asia, the workshop on "**Building Capacity, Chronicling Resilience, Connecting Communities, Mapping Data**" was held on 03–04 June 2026 at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru. The session documented below brought together members of GPPAC South Asia including researchers, academics, and civil society practitioners who have examined emerging climate challenges across South Asia through interdisciplinary and community-based case studies.*

The discussions covered disappearing water bodies in Goa, indigenous knowledge systems for sustainable development, climate migration, and the role of civil society as "zero responders" and first-mile connectors during climate-related disasters. The discussions covered disappearing water bodies in Goa, indigenous knowledge systems for sustainable development, climate migration, and the role of civil society as "zero responders" and first-mile connectors during climate-related disasters. The session also featured an interaction with GPPAC South Asia partners from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, providing comparative regional perspectives on climate vulnerability, disaster governance, community resilience, and climate-induced displacement. Drawing on research and field experiences from India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, the discussions highlighted the importance of integrating scientific research, indigenous knowledge, community participation, and policy engagement to strengthen climate resilience across South Asia.

Opening Remarks

Prof D. Suba Chandran

Opening the session, Prof D Suba Chandran outlined the themes of the day's discussions, which centred on disappearing water bodies in Goa, the revitalisation of indigenous knowledge systems for sustainable development, and climate migration in India. The sessions, he noted, would explore these issues through both policy and practice.



Introducing the NIAS C3SP Initiative's central research theme, he explained the concept of civil society as "zero responders." While disaster management is often associated with first responders, official response mechanisms frequently take time to reach affected areas, particularly during climate-related disasters in remote regions. Local communities and civil society organisations, however, are already present on the ground and are often the first to respond, providing immediate assistance long before formal relief efforts begin. To explore this concept in depth, the workshop featured three case studies examining the landslides in Wayanad, Flooding in Chennai, and cyclones in Kanyakumari. These cases highlighted the critical role played by civil society organisations and local communities during the earliest stages of disaster response.

Followed by these presentations, an interactive session with GPPAC members is scheduled. Research conducted in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka will be presented by researchers from those countries. Their experiences and findings are expected to provide a broader regional perspective on climate-related challenges and disaster responses.



Dr Mallika Joseph

Dr Mallika Joseph highlighted how each GPPAC South Asia member organisation selected a climate issue that was deeply rooted in its local context and explored it through research, dialogue, and community engagement.

Speaking about India, she noted that Dr Bibhu Prasad, based in Goa, examined the issue of disappearing water bodies. Given the close links between water bodies and local politics in the state, the topic remains particularly sensitive. Despite these challenges, he undertook an issue brief on the subject, which was subsequently discussed with key stakeholders through a focus group discussion in Goa. At the workshop, he shared the key findings and insights from this work.

She also spoke about Prof Krishna Menon, who led a study on indigenous knowledge systems and their relevance to climate change. Through field research conducted by PhD scholars, the project documented indigenous practices and explored how academic institutions can better support and integrate such knowledge into climate research. Dr Joseph observed that this approach closely aligns with the work done by the NIAS team on documenting the role of civil society actors. Highlighting the work of Dr Samata Biswas and the Calcutta Research Group, Dr Joseph explained that their research focused on climate-induced migration. The team developed a policy brief examining migration as a consequence of climate change and engaged students and young people through discussions to gather perspectives and promote greater awareness of the issue.

Disappearing Water Bodies in Goa

Dr Bibhu Prasad Routray

Disappearing water bodies in Goa examined how a state often perceived as water-rich and environmentally secure suffers from a water crisis. Along with 11 rivers rising from the Western Ghats, Goa also has several wetlands, Khazan lands, lakes, estuaries, and groundwater that are used for agriculture, fisheries, human settlements, and cultural identity. However, lack of water in the supply line is not a factor in Goa's rise in water-related problems; instead, these are consequences of unplanned development, poor planning, and lack of environmental control.



Officially, groundwater extraction is still within the safe limits, but the amount of extraction has gone up by about 65 per cent in the period 2011-2023. One of the main reasons for this is the skyrocketing demand for real estate. Post-COVID-19, the work-from-home culture, along with the buying power of wealthy Indians, NRIs, and foreigners, resulted in rapid construction of luxury homes, gated communities, hotels, and second homes. Mostly, these locations are unoccupied, however, their water usage is quite high, especially by swimming pools, gardens, and the extraction of groundwater. Furthermore, the construction on the slopes of hills and plateaus has killed the natural water drainage channels which has led to a decrease in groundwater recharge as well as river flow.

For instance, in the case of Toyyar Lake in Chimbel, a wetland important for irrigation, groundwater recharge, and flood control. Proposed plans for a INR 161 crore Unity Mall and a 17-storey administrative tower near the lake generated public opposition

due to concerns over wetland destruction and manipulation of ecological buffer zones. The project was eventually suspended following protests.

Tourism, in fact, worsen environmental damages due to release of untreated sewage, excessive use of groundwater, intrusion of the sea water and greater microplastic contamination. Although there are environmental regulations for example, laws protecting the wetlands and regulating the use of groundwater, their implementation is very weak. Changes in land use planning, in particular Section 39A, have caused more worries about the possibility of land conversion and less public control. However, well-organized civil society movements, NGOs, judicial proceedings, and a more widespread public awareness opposing projects that are harmful to nature still pose a threat to the detrimental developments. These efforts point positively to the conservation of Goa's delicate water systems.

Prithvi Darshana: Revitalizing Indigenous Epistemes for a Sustainable Future

Prof Krishna Menon



At its core, an examination of how understandings of the earth are constructed and which knowledge systems are granted authority. Situating the discussion within the contemporary "decolonial turn," climate and sustainability debates require examining not only knowledge itself but also the power structures that produce and legitimise it. Colonial systems privileged Western epistemologies while systematically discrediting indigenous ways of knowing, creating an "epistemological project of delegitimisation."

Drawing on the experience of the Prithvi Darshana programme at B.R. Ambedkar University, Delhi, an alternative approach to knowledge production is illustrated. The programme embedded research scholars in rural communities for a year, replacing the detached "bird's-eye view" of experts with an immersive and collaborative "worm's-eye view." The term "Darshana," signifies more than observation; it reflects a philosophical mode of understanding where knowledge carries responsibility toward the earth. This juxtaposes the extractive research practices where communities become sources of data rather than partners in knowledge creation.

Furthermore, indigenous knowledge is neither uniform nor static. Indigenous epistemologies are plural, relational, and historically situated. They require continual examination of who produced knowledge, under what conditions, and in whose interests. However, one must be cautioned against romanticising indigeneity, noting that claims of "pure" or "original" knowledge can be appropriated by majoritarian politics and become exclusionary. WISCOMP's feminist decolonial peacebuilding framework identifies epistemicide, the suppression of knowledge systems, as a form of violence alongside physical and structural forms of harm.

Women's environmental knowledge relating to seeds, water, and soil has often been dismissed despite its importance. Further, the term "climate crisis" resonates better with the magnitude and irreversibility of the current crisis that is clearly rooted in gender, caste, age and class inequity. The conclusion is a plea for epistemic pluralism, for no one's knowledge system has a monopoly on truth. Learning with communities, essential for effective responses to the climate crisis.

Climate Migration in India: A Look at the Policy Landscape and its Practice

Dr Samata Biswas



Climate migration is emerging as one of the most pressing challenges in India and South Asia. Drawing on nearly three decades of research by the Calcutta Research Group on migration, forced migration, and refugee studies, I emphasize that climate-induced displacement remains insufficiently addressed despite growing awareness of climate change.

Through examples ranging from Cyclone Amphan to reports on water scarcity, data centres, extreme weather events, and agricultural distress, I highlight how climate change is closely linked to migration. Water stress, rising temperatures, erratic monsoons, floods, droughts, and environmental degradation increasingly force vulnerable communities to leave their homes and livelihoods. These impacts are particularly severe for marginalized groups, agricultural workers, and informal labourers who often lack social protection and economic security.

India already experiences large-scale climate displacement, with millions losing their homes annually due to floods and other climate-related disasters. Coastal flooding, sea-level rise, glacial hazards, landslides, riverbank erosion, and prolonged droughts continue to intensify migration pressures across the country. The poorest communities are affected first and most severely, often experiencing repeated cycles of displacement.

A major concern is the absence of a dedicated national climate migration policy. Existing frameworks such as the Disaster Management Act primarily focus on short-term relief rather than long-term rehabilitation, livelihood restoration, education continuity, and social protection. While policies such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change, state climate action plans, employment guarantee schemes, and climate-resilient urban planning initiatives offer indirect support, they fail to adequately address climate-induced migration.

Significant policy gaps remain in legal recognition, portability of welfare entitlements, relocation planning, post-relocation support, and data collection. The lack of clear institutional responsibility further complicates effective responses. Addressing climate migration requires comprehensive policies that prioritize dignity, long-term rehabilitation, social inclusion, and climate resilience while recognizing migration as a central consequence of environmental change.

Civil Society as Zero Responders and First Mile Connectors Report by NIAS Team



Civil Society as Zero Responders & First Mile Connectors: A Case Study of the 2024 Wayanad Landslides

Brighty Ann Sarah

The fieldwork conducted in Wayanad, Kerala, examines the 2024 Mundakkai-Chooralmala landslides. The study examines the experiences of the community, their perceptions of risks, adaptation strategies to recurrent climatic hazards, preparedness

and institutional capacity, and the rehabilitation and resettlement process after a disaster.

The disaster took place in the ecologically fragile Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot of the world. The plateau region of Wayanad in Kerala is densely forested, steeply sloped, with fragile soils and lateritic soil, making it very susceptible to flooding and landslides. Multiple landslides broke out on 30 July 2024 near the headwaters of the Iruvanji River, following an unprecedented cloudburst that dumped around 572 mm of rain over 48 hours. The river course was altered, and secondary flooding was caused by the massive flow of mud, rocks, boulders and debris which moved 6–7 kilometres through Punjirimattom, Mundakkai and Chooralmala. More than 420 people were killed, 397 injured and 118 have been missing in the disaster.

During which, civil society became the main "zero responder." Social collectives, youth groups, organisations (including Karma), political groups, and religious groups, as well as ASHA workers and Kudumbashree mobilised rescue and relief, communication, and rehabilitation activities. The local people who knew the area started the rescue efforts before help could arrive. District-level inter-agency coordination mechanisms were also created to smoothen the process of aid delivery and avoid duplication of effort. Lack of effective early warning systems, lack of disaster management plans specific to the zone, community lack of education and awareness of disaster risk, disaster fatigue, gaps in the disaster management system and political/bureaucratic barriers to the introduction of scientific knowledge into policy making were among the main problems encountered.

The key lessons included the importance of disaster preparedness, disaster warning systems, disaster rescue systems, civil society as a first responder, use of indigenous knowledge in policy, strengthening of and improvement in existing policies, and increasing scientific engagement at the grassroots level and promoting climate-resilient rehabilitation.

Urban Flooding, Community Responses, and Grassroots Capacities: A Case Study from Chennai

Preetha Renganarayanan

"Urban flooding, Community responses, and Grassroots capacities," examines climate resilience in Chennai through case studies of Medavakkam, Chitlapakkam, and Velachery. It investigates how citizens respond to disasters and contribute to flood management and ecological restoration.

Floods in Chennai are predominantly caused by ecological, governance, and planning changes in the city rather than heavy rainfall only. Problems most often mentioned include destruction of water infrastructure, insufficient drainage systems, occupation of floodplains, decrease in groundwater recharge, ineffective emergency communication, and loss of the interconnected lake system. Medavakkam was flooded up to its neck during the 2023 floods due to the breach of the lake bund. However, citizen-led audits indicate that the factors leading to flooding were infrastructural deficits, broken regulators, lack of maintenance, and policies. One of the important conclusions is that the lakes in Chennai can be seen as a continuum of an ecological network. Degradation of lakes like Kalleri and Chinna eri along with Medavakkam Periya eri was also one of the reasons for flood risks and ecological decline in the area, and hence, restoration of individual lakes alone was not effective. The study also points out the connections between flooding and water scarcity, as damaged lakes will cause decline in groundwater recharge and long-term water security.

Civil society became an important player in climate governance. RWA's and civil society groups were the "zero responders," and were frequently the first to respond before government agencies. Local knowledge was developed through the activities of citizen groups: GIS mapping, environmental monitoring, flood audits, and advocacy

activities. Women had significant leadership positions in these activities. The Chitlapakkam Rising group showed how sustained engagement of citizens, ecological restoration and community solutions contribute to enhanced resilience. In conclusion communities came about as crucial players in disaster response, environmental governance, and disaster long-term adaptation to the climate.

Civil Society as Zero Responders and First Mile Connectors: Lessons from Cyclone Ockhi in Kanyakumari District
Lekshmi MK

The Lessons from Cyclone Ockhi in Kanyakumari District examines the role of civil society during Cyclone Ockhi (2017) in Kanyakumari district, focusing on how coastal communities acted as zero responders and first-mile connectors during a major climate-related disaster. Kanyakumari's coastline is not homogeneous. The fishermen of the villages along the Arabian Sea coast are highly skilled in deep-sea fishing, and venture far into the sea, making them vulnerable to the unexpected formation of Cyclone Ockhi over the Arabian Sea on 30 November 2017. The cyclone resulted in heavy human and economic losses. Several fishermen were caught at sea without proper warning, communication, or rescue support. The disaster exposed major weaknesses in disaster governance, including failures in early warning dissemination, weak communication systems, poor institutional coordination, and inadequate preparedness. It also illustrated the strength of the local communities. Fishermen started their rescue efforts on their own boats, churches provided relief and information, and community organizations provided the resources and support they could provide to the affected families. Some instances of grassroots action involve a local shopkeeper who, after collating his own information about the cyclone, warned the fishermen and community-based rescue operation. It includes a railway blockage, which helped to galvanize the authorities to increase the search efforts. Families who lost loved ones were also supported by civil society, frequently before formal institutions got involved.

The main cited issues are communication failures, lack of community government linkages, uncertainty over livelihoods due to climate change, psychosocial trauma, and lack of visibility of coastal issues in policymaking processes. Finally, the coastal communities have a strong ability to respond to disasters. For long-term climate resilience and preparedness, communication technologies need to be strengthened, community members need to be included in disaster governance, collaboration with government agencies needs to be improved, and local knowledge needs to be recognized.

Interaction with GPPAC South Asia Partners

Ashish Banik, Chamika Wijesuriya, Jehan Perera

Ashish Banik
Bangladesh is highly sensitive to climate change due to its geographic location, high population density, and dependence on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture. It has several environmental problems like storm surges, river erosion, flash floods, cyclones and more. Yet it emerged as a strong precedent of climate resilience. For example, cyclone deaths have dropped sharply since the 1990s. This is due to the effective disaster preparedness programs, extensive participation of the community, and advanced early warning systems. Coastal areas, in particular, were identified as major climate hotspots. These areas face a high risk of damage from cyclone, tidal surges, and the encroachment of saltwater, which are the major causes of disruption to both agriculture and the livelihoods of the people. In the central riverine areas, yearly river erosion leads to loss of land and displacement of thousands of families having the necessity to move. Flash floods that occur in the Haor basin of northeastern Bangladesh year after year destroy crops and pose a big challenge to food security. In addition to that, the northwestern districts are experiencing drought, heat stress, and depletion of

groundwater at an increasing level.

Similarly, climate-induced displacement is a major challenge in Bangladesh. Along with the housing shortage, unemployment, food and health problems, and the rising pressure on local services are some of the reasons for rapid urbanization. The situation is further complicated by the absence of a legal tool that acknowledges the population displaced by climate change. Climate migrants lack a legal status with limited support by existing polities for planned relocation, social protection, and long-term rehabilitation. Thus, Climate governance will be effective only if there is increased coordination of institutions, increased coherence of policy, and increased accountability, and increased engagement with communities. There is a need for increased focus on climate justice and especially on vulnerable groups and how to protect and support them. Along these lines, Bangladesh is leading the way with initiatives such as climate-adaptive agriculture, salt-tolerant crop varieties, community-led adaptation methods, and digital warning systems to most coastal communities.

Chamika Wijesuriya

Sri Lanka is one of the countries that is increasingly vulnerable to climate-induced disasters, particularly following Cyclone Ditwa. The cyclone was classified as the worst disaster in the country's recent history. The cyclone affected nearly 2.3 million people, caused over 639 deaths, leaving hundreds missing. It also inundated nearly 20 per cent of the country. Mass displacement revealed the underlying weaknesses of the disaster-prone communities, especially the central hills communities. Field studies in areas including Upcot and Udadumbara, revealed that climate impacts are being amplified by longstanding socio-economic inequalities. The Malayaha Tamil community is known as the most affected community. They have traditionally been associated with plantation life and still experience insecurity of land ownership, substandard housing, bad infrastructure, and restricted access to state services. Furthermore, knowledge about formalized DRR protocols and evacuation was limited, especially for children and elderly residents. Disaster response was also restricted due to poor road infrastructure, limited telecommunications connectivity, and inadequate access to healthcare.

Displacement remained a major concern. While, majority of the affected families are still living in temporary shelters, some families are also living in high-risk areas. This is despite the government advising them to move to safer places. Relocation has been complicated due to disputes over land ownership and by the desire of affected populations to relocate as groups rather than individuals. A large number of plantation residents were not part of the housing compensation programmes. This is because their homes are majorly owned by the plantation companies rather than by themselves. The results showed that there was a need for holistic policy measures such as hazard mapping, land tenure reforms, better infrastructure and health and education services. It also highlighted a more participatory approach towards integrating marginalised groups into climate adaptation planning. In addition, attention was also given to youth involvement, women empowerment and community-based DRR projects. The need to tackle structural inequalities was also emphasised as key to effective climate resilience in Sri Lanka beyond disaster response action.

Jehan Perera

Research conducted after a devastating cyclone and landslides in Sri Lanka, focused on challenges related to compensation and resettlement of affected communities. One issue involved Malaiyaha Tamil plantation workers, many of whom live in company-owned or state-owned housing on tea estates. Since they do not legally own their homes, compensation for damaged or destroyed housing became complicated despite severe losses. The second issue concerned Sinhalese rural communities living on state-owned land that they have occupied and cultivated for generations. While they treat land as their own, they do

not own the land legally.

Following the disaster, the Government had urged them to move out of landslide prone areas. But local surveys in five affected communities revealed that they were having huge difficulties: they lacked appropriate land to redevelop; they did not have enough money to buy new land; and they strongly did not want to move alone, preferring to move together. The survey also found that while residents were warned ahead of the disaster, many did not evacuate due to concerns about losing their possessions, not being able to go anywhere else, and not wanting to leave their community. The victims received compensation for the loss of their lives, house repair and emergency relief, but the resettlement is still not fulfilled. There are still many families that remain in vulnerable areas, where there are no viable alternatives and where the desire to maintain community networks is present. No active measures have been taken to enforce relocation, although the government has welcomed it, and the underlying risks have not been addressed.

Conclusion

The session put forth that climate resilience deeply depends on active participation of communities, civil society organisations, and local institutions. Whether examining disappearing water bodies in Goa, indigenous knowledge systems, climate migration, disaster responses in Wayanad, Chennai, and Kanyakumari, or regional experiences from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, the discussions all across highlighted the importance of community leadership, locally grounded knowledge, and collaborative governance. Together, the presentations reinforced the central premise of the NIAS–GPPAC research initiative: that communities are often the **"zero responders"** and first-mile connectors whose knowledge, networks, and collective action are indispensable for strengthening climate resilience across South Asia.

About the speakers

Prof D Suba Chandran
Dean, School of Conflict and Security Studies, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru.

Dr Mallika Joseph
GPPAC South Asia, Regional Coordinator.

Dr Bibhu Prasad Routray
Director, Mantraya Institute for Strategic Studies (MISS), Goa.

Prof Krishna Menon
Dean, School of Human Studies and Professor, Gender Studies, B.R. Ambedkar University, Delhi.

Dr Samata Biswas
Professor and Coordinator, Department of English, The Sanskrit College and University, Kolkata.

Brighty Ann Sarah, **Lekshmi MK**, **Preetha Renganarayanan**
Research Assistants at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.

Ashish Banik, Chamika Wijesuriya, Jehan Perera
Members of GPPAC South Asia partner organisations.

The above report was compiled by Sreemaya Nair along with Yesasvi Koganti, Madhura Meenakshi Tanikella, Glynnis Winona B, Acsah H, Ada Khan and Anshika Thakur.

In Pictures



Launch of the inaugural issue of 'The Green Ribbon'
Dr Shailesh Nayak, Director, NIAS, releases the first issue of 'The Green Ribbon,' the monthly monitor of the NIAS C3SP Initiative on Climate Change, Civil Society and Peace.





Inaugural Address by the Director, NIAS, and Interactions with Civil Society Actors
Dr Shailesh Nayak, Director, NIAS, delivers the inaugural address, highlighting the importance of strengthening research, civil society engagement, and youth leadership in addressing climate change and building resilient communities. Civil society representatives also shared their experiences and lessons from the Wayanad landslides.

In Pictures



Inauguration of the 'Grass Roots' Poster Workshop
Dr Shailesh Nayak, Director, NIAS, inaugurates the 'Grass Roots' poster workshop showcasing community-led climate action, civil society initiatives, and environmental conservation efforts documented by the NIAS Youth Network.





The 'Grass Roots' Poster workshop
The 'Grass Roots,' NIAS Youth Network, present the civil society organisations they documented, highlighting bottom-up initiatives in climate action, environmental conservation, and community resilience.

Capacity Building

Stories from the ground

*As part of the NIAS Climate Change, Civil Society and Peace (C3SP) initiative in collaboration with GPPAC South Asia, the inaugural workshop of '**The Grass Roots**,' the NIAS Youth Network on Climate Change, Civil Society and Peace, was held on 03 June 2026 at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru. During the workshop, young scholars from institutions across India examined the role of civil society organisations (CSOs) in responding to climate change through a poster presentation exercise.*

Grass Roots Chronicle #01:

Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group

Tackling the effects of harmful emissions in the Delhi NCR region through Waste management initiatives

Aarav Bhaskar



***Aarav Bhaskar**, a student at the American Embassy School, New Delhi, documented the work of the **Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group**.*

This note examines how Chintan has addressed the environmental and social impacts of unsustainable waste management in the Delhi National Capital Region (NCR) through community-based waste management, recycling, composting, and urban heat adaptation initiatives. It also highlights how local environmental action can simultaneously reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen climate resilience, and improve the well-being of vulnerable communities in rapidly urbanising cities.

Chintan Environmental Research & Action Group, founded in 1999 by activist Bharti Chaturvedi, aims to promote sustainable consumption and environmental consciousness in the NCR region through workshops, advocacy and hands-on projects. In recent times, the rapidly modernising Delhi faces unsustainable waste management, driven by an overburdening of the systems that aim to keep Delhi's environment clean and sustainable. Mismanagement of waste has led to increased air pollution and, in particular, increased emissions of toxic greenhouse gases, such as Methane. In recent years, Delhi's numerous dump sites have faced challenges with leaks and concerns about their sustainability. It is in this context that Chintan has focused their efforts on tackling emissions in Delhi and their adverse effects on the population.

Firstly, to support recycling infrastructure in Delhi, Chintan has collaborated with the New Delhi Municipal Council, aiming to convert at least 8 Dhalaos (informal waste dumps) into Material Recovery Facilities, aiding the preparation of reusable materials for manufacturing. These Dhalaos would otherwise pose environmental issues, including liquid runoff, soil contamination, and a lack of garbage segregation, further complicating recycling and overburdening landfills. They thereby increase greenhouse gas emissions.

Second, Chintan has designed cost-efficient rotating composters for household use. Through composting, wet waste can be used as nutrition for soil. This prevents waste from diverting to landfills, where deprivation of oxygen would emit greenhouse gases and take up space in already crowded landfills. Its cost-effectiveness also ensures its proliferation throughout communities that are most adversely affected by climate change, creating a positive bidirectional relationship.

While Chintan focused on initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, they also aimed to reduce the adverse effects of climate change in Delhi by combating urban heat and its disproportionate effects on those without proper housing. To mitigate global warming's effect on vulnerable populations, Chintan has retrofitted slums with accessible materials like bamboo and reflective white paint to cool down residents, working with locals to emphasise the importance and involvement of the affected community in the decision-making process. To ensure communities are equipped to manage the heat, Chintan trained local women (Climate Sakhis) to monitor weather and temperature by installing machinery in their neighbourhoods and warning the community when necessary.

Chintan's work impacted the NCR's environment in numerous positive ways. By fostering understanding in communities around climate change, providing climate relief through targeted retrofitting, introducing accessible sustainable practices such as composting to households, and helping them formalise and innovate waste disposal around the city, Chintan has helped mitigate the adverse effects of emissions, as well as helped reduce them in a time where the NCR is becoming increasingly metropolitan and high-consumption.

Grass Roots Chronicle #02:

Banking on Plates for a Clean World:

How Adamya Chethana, a Bengaluru based non-profit NGO helps address climate change and environmental sustainability with its Plate Bank Service.

Acsah H



***Acsah H**, a postgraduate student at the Manipal Institute of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, MAHE, documented the work of **Adamya Chethana**, a Bengaluru-based non-profit organisation.*

This note examines how Adamya Chethana has addressed environmental sustainability through its Plate Bank initiative, a community-based model that promotes the use of reusable steel cutlery to reduce plastic waste generated during public and private events. It also highlights how simple, locally driven initiatives can contribute to waste reduction, resource efficiency, and broader climate action by encouraging sustainable consumption and everyday behavioural change.

When there is an event being organised with food arranged, it is common to assume that the food items will be served in disposable plates and cups. But how often do we think about the harm it causes to our environment with the amount of waste that gets generated through it?

Adamya Chethana is known for its Mid-day meals initiative through its massive, zero-garbage "Green Kitchens" that cook without LPG or any form of fossil fuels. Serving healthy and nutritious food for over two lakh children from underprivileged schools across Bengaluru and other cities. "From kitchen to Dining," this is how their idea to start the Plate Bank emerged. Having made significant progress in their Green Kitchen initiative, the next step forward aimed at reducing the waste generated from the use of disposables during events. The concept originally took shape during the wedding of

the founder's daughter, Aishwarya, where, instead of renting or buying disposables, they purchased over 10,000 sets of steel utensils. Following the wedding, India's first free-to-borrow steel cutlery bank was established, allowing utensils to be loaned for public and private events. The initiative was created to ensure that the cutlery purchased for the wedding would continue to serve a meaningful purpose.

The Plate Bank initiative started in early 2016 and is currently getting over three to four enquiries on a daily basis, reflecting its popularity among the population. While this initiative helps with environmental sustainability, it also provides people with a cost-efficient way to conduct huge events with less waste production. The initiative spreads across the nation with around 29 plate banks placed in different locations; some of these plate banks are collaborations that have expressed their interest in establishing a plate bank in their locality. Adamya Chethana has actively been helping other organisations, NGO's and communities by sharing its expertise, models and infrastructure that are required for setting up a Plate Bank. The initiative, however, works on a few rules, including a 10 per cent security deposit of the cost of items that has to be paid before renting the utensils.

Overall, this initiative allows people to organise events that are plastic waste-free and gives satisfaction on a personal level by being able to generate less waste, which, in a way, helps reduce harm to wildlife and the environment

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Grass Roots Chronicle #03:

Lakeika: Breathing Life Back into Puttenahalli

Inside Usha Rajagopalan's commendable efforts in restoring the Puttenahalli Lake through community mobilisation, effective policy framing and conservation initiatives

Ada Khan



***Ada Khan**, an Undergraduate student at Department of Political Science, Public Policy, Media Studies at Mount Carmel College, Bengaluru, documented the work of the **Puttenahalli Neighbourhood Lake Improvement Trust (PNLIT)** and its founder, **Usha Rajagopalan**.*

This note examines how citizen mobilisation transformed the restoration of Puttenahalli Lake from a local environmental concern into one of Bengaluru's most recognised community-led conservation initiatives. It highlights how sustained civic engagement, partnerships with public institutions, and ecological restoration efforts contributed to improving urban biodiversity, strengthening water conservation, and inspiring similar lake restoration initiatives across the city.

The Puttenahalli Lake in Jayanagar was once an abode for bird watching but over the years due to neglect and lack of maintenance led to silt and debris accumulation and the condition deteriorated. Usha Rajagopalan, author turned environmentalist hailing from Kerala when shifted to Bengaluru in 2006 was taken aback by the condition of Puttenahalli Lake. Her monumental efforts led to PNLIT becoming one of Bengaluru's active lake restoration groups who continues to fight for environmental justice and security.

Usha Rajagopalan initially raised concerns about debris accumulation, sewage inflow, and eutrophication in the lake by

approaching authorities, community groups, and media houses. When these efforts proved ineffective, she mobilised local residents and formed the Puttenahalli Neighbourhood Lake Improvement Trust. With support from the Agenda for Bengaluru Infrastructure and Development Task Force, PNLIT approached the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike to be officially recognised as a lake restoration group.

"Today, Puttenahalli Lake isn't just a water body - it's a sanctuary."

In 2010, PNLIT signed an MoU with the BBMP and began rejuvenation efforts. The group raised Rs 48,000 to divert sewage underground so rainwater could refill the lake. When the lake failed to fill completely during the first monsoon, PNLIT collaborated with CSR initiatives, the BBMP, and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board to harvest runoff water and bring treated water from a sewage plant. Residents actively participated in restoration activities, including cleaning pathways, de-weeding, introducing technological solutions with expert assistance, and supplying weeds for handicrafts made by women. The group also successfully banned idol immersion in public lakes.

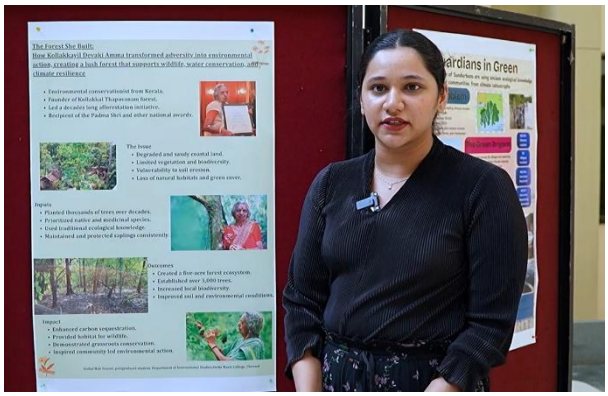
Their efforts culminated in the lake overflowing for the first time on July 27, 2016. Rajagopalan has consistently stressed the need to protect urban green and blue spaces, arguing that development should be planned rather than haphazard. She believes citizen groups become essential when governments lack manpower or initiative. PNLIT also campaigned against slum settlements near the lake, claiming untreated waste and dumping harmed water quality and biodiversity, and approached the High Court, Slum Board, BBMP, and BDA seeking relocation of these settlements. According to the trust's official website, from July 2025 onward, PNLIT no longer directly maintains the lake due to BBMP directives, though the trust continues environmental and awareness activities. However their efforts and community-based participation has inspired several other lake restoration groups of Bengaluru such as Lakes of Friends, Jalaposhan and more. Rajagopalan continues to be a champion for environmental advocacy and conservation and her philosophy isn't just about preserving lakes but making them thrive. Under her leadership, PNLIT planted trees, built gardens, installed aerators, and created floating islands of biofilters. Today, Puttenahalli Lake isn't just a water body—it's a sanctuary.

Grass Roots Chronicle #04:

The Forest She Built:

How Kollakkayil Devaki Amma transformed adversity into environmental action, creating a lush forest that supports wildlife, water conservation, and climate resilience

Aishal Hab Yousuf



Aishal Hab Yousuf**, a postgraduate student in the Department of International Studies at Stella Maris College, Chennai, documented the environmental conservation efforts of **Kollakkayil Devaki Amma.

This note examines how Kollakkayil Devaki Amma transformed degraded coastal land in Kerala into a thriving forest ecosystem through sustained afforestation and environmental stewardship. It highlights how long-term individual action can contribute to biodiversity conservation, water retention, carbon sequestration, and climate resilience, while demonstrating the role of community-inspired environmental leadership in restoring fragile ecosystems.

Kollakkayil Devaki Amma is an environmental conservationist from Alappuzha district, Kerala. Her dedication over the decades is testament to the fact that even initiatives led by individuals can play a role in ecological restoration. Over the years, she transformed around five acres of degraded coastal land into a forest ecosystem named as “Kollakkal Thapovanam.” Her sustained efforts have contributed to the conservation of biodiversity, environment sustainability which was recognised at both the state and national level.

The land at the coastal region from where Devaki Amma hails is usually characterised as sandy and infertile with a limited tree cover. The landscape is vulnerable to soil degradation and declining groundwater retention which increases its vulnerability to environmental stressors. During the later part of the twentieth century, akin to other parts of the country Kerala too had experienced unsustainable urbanisation and a loss of natural vegetation. The absence of the natural vegetation led to an ecological imbalance which in turn resulted in reduced habitat for indigenous flora and fauna.

A road accident in 1980, restricted Amma to continue with conventional agricultural activities and this turned toward environmental restoration. Rather than leaving the land unused, she identified the concept of afforestation as a means to ameliorate its condition. The focal point of Devaki Amma’s much needed intervention was the gradual establishment of a forest ecosystem through sustained tree planting and land stewardship. Her approach centred around the cultivation of diverse species including native, fruit bearing, shade giving, and medicinal plants.

Along with planting trees, the other activities undertaken by her were inclusive of protecting saplings, water conservation and continuous maintenance of the site. Her methods were relied on local resources and conventional knowledge rather than high dependence on technology or capital. Through consistency the area has gradually developed into a dense self-sustaining green space.

Devaki Amma’s work and its impact have stretched beyond the immediate advantage of afforestation. Her initiative is a testament to the fact that long term environmental protection can also be pioneered at an individual level. The forest consistently contributes to carbon sequestration, preservation of local habitat, and the regulation of local climate. In addition to this her initiative highlights the pertinence of conserving biodiversity in anthropocentric landscapes. She gained national recognition through Nari Shakti Puraskar, the Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Award, and the Padma Shri.

Grass Roots Chronicle #05:

The Forests That Refused to Fall:

Inside Alok Shukla's decades-long fight to protect Hasdeo Aranya and the communities whose future is tied to its survival

Anshika Thakur



***Anshika Thakur**, an undergraduate student in the Department of History, Economics, and Political Science at Mount Carmel College, Bengaluru, documented the environmental advocacy and community mobilisation led by **Alok Shukla** in the Hasdeo Aranya region of Chhattisgarh.*

This note examines how Alok Shukla and the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan have worked alongside indigenous communities to protect the ecologically significant Hasdeo Aranya forests from large-scale coal mining. It highlights how grassroots mobilisation, democratic participation, and legal advocacy have contributed to advancing environmental justice, safeguarding forest ecosystems, and strengthening community-led conservation in one of India's most contested forest landscapes.

As the Convenor of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan (Save Chhattisgarh Movement), Alok Shukla, has spent more than 25 years working on issues related to forests, land rights, mining, and environmental justice. His work is most closely associated with the Hasdeo Aranya movement, one of India's largest and longest-running community-led environmental campaigns.

Hasdeo Aranya, spread across approximately 170,000 hectares of dense forest in northern Chhattisgarh, is often referred to as the "lungs of Chhattisgarh." The region contains rich biodiversity, serves as an important elephant corridor, and supports the livelihoods of thousands of Adivasi families, particularly the Gond, Oraon, and other indigenous communities. At the same time, the area sits atop an estimated 5 billion tonnes of coal reserves, making it a major target for mining expansion. Since the early 2010s, proposals for 24 coal blocks threatened large-scale deforestation, displacement, and ecological degradation across the region. Shukla emerged as one of the key organisers of resistance to these projects, helping mobilise village communities, gram sabhas, and civil society groups across the forest belt. Under his leadership, communities organised a 300-kilometre padyatra through Hasdeo Aranya, drawing national attention to the environmental and social consequences of mining. People associated with the movement have argued that sustained public mobilisation, legal interventions, and community resistance contributed to the cancellation, suspension, or delay of approximately 18 of the 24 proposed coal blocks in the region.

A central feature of Shukla's advocacy has been the emphasis on democratic participation and community consent. He has consistently argued that development decisions must respect constitutional protections for Scheduled Tribes and uphold the rights of local communities under laws such as the Forest Rights Act (2006) and the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA). In recognition of his efforts, Alok Shukla was awarded the 2025 Goldman Environmental Prize, often described as the world's most prestigious award for grassroots environmental activism. The award recognised not only his leadership but also the collective struggle of forest-dependent communities. His work has become a symbol of environmental justice, demonstrating how local communities can influence national debates on development, climate change, and resource governance.

Grass Roots Chronicle #06:

Roots, Rain & Renewal:

Inside Thuvakkam's efforts to cool Chennai through urban forests, harvest water sustainably, power schools and communities with solar energy, and uplift the city's most vulnerable

Avaneesh S



***Avaneesh S**, a postgraduate student in the Department of History, School of Social Sciences, Pondicherry University, documented the work of **Thuvakkam**, a Chennai-based non-governmental organisation.*

This note examines how Thuvakkam has addressed climate change through an integrated approach combining urban afforestation, water conservation, renewable energy, and community development initiatives. It highlights how locally driven interventions can strengthen climate resilience, restore degraded ecosystems, promote sustainable livelihoods, and improve environmental sustainability in rapidly urbanising regions.

Thuvakkam ("begining") is an NGO based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It was founded in 2014, and has a presence in over 8 states in India. The organization promotes sustainable ways of living, combats climate change by afforestation and tree maintenance campaigns, initiatives for water conservation, built solar farms for schools and communities, and helps the economically underprivileged, the special needs and differently-abled peoples. As climate heat, extreme weather events, water scarcity, and environmental loss increases, Thuvakkam seeks to address and mitigate these effects of climate change. Their core mission is to create awareness on various social issues, work towards a clean and green environment and enhance societal well-being. As such, they have taken up a number of initiatives to see through their mission, where they have built green environments, impart quality education and life skills to children, and work towards an equitable and just society.

One of their biggest programs is their afforestation campaign, where they have planted more than three lakh trees, which have created fifty plus forests, over 70 acres of green cover created, which has yielded 3,000+ tons of CO_2 being sequestered. They use the Miyawaki method of afforestation, which focuses on creating hyper-dense patches of native vegetation and trees, using a four-step process involving botanical research, soil enhancement, planting dense clusters of seeds, and regular maintenance. The Miyawaki method has yielded 10x faster growth in green growth, creating carbon sinks in a relatively short period of time. The biggest success comes from their Ford Butterfly forest near Taramani railway station, where a 2.3 acre of wasteland was converted to a lush green environment with over 44+ unique flora and fauna documented in just three years.

The organization has also taken up water conservation efforts, with their flagship project called as "Blue zone," where restoration of water catchment areas was key to support communities and ecosystems. The project aims to recharge groundwater, revive traditional water bodies, and build resilience against water scarcity. They have created over thirty-two crore liters of water storing capacities, 3.2 lakhs cubic meters of volume of water is created, and with over 22 water bodies rejuvenated.

Alongside mitigating the effects of climate change, they have also started community driven initiatives where they have created 25 livelihoods with creating bunk shops across three cities, which created lasting employment, nurture entrepreneurship, and promote financial independence through micro-financing, market linkages and self-help groups. This collaborative approach has enabled them to cut across different sectors of society, and take an active approach to mitigate the disastrous effects of climate change and economic inequality.

Grass Roots Chronicle #07:

The Students Who Heal the Soil and Study the Land:

Behind SAICE's community-driven push for land regeneration in Puducherry and what it means for ecological balance in integral education

Deb Dutta



***Deb Dutta**, a graduate of the Department of Political Science at the **Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education (SAICE)**, Puducherry, documented SAICE's approach to environmental education and ecological restoration.*

This note examines how SAICE integrates ecological restoration, environmental stewardship, and experiential learning into its philosophy of integral education. It highlights how engaging students in land regeneration, biodiversity observation, and sustainable agricultural practices cultivates environmental responsibility while strengthening ecological resilience and community participation.

Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education, SAICE, follows the integral education approach. It aims to incorporate five dimensions of human beings: the physical, the vital, the mental, the psychic, and the spiritual. The school's purpose is to develop your entire being, with the motive of study being the joy of learning. A constant focus on progress is stressed through a holistic approach. Students are enrolled from kindergarten to college. At a young age, students are often taken out for learning through outdoor activities. Whether it's a mere bird-gazing or a stroll in one of the lands, learning from one's experience is vital. SAICE ensures its students are aware of and are responsible for acting on emerging global issues.

The land was not merely studied; it served as a classroom. Nature and the surrounding waters were actively observed, and through careful listening and observation, environmental changes began to be noticed, such as the absence of certain birds around the lakes during particular times of the year. The questioning process of asking 'why' gave birth to intense curiosity and an intense desire to know about the surrounding environment in general. At these lakes, we would make efforts to recognize the types of birds that are present there and study their scientific names. In other words, instead of learning through conventional methods, one can learn the beauty of nature. As one grows older, focus expands to healing ecosystems. We were incredibly lucky to understand the physical labor of the harvest. Whether it was groundnut harvesting, picking cashews, or even working with manure to enrich the soil, with direct participation.

Through these sustainable practices, one can experience the difficulties and the sheer hard work that people in the fields go through every day. Having experienced it for themselves, they attain the ability to appreciate their work much more. In helping to restore the land, one gains a deeper understanding of ecological restoration in that it is not just about knowledge but also about putting into practice what one knows in order to change the degraded landscape.

The older children pass on the experience that they gained in previous years to the new children. This is a wonderful collaboration between students, teachers, and the SAICE community. Ecological restoration is more than just planting trees because there is so much more than what meets the eye, as it teaches a holistic approach to life based on interdependence, responsibilities, and nurturing of our environment. Remarkably, the same curious students who once observed nature are now learning how to take care of it.

Grass Roots Chronicle #08:

The Seeds of Change:

Inside VOICE Trust's *Sunday Agriculture School, where young people learn farming, seed conservation, and climate responsibility through hands-on experience*

Glynnis Winona B



***Glynnis Winona B**, an undergraduate student in the Department of International Relations, Peace Studies and Public Policy at St. Joseph's University, Bengaluru, documented the work of **VOICE Trust** and its Sunday Agriculture School.*

This note examines how VOICE Trust is strengthening climate resilience by reconnecting children and young people with sustainable agriculture, ecological knowledge, and environmental stewardship through its Sunday Agriculture School. It highlights how experiential learning, community participation, and the preservation of traditional farming practices can nurture climate-conscious citizens while supporting biodiversity conservation, food security, and sustainable rural livelihoods.

In many parts of Tamil Nadu, agriculture has shaped the way of living. It has been central to Tamil Nadu's rural life. Now, many young people in rural areas prefer to migrate in search of better opportunities, they resulted in a decline in farming knowledge being passed on to the next generation. There are growing concerns regarding the future of sustainable agriculture and environmental responsibility. Recognising this gradual shift, VOICE Trust launched the Sunday Agriculture School in 2020 to help children and youth connect with farming, nature, and climate responsibility. Through practical training and community participation, the initiative seeks to preserve traditional ecological knowledge while preparing a new generation to face challenges.

The VOICE Trust was founded in 1985 by A. Gregory and A. Jecintha. They have long worked with rural communities across Tamil Nadu. The organisation believes that environmental wellbeing and community development are closely linked. They also believe that sustainable solutions must emerge from local participation. During the COVID-19 lockdown, when schools remained closed and students spent more time online, the trust saw an opportunity to introduce young people to agriculture. In July 2020, the first batch of 35 students joined the Sunday Agriculture School in Siruganur. The programme offers training sessions to make students familiar with natural farming, home gardening, seed conservation and eco-friendly agricultural practices. Participants learn through working with the soil, plants and farming activities. Students learn to preserve native seeds, turn organic waste into manure, and how sustainable farming practices safeguard the environment and ensure food security. Climate awareness is a part of the programme, enabling participants to understand the connection between agriculture, biodiversity, water conservation and ecological sustainability.

> *"Today the Sunday Agriculture School is a programme which is trying to change perceptions about farming, revive ecological knowledge and encourage young people to see themselves as protectors of the environment."*

The initiative has continued to grow steadily since its launch. By April 2026, the Sunday Agriculture School had 717 children from 18 villages. Local farmers, parents and community networks also support the programme, creating an environment in which traditional knowledge can be sustained. Students are mentored by eco-farmers in the Iyarkai Velaan Inaiyam network who show how sustainable farming can be profitable as well as

environmentally friendly. The school is part of VOICE Trust's wider work on climate action and ecological restoration.

The organisation planted over 150,000 native trees through its Tree Planet movement to improve local ecosystems. It also manages hundreds of student environment clubs which encourage young people to participate in conservation activities and environmental awareness campaigns. Together these initiatives demonstrate the organisation's belief that environmental responsibility begins at the community level.

Today the Sunday Agriculture School is a programme which is trying to change perceptions about farming, revive ecological knowledge and encourage young people to see themselves as protectors of the environment. The work of VOICE Trust reflects how civil society organisations build climate resilience through education, participation and local action as climate change continues to affect rural communities.

Grass Roots Chronicle #09:

The Climate Classroom:

Parikrma Oxygen is India's first outdoor nature-based school, for children from urban slums - providing an education that is rooted in the living world

Madhura Meenakshi Tanikella



***Madhura Meenakshi Tanikella**, an undergraduate student in the Department of Political Science at Alliance University, Bengaluru, documented the work of the **Parikrma Humanity Foundation** and its nature-based learning initiative, **Parikrma Oxygen**.*

This note examines how Parikrma Oxygen is reimagining environmental education by integrating climate literacy, ecological restoration, and experiential learning into the school curriculum for children from underserved urban communities. It highlights how nature-based education can foster environmental stewardship, strengthen climate awareness, and equip young people with the knowledge and skills to become active participants in building a more sustainable future.

Parikrma Humanity Foundation is an organisation founded in Bengaluru that runs four schools and a junior college, providing free, English-medium education to more than 1500 students from over 94 urban slums across the city. The schools have one of the highest attendance rates in the country, with a drop-out rate of less than one per cent. The mission Parikrma embodies is "unleash the potential of under-served children, which will provide them with equal opportunities and make them valuable contributing members of our society" – one vertical of this mission is the ambitious project: Parikrma Oxygen. The students attending Parikrma are children of daily-wage workers earning less than INR 12,000 a month while supporting

families of around five people in 100 square feet of living space. These areas often lack running water and sanitation. Many children come from difficult family circumstances that affect their emotional stability. At school, they lack quality infrastructure and open space, as Parikrma schools operate from rented buildings close to the slums where students live. Parikrma Oxygen stands at the intersection of these challenges and the climate crisis.

Parikrma Oxygen is a school on 11.5 acres of donated land in Doddaballapur, on the outskirts of Bengaluru. It is India's first outdoor and nature-based school for children from underserved backgrounds. The school acts as a rotating residential school, where one cohort at a time comes for nature-based learning, outdoor activities, and environmental enquiry. The campus is designed to be solar-powered, zero-waste, and self-sustaining, with a food farm already underway.

The curriculum follows the government-prescribed state syllabus through fieldwork, experimentation, and hands-on projects; students build tent shelters, study flora and fauna, tend organic farms, and participate in ecological restoration. Oxygen also has specialised labs for environmental learning – the Breathe Lab for environmental ideation, the Think Lab for research on climate change and native species, and the Do Lab for pottery, bee farming, skill development and eco-entrepreneurship. More than 1000 native trees have been planted, contour trenches excavated, and lake restoration is underway.

The vision for Oxygen extends well beyond what has already been created. Ambitions for the future include creating a forest and dotting the land with micro-habitats, constructing classrooms under trees, building treehouses for birdwatching, establishing a small plastic recycling plant, creating a library of books and films on the environment, and building a campsite. In addition, a comprehensive environmental curriculum is being developed for children aged 5 to 18.

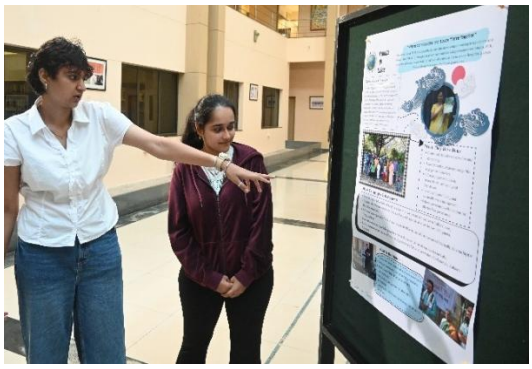
"Nature is the best teacher," "taking them back to the soil," and "to expand the notion of school" are just a few of the things that the founder and CEO of Parikrma Humanity Foundation said about the vision behind Oxygen. The aspiration to engage students not as passive recipients of environmental events and messaging, but as active researchers, stakeholders, and land stewards, reframes the relationship between underserved children, the climate crisis, and education.

Grass Roots Chronicle #10:

Friends of Lakes:

How Madhuri Subbarao is building a citizen movement to protect Bengaluru's lakes and secure the city's water future

Namrata L Ghanghatkar



***Namrata L. Ghanghatkar**, a postgraduate student in the Department of Public Policy at Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru, documented the work of **Friends of Lakes** and its co-founder, **Madhuri Subbarao**.*

This note examines how Friends of Lakes has mobilised citizens, communities, and public institutions to conserve Bengaluru's rapidly disappearing lake ecosystems. It highlights how community-led stewardship of urban water bodies can strengthen biodiversity conservation, improve water security, enhance groundwater recharge, and build climate resilience in one of India's fastest-growing metropolitan cities.

Madhuri Subbarao is an environmentalist, sustainability researcher and the co-founder of Friends of Lakes (FOL), a citizen led lake conservation network based in Bengaluru. With over two decades of experience in environmental management and sustainability, she witnessed the city's lakes gradually disappear under the pressures of rapid urbanisation, pollution and encroachment. Recognising that protecting Bengaluru's water bodies would require more than government intervention alone, she helped establish Friends of Lakes to bring citizens, communities and institutions together in the conservation of urban lakes. Over the years, the network has grown into one of the world's largest voluntary lake conservation movements, driven by the belief that communities must play an active role in protecting the ecosystems around them.

Bengaluru was once sustained by a network of interconnected lakes that supported groundwater recharge, biodiversity and water security. However, decades of unplanned development and untreated sewage have left many of these water bodies severely degraded. Through Friends of Lakes, Madhuri has worked to mobilise citizens across the city to become custodians of their local lakes. The network has supported conservation efforts across more than twenty lakes in Bengaluru, including initiatives around Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake, Jakkur Lake, Chalkere Lake, Hebbal Lake and Rachenahalli Lake. Its work includes raising awareness about lake pollution, advocating against encroachments, promoting community participation in lake management and encouraging dialogue between citizens and government agencies. Through workshops, campaigns, lake walks and public engagement programmes, Friends of Lakes has created a platform where residents can actively participate in protecting the city's water bodies.

These efforts have helped strengthen public awareness around Bengaluru's growing water crisis and the importance of preserving urban lake ecosystems. By encouraging citizens to engage with environmental issues at the local level, Friends of Lakes has contributed to greater community stewardship of lakes and wetlands across the city. The movement has also highlighted the role of lakes in groundwater recharge, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. Through community driven conservation, Madhuri Subbarao's work demonstrates how collective action can help safeguard urban ecosystems and secure a more sustainable water future for Bengaluru.

Grass Roots Chronicle #11:

Voices for a Changing Climate:

Inside Poovulagin Nanbargal's journey of inspiring climate awareness, defending ecological systems, and empowering communities to respond to environmental challenges in Tamil Nadu

Nithin V



***Nithin V**, a postgraduate student in the Department of International Relations at Loyola College, Chennai, documented the work of **Poovulagin Nanbargal**, a Chennai-based environmental organisation.*

This note examines how Poovulagin Nanbargal has promoted climate awareness, environmental justice, and ecological conservation through research, public engagement, and community advocacy across Tamil Nadu. It highlights how the organisation has connected scientific knowledge with grassroots action to strengthen public participation, defend vulnerable ecosystems, and encourage climate-responsive approaches to environmental governance and sustainable development.

Poovulagin Nanbargal (Friends of the Earth) is an environmental organisation based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Founded in 1988, it has spent more than three decades creating awareness about environmental issues, climate change, and sustainable development. Through education, research, advocacy, and community participation, the organisation works to promote ecological conservation, climate justice, and environmental responsibility.

Poovulagin Nanbargal has `supported` people to understand the ways in which climate change challenges such as increasing temperatures, extreme weather events, water scarcity, and loss of biodiversity get reflected in one's daily life. The organisation does not only see environmental protection as preserving nature but also as a subject of social justice. Climate change, according to the organisation, severely affects vulnerable groups like farmers, fishermen, and weaker economically communities. Their initiatives expose the interrelations between environmental pollution, people's health, sources of income, and the general welfare of the human race.

Environmental education and climate awareness have been the major targets of the organisation. In order to raise the environmental sustainability consciousness of the general public, it organises workshops, seminars, public lectures, documentary screenings, and community outreach programmes. Through the publication of books, reports, and other educational materials in Tamil, the centre puts environmental knowledge within the reach of students, youth, and local communities. Its magazine, "Poovulagu, " has emerged as a significant forum for debate and information-sharing on environmental and climate-related issues.

Poovulagin Nanbargal has also been involved in several environmental campaigns across Tamil Nadu. In the process, Poovulagin Nanbargal has become locally rooted environmental watchdog group for Tamil community. Recently, the organisation focused on saving Ennore wetlands by spreading the message that these wetlands can be a good source of biodiversity, flood management and, climate change adaptation. It has also supported several environmental justice efforts including, the Sterlite Prohibition in Thoothukudi and at the same time, it has raised the voice against the projects of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, Neduvasal Hydrocarbon Project, and methane production in the Cauvery Delta. In this way, the organizations constantly defends nature, advocating for green solutions.

Furthermore, community participation is also a major element of the organisation's work. Through constant outreach, it is able to connect with various segments of society, such as schools, colleges, volunteers, researchers, farmers, fishermen, and local

communities. In order to raise awareness about environmental responsibility and climate action by means of scientific knowledge mixed with grassroots experiences and local environmental challenges, it builds up networks across different sections of society. People's growing consciousness of the environment and their participation in climate and nature discussions underscore the impact the Poovulagin Nanbargal. The organisation through awareness programmes, advocacy, research and community has made a significant contribution to environmental protection and climate resilience in Tamil Nadu.

Grass Roots Chronicle #12:

Guardians in Green:

How the women of Sundarbans are using ancient ecological knowledge to protect their communities from climate catastrophe

Priyanka Makhijani



***Priyanka Makhijani**, a postgraduate student in the Department of Public Policy at Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru, documented the community-led mangrove restoration efforts of the **Nature Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS)** in the **Sundarbans**.*

This note examines how women-led community groups in the Sundarbans are restoring mangrove ecosystems to strengthen climate resilience, protect vulnerable coastal communities, and support sustainable livelihoods. It highlights how indigenous ecological knowledge, collective action, and participatory conservation have transformed local communities from climate-vulnerable populations into active custodians of one of the world's most fragile coastal ecosystems.

In the Cyclone Capital of India, Sundarbans of West Bengal, where rising seas, tidal surges, and extreme weather events are increasingly threatening the lives and livelihood, a remarkable story of resilience is unfolding. The place has witnessed devastating disasters such as Cyclone Aila (2009), Amphan (2020) and Yaas (2021). These events destroyed their homes, damaged farmlands, contaminated freshwater sources, and pushed vulnerable communities deeper into poverty. Despite these challenges, thousands of women have emerged as leaders in climate adaptation and environmental restoration.

More than 18000 women across 50 villages are organised into Badabon Farmer Interest Groups (BFIGs), supported by Nature Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS) have restored over 46000 hectares of degraded coastline and riverbanks. Many of them are widows, landless laborers, or from marginalised communities. Once

considered as primary victims of climate disaster and today they are recognised as guardian of the Sundarbans ecosystem. These women know precisely where mangroves will take root, which species thrives in which soils, and how to care for them through tidal cycles. They are using this local ecological knowledge to restore the mangroves. The uniform, green saree has now become an emblem of collective strength across the delta.

The impact of this can be seen during the cyclones Amphan and Yaas, where mangroves were restored, and the embankments remained intact. But in a nearby village without the green shield suffered devastating breaches. What started as only tree planting is now a living, community- built defense system which is protecting both people and the biodiversity. Furthermore, every village has its own Mangrove Monitoring Committee, who ensures participatory decision making and budgeting. Also, from this they are having new income source from crab farming, honey production and nursery work. The success of this model has inspired the Government of West Bengal. They have adopted this model in large scale mangrove restoration, covering over 4200 hectares across 217 sites using the model first developed by NEWS and the women of the Sundarbans.

In the recent update from NEWS, Banadebi Badabon Interest Group (BFIG) is strengthening mangrove recovery with the support of @SNFGIndiaCredit programme. They have planted 12000 saplings in 2 hectares and replantation led to survival improving from 51per cent to 134per cent which also includes natural regeneration. They have a monthly monitoring going on which monitors ecological risks. NEWS aims at expanding this to more than 25000 women and scale up this model of community- driven restoration and climate adaptation. For the women of Sundarbans, the work is personal. Madhumita Bag from Buraburir Tat village said that “If we plant, protect, and care for these mangroves together, we’ll have an umbrella shielding us all.”

Grass Roots Chronicle #13:

The Women Who Salt the Earth and Harness the Sun:

Inside SEWA's decade-long effort to replace diesel with solar in the Little Rann of Kutch and what it means for climate justice in India's informal economy

Radhika M Agarwal



***Radhika M. Agarwal**, a postgraduate student in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhinagar, documented the work of the **Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)** among salt workers in the Little Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.*

This note examines how SEWA has strengthened the livelihoods and climate resilience of Agariya salt workers by facilitating the transition from diesel-powered salt production to solar energy. It highlights how clean energy, women's collective action, and community-based financial models have reduced production costs, improved livelihood security, and advanced climate justice for one of India's most marginalised informal worker communities.

Every October, tens of thousands of agariya families pack what little they own and migrate to the Rann of Kutch, where they will spend the next eight months harvesting India’s salt. There is no running water, no electricity, no school for the children, no address to speak of. The women wake before dawn, eat a Bajri roti and wade straight into the brine, raking, tamping, monitoring, repairing until the stars come out.

India produces roughly 30 million tonnes of salt a year, and Gujarat accounts for nearly 70 per cent of it. The agariyas are behind every grain, and largely remain unknown to the world outside. For decades, what made this truly crushing was not just the heat or the isolation: it was diesel. The pumps that drew brackish water from underground

wells ran on diesel. Fuel costs ate up nearly 70 per cent of what it cost to produce salt. After eight months of labour skin cracked, lungs blackened by fumes, children raised on open flats, a family would clear perhaps around rupees 35,000 to 40,000. Then came the repayment of the advance loan they had taken at the season's start. What remained was barely enough to survive the summer. The next October, they would borrow again.

Into this cycle stepped SEWA-the Self-Employed Women's Association. Founded in 1972 by Lt. Ela Bhatt, on the belief that women in India's informal economy deserved a life of dignity and a seat at the table. SEWA saw them all as workers and not charity cases. By 1990s, SEWA organizers were sitting with the Agariya women on salt flats and what they heard was not just poverty but a story of invisible labour propping up a very visible industry. SEWA spent years documenting these lives, giving the Agariyas a paper existence.

In 2012, they formed the Grassroots Trading Network for women to tackle the diesel problem. Their question was: What if these women owned the energy that powered their work. In 2013, they started with just 14 solar pumps, which then turned into a fully blown financing model, inviting NABARD, Bank of Baroda and engineers from MIT refining the pump design for desert conditions. What began as a pilot became a movement, and by 2022 thousands of families made the switch. The Agariyas still live on the salt flats. The conditions are still hard. But for the first time in generations, the sun is not just something to endure. It is something they own.

Grass Roots Chronicle #14:

Every disaster predicted, Every community ready:

How SEEDS is combining technology, community preparedness, and resilient infrastructure to reduce disaster risk in India

Rakshitha B



***Rakshitha B**, a graduate in Political Science and Economics from Mount Carmel College, Bengaluru, documented the work of the **Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS)**.*

This note examines how SEEDS has strengthened disaster preparedness and climate resilience by combining community-based capacity building with technological innovation, including AI-powered early warning systems and risk mapping. It highlights how investing in preparedness, resilient infrastructure, and local response capabilities has enabled vulnerable communities across India to better anticipate, withstand, and recover from climate-related disasters.

In 1994, two urban planners, Dr Anshu Sharma and Dr Manu Gupta, asked a deceptively simple question: "Why do the people most affected by disasters often receive the least help?" Instead of easier careers, they chose to work directly with communities that needed them most. That choice became SEEDS - Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society. Thirty years on, that founding question still drives everything the organisation does. SEEDS works with those who are most easily overlooked: daily-wage workers, fishermen, widows, farmers, and families in remote villages. These communities are usually the first to suffer when disaster strikes and the last to recover. Climate change has made this gap even wider. Take Jasavanta Ram, a construction worker from Barmer, Rajasthan. When Cyclone Biparjoy struck, floodwater destroyed everything his family owned. The organization stepped in not just

to rebuild what was lost, but to help the family recover in a way that made them safer and more prepared for the future.

Most disaster relief organisations focus on the emergency itself. However, it goes further in three important ways: Skills over structures, SEEDS rebuilds homes and schools with better safety features while training local people to respond effectively when the next disaster comes. Technology that reaches the last mile, through its Sunny Lives programme, SEEDS uses satellite imagery and machine learning to identify at-risk households. Warnings go out in local languages up to two days before a disaster strikes.

SEEDS' work has been recognised at the highest levels: United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction (2022), one of the most prestigious global honours in the field. Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar (2021), India's highest honour for disaster management. CNN-IBN Indian of the Year, Public Service (2010), for rebuilding homes after the Leh-Ladakh cloudburst. World Economic Forum: Top 50 COVID-19 Last-Mile Responders in India (2021). UNDRR Sendai Target Champion (2016), for contributions to reducing disaster mortality. The numbers are significant as SEEDS has reached more than one crore people. Over 22 lakhs have received disaster preparedness training. More than 47 lakhs have gained access to food, clean water, and hygiene support. The organisation has built or restored over 63,000 shelters and 670 schools across India and Nepal. Behind every number is a real person, a family returned to a safe home, a child back in school, a community that now faces the future with greater confidence.

SEEDS continues to work towards a future where no one is left behind because of where they live or how much they earn. Their message is straightforward: support should not end when a disaster is over. Real change happens when people are given the tools, knowledge, and confidence to rebuild their lives and be ready for whatever comes next.

Grass Roots Chronicle #15:

Climate Justice from the Ground Up

How Waatavaran is advancing community-based climate action in Maharashtra

Siddhi Halyur



***Siddhi Halyur**, an undergraduate student in the Department of International Relations, Peace Studies and Public Policy at St. Joseph's University, Bengaluru, documented the work of **Waatavaran**, a Mumbai-based environmental organisation.*

This note examines how Waatavaran is advancing climate justice by strengthening climate-resilient livelihoods, protecting biodiversity, improving air quality, and supporting community-led environmental governance. It highlights how addressing climate change requires integrating ecological conservation with social equity, ensuring that communities most vulnerable to environmental change are central to climate adaptation and sustainable development.

Waatavaran is a Mumbai based environmental organisation that works towards climate justice, environmental protection and community-based climate action. Their main idea is that climate change does not impact everyone equally. Some communities bear the brunt of climate change due to disparities in income, location and in social hierarchy. Majority of these communities have their life dependant on land, forest and water. Their life is directly connected to nature which makes them incredibly susceptible to changes happening around them. Through the interview Shravani Mangeshkar, the Biodiversity and Documentation Coordinator at Waatavaran, we can see that the organisation works at both community and policy levels. The organisation works with communities such as Kathkari and Thakar communities who often face problems like unstable income, daily wage dependency and migration. Since 2018, Waatavaran has worked with 15 villages.

In one tribal village, migration has reduced to zero because of the organization's support. Earlier, around 15 to 20 families from that village used to migrate to states like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, or Telangana for sugarcane cutting and daily wage work. They would leave their village for almost 8 to 9 months and return only during the rainy season to cultivate rice. Now, they are able to stay in their village, grow crops, collect forest produce, and earn locally. This connects to Waatavaran's initiative called Climate Resilient Livelihoods. Through this initiative, Waatavaran helps communities build stable and dignified livelihoods. Instead of depending only on migration and uncertain daily wages, people are supported through natural farming, kitchen gardens, forest produce collection, and local income generation. The communities have also established 60 vermicompost pits, which have become an additional source of income. Another major focus is Clean Air for All.

Waatavaran has used air quality monitoring machines in different parts of cities and collected air pollution data for several years. The organization has also worked with institutions such as the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, the Climate Action Cell, and the State Transport Commissioner. One powerful campaign was the lung billboard campaign, where a billboard changed color over time to show how pollution affects human lungs.
Waatavaran also focuses on Biodiversity by the Bay, which protects Mumbai's wetlands, mangroves, coastlines, urban forests, and coastal ecosystems. These spaces are important because they reduce flooding, support biodiversity, absorb carbon, and protect ecological balance. The organization has also completed three Community Biodiversity Registers, documenting traditional knowledge, native crops, wild vegetables, and local biodiversity practices. Overall, Waatavaran's work shows that climate action is not only about planting trees or reducing pollution. It is also about people, livelihoods, health, rights, dignity, biodiversity, and justice.

Grass Roots Chronicle #16:

Hulimavu's Blue Revolution:

How Hulimavu Kere Tharanga, a community-led initiative, overcame a possible encroachment of their beloved Lake

Sreemaya Nair



***Sreemaya Nair**, a graduate in the Department of International Relations, Peace Studies and Public Policy at St. Joseph's University, Bengaluru, documented the work of **Hulimavu Kere Tharanga**, a community-led lake conservation initiative in Bengaluru.*

This note examines how Hulimavu Kere Tharanga has mobilised local residents to protect and restore Hulimavu Lake through conservation efforts, ecological restoration, and sustained community participation. It highlights how citizen-led action has helped address urban environmental challenges, safeguard lake ecosystems, and strengthen public engagement in protecting Bengaluru's shrinking water bodies.

The Hulimavu Lake, once a healthy water body, has now become a victim to modern urbanisation. The lake used to span approximately 150 acres, and was reduced to about 120 acres due to encroachments back in 2019 and has further reduced in area as of 2026. The unauthorised layouts and institutional structures disintegrated the lake's boundaries, reduced its buffer zones, which are crucial for flood control, groundwater recharge and overall environmental health. Sewage pollution, over-extraction of groundwater, and structural weaknesses due to a bund breach in 2019, which led to floods in up to 800 homes, are some of the major and concerning issues from a long list that the lake has faced.

The Hulimavu Kere Tharanga came into being as a non-profit, citizen volunteer group for the Hulimavu Lake back in 2017.

It dedicated itself to the restoration of the locality's beloved lake. They organise regular clean-up drives to remove waste, industrial debris, and plastic. They were involved in removing an invasive plant species called the Water Hyacinth, also known as the "Cursed Weed," and turned them into handmade paper and other eco-friendly products by partnering with another organisation called the Bluecat Paper. Volunteers from Hulimavu Kere Tharanga have also planted about 600 saplings around the lake's vicinity and have also documented the 141 bird species of the area. It was in 2019 that the group manually removed construction
debris and mud that was dumped into the lake and actively worked with government bodies to prevent the illegal immersion of idols during Ganesh Chaturthi or any other festival. They actively involve the youth in cleaning initiatives to spread environmental awareness.

HKT once successfully stopped an encroachment of almost half an acre of the lake by mobilising volunteers and putting a stop to it. They made sure to not only put a stop to it but also managed to get the party behind the encroachment to remove it, all without taking any legal action whatsoever. It was all possible through community engagement of unrelated people, but people who were all united in their thoughts and actions of saving Hulimavu Lake. The group have conducted music jams, yoga sessions and Sunday activities like "plogging," the act of picking litter while jogging, as a way to assemble the community every week.

Grass Roots Chronicle #17:

Empowering Communities for a Zero-Waste Tomorrow:

How the VISVA Sustainable Foundation is transforming events, public spaces, and everyday habits through sustainable practices and grassroots engagement

Yesasvi Koganti



***Yesasvi Koganti**, an undergraduate student in the Department of Political Science at Madras Christian College, Chennai, documented the work of the **VISVA Sustainable Foundation**, a Hyderabad-based environmental organisation.*

This note examines how the VISVA Sustainable Foundation is promoting sustainable consumption and waste reduction through community clean-up drives, zero-waste event management, environmental education, and citizen engagement. It highlights how grassroots participation, behavioural change, and circular waste management practices can reduce environmental pollution, divert waste from landfills, and contribute to more sustainable and climate-resilient urban communities.

The Volunteers for International Sustainability Value Achievements (VISVA) Foundation for sustainability is a Section 8 not-for-profit organization. The organization is dedicated to enhancing the relationship between the human race and the environment. Based in Hyderabad, the organization is run by a professional board of directors. It also has a diverse "Squad" of lead volunteers, including architects, IT specialists, and medical doctors.
This multi-disciplinary team oversees sustainability initiatives at every level, from grassroots lake cleanups to providing waste management consultancy at the top level. Their influence also reaches the cities where the "Outstation" drives are held, like Vizag, Vijayawada, and Eluru.

VISVA's main goal is to save the environment by educating and motivating people to live sustainably. They aim to promote minimal lifestyles, address plastic-related concerns, and professionally manage waste by visiting schools and other institutions. On a larger scale, the foundation wishes to revive water bodies and polluted areas through community cleanups and by using environmentally friendly restoration methods. Besides this, they want to develop leadership qualities in volunteers while following the "7 R's" strategy: "Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Refurbish, Pyrolysis, Recycle, and Incinerate" to ensure responsible use of resources.

VISVA has had tremendous environmental impact with its "Earth Needs You" (ENY) projects, running more than 708 cleanup projects and impacting over 225,000 people. Through these efforts, more than 50 tons of waste were removed, 20+ tons of which were recycled. In the realm of event management, the foundation has also successfully managed waste at numerous large-scale events, with more than 4,000 kgs of waste processed during the 2024 Hyderabad Marathon alone. They have also recorded 18 species of birds on biodiversity walks and given professional training to more than 28 "Safai Sathis" (sanitation workers) on sustainable waste practices.

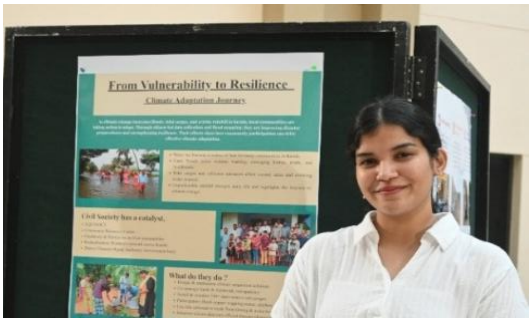
In addition, they are involved in "Zero Waste / Plastic-free Event Management" at events like marathons, festivals, and weddings. Through on-site segregation and recycling, they make sure that the trash is diverted from landfills. Alongside, their "Saaman" shop has products friendlier to the environment, including bamboo toothbrushes and bio-enzymes. They also offer a round-the-clock programme that includes biodiversity documentation, planting trees, and meditation for environmental harmony. As a civil society organization, VISVA thus contributes to climate activism by bridging individual awareness with systemic waste reduction.

Grass Roots Chronicle #18:

From Vulnerability to Resilience, Climate Adaptation Journey:

How communities are adapting to increasing floods, changing rainfall patterns, and environmental uncertainties

Urja. K



__Urja K__, a postgraduate student in the Department of Public Policy at Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru, documented community-led climate adaptation initiatives facilitated by __EQUINOCT__ in Kerala.

This note examines how communities in Kerala are strengthening climate resilience through citizen science, participatory flood mapping, and locally driven environmental monitoring. It highlights how collaboration between civil society organisations, local governments, and community members is improving disaster preparedness, strengthening climate adaptation, and enabling vulnerable communities to respond more effectively to increasing flood risks and environmental change.

Kerala is no stranger to water's dual role as a source of life and destruction. Kerala is lush green state known for its rivers and coastline in southern India. From flash floods and tidal surges to saline intrusion and erratic rainfall, the states communities face mounting risk from climate change. Citizens reflect to this climate change by transformative idea like community led data collection and participatory flood impact mapping, proving that when communities own data, they own the solution.

In recent years water began bringing fear, flash flood without warning, tidal surges swallowed roads, saltwater entering the wells and unpredictable rainfall. This made the community realise that climate change has now become part of their everyday

reality. Instead of waiting for outside help, people from Chalakudy and Periyar river basins and from coastal panchayats in Kerala decided to act on their own. The students, farmers, and fisher folk are using low cost, open source rain gauge to track rainfall across the region and are placed in school and public area, about 100 such device has been installed.

The community interprets trends, maps flood risk and work with local governments to prepare this together. This has led to tangible results like better disaster preparedness, and reduced loses. The civil society organization EQUINOCT works closely with the civil society and act as a catalyst at every step helping to design and implement solution.

"By turning ordinary citizens/ community into climate responders, Kerala's communities are proving that resilience is strongest when people themselves own the data, the decisions, and the solutions."

Further, organizations like the Community Resource Centre in Puthenvelikkara co-manage funds and fieldwork ensuring transparency, accountability, and local ownership. District disaster management authorities integrate citizen data into planning. The communities along the coastal villages started participatory flood impact mapping, documenting blocked access routes, vulnerable household, at risk culverts, canals and shelter, they also developed tide calendar which is used by 10,000 household to track flood timing and water level. Based on these mapping the local self-government is upgrading on lived experience rather than guesswork. This also shows how data collected by the community reshapes the government response, embedding inclusion, transparency.

Women from Kudumbashree groups led awareness campaigns and monitoring activities, while students learned scientific skills as citizen scientists. Even people with disabilities participated in data collection and tool design, ensuring that adaptation efforts remained inclusive and community-oriented. This community science model is now being piloted in the Chalakudy and Periyar basins and is set to expand across the Western Ghats and into India's coastal states, where floods and tidal surges increasingly threaten lives and livelihoods.

Thus, by turning ordinary citizens/ community into climate responders, Kerala's communities are proving that resilience is strongest when people themselves own the data, the decisions, and the solutions.

The above report was compiled by Sreemaya Nair, Yesasvi Koganti, and Madhura Meenakshi Tanikella.

Climate Change, Civil Society & Peace in South Asia Short Notes

Padmashree Anandhan

AFGHANISTAN

OCHA warns climate pressures continue to intensify across Afghanistan

On 28 June, 8AM Media reported that the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has warned that climate pressures across Afghanistan continue to intensify. Experts highlighted worsening droughts, water scarcity, land degradation, and extreme weather events that are increasingly affecting livelihoods, agriculture, and food security. The report noted that environmental challenges are compounded by economic hardship, humanitarian needs, and limited institutional capacity. Discussions focused on the need for international assistance, climate adaptation, and sustainable resource management to strengthen resilience among vulnerable communities. Analysts argued that climate change has become a major humanitarian challenge that requires long-term development solutions alongside emergency relief. The article reflects growing international concern over Afghanistan's vulnerability to climate change and the importance of integrating environmental resilience into recovery efforts.
("OCHA: People across Afghanistan face increasing climate pressures," 8AM Media, 28 June 2026.)
https://8am.media/eng/ocha-people-across-afghanistan-face-increasing-climate-pressures/

Afghanistan highlights climate and environmental challenges

On 14 June, The Kabul Tribune reported renewed attention to Afghanistan's environmental vulnerabilities and climate-related challenges. Officials and experts highlighted concerns regarding drought, water scarcity, land degradation, and the growing impacts of extreme weather events on communities across the country. Discussions focused on the need for stronger adaptation measures, sustainable resource management, and enhanced international support to help vulnerable populations cope with environmental pressures. Experts noted that Afghanistan's climate challenges are compounded by economic difficulties and limited institutional capacity. Analysts stressed that resilience-building must become a core component of long-term recovery and development efforts. The report also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and climate-sensitive planning to reduce future risks. The article reflects increasing recognition of climate change as a significant humanitarian and development challenge for Afghanistan.
("Afghanistan addresses environmental and climate challenges," The Kabul Tribune, 14 June 2026.)
https://thekabultribune.com/en/0009377

UN highlights Afghanistan's growing climate vulnerability

On 4 June, Kabul Now reported that United Nations officials used World Environment Day to draw attention to Afghanistan's increasing climate vulnerability. Experts warned that droughts, water scarcity, land degradation, and extreme weather events continue to threaten livelihoods and food security across the country. Afghanistan contributes minimally to global emissions yet remains highly exposed to climate-related risks. Discussions highlighted the need for stronger adaptation measures, sustainable resource management, and international support to help communities cope with environmental challenges. Analysts noted that climate vulnerability intersects with economic hardship and humanitarian needs, creating complex resilience challenges. The report reflects

growing international concern regarding the environmental dimensions of Afghanistan's development and recovery efforts. Climate adaptation is increasingly viewed as essential for long-term stability and human security.
("UN highlights Afghanistan's growing climate vulnerability," Kabul Now, 4 June 2026)
https://kabulnow.com/2026/06/un-highlights-afghanistans-growing-climate-vulnerability-on-world-environment-day/

Afghanistan emphasises environmental protection and climate cooperation
On 4 June, The Kabul Tribune reported renewed calls for stronger environmental protection measures and international cooperation to address Afghanistan's climate challenges. Officials and experts highlighted concerns regarding drought, water shortages, environmental degradation, and increasing climate-related risks affecting vulnerable communities. Discussions focused on strengthening climate adaptation efforts, promoting sustainable resource management, and improving resilience against future environmental shocks. Experts noted that Afghanistan faces unique challenges due to its combination of environmental vulnerability, limited resources, and ongoing socio-economic pressures. The report also emphasised the importance of regional and international partnerships in supporting climate action initiatives. Analysts argued that environmental sustainability must become a core component of long-term recovery and development strategies. The article reflects broader recognition that climate resilience and environmental governance are increasingly important priorities for Afghanistan.
("Afghanistan highlights environmental and climate challenges," The Kabul Tribune, 4 June 2026)
https://www.thekabultribune.com/en/0009138

Water scarcity remains central to Afghanistan's climate crisis
On 4 June 2026, Afghanistan Analysts Network continued highlighting the relationship between water scarcity, climate change, and human security through its ongoing environmental dossier. Experts noted that prolonged droughts, declining water availability, and environmental degradation increasingly threaten agriculture, livelihoods, and food security. Water stress is emerging as one of Afghanistan's most significant climate-related challenges, affecting both rural and urban populations. Discussions focused on the need for sustainable water governance, adaptation planning, and investment in climate-resilient infrastructure. Analysts warned that environmental pressures may contribute to displacement, economic hardship, and social instability if left unaddressed. The report reflects growing awareness that water security is inseparable from climate resilience and long-term development planning. Addressing water-related vulnerabilities remains critical for Afghanistan's future sustainability.
("Water, climate and survival in Afghanistan," Afghanistan Analysts Network, 4 June 2026.
https://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/en/dossiers/water-climate-and-survival-in-afghanistan-a-dossier-of-reports-on-the-environment/)

BANGLADESH

UN Women highlights importance of women's leadership in climate action
On 29 June, Climate Watch reported that a UN Women workshop in Bangladesh emphasised the need to place women at the centre of climate response strategies. Experts noted that women often bear disproportionate impacts from climate-related disasters while simultaneously playing leading roles in household resilience, resource management, and community adaptation. Discussions focused on expanding women's participation in climate governance, strengthening leadership opportunities, and improving access to climate finance and decision-making processes. Participants argued that gender-responsive climate policies produce more equitable and effective adaptation outcomes. Analysts stressed that

empowering women is not only a matter of social justice but also a practical strategy for strengthening resilience against climate risks. The workshop reflects growing international recognition that inclusive governance and gender equality are essential components of successful climate adaptation and sustainable development. ("Women must lead Bangladesh's climate response, UN Women workshop told," Climate Watch, 29 June 2026.) https://theclimatewatch.com/women-must-lead-bangladeshs-climate-response-un-women-workshop-told/

Bangladesh's budget reflects evolving climate policy priorities

On 29 June, The Daily Star analysed Bangladesh's FY2026–27 budget, highlighting its implications for climate resilience and sustainable development. Experts noted that the budget demonstrates increasing recognition of climate change as a central development challenge but questioned whether current financial allocations are sufficient to address future adaptation needs. Discussions focused on climate finance, disaster preparedness, resilient infrastructure, and institutional capacity. Analysts argued that climate expenditure should be fully integrated into national economic planning to ensure effective implementation and long-term resilience. While Bangladesh continues to receive international recognition for its climate leadership, experts stressed that stronger domestic financing and implementation mechanisms will be required to meet growing environmental challenges. The article reflects broader debates on aligning fiscal policy with climate adaptation objectives in highly vulnerable developing countries. ("What the FY2026–27 budget reveals about Bangladesh's climate priorities," The Daily Star, 29 June 2026.) https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/what-the-fy2026-27-budget-reveals-about-bangladeshs-climate-priorities-4202326

Women's leadership recognised as central to climate action

On 28 June, Dhaka Tribune reported that Bangladesh's government has reaffirmed the importance of women's leadership in addressing climate change and advancing sustainable development. Officials highlighted that women often play essential roles in community resilience, disaster preparedness, natural resource management, and household adaptation strategies. Discussions focused on expanding women's participation in climate governance, policymaking, and local decision-making processes. Experts noted that gender-responsive climate policies can improve adaptation outcomes while promoting social inclusion and equity. Analysts argued that empowering women through education, financial access, and leadership opportunities strengthens overall resilience against climate-related challenges. The report reflects growing international recognition that gender equality and climate resilience are closely interconnected. Bangladesh continues to emphasise inclusive approaches within its national climate and development agenda. Reference: "Minister: Women's leadership vital for climate action," Dhaka Tribune, 28 June 2026. https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/413815/minister-womens-leadership-vital-for

Bangladesh continues strengthening climate resilience initiatives

On 28 June, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) reported ongoing climate resilience initiatives aimed at strengthening adaptation, sustainable development, and environmental protection. Officials highlighted continued efforts to improve disaster preparedness, community resilience, and climate-sensitive development planning. Discussions focused on enhancing institutional coordination, promoting sustainable resource management, and expanding adaptation programmes in vulnerable regions. Experts noted that Bangladesh remains one of the countries most exposed to climate-related risks, including cyclones, flooding, sea-level rise, and salinity intrusion. Analysts argued that continued investment in resilience-building and effective implementation of climate policies will be essential for

protecting livelihoods and sustaining economic development. The report reflects Bangladesh's ongoing commitment to integrating climate adaptation into national and local development strategies while strengthening preparedness for future environmental challenges.
("Climate resilience initiatives continue across Bangladesh," BSS News, 28 June 2026.)
https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/400532

Bangladesh strengthens focus on climate resilience and adaptation
On 23 June, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) reported ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing climate resilience and sustainable development across Bangladesh. Officials and experts highlighted the importance of strengthening adaptation measures in response to growing threats from cyclones, floods, sea-level rise, and salinity intrusion. Discussions focused on climate finance, community resilience, environmental governance, and infrastructure development. Policymakers stressed that climate adaptation must remain central to national planning as environmental risks continue to intensify. Analysts noted that Bangladesh has gained international recognition for its adaptation efforts but continues to face significant implementation and financing challenges. The report reflects broader efforts to integrate climate resilience into economic planning and local development strategies. Strengthening institutional capacity and ensuring effective implementation remain key priorities for achieving long-term climate resilience goals.
("Climate resilience initiatives highlighted in Bangladesh," BSS News, 23 June 2026.)
https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/398915

Strong climate policies require stronger implementation
On 23 June, The Daily Star published an analysis arguing that Bangladesh possesses many strong climate-related policies and strategies but continues to face challenges in implementation. The article noted that the country has developed extensive frameworks addressing adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and climate resilience. However, experts highlighted gaps between policy commitments and practical outcomes at local and national levels. Discussions focused on institutional coordination, resource allocation, monitoring mechanisms, and governance challenges that affect implementation effectiveness. Analysts stressed that climate resilience depends not only on policy design but also on execution, accountability, and sustained investment. The article argued that bridging this implementation gap is essential for protecting vulnerable communities and safeguarding development gains. The report reflects a broader challenge faced by many developing countries where ambitious climate plans often encounter obstacles during implementation.
("Strong on paper, weak in practice," The Daily Star, 23 June 2026.)
https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/strong-paper-weak-practice-4204771

New conservation initiative launched for the Sundarbans
On 24 June, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) announced the launch of the Climate Resilient Integrated Sundarbans (CRIS) Project, marking a new phase in efforts to protect the Sundarbans ecosystem. The initiative seeks to strengthen biodiversity conservation, enhance climate resilience, and support sustainable livelihoods for communities dependent on the mangrove forest. Experts highlighted that the Sundarbans faces increasing threats from sea-level rise, salinity intrusion, cyclones, habitat degradation, and biodiversity loss. The project aims to integrate ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation, and community-based resource management into a comprehensive conservation framework. Discussions also emphasised the importance of cross-sector collaboration among government agencies, local communities, and international partners. Analysts noted that protecting the Sundarbans is critical not only for biodiversity conservation but also for

coastal protection and climate resilience. The initiative reflects growing recognition of nature-based solutions in addressing climate challenges.
("A new chapter in Sundarbans conservation begins with CRIS Project," IUCN, 24 June 2026.)
https://iucn.org/story/202606/new-chapter-sundarbans-conservation-begins-cris-project

Bangladesh calls for implementation of climate loss and damage funding
On 24 June, Anadolu Agency reported that Bangladesh's leadership renewed calls for the effective operationalisation of international climate loss and damage funding mechanisms. Officials stressed that vulnerable countries continue to experience severe economic and social impacts from climate-related disasters despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions. Discussions focused on ensuring timely access to financial resources that can support recovery, adaptation, and resilience-building efforts. Bangladesh highlighted the increasing frequency of floods, cyclones, salinity intrusion, and displacement affecting communities across the country. Experts argued that climate justice requires developed nations to fulfil financing commitments made under international climate agreements. Analysts noted that the Loss and Damage Fund remains one of the most closely watched developments in global climate governance. The report reflects broader demands from developing countries for greater accountability and support in addressing climate-induced losses.
("Bangladeshi premier seeks implementation of climate damage fund," Anadolu Agency, 24 June 2026.)
https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/bangladeshi-premier-seeks-implementation-of-climate-damage-fund/3976208

Bangladesh's climate governance challenged by implementation gaps
On 24 June, The Daily Star revisited concerns regarding the gap between Bangladesh's climate policies and their implementation. While the country has developed numerous climate strategies, adaptation plans, and resilience frameworks, experts argued that practical execution remains inconsistent. Discussions focused on institutional coordination, financing constraints, monitoring mechanisms, and administrative capacity. Analysts stressed that successful climate action depends not only on policy ambition but also on effective delivery and accountability. The article highlighted how implementation challenges can undermine resilience-building efforts, particularly for vulnerable communities facing increasing climate risks. Policymakers were encouraged to strengthen governance structures and improve coordination between national and local institutions. The report reflects a broader challenge across many climate-vulnerable countries where strong policy frameworks often struggle to translate into measurable outcomes on the ground.
("Strong on paper, weak in practice," The Daily Star, 24 June 2026)
http://thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/strong-paper-weak-practice-4204771

Bangladesh explores alternative habitats for climate-threatened tigers
On 20 June, Down To Earth reported that Bangladesh is exploring the Chittagong Hill Tracts as a potential refuge for wildlife as climate change increasingly threatens the Sundarbans ecosystem. Rising sea levels, salinity intrusion, cyclones, and habitat degradation pose growing risks to the world's largest mangrove forest and its iconic Bengal tiger population. Experts noted that climate change is reshaping conservation strategies by forcing policymakers to consider long-term habitat security and species migration. Discussions focused on balancing biodiversity protection with community interests and ecological sustainability. Analysts argued that conservation planning must increasingly account for future climate scenarios rather than relying solely on historical ecological conditions. The report highlights the growing intersection between

climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation across South Asia. Protecting ecosystems is increasingly viewed as a critical component of broader resilience-building efforts.
("As Sundarbans tigers face climate threats, Bangladesh looks to Chittagong Hill Tracts," Down To Earth, 20 June 2026.)
https://www.downtoearth.org.in/climate-change/as-sundarbans-tigers-face-climate-threats-bangladesh-looks-to-chittagong-hill-tracts

Budget analysis reveals Bangladesh's evolving climate priorities
On 20 June, The Daily Star analysed Bangladesh's FY2026–27 budget to assess the government's climate-related priorities and spending commitments. Experts noted that the budget reflects growing awareness of climate risks, but questions remain regarding whether allocations are sufficient to meet the country's adaptation needs. Discussions focused on climate finance, resilience-building investments, disaster preparedness, and sustainable infrastructure development. Analysts argued that climate considerations are increasingly being integrated into economic planning, reflecting the scale of environmental challenges facing Bangladesh. However, concerns were raised regarding implementation capacity and the adequacy of funding mechanisms. The article stressed the importance of aligning fiscal policy with long-term climate resilience objectives. The analysis reflects broader debates regarding how vulnerable countries can balance development ambitions with increasing adaptation and mitigation requirements.
("What the FY2026–27 budget reveals about Bangladesh's climate priorities," The Daily Star, 20 June 2026.)
https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/what-the-fy2026-27-budget-reveals-about-bangladeshs-climate-priorities-4202326

Women farmers strengthen resilience in Bangladesh's vulnerable coast
On 20 June, UNDP Bangladesh highlighted how women farmers in climate-vulnerable coastal regions are improving food security and livelihoods through climate-resilient agricultural practices. The initiative supports women in adopting adaptive farming techniques that help address challenges posed by salinity intrusion, flooding, and changing weather patterns. Experts noted that women often play critical roles in household resilience and local food systems while facing disproportionate climate impacts. Discussions emphasised the importance of gender-responsive adaptation strategies and access to resources, training, and financial support. Analysts argued that empowering women strengthens both social equity and climate resilience outcomes. The project demonstrates how locally driven adaptation initiatives can help communities cope with environmental change while improving economic opportunities. The report reflects increasing international recognition of the role of women in climate adaptation and sustainable development.
("In climate-vulnerable coast, women farmers cultivate more vegetables," UNDP Bangladesh, 20 June 2026.)
https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/news/climate-vulnerable-coast-women-farmers-cultivate-more-vegetables

Climate finance remains key challenge in Bangladesh's development planning
On 16 June, The Daily Star continued highlighting the need for stronger climate finance mechanisms within Bangladesh's FY2026–27 budget framework. Experts stressed that climate adaptation costs are rising as the country faces increasing risks from flooding, cyclones, sea-level rise, salinity intrusion, and displacement. The article argued that improved fiscal planning and dedicated climate allocations are necessary to strengthen resilience and protect development gains. Discussions focused on improving access to international climate finance while mobilising domestic resources more effectively. Analysts noted that climate finance should be mainstreamed into broader economic planning and investment strategies. The report reflects ongoing national debates regarding how Bangladesh

can secure adequate resources to meet growing adaptation needs. Climate finance remains central to the country's efforts to balance development ambitions with climate resilience objectives.
("How the FY2026–27 budget can bridge Bangladesh's climate finance gap," The Daily Star, 16 June 2026.)
https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/how-the-fy2026-27-budget-can-bridge-bangladeshs-climate-finance-gap-4194056

Climate action training programme gains international recognition
On 16 June, Daily Sun reported that a climate action training course in Bangladesh concluded successfully and received recognition from international experts. The programme focused on building awareness and capacity among participants regarding climate adaptation, environmental sustainability, and resilience-building strategies. Organisers highlighted the importance of education and skills development in strengthening responses to climate-related challenges. Experts noted that capacity-building initiatives can help create informed communities capable of supporting local adaptation efforts and sustainable development goals. Discussions also emphasised the need to engage youth and professionals in climate governance and environmental decision-making. Analysts argued that climate literacy and training programmes are increasingly important as climate risks become more complex. The recognition reflects Bangladesh's growing efforts to strengthen climate education and foster a more informed and resilient society.
("Training course on climate action concludes, gets recognised by global experts," Daily Sun, 16 June 2026.)
https://www.daily-sun.com/bangladesh/880616/training-course-on-climate-action-concludes-gets-recognised-by-global-experts

Experts call for placing women at the centre of climate adaptation
On 16 June, The Daily Star reported renewed calls to place women at the centre of Bangladesh's climate adaptation strategies. Experts highlighted that women are often disproportionately affected by climate-related disasters while simultaneously playing critical roles in household resilience, community adaptation, and sustainable resource management. Discussions focused on improving women's access to climate finance, decision-making processes, and adaptation resources. Analysts argued that gender-responsive climate policies can improve resilience outcomes while advancing broader development and equity objectives. The report emphasised that effective adaptation requires recognising women not merely as vulnerable populations but as active agents of change. Experts stressed the importance of integrating gender considerations into national climate policies and local adaptation programmes. The article reflects growing international recognition of the close links between climate resilience, social inclusion, and gender equality.
("Put women at the centre of climate adaptation," The Daily Star, 16 June 2026.)
https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/put-women-centre-climate-adaptation-4200781

Climate finance remains central challenge for Bangladesh's budget
On 14 June, The Daily Star continued discussions on how Bangladesh's FY2026–27 budget can address the country's growing climate finance requirements. Experts noted that adaptation costs are rising as climate change increases exposure to cyclones, floods, salinity intrusion, and sea-level rise. The article argued that stronger fiscal planning and dedicated climate allocations are necessary to maintain resilience and protect development gains. Discussions focused on improving access to international climate finance while strengthening domestic resource mobilisation mechanisms. Analysts stressed that climate investments should be integrated into broader economic planning frameworks rather than treated as isolated environmental expenditures. The report reflects ongoing debates regarding how vulnerable countries can secure adequate financing for adaptation and

resilience-building efforts. Climate finance continues to be viewed as a critical pillar of Bangladesh's long-term development strategy.
("How the FY2026–27 budget can bridge Bangladesh's climate finance gap," The Daily Star, 14 June 2026.)
https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/how-the-fy2026-27-budget-can-bridge-bangladeshs-climate-finance-gap-4194056

Local climate resilience initiatives gain momentum in Bangladesh
On 14 June, BSS News reported on local efforts aimed at strengthening climate resilience and sustainable development in Bangladesh. Community-level initiatives focused on environmental protection, adaptation planning, and livelihood resilience were highlighted as important components of the country's response to climate challenges. Experts noted that locally driven adaptation programmes often provide practical and context-specific solutions for vulnerable communities. Discussions emphasised the importance of integrating climate considerations into local governance, agricultural planning, and resource management. Analysts argued that grassroots resilience-building can complement national climate strategies and improve implementation outcomes. The report reflects Bangladesh's increasing emphasis on community participation and decentralised approaches to climate adaptation. Strengthening local resilience remains a key priority as environmental risks continue to affect communities across the country.
("Local climate resilience initiatives highlighted," BSS News, 14 June 2026.)
https://www.bssnews.net/district/395878

Budget reform essential for addressing Bangladesh's climate finance needs
On 12 June, The Daily Star argued that Bangladesh's FY2026–27 budget should play a central role in closing the country's growing climate finance gap. Experts noted that adaptation costs are increasing as the country faces rising threats from cyclones, floods, sea-level rise, salinity intrusion, and climate-induced displacement. The article highlighted the need for stronger fiscal planning, climate-sensitive budgeting, and improved coordination between government agencies. Analysts stressed that climate expenditure should be integrated into mainstream development strategies rather than treated as a separate policy area. Discussions also focused on leveraging international climate finance while strengthening domestic resource mobilisation. Policymakers were urged to improve transparency and accountability in climate-related spending to maximise impact. The commentary reflects broader concerns regarding how vulnerable developing countries can secure the financial resources necessary to support long-term resilience and sustainable development.
("How the FY2026–27 budget can bridge Bangladesh's climate finance gap," The Daily Star, 12 June 2026.)
https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/how-the-fy2026-27-budget-can-bridge-bangladeshs-climate-finance-gap-4194056

Opinion piece calls for stronger climate preparedness in Bangladesh
On 12 June, Prothom Alo published a commentary highlighting the urgency of strengthening Bangladesh's response to climate change. The article argued that climate impacts are becoming increasingly visible through rising temperatures, erratic weather patterns, river erosion, flooding, and coastal vulnerability. Experts stressed that adaptation planning must be prioritised across multiple sectors, including agriculture, infrastructure, education, and public health. The commentary also emphasised the importance of strengthening local governance and community participation in climate resilience initiatives. Analysts warned that delays in implementing adaptation measures could undermine development gains and increase future economic costs. Discussions focused on balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability and resilience-building. The article reflects ongoing debates within Bangladesh regarding the scale of climate risks and the policy

measures needed to address them effectively.
("Climate challenges and adaptation priorities," Prothom Alo, 12 June 2026.)
https://en.prothomalo.com/opinion/qtkb7e409a

Financial sector reform linked to resilience and investment climate
On 12 June, The Business Standard examined how reforms to Bangladesh's financial architecture could improve economic resilience, strengthen investor confidence, and support climate adaptation efforts. The article discussed proposed improvements in banking governance, tax administration, and financial regulation aimed at creating a more stable investment environment. Experts argued that climate resilience increasingly depends on access to efficient financial systems capable of supporting sustainable infrastructure, adaptation projects, and green investment initiatives. Discussions highlighted the importance of mobilising private capital alongside public resources to meet future climate and development challenges. Analysts noted that economic reforms can help create the conditions necessary for long-term resilience-building. The report reflects growing recognition that financial governance and climate adaptation are closely linked, particularly in countries facing significant environmental and developmental pressures.
("Fixing the financial architecture: A roadmap for Bangladesh," TBS News, 12 June 2026.)
https://www.tbsnews.net/thoughts/fixing-financial-architecture-roadmap-bangladeshs-banks-tax-system-and-investment-climate

Budget reforms needed to address Bangladesh's climate finance gap
On 10 June, The Daily Star argued that Bangladesh's upcoming fiscal budget presents an important opportunity to strengthen climate finance and resilience-building efforts. Experts noted that the country faces increasing adaptation costs due to floods, cyclones, sea-level rise, salinity intrusion, and other climate-related impacts. Discussions focused on improving budgetary allocations, strengthening institutional coordination, and creating mechanisms to attract additional climate finance from domestic and international sources. Analysts stressed that climate investments should be viewed as essential components of long-term development planning rather than discretionary expenditures. The article highlighted concerns that existing financial resources remain insufficient relative to the scale of future adaptation needs. Policymakers were encouraged to integrate climate considerations more systematically into fiscal policy and public investment decisions. The commentary reflects broader debates regarding sustainable financing for climate resilience.
("How the FY2026–27 budget can bridge Bangladesh's climate finance gap," The Daily Star, 10 June 2026)
https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/how-the-fy2026-27-budget-can-bridge-bangladeshs-climate-finance-gap-4194056

Bangladesh seeks to capitalise on climate action opportunities
On 10 June, The Business Standard reported that Bangladesh is increasingly exploring opportunities to leverage climate action for economic development and international engagement. Discussions focused on climate finance, carbon markets, renewable energy, sustainable investment, and resilience-building initiatives. Experts argued that climate action can generate economic opportunities while simultaneously addressing environmental risks. Policymakers highlighted the importance of positioning Bangladesh as a leader in climate adaptation and sustainability innovation among developing countries. Analysts noted that climate investments can support job creation, infrastructure development, and technological innovation if effectively implemented. The report reflects growing recognition that climate action should not be viewed solely as a cost but also as a potential driver of economic transformation. Bangladesh continues to seek pathways that align climate resilience with sustainable development objectives.
("Bangladesh seeks to capitalise on climate

action," TBS News, 10 June 2026)
https://www.tbsnews.net/features/panorama/sb64-bangladesh-seeks-capitalise-climate-action-1458216

Water scarcity raises fears of future conflict in Bangladesh

On 10 June, The Guardian reported on growing concerns among Bangladeshi farmers that worsening water shortages could intensify social tensions and competition over resources. Communities facing declining groundwater levels, prolonged drought conditions, and changing rainfall patterns described increasing difficulties in sustaining agricultural production. Experts noted that climate change is exacerbating water stress by altering hydrological cycles and increasing pressure on already limited resources. Farmers warned that continued water scarcity could threaten livelihoods, food security, and social cohesion. Discussions also highlighted concerns regarding transboundary water governance and the vulnerability of rural communities dependent on agriculture. Analysts stressed the importance of sustainable water management, adaptation planning, and regional cooperation to reduce future risks. The report reflects broader concerns about climate-induced resource insecurity across South Asia.
("Farmers struggle as wells run dry in Bangladesh," The Guardian, 10 June 2026)
https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2026/jun/09/i-fear-people-will-go-to-war-over-water-as-wells-run-dry-farmers-struggle-to-survive-in-bangladesh

Private sector engagement seen as crucial for Bangladesh's climate future

On 8 June, The Daily Star reported growing emphasis on the role of the private sector in supporting Bangladesh's climate resilience and sustainable development goals. Experts argued that achieving long-term adaptation and mitigation objectives will require greater investment from businesses alongside public and international financing. Discussions focused on climate-resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrial practices, renewable energy development, and environmental innovation. Participants noted that climate risks increasingly affect supply chains, economic productivity, and investment decisions, making resilience an important business concern. Analysts stressed that stronger public-private partnerships could help mobilise resources needed to address climate challenges. The report reflects wider international discussions regarding the role of private capital in supporting climate action. Bangladesh continues to explore ways of integrating climate resilience into broader economic and development planning.
("Leading Bangladesh's climate-resilient future," The Daily Star, 8 June 2026)
https://www.thedailystar.net/business/organisation-news/news/leading-bangladeshs-climate-resilient-future-4191206

Climate anxiety emerging as a growing mental health challenge

On 8 June, The Business Standard reported increasing concern among mental health professionals regarding the rise of climate anxiety in Bangladesh. Experts noted that growing awareness of environmental degradation, extreme weather events, and future climate risks is contributing to stress, uncertainty, and psychological distress among many individuals, particularly younger generations. Climate anxiety refers to emotional responses linked to concerns about environmental change and future ecological conditions. Discussions highlighted how repeated exposure to climate disasters, displacement, and environmental uncertainty can affect mental wellbeing alongside physical and economic security. Analysts stressed the importance of integrating mental health considerations into climate adaptation and resilience strategies. The report reflects broader global recognition that climate change has important psychological and social dimensions in addition to environmental impacts. Addressing mental health challenges is increasingly becoming part of comprehensive climate resilience planning.
("Climate anxiety and mental health crisis growing alongside global warming," TBS News, 8 June 2026)

https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/environment/climate-anxiety-mental-health-crisis-growing-alongside-global-warming-1454861

Commentary urges stronger climate preparedness in Bangladesh

On 8 June, Daily Sun published commentary arguing that Bangladesh must continue strengthening preparedness and resilience measures in response to escalating climate risks. The article highlighted the country's vulnerability to cyclones, floods, sea-level rise, salinity intrusion, and other environmental challenges linked to climate change. Experts stressed that adaptation planning should remain a priority across sectors including agriculture, infrastructure, water management, and disaster preparedness. Discussions also emphasised the importance of community participation, institutional coordination, and long-term policy commitment. Analysts argued that proactive investment in resilience often proves more cost-effective than responding to disasters after they occur. The commentary reflects ongoing national discussions regarding how Bangladesh can sustain development gains while managing increasing environmental uncertainty. Climate preparedness remains central to the country's long-term development strategy.
("Strengthening Bangladesh's climate preparedness," Daily Sun, 8 June 2026)
https://www.daily-sun.com/opinion/878855

Architecture and public spaces discussed through a climate-responsive lens

On 28 June, The Daily Star reported on a dialogue exploring how architecture, urban planning, and public spaces can contribute to climate resilience and sustainable development in Bangladesh. Participants discussed the importance of designing public spaces that respond to rising temperatures, flooding, and rapid urbanisation while promoting social inclusion and coexistence. Experts argued that climate-responsive urban design can improve environmental sustainability, public health, and community wellbeing. Discussions also highlighted the role of architects, planners, and local communities in creating resilient cities capable of adapting to future climate risks. Analysts noted that urban development strategies increasingly require integration of climate considerations into infrastructure and public space planning. The event reflects growing interest in nature-based solutions and climate-sensitive urban planning as cities across South Asia experience increasing environmental pressures.
("Dialogues on coexistence envision climate-responsive public spaces," The Daily Star, 28 June 2026.)
https://www.thedailystar.net/culture/entertainment/news/dialogues-coexistence-vision-climate-responsive-public-spaces-4210401

BHUTAN

Bhutan secures continued international support for climate adaptation

On 16 June, Earth Journalism Network reported that Bhutan has secured continued funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support climate adaptation projects. The funding will assist efforts aimed at strengthening resilience in vulnerable communities, protecting ecosystems, and addressing environmental risks linked to climate change. Experts noted that Bhutan's mountainous geography makes it particularly vulnerable to glacier retreat, biodiversity loss, and changing weather patterns. The programme supports initiatives focused on sustainable resource management, ecosystem conservation, and community-based adaptation. Discussions highlighted Bhutan's longstanding commitment to environmental stewardship and climate action despite its relatively small contribution to global emissions. Analysts argued that international climate finance remains essential for helping vulnerable countries implement adaptation measures and achieve resilience goals. The funding demonstrates continued international confidence in Bhutan's climate governance and sustainability initiatives.
("Bhutan secures continued GEF funding for climate adaptation projects," Earth

Journalism Network, 16 June 2026.)
https://earthjournalism.net/stories/bhutan-secures-continued-gef-funding-for-climate-adaptation-projects

Bhutan's climate resilience project recognised as global success model
On 11 June, Earth Journalism Network reported that Bhutan's climate resilience initiatives were highlighted during the 8th Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly as an example of effective climate adaptation and sustainable development. The project focuses on strengthening ecosystem resilience, supporting vulnerable communities, and integrating climate considerations into local development planning. Experts noted that Bhutan's environmental policies continue to attract international attention due to their emphasis on conservation, sustainability, and community participation. Discussions highlighted how small states can develop innovative approaches to climate adaptation despite limited resources. Analysts argued that Bhutan's experience offers valuable lessons for other vulnerable countries seeking to strengthen resilience while preserving environmental integrity. The recognition reflects growing international interest in successful adaptation models emerging from developing countries and mountain ecosystems.
("Bhutan's climate resilience project lauded as a global model," Earth Journalism Network, 11 June 2026.)
https://earthjournalism.net/stories/bhutans-climate-resilience-project-lauded-a-globally-successful-model-during-8th-gef

INDIA

Carbon tariffs reshape India's trade and climate strategy
On 29 June, Mongabay India published a commentary examining how the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is influencing India's trade and climate policies. Experts noted that carbon tariffs increasingly link market access to the carbon intensity of exported products, creating new challenges for Indian industries seeking to remain competitive in European markets. Discussions focused on balancing industrial growth, export competitiveness, and decarbonisation efforts while protecting domestic development priorities. Analysts argued that India will need to strengthen emissions monitoring, improve industrial efficiency, and expand low-carbon technologies to adapt to evolving global trade rules. The commentary highlights the growing convergence of international trade policy and climate governance. It also reflects broader concerns that climate-related trade measures will increasingly shape global economic competitiveness in the coming decades.
("Trade liberalisation meets carbon tariffs as India eyes EU market," Mongabay India, 29 June 2026.)
https://india.mongabay.com/2026/06/trade-liberalisation-meets-carbon-tariffs-as-india-eyes-eu-market-commentary/

Monsoon 2026 highlights changing climate patterns across India
On 29 June, WION analysed how the 2026 southwest monsoon reflects broader changes in India's climate system. Experts noted that while monsoon variability has always existed, climate change is increasingly altering rainfall intensity, distribution, and seasonal predictability. The report highlighted growing evidence of more frequent extreme rainfall events occurring alongside longer dry spells, creating significant challenges for agriculture, water management, and disaster preparedness. Discussions focused on improving climate forecasting, strengthening early-warning systems, and adopting climate-resilient agricultural practices. Analysts argued that understanding changing monsoon behaviour is becoming essential for ensuring food security and economic stability. The article reflects the increasing scientific consensus that climate change is reshaping one of South Asia's most important weather systems, with wide-ranging implications for livelihoods and development.
("Is India's monsoon changing? What Monsoon 2026 reveals about climate trends," WION, 29 June 2026.)

https://www.wionews.com/trending/is-india-s-monsoon-changing-what-monsoon-2026-reveals-about-climate-trends-wion-decodes-1782817425856

Climate change poses growing risks for India's elderly population

On 24 June, The Indian Express examined how climate change is increasingly affecting India's ageing population. Experts noted that elderly individuals are particularly vulnerable to heatwaves, air pollution, extreme weather events, and climate-related health risks due to pre-existing medical conditions and reduced adaptive capacity. The report highlighted growing concerns regarding heat stress, cardiovascular diseases, respiratory illnesses, and disruptions to healthcare access during climate-related emergencies. Discussions focused on the need for climate-sensitive public health planning and targeted adaptation measures for vulnerable demographic groups. Analysts argued that ageing populations should be explicitly considered in climate policies, disaster preparedness plans, and healthcare strategies. The article reflects a growing understanding that climate change impacts vary across demographic groups and require differentiated policy responses. Protecting vulnerable populations is increasingly viewed as an essential component of climate adaptation planning.
("Climate change and the elderly in India: Risks explained," The Indian Express, 24 June 2026.)
https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-climate/climate-change-elderly-india-risks-explained-10755352/

Experts highlight inconsistencies in India's industrial climate strategy

On 24 June, The Hindu published an opinion piece analysing India's approach to industrial decarbonisation and climate policy. The article argued that while India has made significant climate commitments, its industrial transition strategy remains uneven across sectors. Experts noted that some industries have advanced in adopting cleaner technologies, while others continue to face policy uncertainty, financing challenges, and technological barriers. Discussions focused on balancing economic growth, energy security, and emissions reduction objectives. Analysts stressed that industrial decarbonisation will require clearer policy signals, stronger incentives, and greater investment in innovation and low-carbon technologies. The article highlighted the importance of aligning industrial policy with climate goals to ensure long-term competitiveness and sustainability. The commentary reflects broader debates surrounding India's pathway towards low-carbon economic development.
("India's patchy industrial climate strategy," The Hindu, 24 June 2026.)
https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/indias-patchy-industrial-climate-strategy/article71138921.ece

Climate and labour challenges threaten Darjeeling's tea industry

On 24 June, Down To Earth reported that Darjeeling's renowned tea industry is facing increasing pressures from climate change, labour shortages, and market competition. Tea growers noted that changing rainfall patterns, rising temperatures, and unpredictable weather are affecting crop productivity and quality. The report also highlighted concerns regarding labour availability and competition from tea imports originating in neighbouring Nepal. Experts warned that climate variability is making cultivation conditions less predictable, threatening both livelihoods and regional economic stability. Discussions focused on adaptation measures, improved agricultural practices, and policy support for tea producers. Analysts argued that climate resilience will be essential for sustaining one of India's most iconic agricultural industries. The report illustrates how climate change increasingly affects traditional economic sectors and rural livelihoods across South Asia.
("Darjeeling's iconic tea industry records losses due to climate and labour challenges," Down To Earth, 24 June 2026.)
https://www.downtoearth.org.in/food/darjeelings-iconic-tea-industry-is-recording-losses-courtesy-climate-labour-and-brew-from-nepal-claim-growers

Commentary calls for a more equitable and delivery-focused climate strategy
On 23 June, Mongabay India published a commentary arguing that India's climate strategy should place greater emphasis on equity, implementation, and development outcomes. The article suggested that climate planning must move beyond ambitious targets and focus more closely on how policies affect vulnerable populations, local communities, and socio-economic development. Experts noted that climate action should simultaneously address environmental sustainability, poverty reduction, and resilience-building. Discussions focused on ensuring that adaptation and mitigation measures are designed to produce tangible benefits while avoiding disproportionate burdens on marginalised groups. Analysts argued that successful climate policy requires balancing global commitments with domestic development priorities. The commentary reflects broader debates regarding climate justice, inclusive development, and effective implementation within emerging economies. Equity considerations are increasingly becoming central to climate policy discussions across South Asia.
("Rethinking India's climate plan through equity, delivery and intent," Mongabay India, 23 June 2026.)
https://india.mongabay.com/2026/06/rethinking-indias-climate-plan-through-equity-delivery-and-intent-commentary/

Heatwaves increasingly affect education and women's livelihoods
On 23 June, The Guardian reported that intensifying heatwaves across India are disrupting daily life, education, and employment. Schools in several regions have faced closures or schedule adjustments due to dangerous temperatures, while many women are being pushed out of income-generating activities because of increasing heat stress and caregiving responsibilities. Experts noted that climate change is amplifying existing social and economic inequalities, with vulnerable groups facing disproportionate impacts. Discussions highlighted how extreme heat affects labour productivity, public health, education outcomes, and household wellbeing. Analysts argued that adaptation policies must incorporate social protection measures and gender-sensitive approaches to address these challenges effectively. The report illustrates how climate change increasingly affects social structures and economic opportunities, extending beyond environmental impacts alone. Heatwaves are becoming a major development challenge across South Asia.
("How India's heatwaves are shutting schools and pushing women out of the workforce," The Guardian, 23 June 2026.)
https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2026/jun/22/how-india-heatwaves-shutting-schools-pushing-women-out-of-the-workforce

Experts advocate climate-smart urban greening strategies
On 23 June, The New Indian Express reported on growing interest in selecting plant species suited to local climatic conditions as part of urban greening and climate adaptation efforts. Experts argued that planting the "right plants for the right climate" can improve urban resilience, enhance biodiversity, reduce heat stress, and support ecosystem health. Discussions focused on the importance of scientific planning in urban landscaping and environmental restoration projects. Analysts noted that climate change requires cities to rethink traditional approaches to green infrastructure and urban forestry. Proper species selection can improve survival rates, reduce maintenance costs, and maximise environmental benefits. The report reflects increasing recognition of nature-based solutions as an important component of climate adaptation and sustainable urban development strategies across India.
("Right plants for the right climate," The New Indian Express, 23 June 2026.)
https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/delhi/2026/Jun/23/right-plants-for-the-right-climate

India raises ambition in its next climate commitment
On 23 June, DD News reported that India's

Cabinet has approved new climate targets for the 2031–2035 period, including a stronger emissions-intensity reduction goal of 47 percent. The revised target forms part of India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) framework under the Paris Agreement. Officials stated that the enhanced commitment reflects the country's efforts to balance economic development with climate responsibility. Experts noted that emissions intensity targets focus on reducing emissions relative to economic output rather than imposing absolute emission reductions. Discussions highlighted the importance of renewable energy expansion, energy efficiency improvements, and sustainable development pathways. Analysts observed that India's updated target signals greater climate ambition while maintaining flexibility for future economic growth. The announcement reinforces India's role as an increasingly important actor in global climate governance.
("Cabinet clears India's climate targets for 2031–35," DD News, 23 June 2026.)
https://ddnews.gov.in/en/cabinet-clears-indias-climate-targets-for-2031-35-emissions-intensity-cut-target-raised-to-47/

Hindu Kush Himalayan countries require massive climate finance investments
On 8 June, Down To Earth reported findings from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), which estimated that countries across the Hindu Kush Himalayan region will require approximately USD 12 trillion in climate finance by 2030. India alone is projected to require around USD 2.69 trillion to meet adaptation and mitigation needs. Experts warned that rising temperatures, glacier retreat, extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, and water insecurity are creating unprecedented environmental challenges across the region. The report emphasised that existing climate finance commitments remain insufficient compared with the scale of future investment requirements. Analysts stressed that both domestic resources and international financial support will be necessary to strengthen resilience and support sustainable development. The findings highlight the growing financial dimensions of climate adaptation in one of the world's most environmentally vulnerable regions.
("Hindu Kush Himalayan countries need USD 12 trillion in climate finance," Down To Earth, 8 June 2026)
https://www.downtoearth.org.in/climate-change/hindu-kush-himalaya-countries-need-12-trillion-in-climate-finance-with-indias-share-at-269-trillion-icimod
Teesta River communities face climate stress and geopolitical uncertainty
On 8 June, Peace News examined how communities living along the Teesta River are increasingly affected by the combined pressures of climate change and geopolitical tensions between India and Bangladesh. Changing rainfall patterns, glacial melt, seasonal water shortages, and environmental degradation are placing pressure on livelihoods dependent on agriculture and river-based ecosystems. Experts noted that climate stress is complicating longstanding debates over water sharing and resource management between the two countries. The report highlighted concerns that vulnerable communities often bear the greatest burden of environmental and political uncertainty. Analysts stressed that cooperative water governance and climate adaptation measures will be essential for ensuring long-term stability and resilience within the basin. The article reflects broader concerns regarding how climate change is intensifying transboundary resource challenges across South Asia.
("The Teesta at a crossroads," Peace News, 8 June 2026)
https://peacenews.com/the-teesta-at-a-crossroads-communities-caught-between-climate-stress-and-india-bangladesh-geopolitical-tensions/

Andhra Pradesh records India's highest climate-related internal displacement
On 8 June 2026, The New Indian Express reported that Andhra Pradesh recorded the highest level of climate-related internal displacement in India during 2025, according to a recent assessment. Extreme weather events, including cyclones, floods,

and other climate-related disasters, forced large numbers of people to leave their homes temporarily or permanently. Experts noted that internal displacement is becoming an increasingly important indicator of climate vulnerability, particularly in densely populated and environmentally exposed regions. The report highlighted concerns regarding housing, livelihoods, infrastructure resilience, and social protection systems for displaced populations. Analysts stressed that climate-induced mobility is likely to become more frequent as environmental risks intensify. Discussions also emphasised the need for improved disaster preparedness and long-term adaptation planning. The findings reflect broader concerns regarding the human consequences of climate change across India and South Asia.
("Andhra Pradesh recorded India's highest climate-led internal displacement in 2025," The New Indian Express, 8 June 2026)
https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2026/Jun/08/andhra-pradesh-recorded-indias-highest-climate-led-internal-displacement-in-2025-report

Bhutan hydropower project strengthens regional clean energy cooperation
On 4 June, The Hindu BusinessLine reported that the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission approved power purchases from a Tata Power-backed hydropower project in Bhutan. The agreement reflects growing regional cooperation on renewable energy and sustainable electricity generation. Hydropower remains a significant component of Bhutan's economy and an important source of low-carbon energy exports. Experts noted that cross-border clean energy partnerships can support emissions reductions, energy security, and economic cooperation simultaneously. The project also highlights how climate and energy objectives increasingly intersect with regional development strategies. Analysts argued that renewable energy trade can play a larger role in South Asia's energy transition while supporting climate commitments. The initiative demonstrates how regional cooperation can contribute to both economic development and climate mitigation goals.
("UPERC approves Uttar Pradesh power purchase from Bhutan hydro project," The Hindu BusinessLine, 4 June 2026)
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/uperc-approves-uttar-pradesh-power-purchase-from-tata-power-bhutan-hydro-project/article71068338.ece/amp/

India urged to strengthen climate trade architecture
On 2 June, Down To Earth argued that India must move beyond opposing international carbon-border measures and instead develop a comprehensive climate-trade strategy. The commentary focused particularly on mechanisms such as the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which could affect exports from carbon-intensive sectors. Experts noted that climate policy and international trade are becoming increasingly interconnected as countries introduce emissions-related regulations. The article stressed that India should proactively strengthen domestic carbon accounting, industrial decarbonisation strategies, and climate governance frameworks. Analysts argued that climate competitiveness will become increasingly important for maintaining access to global markets. Discussions also highlighted opportunities for India to shape emerging climate-trade norms rather than merely react to external regulations. The report reflects the growing intersection of climate policy, industrial development, and economic diplomacy.
("Carbon at the border: India must turn climate trade argument into architecture," Down To Earth, 2 June 2026)
https://www.downtoearth.org.in/amp/story/climate-change/carbon-at-the-border-india-must-turn-its-climate-trade-argument-into-architecture

Scientists warn of decline in India's scientific instrumentation culture
On 2 June, The Hindu reported concerns among leading researchers that India's climate science ecosystem is losing its tradition of scientific instrument

development and innovation. Experts argued that advances in climate monitoring, weather forecasting, and environmental research depend heavily on domestic capabilities in instrument design and scientific engineering. Discussions highlighted the importance of maintaining technical expertise to support high-quality climate research and long-term observation systems. Researchers warned that overreliance on imported technologies could weaken scientific self-reliance and limit innovation capacity. The report emphasised that climate science increasingly requires sophisticated tools for monitoring atmospheric changes, environmental systems, and extreme weather events. Analysts argued that strengthening research infrastructure should remain a national priority. The article reflects broader debates regarding scientific capacity-building and technological independence within climate research.
("India's climate science has lost instrument-making culture," The Hindu, 2 June 2026)
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/indias-climate-science-has-lost-instrument-making-culture-leading-researchers-warn/article71053021.ece

Climate change contributes to growing number of 'ghost villages' in Uttarakhand
On 2 June, Deutsche Welle reported on the increasing number of abandoned or sparsely populated villages in Uttarakhand, where climate change and economic pressures are affecting rural livelihoods. Experts noted that changing weather patterns, declining agricultural productivity, water scarcity, and environmental degradation are encouraging migration from mountain communities. The report highlighted how younger populations increasingly leave rural areas in search of economic opportunities elsewhere. Climate-related pressures often compound existing development challenges, accelerating depopulation trends. Analysts warned that continued outmigration may affect local cultures, food systems, and environmental stewardship in vulnerable mountain regions. Discussions also focused on innovative livelihood approaches aimed at revitalising affected communities. The article reflects broader Himalayan concerns regarding the intersection of climate change, migration, and rural transformation.
("Uttarakhand's ghost villages and climate change," Deutsche Welle, 2 June 2026)
https://www.dw.com/en/india-uttarakhand-state-ghost-villages-climate-change-innovations-agriculture-jobs/video-77335682

Local climate action plan in Karnataka offers grassroots adaptation model
On 2 June, The Better India highlighted a Gram Panchayat initiative in Karnataka that has developed a local climate action plan to address environmental challenges and strengthen community resilience. The programme focuses on integrating climate considerations into local governance, natural resource management, and development planning. Experts noted that community-level adaptation measures often provide practical solutions tailored to local environmental conditions and vulnerabilities. The initiative demonstrates how local governments can play a significant role in climate resilience-building through participatory planning and grassroots engagement. Discussions also emphasised the importance of decentralised governance and citizen involvement in adaptation efforts. Analysts argued that locally driven initiatives can complement national climate policies and improve implementation outcomes. The report reflects growing recognition of the importance of community-based adaptation across India.
("Karnataka Gram Panchayat develops climate action plan," The Better India, 2 June 2026)
https://thebetterindia.com/sustainability/karnataka-gram-panchayat-climate-action-plan-11896182

MALDIVES

Maldives emerges as a testing ground for sustainable maritime transport
On 28 June, The National Interest reported

that the Maldives is becoming an important testing ground for the future of sustainable maritime transport. As one of the world's most geographically dispersed island nations, the Maldives depends heavily on marine transportation for connectivity, trade, and tourism. Experts noted that decarbonising maritime transport is essential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions while strengthening resilience against climate change. Discussions focused on cleaner fuels, electric vessels, innovative shipping technologies, and sustainable maritime infrastructure. Analysts argued that successful innovations in the Maldives could provide valuable lessons for other island nations and coastal economies seeking low-carbon transport solutions. The report highlights how climate action increasingly intersects with technological innovation and economic development. The Maldives continues to position itself as a global advocate for sustainable ocean governance and climate resilience.
("The future of maritime transport is being tested in the Maldives," The National Interest, 28 June 2026.)
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/energy-world/the-future-of-maritime-transport-is-being-tested-in-the-maldives

Maldives uses aquanauts to strengthen marine climate resilience
On 12 June, the World Economic Forum highlighted an innovative Maldivian initiative that deploys "aquanauts" to support marine conservation and climate adaptation efforts. The programme focuses on monitoring and protecting coral reefs, which face growing threats from rising ocean temperatures, coral bleaching, and sea-level rise. Experts noted that healthy marine ecosystems are critical for biodiversity, fisheries, tourism, and coastal protection in the Maldives. The initiative combines scientific research, underwater monitoring, and public engagement to strengthen resilience against climate-related environmental changes. Analysts argued that nature-based solutions such as coral reef conservation can provide significant adaptation benefits for small island developing states. The project also demonstrates how innovation and science can support climate action in highly vulnerable coastal environments. The initiative reflects the Maldives' broader efforts to position itself as a global advocate for ocean and climate protection.
("The Maldives is using aquanauts to protect itself from climate change," World Economic Forum, 12 June 2026.)
https://www.weforum.org/videos/the-maldives-is-using-aquanauts-to-protect-itself-from-climate-change/

NEPAL

Nepal advances climate resilience and sustainable development agenda
On 28 June, The Rising Nepal reported ongoing efforts to strengthen climate resilience and environmental sustainability across the country. Experts highlighted increasing concerns regarding glacier retreat, erratic rainfall, floods, landslides, biodiversity loss, and changing weather patterns that continue to affect communities and ecosystems. Discussions focused on integrating climate adaptation into agriculture, infrastructure, water-resource management, and disaster preparedness planning. Policymakers stressed the importance of expanding climate finance, improving governance, and strengthening cooperation with international partners. Analysts noted that Nepal's mountainous geography makes it particularly vulnerable to climate change, requiring sustained investments in resilience-building and ecosystem conservation. The report reflects growing recognition that climate resilience must become a core element of national development planning. Environmental sustainability continues to remain a major policy priority for Nepal as climate impacts intensify across the Himalayan region.
("Nepal advances climate resilience initiatives," The Rising Nepal, 28 June 2026.)
https://risingnepaldaily.com/news/82643

Nepal continues strengthening climate resilience and environmental sustainability
On 29 June, The Rising Nepal reported

ongoing national efforts to strengthen climate resilience through sustainable environmental management and adaptation planning. Experts highlighted increasing concerns regarding glacier retreat, erratic precipitation, floods, landslides, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem degradation affecting communities across Nepal. Discussions focused on integrating climate adaptation into agriculture, infrastructure, disaster management, and natural resource governance. Policymakers also emphasised the importance of strengthening institutional capacity and mobilising international climate finance to support resilience-building initiatives. Analysts noted that Nepal's Himalayan geography makes the country particularly vulnerable to climate-related hazards, requiring sustained investments in both ecosystem protection and community adaptation. The report reflects Nepal's broader strategy of mainstreaming climate resilience into long-term national development planning while strengthening partnerships with international development agencies.
("Nepal advances climate resilience initiatives," The Rising Nepal, 29 June 2026.)
https://risingnepaldaily.com/news/82705

Climate change threatens ancient Bon spiritual traditions in Nepal
On 20 June, Al Jazeera published a long-form report examining how climate change is affecting communities in Nepal's highlands and threatening the survival of Tibet's ancient Bon spiritual tradition. Rising temperatures, changing weather patterns, glacier retreat, and environmental degradation are transforming landscapes that have long shaped local cultural and religious practices. Community members expressed concern that environmental changes are affecting traditional livelihoods and weakening cultural continuity. Experts noted that climate change increasingly threatens both natural and cultural heritage across the Himalayan region. Discussions highlighted the importance of integrating cultural preservation into adaptation planning. Analysts argued that climate impacts extend beyond physical infrastructure and ecosystems to affect identity, belief systems, and social cohesion. The report illustrates the often-overlooked cultural dimensions of climate change in mountain communities.
("In Nepal's highlands, climate change threatens Tibet's Bon faith," Al Jazeera, 20 June 2026.)
https://www.aljazeera.com/features/longform/2026/6/20/in-nepals-highlands-climate-change-threatens-tibets-bon-faith

Nepal emphasises climate resilience and sustainable development
On 20 June, The Rising Nepal reported continued discussions regarding climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and adaptation planning. Experts highlighted concerns over glacier retreat, changing precipitation patterns, biodiversity loss, and increasing disaster risks affecting communities across the country. Policymakers stressed the importance of integrating climate adaptation into development planning, infrastructure projects, agriculture, and water-resource management. Discussions also focused on strengthening resilience through improved governance, climate finance, and international cooperation. Analysts noted that Nepal remains particularly vulnerable to climate impacts because of its mountainous geography and dependence on fragile ecosystems. The report reflects growing awareness that climate resilience must be embedded across all sectors of development policy. Environmental sustainability continues to emerge as a central priority within Nepal's long-term planning framework.
("Nepal advances climate resilience discussions," The Rising Nepal, 20 June 2026.)
https://risingnepaldaily.com/news/81427

Community-led adaptation seen as pathway to a resilient future
On 14 June, The Kathmandu Post published a commentary emphasising the importance of community-based approaches in strengthening Nepal's climate resilience. The article argued that local knowledge,

community participation, and grassroots institutions play a critical role in responding to environmental challenges. Experts highlighted how local communities often possess valuable experience in managing natural resources, adapting agricultural practices, and coping with climate variability. Discussions focused on integrating community-driven solutions into national adaptation frameworks and development planning. Analysts noted that resilience-building efforts are often more effective when local stakeholders are actively involved in decision-making processes. The commentary reflects growing international recognition of the importance of locally led adaptation in addressing climate risks. Strengthening community resilience remains a key component of Nepal's broader climate strategy.
("From community roots to a resilient future," The Kathmandu Post, 14 June 2026.)
https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2026/06/15/from-community-roots-to-a-resilient-future

Nepal continues advancing climate resilience and sustainability efforts
On 14 June, The Rising Nepal reported ongoing discussions regarding climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and adaptation planning. Experts highlighted concerns related to glacier retreat, changing weather patterns, biodiversity loss, and increasing disaster risks across the Himalayan region. Policymakers stressed the importance of integrating climate considerations into infrastructure development, agriculture, disaster management, and water-resource planning. Discussions also focused on securing climate finance and strengthening international cooperation to support adaptation efforts. Analysts noted that Nepal's geographic location makes it particularly vulnerable to climate impacts, requiring sustained investment in resilience-building. The report reflects growing awareness that climate adaptation must become an integral component of national development planning. Environmental sustainability continues to be recognised as a critical priority for Nepal's long-term future.
("Nepal advances climate resilience discussions," The Rising Nepal, 14 June 2026.)
https://risingnepaldaily.com/news/81923

Nepal launches major monsoon tree-planting campaign
On 12 June, News on Air reported that Nepal's Forest Minister has directed authorities to plant 10 million saplings during the upcoming monsoon season as part of the country's environmental and climate agenda. The initiative seeks to strengthen forest cover, support biodiversity conservation, improve watershed protection, and contribute to climate mitigation efforts. Experts noted that forests play a critical role in carbon sequestration while also providing essential ecosystem services and supporting local livelihoods. Discussions highlighted the need for long-term maintenance and community participation to ensure successful implementation. Analysts stressed that reforestation initiatives can enhance resilience against climate-related risks such as floods, landslides, and soil degradation. The programme reflects Nepal's broader commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable natural resource management within its national climate strategy.
("Nepal plans to plant 10 million saplings during monsoon," News on Air, 12 June 2026.)
https://newsonair.gov.in/nepals-forest-minister-instructs-to-plant-10-million-saplings-to-combat-climate-change-during-monsoon/

Nepal highlights climate resilience and environmental sustainability
On 12 June, The Rising Nepal reported discussions focusing on climate resilience, sustainable development, and environmental protection in the Himalayan nation. Experts warned that glacier retreat, changing rainfall patterns, biodiversity loss, and extreme weather events are creating new challenges for communities and ecosystems. Policymakers emphasised the importance of integrating climate

adaptation into infrastructure development, agriculture, disaster management, and water-resource planning. Discussions also highlighted the need for enhanced climate finance and stronger international cooperation to address emerging risks. Analysts noted that Nepal's unique geography makes it particularly vulnerable to climate-related impacts, requiring targeted adaptation strategies. The report reflects increasing recognition that climate resilience must be mainstreamed across all aspects of development planning. Environmental sustainability is becoming an increasingly important national policy priority as climate risks intensify.
("Climate resilience discussions in Nepal," The Rising Nepal, 12 June 2026.)
https://risingnepaldaily.com/news/81599

Changing seasons reveal climate impacts across Nepal
On 11 June, Nepali Times reported that traditional seasonal patterns in Nepal are becoming increasingly difficult to recognise as climate change alters weather conditions across the country. Experts noted that spring temperatures, rainfall distribution, and ecological cycles are shifting, affecting agriculture, biodiversity, and local livelihoods. Communities have reported changes in flowering seasons, crop calendars, and weather predictability that challenge long-established practices. Scientists linked these developments to broader warming trends affecting the Himalayan region. Discussions highlighted concerns regarding water resources, food security, and ecosystem resilience. Analysts stressed that climate adaptation measures must account for these gradual but significant environmental transformations. The article reflects growing awareness that climate change is not only increasing extreme weather events but also altering the seasonal rhythms upon which communities have traditionally depended.
("When Nepal's spring is no longer spring," Nepali Times, 11 June 2026.)
https://nepalitimes.com/when-nepals-spring-is-no-longer-spring

ICIMOD projects below-normal rainfall across the Hindu Kush Himalaya
On 11 June, Nepal News reported new projections from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) indicating that several countries across the Hindu Kush Himalayan region may experience below-normal rainfall conditions. Experts warned that reduced precipitation could affect agriculture, water availability, hydropower generation, and disaster preparedness efforts. The forecast adds to growing concerns regarding climate variability and changing monsoon behaviour across South Asia. Scientists noted that mountain ecosystems are particularly sensitive to climate change, making accurate forecasting increasingly important for adaptation planning. Discussions focused on the need for improved monitoring systems, regional cooperation, and climate-resilient development strategies. The report reflects broader concerns about the environmental and socio-economic consequences of changing precipitation patterns across one of the world's most climate-sensitive regions.
("ICIMOD projects lower-than-normal rainfall across HKH region," Nepal News, 11 June 2026.)
https://english.nepalnews.com/s/climate/icimod-research-projects-lower-than-normal-rainfall-in-countries-across-hkh-region/

Experts call for stronger preparedness against climate-related disasters
On 11 June, The Himalayan Times reported growing concerns regarding Nepal's preparedness for increasingly frequent climate-related disasters. Experts highlighted the country's vulnerability to floods, landslides, glacier-related hazards, and extreme weather events that are becoming more severe under changing climatic conditions. Discussions focused on strengthening disaster-risk reduction mechanisms, improving early-warning systems, and increasing investments in resilient infrastructure. Analysts argued that adaptation measures must be integrated into development planning to reduce future losses and protect vulnerable

communities. The report emphasised that proactive preparedness often delivers greater long-term benefits than reactive disaster response. Experts also stressed the importance of community participation and institutional coordination in resilience-building efforts. The article reflects wider regional concerns regarding the growing gap between climate risks and preparedness capacities.
("Calls for stronger climate disaster preparedness," The Himalayan Times, 11 June 2026.)
https://thehimalayantimes.com/ampArticle/1038740

Nepal launches climate and food security innovation accelerator
On 9 June, Nepal News reported the launch of a new Innovation Accelerator designed to support climate resilience and food security initiatives. The programme aims to encourage innovative solutions capable of addressing agricultural vulnerability, environmental challenges, and sustainable development needs. Experts noted that climate change increasingly threatens food systems through changing rainfall patterns, extreme weather events, and ecosystem degradation. The accelerator seeks to bring together researchers, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and development partners to develop scalable solutions for resilience-building. Discussions highlighted the importance of innovation in improving agricultural productivity while reducing climate risks. Analysts argued that supporting local innovation can strengthen adaptation capacity and promote sustainable livelihoods. The initiative reflects Nepal's growing focus on integrating climate action with food security and economic development strategies.
("Innovation Accelerator launched for climate and food security," Nepal News, 9 June 2026)
https://english.nepalnews.com/s/nation/innovation-accelerator-launched-for-climate-and-food-security/

Nepal plans major tree-planting campaign to combat climate change
On 9 June, News on Air reported that Nepal's Forest Minister has instructed authorities to plant 10 million saplings during the monsoon season as part of efforts to address climate change and environmental degradation. The initiative aims to support reforestation, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem restoration while contributing to climate mitigation objectives. Experts noted that forests play an important role in carbon sequestration, water management, and ecological resilience. Discussions also highlighted the importance of community participation and long-term maintenance to ensure successful outcomes from tree-planting campaigns. Analysts stressed that reforestation efforts should complement broader climate adaptation and conservation strategies.
("Nepal plans to plant 10 million saplings," News on Air, 9 June 2026)
https://newsonair.gov.in/nepals-forest-minister-instructs-to-plant-10-million-saplings-to-combat-climate-change-during-monsoon/

Innovation increasingly viewed as key to climate adaptation
On 9 June, Onlinekhabar reported additional details regarding Nepal's newly launched Climate Innovation Accelerator, highlighting its role in supporting climate adaptation and sustainable development. Experts emphasised that technological innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaborative problem-solving are becoming increasingly important as climate risks intensify across the Himalayan region. The accelerator aims to support initiatives addressing food security, environmental sustainability, disaster resilience, and climate-smart development. Discussions highlighted the need to connect scientific research with practical solutions capable of benefiting communities and local economies. Analysts argued that innovation ecosystems can help bridge gaps between climate science, policy, and implementation. The initiative reflects growing recognition that adaptation requires not only financial resources but also new ideas and technologies. Climate innovation is emerging as an increasingly important component of resilience-building strategies in Nepal.
("Climate Innovation Accelerator launched

in Nepal," Onlinekhabar, 9 June 2026) https://english.onlinekhabar.com/climate-innovation-accelerator.html

PAKISTAN

Indus waters dispute intensifies amid renewed political tensions

On 29 June, Deccan Herald reported renewed tensions between India and Pakistan over the Indus Waters Treaty following strong remarks by Pakistan's leadership regarding upstream water flows. Pakistani officials warned against any attempts to restrict river water, describing water security as a matter of national survival. Experts noted that the Indus River system supports Pakistan's agriculture, drinking water supply, and hydropower generation, making it one of the country's most strategically important natural resources. Discussions highlighted that climate change, glacier retreat, erratic monsoon patterns, and increasing water demand are further complicating transboundary water management. Analysts argued that environmental stress is transforming water from a technical resource-sharing issue into a broader geopolitical concern. The report underscores how climate change is amplifying existing interstate tensions and reinforcing the importance of cooperative river basin governance across South Asia. ("Pakistan minister threatens India over Indus waters," Deccan Herald, 29 June 2026.) https://www.deccanherald.com/world/pakistan/well-cut-off-the-hands-that-pakistan-minister-threatens-india-over-indus-waters-4057149

Water security emerges as a growing India–Pakistan flashpoint

On 29 June, The Independent analysed escalating tensions surrounding the Indus Waters Treaty, highlighting concerns that water availability is becoming increasingly intertwined with regional security. The report noted that climate change, glacier retreat, changing rainfall patterns, and rising water demand are intensifying pressure on the Indus Basin. Experts observed that although the treaty has survived multiple political crises, environmental changes are creating new governance challenges. Discussions focused on how reduced water availability could heighten mistrust and complicate bilateral relations if cooperative mechanisms are weakened. Analysts argued that climate change is adding a new strategic dimension to traditional geopolitical disputes by increasing competition over shared natural resources. The article reflects broader international concern regarding the security implications of climate-induced water stress across transboundary river basins. ("India–Pakistan tensions grow over water supply," The Independent, 29 June 2026.) https://www.independent.co.uk/asia/south-asia/india-indus-water-treaty-pakistan-warning-water-supply-b3005755.html

Pakistan reinforces climate adaptation and environmental resilience agenda

On 29 June, Dawn reported continued discussions on strengthening Pakistan's climate resilience and environmental governance in response to increasing climate-related risks. Officials highlighted the growing impacts of floods, heatwaves, droughts, glacier melt, and water scarcity on livelihoods and economic development. Experts stressed that adaptation investments must be prioritised across agriculture, water management, infrastructure, and disaster preparedness. Discussions also focused on expanding climate finance, improving institutional coordination, and integrating resilience into national development planning. Analysts noted that Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change continues to grow despite its relatively small contribution to global emissions. The report emphasised that long-term resilience requires coordinated policy implementation, scientific planning, and stronger international cooperation. The article reflects Pakistan's broader effort to position climate adaptation as an essential component of sustainable national development.
("Pakistan advances climate resilience discussions," Dawn, 29 June 2026.) https://www.dawn.com/news/2011847

Closure of historic cotton exchange raises concerns over Pakistan's business climate

On 28 June, The Tribune India reported that the closure of one of Pakistan's historic cotton exchanges has intensified concerns regarding the country's investment and business climate. The development reflects broader structural challenges affecting Pakistan's textile and agricultural sectors, including declining cotton production, economic uncertainty, climate-related disruptions, and policy instability. Experts noted that climate change has increasingly affected cotton cultivation through irregular rainfall, water shortages, and extreme temperatures, reducing productivity and increasing production costs. Analysts argued that weakening agricultural output has significant implications for Pakistan's textile industry, exports, and employment. Discussions highlighted the need for economic reforms, climate-resilient agricultural practices, and stronger investor confidence to revitalise the sector. The report illustrates how climate pressures are increasingly intersecting with economic competitiveness and industrial development in Pakistan.

("Historic cotton exchange shutdown sparks fresh concerns over Pakistan's business climate," The Tribune India, 28 June 2026.) https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/world/historic-cotton-exchange-shutdown-sparks-fresh-concerns-over-pakistans-business-climate/

Flood survivors continue rebuilding amid rising climate vulnerability

On 28 June, The Express Tribune reported that communities affected by Pakistan's devastating floods continue to rebuild their lives while facing growing climate vulnerability. Survivors highlighted persistent challenges including damaged infrastructure, livelihood losses, housing insecurity, and limited financial resources for recovery. Experts noted that climate change is increasing both the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, making long-term recovery more difficult for vulnerable populations. Discussions focused on strengthening climate-resilient reconstruction, improving disaster preparedness, and expanding access to adaptation finance. Analysts argued that recovery programmes should prioritise resilience rather than simply restoring pre-disaster conditions. The report emphasised that rebuilding efforts provide an opportunity to reduce future risks through improved infrastructure and community planning. The article reflects Pakistan's ongoing struggle to adapt to increasingly severe climate-related disasters.

("Climate vulnerability deepens as flood survivors rebuild lives," The Express Tribune, 28 June 2026.) https://tribune.com.pk/story/2615476/climate-vulnerability-deepens-as-flood-survivors-rebuild-lives

Pakistan issues nationwide flood alert amid heavy rainfall concerns

On 24 June, Al Jazeera reported that Pakistani authorities issued a nationwide alert due to forecasts of heavy rainfall and potential flooding in several regions. Officials warned that intense precipitation could trigger flash floods, urban flooding, landslides, and disruptions to transportation and public services. Experts noted that climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events across South Asia, making preparedness and early-warning systems increasingly important. Discussions focused on emergency response planning, disaster-risk reduction measures, and protecting vulnerable communities. Analysts stressed that improving forecasting capabilities and infrastructure resilience remains essential for reducing disaster-related losses. The alert reflects Pakistan's ongoing efforts to strengthen preparedness following previous devastating flood events. The report underscores the growing importance of climate adaptation and disaster management in a region experiencing increasing weather extremes.

("Pakistan issues nationwide alert over fears of heavy rains and floods," Al Jazeera, 24 June 2026.) https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/6/22/pakistan-issues-nationwide-alert-over-fears-of-heavy-rains-floods

Pakistan reaffirms commitment to

climate and development cooperation
On 24 June, The Nation reported that Pakistan's First Lady reaffirmed support for strengthening partnerships with the United Nations in areas related to sustainable development and climate action. Discussions highlighted the importance of international cooperation in addressing climate change, disaster resilience, environmental sustainability, and social development challenges. Officials emphasised the need for continued collaboration on climate adaptation, capacity-building, and community resilience initiatives. Experts noted that partnerships between national governments and international organisations remain critical for mobilising resources and technical expertise. Analysts argued that climate cooperation increasingly intersects with broader development priorities such as health, education, gender equality, and economic resilience. The report reflects Pakistan's ongoing engagement with international partners to strengthen its climate response and sustainable development agenda.
("First Lady reaffirms support for stronger partnership on development and climate priorities," The Nation, 24 June 2026.)
https://www.nation.com.pk/24-Jun-2026/first-lady-reaffirms-support-stronger-partnership-un-development-climate-priorities

Pakistan highlights climate resilience and sustainable development priorities
On 23 June, Dawn reported ongoing efforts in Pakistan to strengthen climate resilience and environmental governance amid rising climate-related risks. Policymakers highlighted the growing impacts of heatwaves, floods, water scarcity, and ecosystem degradation on livelihoods and economic development. Discussions focused on improving adaptation planning, expanding climate finance access, and strengthening institutional capacity to respond to environmental challenges. Experts noted that climate change increasingly affects agriculture, infrastructure, energy systems, and public health. The report also underscored the importance of integrating climate considerations into broader development strategies rather than treating them as standalone environmental concerns. Analysts argued that proactive adaptation investments can reduce future economic losses and improve resilience among vulnerable communities. The article reflects Pakistan's continued efforts to align sustainable development objectives with climate adaptation priorities while advocating for stronger international cooperation on climate finance and resilience-building.
("Pakistan advances climate resilience efforts," Dawn, 23 June 2026.)
https://www.dawn.com/news/2010125

Melting glaciers and air pollution intensify Pakistan's water crisis
An issue brief published by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) highlighted the growing link between glacier melt, climate change, air pollution, and water insecurity in Pakistan. The report warned that rising temperatures are accelerating glacier retreat in the Himalaya-Karakoram-Hindu Kush region, threatening long-term water availability for agriculture, hydropower, and domestic consumption. Experts noted that black carbon and air pollution further accelerate ice melt, creating a dangerous climate-pollution nexus. While increased glacier melt may temporarily boost river flows, long-term consequences could include water shortages and heightened vulnerability to droughts. The brief stressed the need for integrated policies addressing both climate mitigation and water governance. Analysts argued that Pakistan's future water security will depend on climate adaptation measures, improved watershed management, and regional cooperation. The report reflects growing concern that environmental degradation is becoming a strategic development challenge with implications for economic stability and human security.
("Pakistan's Melting Glaciers and Water Crisis: The Climate and Air Pollution Nexus," ISSI Issue Brief, June 2026.)
https://issi.org.pk/issue-brief-on-pakistans-melting-glaciers-and-water-crisis-the-climate-and-air-pollution-nexus/

Climate change increasingly threatens Pakistan's children

On 16 June, The Express Tribune reported that climate change is emerging as a major threat to the health, safety, and future wellbeing of children across Pakistan. Experts noted that rising temperatures, worsening air quality, floods, droughts, and food insecurity disproportionately affect younger populations. Climate-related disruptions can increase risks of malnutrition, disease outbreaks, interrupted education, and displacement. The report highlighted concerns that children often have limited capacity to cope with environmental stress despite facing some of the most severe long-term consequences. Discussions focused on strengthening climate-resilient schools, healthcare systems, and social protection mechanisms. Analysts argued that child-centred adaptation policies should become a priority within national climate strategies. The article reflects growing international recognition that climate change is not only an environmental issue but also a significant threat to child welfare and human development outcomes.

("Climate threat looms over children," The Express Tribune, 16 June 2026.)
https://tribune.com.pk/story/2613578/climate-threat-looms-over-children

Pakistan plans Green University to build climate-skilled workforce

On 16 June, Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported that Pakistan intends to establish a Green University dedicated to developing expertise in climate change, sustainability, environmental governance, and green technologies. The initiative aims to create a skilled workforce capable of supporting the country's transition towards climate resilience and sustainable development. Officials noted that environmental challenges increasingly require specialised knowledge in areas such as renewable energy, climate adaptation, disaster management, and sustainable resource use. Discussions highlighted the importance of investing in human capital to meet future climate-related challenges. Experts argued that education institutions can play a crucial role in building awareness, fostering innovation, and supporting evidence-based policymaking. The proposed university reflects Pakistan's growing emphasis on capacity-building and workforce development as part of its broader climate agenda. The initiative aligns with international efforts to strengthen climate education and green skills training.

("Pakistan to establish Green University to build climate-skilled workforce," APP, 16 June 2026.)
https://www.app.com.pk/national/pakistan-to-establish-green-university-to-build-climate-skilled-workforce/

Climate change deepens Pakistan's water insecurity

On 16 June, The Express Tribune reported growing concerns that climate change is worsening Pakistan's already significant water challenges. Experts highlighted that glacier retreat, erratic rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, and increasing temperatures are placing additional pressure on water resources. The report noted that agriculture, which depends heavily on reliable water supplies, is particularly vulnerable to changing climatic conditions. Policymakers stressed the need for improved water governance, conservation measures, and climate-resilient infrastructure to address future shortages. Discussions also focused on the role of population growth and inefficient resource management in exacerbating water stress. Analysts warned that water insecurity could have far-reaching implications for food security, economic development, and social stability. The article reflects broader regional concerns regarding the interaction between climate change and water governance across South Asia.

("Climate change deepens water crisis," The Express Tribune, 16 June 2026.)
https://tribune.com.pk/story/2613398/climate-change-deepens-water-crisis

Pakistan continues climate adaptation and environmental governance discussions

On 14 June, Dawn reported ongoing policy

discussions concerning Pakistan's environmental challenges and climate adaptation priorities. Experts highlighted increasing concerns over prolonged heatwaves, erratic rainfall patterns, water stress, and disaster vulnerability. Discussions focused on improving environmental governance, strengthening institutional capacity, and expanding resilience measures to reduce future climate risks. Policymakers stressed that climate adaptation must be integrated into broader economic and development strategies to safeguard communities and infrastructure. Analysts noted that climate-related losses increasingly affect productivity, public health, and long-term growth prospects. The report emphasised the importance of proactive planning rather than relying solely on post-disaster response measures. The article reflects growing recognition within Pakistan that climate change represents a cross-sectoral challenge requiring coordinated action from government institutions, civil society, and development partners.
("Pakistan discusses climate adaptation priorities," Dawn, 14 June 2026.)
https://www.dawn.com/news/amp/2007834

Climate change raises new geopolitical challenges in the Indus Basin
On 14 June, Eurasia Review published an analysis examining how climate change is increasing strategic pressures within the Indus Basin. The article argued that changing precipitation patterns, glacier retreat, water scarcity, and growing demand for water resources are adding complexity to existing transboundary water-management challenges between countries sharing the basin. Experts warned that climate change could intensify competition over water resources while simultaneously increasing the need for cooperation. Discussions highlighted the importance of strengthening basin-wide governance, scientific cooperation, and climate-resilient water management strategies. Analysts noted that environmental pressures increasingly intersect with regional security, economic development, and agricultural sustainability concerns. The article stressed that collaborative approaches will be essential to managing future water-related risks. The report reflects broader international concerns regarding the geopolitical implications of climate change in shared river basins.
("Climate change and the rising stakes in the Indus Basin," Eurasia Review, 14 June 2026.)
https://www.eurasiareview.com/14062026-climate-change-and-the-rising-stakes-in-the-indus-basin-oped/

Hyderabad may become one of Pakistan's most climate-vulnerable cities by 2030
On 12 June, Business Recorder reported that Hyderabad is projected to become one of Pakistan's most climate-vulnerable urban centres by 2030 due to rising temperatures, increasing heatwaves, water stress, and rapid urban expansion. Experts warned that inadequate infrastructure, population growth, and environmental degradation could significantly amplify the city's exposure to climate-related risks. The report highlighted concerns regarding public health, water security, energy demand, and urban resilience. Climate researchers noted that South Asian cities are increasingly emerging as hotspots of climate vulnerability because of dense populations and limited adaptive capacity. Discussions focused on the need for climate-resilient urban planning, improved drainage systems, green spaces, and heat mitigation measures. Analysts stressed that proactive adaptation investments today could reduce future economic and social costs. Hyderabad's situation reflects a broader regional challenge as cities across South Asia struggle to prepare for intensifying climate impacts.
("Hyderabad may emerge as climate-vulnerable city by 2030," Business Recorder, 12 June 2026.)
https://www.brecorder.com/news/40425275/hyderabad-may-emerge-as-climate-vulnerable-city-by-2030

Pakistan continues efforts to strengthen climate adaptation and resilience
On 12 June, Dawn reported ongoing

discussions on Pakistan's climate adaptation priorities amid growing concerns over extreme weather events, water scarcity, and environmental degradation. Policymakers highlighted the increasing frequency of floods, droughts, and heatwaves that continue to affect livelihoods, infrastructure, and economic development. Experts stressed the importance of integrating climate resilience into national planning frameworks and development policies. Discussions focused on improving disaster preparedness, mobilising climate finance, strengthening institutional coordination, and enhancing environmental governance. Analysts argued that adaptation measures must be implemented across sectors such as agriculture, water management, urban development, and public health. The report noted that climate risks are increasingly viewed as development challenges rather than solely environmental issues. Pakistan's efforts reflect broader regional attempts to strengthen resilience against escalating climate impacts while pursuing sustainable economic growth and social stability.
("Pakistan advances climate resilience discussions," Dawn, 12 June 2026.)
https://www.dawn.com/news/2007224

Climate change deepens vulnerabilities among homeless populations
On 11 June, The Friday Times examined how climate change is disproportionately affecting homeless and socially vulnerable populations in Pakistan. Rising temperatures, prolonged heatwaves, erratic weather patterns, and increasing climate-related disasters are exposing individuals without adequate shelter to severe health and livelihood risks. Experts noted that homelessness and climate vulnerability often reinforce one another, creating a cycle of social and economic insecurity. The report highlighted concerns regarding heat stress, limited access to healthcare, inadequate sanitation, and insufficient social protection mechanisms. Analysts argued that climate adaptation policies should incorporate vulnerable groups more explicitly and move beyond infrastructure-focused approaches. Discussions also stressed the need for inclusive urban planning and emergency preparedness systems capable of protecting marginalised communities. The article reflects growing recognition that climate change is not only an environmental issue but also a significant social justice and public health challenge.
("Homeless and heat-stressed: Vulnerabilities exacerbated by climate change," The Friday Times, 11 June 2026.)
https://www.thefridaytimes.com/11-Jun-2026/homeless-heat-stressed-vulnerabilities-exacerbated-climate-change

Pakistan continues focusing on climate resilience and adaptation
On 11 June, Arab News reported ongoing efforts by Pakistan to strengthen climate resilience and adaptation planning amid growing environmental challenges. Officials highlighted concerns regarding extreme heat, water stress, flooding, glacier melt, and other climate-related risks that increasingly affect economic and social development. Discussions focused on improving disaster preparedness, mobilising climate finance, and strengthening institutional capacity to manage future environmental shocks. Experts reiterated that Pakistan remains among the countries most vulnerable to climate change despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions. Policymakers emphasised the importance of international cooperation, equitable financing mechanisms, and technology transfer to support adaptation efforts. Analysts stressed that resilience-building should be integrated into agriculture, infrastructure, health, and development planning. The report reflects Pakistan's broader strategy of positioning climate adaptation as a central component of national development and sustainability objectives.
("Pakistan advances climate resilience agenda," Arab News, 11 June 2026.)
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2646535/

Pakistan strengthens climate diplomacy and environmental cooperation
On 11 June, Dawn reported on Pakistan's continued engagement in international

climate discussions aimed at strengthening environmental cooperation and resilience-building efforts. Officials highlighted the need for collective action to address escalating climate risks affecting developing countries. Discussions focused on climate finance, adaptation support, disaster preparedness, and sustainable development pathways. Experts noted that countries facing severe climate impacts require stronger international partnerships and more effective implementation of global climate commitments. The report also emphasised Pakistan's efforts to raise awareness about the disproportionate burden carried by vulnerable nations. Analysts argued that climate diplomacy is becoming increasingly important as environmental issues intersect with economic development, security, and regional cooperation. The article reflects broader efforts by Pakistan to advocate for climate justice while strengthening domestic resilience against future environmental challenges.
("Pakistan highlights climate cooperation efforts," Dawn, 11 June 2026.)
https://www.dawn.com/news/amp/2006631

Global Climate and Food Security
Climate variability and geopolitical tensions threaten global fertiliser supplies
On 11 June, Table.Media reported that climate variability and geopolitical instability are increasingly affecting global fertiliser markets, with potential implications for food security. The analysis highlighted how El Niño-related weather disruptions, combined with regional conflicts and supply-chain pressures, are contributing to uncertainty in fertiliser production and distribution. Experts warned that rising input costs and supply shortages could affect agricultural productivity in many countries, particularly those dependent on imported fertilisers. Discussions focused on how climate-related disruptions are becoming interconnected with economic and geopolitical risks. Analysts noted that food systems worldwide remain vulnerable to shocks affecting energy, fertiliser, and agricultural supply chains. The report reflects growing international concern regarding the cascading impacts of climate change on food security, trade, and economic stability. Strengthening resilience across agricultural systems is increasingly viewed as a strategic global priority.
("How El Niño is exacerbating the fertiliser shortage," Table.Media, 11 June 2026.)
https://table.media/en/climate/feature/iran-war-how-el-nino-is-exacerbating-the-fertilizer-shortage

Climate change increasing disease risks across Pakistan
On 10 June, The Friday Times reported growing concerns that climate change is contributing to the emergence and spread of new disease threats across Pakistan. Experts noted that rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, floods, and prolonged heatwaves are altering environmental conditions that influence disease transmission. Vector-borne illnesses such as dengue and malaria, along with waterborne diseases, are increasingly linked to climate-related disruptions. Public health specialists warned that climate change is expanding the geographical range and seasonal duration of certain diseases, placing additional pressure on healthcare systems. Discussions highlighted the need for stronger disease surveillance, climate-informed health planning, and improved public awareness campaigns. Analysts stressed that climate change should be recognised as a major public health challenge rather than solely an environmental issue. The report reflects a growing global understanding of the interconnected relationship between climate change and health security.
("Climate change bringing new disease threats to Pakistan," The Friday Times, 10 June 2026.)
https://www.thefridaytimes.com/10-Jun-2026/climate-change-bringing-new-disease-threats-pakistan

Pakistan continues advancing climate adaptation and resilience efforts
On 10 June, Arab News reported that Pakistan remains focused on strengthening climate adaptation and resilience measures

amid mounting environmental challenges. Officials highlighted the country's continued vulnerability to floods, droughts, heatwaves, glacier melt, and water stress, which increasingly affect economic development and public welfare. Discussions focused on improving climate governance, expanding access to climate finance, and strengthening disaster preparedness systems. Experts noted that adaptation investments are becoming increasingly important as climate-related risks intensify.
Policymakers also emphasised the need for international cooperation and equitable climate finance mechanisms to support vulnerable developing countries. Analysts argued that resilience-building must be integrated into national development planning to reduce long-term vulnerability. The report reflects Pakistan's broader efforts to align environmental sustainability with economic growth and social stability objectives.
("Pakistan advances climate resilience agenda," Arab News, 10 June 2026.)
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2646535/amp

Experts warn Pakistan's environment is approaching a tipping point
On 10 June, Business Recorder published an analysis warning that delays in addressing environmental challenges may push Pakistan closer to critical ecological thresholds. Experts highlighted concerns regarding pollution, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, deforestation, and climate-related disasters that continue to place increasing stress on natural systems. The article argued that policy delays and inadequate environmental governance could significantly increase future adaptation costs and environmental risks. Discussions focused on the need for proactive interventions, stronger regulatory frameworks, and long-term sustainability planning. Analysts stressed that environmental degradation increasingly affects economic performance, public health, food security, and social stability. The report underscored the importance of treating climate and environmental issues as strategic development priorities rather than isolated sectoral concerns. The article reflects broader concerns regarding environmental sustainability across South Asia.
("The cost of delay: Pakistan's environment at a tipping point," Business Recorder, 10 June 2026.)
https://www.brecorder.com/news/40424797/the-cost-of-delay-pakistans-environment-at-a-tipping-point

Record heatwave highlights Pakistan's growing climate emergency
On 9 June, The New York Times reported that Pakistan is experiencing one of its most severe heatwaves in recent years, with temperatures reaching dangerous levels across several regions. Scientists noted that climate change is increasing the frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme heat events throughout South Asia. The report highlighted how prolonged exposure to high temperatures is affecting public health, labour productivity, water availability, and agricultural systems. Vulnerable populations, including outdoor workers, low-income communities, and elderly citizens, face heightened risks from heat-related illnesses. Experts warned that such events are becoming part of a new climatic reality rather than isolated anomalies. Discussions focused on the need for stronger heat-action plans, urban cooling measures, and climate adaptation policies. The article reflects growing concern that extreme heat is emerging as one of the most immediate and deadly consequences of climate change in the region.
("Pakistan faces extreme heatwave," The New York Times, 9 June 2026.)
https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/08/world/asia/pakistan-heat-wave.html

Lack of climate awareness increases vulnerability to disasters
On 9 June, The Express Tribune reported concerns that limited public understanding of climate change is undermining resilience and preparedness efforts in Pakistan. Experts argued that inadequate climate literacy affects how communities perceive risks, respond to warnings, and adapt to environmental changes. Discussions highlighted that climate impacts such as floods, droughts, heatwaves, and water

scarcity are becoming more severe, yet public awareness often remains insufficient. Researchers stressed that education and communication strategies are essential for improving resilience at both community and institutional levels. The report also noted that misinformation and limited access to scientific information can hinder adaptation efforts. Analysts argued that climate literacy should become a key component of national resilience strategies. The article reflects growing recognition that effective climate action depends not only on policy and finance but also on public understanding and behavioural change.
("Little climate knowledge is devastating," The Express Tribune, 9 June 2026.)
https://tribune.com.pk/story/2612106/little-climate-knowledge-is-devastating

Pakistan continues advocating stronger climate resilience measures

On 9 June, Arab News Pakistan reported ongoing efforts to strengthen Pakistan's climate resilience agenda amid rising environmental pressures. Officials highlighted the country's exposure to floods, heatwaves, water stress, and glacier-related hazards while emphasising the importance of adaptation planning. Discussions focused on climate finance, sustainable development, and improving disaster preparedness systems. Experts noted that Pakistan remains among the countries most vulnerable to climate impacts despite contributing minimally to global emissions. Policymakers reiterated calls for greater international support and equitable access to climate finance. Analysts stressed that climate resilience should be integrated across development sectors, including agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and public health. The report reflects Pakistan's broader effort to align adaptation planning with long-term economic and social development goals. Climate resilience is increasingly viewed as essential for national stability and sustainable growth.
("Pakistan advances climate resilience efforts," Arab News Pakistan, 9 June 2026.)
https://www.arabnews.pk/node/2646426/pakistan

Energy crisis underscores urgency of climate transition

On 9 June, Business Recorder reported that climate envoys and energy experts have warned that recent energy challenges demonstrate the need to accelerate the transition toward cleaner and more sustainable energy systems. Discussions highlighted how dependence on fossil fuels can expose countries to economic volatility, supply disruptions, and environmental risks. Experts argued that renewable energy expansion can simultaneously strengthen energy security and support climate goals. The report also emphasised the role of energy transitions in reducing emissions while improving long-term resilience against climate-related shocks. Policymakers discussed opportunities for expanding renewable energy infrastructure and enhancing regional energy cooperation. Analysts noted that climate and energy security concerns are increasingly interconnected. The article reflects broader international debates regarding how countries can balance development needs with climate commitments through accelerated clean energy transitions.
("Energy crisis shows need to speed up transition," Business Recorder, 9 June 2026.)
https://www.brecorder.com/news/40424594/energy-crisis-shows-need-to-speed-up-transition-climate-envoys

UK and Pakistan strengthen cooperation through Green Compact

On 9 June, Mettis Global reported that the United Kingdom and Pakistan are advancing a GBP 35 million Green Compact aimed at supporting climate resilience and sustainable development initiatives. The partnership seeks to strengthen cooperation in areas including climate adaptation, environmental sustainability, clean energy, and green economic growth. Officials highlighted the importance of international collaboration in addressing climate-related challenges faced by vulnerable countries. Experts noted that climate partnerships can help mobilise financial resources, technical expertise, and institutional support for resilience-building efforts. Discussions also focused on

opportunities for green investment and sustainable infrastructure development. Analysts argued that such initiatives demonstrate the growing role of bilateral cooperation in supporting climate objectives. The agreement reflects broader international efforts to strengthen partnerships for climate action and sustainable development.
("UK and Pakistan advance £35m Green Compact," Mettis Global, 9 June 2026.)
https://mettisglobal.news/UK-Pakistan-advance-35m-green-compact-60951

Pakistan highlights climate resilience and sustainable development priorities
On 08 June, Business Recorder reported continued discussions in Pakistan regarding climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and long-term development planning. Policymakers and experts stressed that climate change is increasingly affecting economic growth, food security, water resources, and public infrastructure. The report highlighted the need for stronger adaptation measures, climate finance mobilisation, and institutional coordination to address escalating environmental risks. Experts noted that Pakistan remains highly vulnerable to floods, droughts, extreme heat, and glacier-related hazards despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions. Discussions also focused on integrating climate considerations into broader economic and governance frameworks. Analysts argued that resilience-building should become a central pillar of national development policy rather than remain confined to disaster response efforts. The report reflects broader regional recognition that climate adaptation is essential for sustaining economic stability and protecting vulnerable communities across South Asia.
("Pakistan discusses climate resilience priorities," Business Recorder, 8 June 2026.)
https://www.brecorder.com/news/40424450

Climate displacement emerges as a major challenge for Pakistan
On 4 June, the Migration Policy Institute examined the growing issue of climate-induced displacement in Pakistan, highlighting how environmental shocks are increasingly forcing communities to move from vulnerable regions. Floods, droughts, heatwaves, and water scarcity continue to affect livelihoods, housing, and food security across the country. Experts noted that climate displacement often remains underreported because affected populations frequently move within national borders rather than across them. The report stressed that migration should be understood not only as a humanitarian challenge but also as a development and governance issue. Analysts highlighted the need for stronger adaptation policies, resilient infrastructure, and social protection mechanisms to reduce forced displacement risks. Discussions also focused on integrating migration considerations into climate planning frameworks. The article reflects growing international recognition that climate mobility will become one of the defining challenges of the coming decades, particularly in vulnerable regions such as South Asia.
("Climate displacement in Pakistan," Migration Policy Institute, 4 June 2026.)
https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/pakistan-climate-displacement

Pakistan honours women leading climate action
On 4 June, UNDP Pakistan reported the launch of the Pakistan Gender Climate Award 2026, recognising women who have made significant contributions to climate action and environmental resilience. The initiative seeks to highlight women's leadership in adaptation, disaster preparedness, community resilience, sustainable livelihoods, and environmental governance. Experts noted that women often face disproportionate impacts from climate change while also serving as key agents of resilience and innovation. The awards aim to promote gender-responsive climate policies and encourage broader participation of women in decision-making processes. Discussions highlighted the importance of integrating gender perspectives into climate finance, adaptation planning, and sustainability

initiatives. Analysts argued that empowering women strengthens both social equity and climate resilience outcomes. The programme reflects increasing international emphasis on the role of women in shaping climate solutions and advancing sustainable development.
("Pakistan Gender Climate Award 2026 celebrates women leading climate action," UNDP Pakistan, 4 June 2026.)
https://www.undp.org/pakistan/press-releases/pakistan-gender-climate-award-2026-celebrates-women-leading-climate-action

Pakistan continues advancing climate resilience agenda

On 4 June, Arab News reported that Pakistan continues to prioritise climate resilience and adaptation amid escalating environmental pressures. Officials highlighted challenges including extreme heat, flooding, glacier melt, and water insecurity that increasingly affect communities and economic development. Discussions focused on strengthening disaster preparedness, climate finance mobilisation, and environmental governance reforms. Experts noted that Pakistan's vulnerability stems from both geographic exposure and developmental constraints, making resilience-building a national priority. Policymakers reiterated the importance of international cooperation and equitable climate finance mechanisms to support adaptation efforts. Analysts stressed that climate resilience must be integrated across sectors including agriculture, infrastructure, energy, and public health. The report reflects Pakistan's broader effort to frame climate adaptation as a central component of long-term national development planning and sustainable growth.
("Pakistan advances climate resilience efforts," Arab News, 4 June 2026.)
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2646087/pakistan

Experts warn climate risks increasingly threaten economic stability

On 4 June, Business Recorder reported growing concern among economists and policymakers regarding the economic impacts of climate change in Pakistan. Experts highlighted that recurring floods, droughts, heatwaves, and environmental disruptions are placing increasing pressure on agriculture, infrastructure, productivity, and public finances. Discussions focused on the need to strengthen climate-risk assessments and integrate environmental considerations into economic planning frameworks. Analysts warned that climate-related losses could undermine long-term development goals if adaptation efforts fail to keep pace with escalating risks. The report also highlighted the importance of climate finance, insurance mechanisms, and resilient infrastructure investments. Experts argued that climate change is increasingly becoming an economic challenge rather than solely an environmental issue. The article reflects broader recognition across South Asia that climate resilience is essential for maintaining sustainable growth and economic stability.
("Climate risks increasingly affect Pakistan's economy," Business Recorder, 4 June 2026.)
https://www.brecorder.com/news/amp/40424252

Pakistan calls for stronger climate action amid rising environmental risks

On 02 June, Arab News Pakistan reported renewed calls for stronger climate adaptation and resilience-building measures as Pakistan continues to face increasing environmental pressures. Policymakers highlighted the growing impacts of heatwaves, floods, droughts, glacier melt, and water scarcity across the country. Experts noted that climate change is affecting multiple sectors including agriculture, infrastructure, public health, and economic productivity. Discussions focused on improving disaster preparedness, expanding climate finance access, and strengthening environmental governance mechanisms. Pakistan continues to emphasise that while it contributes minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions, it remains among the countries most vulnerable to climate-related disasters. Analysts stressed the need for greater international support alongside domestic reforms to enhance resilience. The

report reflects Pakistan's broader effort to integrate climate adaptation into national development planning and long-term economic strategies.
("Pakistan highlights climate adaptation priorities," Arab News Pakistan, 2 June 2026.)
https://www.arabnews.pk/node/2645717/pakistan

Climate vulnerability increasingly shapes Pakistan's development agenda
On 02 June, Arab News reported that climate change is becoming an increasingly important consideration in Pakistan's development and policy discussions. Experts warned that environmental risks are no longer limited to ecological concerns but are influencing economic growth, food security, urban planning, and social stability. Discussions highlighted the need for resilient infrastructure, sustainable resource management, and stronger adaptation policies to address growing vulnerabilities. Policymakers stressed that climate resilience should be mainstreamed across sectors rather than treated as a standalone environmental issue. The report also underscored the importance of international climate finance and technology transfer in supporting adaptation efforts. Analysts argued that countries facing repeated climate shocks require long-term resilience frameworks that link environmental protection with economic development. The article reflects wider regional concerns about the developmental implications of climate change across South Asia.
("Pakistan strengthens climate resilience discussions," Arab News, 2 June 2026.)
https://www.arabnews.com/node/2645654

Climate diplomacy seen as pathway for peace and cooperation
On 02 June, The Friday Times argued that climate change should be viewed as an opportunity for peacebuilding and regional cooperation rather than solely as an environmental challenge. The commentary noted that climate-induced resource stress, displacement, and environmental degradation can exacerbate existing tensions if left unmanaged. However, shared climate risks may also encourage collaborative approaches among neighbouring countries. The article highlighted Pakistan's potential role in promoting climate diplomacy, environmental cooperation, and confidence-building measures within South Asia. Experts stressed that issues such as water management, disaster preparedness, and climate adaptation increasingly require cross-border solutions. Analysts argued that climate governance can contribute to broader human security objectives by reducing vulnerabilities and promoting sustainable development. The piece reflects growing international interest in the relationship between climate change, peacebuilding, and regional stability.
("Conflict, coexistence and climate peace," The Friday Times, 2 June 2026.)
https://www.thefridaytimes.com/01-Jun-2026/conflict-coexistence-climate-peace-pakistan-s-diplomatic-role

China's disaster resilience model offers lessons for Pakistan
On 2 June, INP/WealthPK reported that Pakistan may benefit from studying China's disaster resilience and risk management approaches as climate-related disasters become more frequent and severe. Experts highlighted China's investments in early-warning systems, resilient infrastructure, disaster-response mechanisms, and climate adaptation planning. The report argued that Pakistan faces similar challenges related to flooding, extreme weather, water management, and environmental vulnerability. Analysts suggested that lessons from China could help strengthen institutional preparedness and improve disaster-risk reduction efforts. Discussions also emphasised the importance of integrating climate resilience into urban planning, infrastructure development, and economic policy frameworks. The article reflects broader recognition that climate adaptation increasingly requires knowledge-sharing and international cooperation.
("China's disaster resilience model offers experience for Pakistan," INP/WealthPK, 2 June 2026.)

https://www.inp.net.pk/article-detail/inp-wealthpk/chinas-disaster-resilience-model-offers-experience-for-climate-vulnerable-pakistan

SRI LANKA

Climate disclosure increasingly linked to investment and resilience

On 23 June, Economy Next reported that climate-related disclosure practices are becoming increasingly important for attracting investment and strengthening economic resilience in Sri Lanka. According to analysis discussed by Deloitte Sri Lanka, transparent reporting on climate risks allows investors, financial institutions, and businesses to better assess exposure to environmental challenges. Experts noted that climate disclosure frameworks can support sustainable investment decisions while encouraging organisations to improve risk management practices. Discussions focused on how climate transparency contributes to financial stability, corporate accountability, and resilience-building. Analysts argued that climate-related reporting is gradually shifting from a voluntary sustainability exercise to a strategic business requirement. The report reflects broader international trends linking climate governance, financial markets, and sustainable development. Climate disclosure is increasingly viewed as an important tool for managing economic risks associated with climate change.
("Climate disclosure drives capital and resilience," Economy Next, 23 June 2026.)
https://economynext.com/climate-disclosure-drives-capital-and-resilience-deloitte-sri-lanka-276201/

Climate summit urges integration of climate action into economic growth

On 10 June, The Island reported that participants at a climate summit in Sri Lanka called for climate action to be mainstreamed into the country's economic growth strategy. Experts argued that climate resilience should be integrated into infrastructure planning, investment decisions, energy policy, and broader development frameworks. Discussions highlighted the increasing economic costs associated with climate-related disasters, environmental degradation, and resource stress. Policymakers stressed that climate adaptation and mitigation should be viewed as essential components of sustainable growth rather than separate policy objectives. Analysts noted that aligning economic development with climate resilience can help reduce vulnerability while creating opportunities for green investment and innovation. The summit reflected growing recognition that climate considerations must become central to long-term economic planning in vulnerable countries.
("Sri Lanka climate summit flags need to mainstream climate action," The Island, 10 June 2026.)
http://island.lk/sri-lanka-climate-summit-flags-need-to-mainstream-climate-action-into-countrys-growth-story/

Experts warn climate ambition must be matched by financial capacity

On 10 June, Daily Mirror reported that experts have cautioned Sri Lanka against relying solely on climate ambition without addressing financing and implementation challenges. Discussions highlighted that while climate commitments and sustainability goals are important, achieving them requires significant investment, institutional capacity, and long-term policy consistency. Experts noted that many developing countries face a growing gap between climate objectives and available resources. The report emphasised the importance of mobilising public and private finance, attracting international support, and strengthening governance frameworks to ensure effective implementation. Analysts argued that successful climate action depends not only on ambition but also on practical financing mechanisms capable of supporting adaptation and mitigation efforts.
("Climate ambition alone won't pay bills, Sri Lanka warned," Daily Mirror, 10 June 2026.)
https://www.dailymirror.lk/print/business-main/Climate-ambition-alone-wont-pay-bills-Sri-Lanka-warned/245-342453