



Climate Change, Security Dilemmas, and Power Transitions: India-Europe Perspectives on Global Stability

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Abstract

Climate change has become a critical driver of contemporary security challenges, reshaping geopolitical alignments and intensifying security dilemmas in an increasingly multipolar international order. This paper examines the climate-security nexus from **India-Europe perspectives**, highlighting how climate-induced risks – such as extreme weather events, resource scarcity, displacement, and threats to critical infrastructure – act as threat multipliers that exacerbate existing conflicts and complicate global stability.

From the European perspective, climate security has gained strategic significance in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, which exposed vulnerabilities related to energy dependence and supply-chain disruptions. Consequently, Europe increasingly integrates climate action with energy transition, strategic autonomy, and foreign policy objectives. In contrast, India approaches climate security through the lens of development, resilience, and equity, prioritizing adaptation, energy access, and disaster preparedness while emphasizing differentiated responsibilities in global climate governance.

The paper argues that these differing priorities generate security dilemmas in areas such as clean energy competition, access to critical minerals, climate finance, and technological standards. At the same time, expanding India-Europe engagement through green technology cooperation, resilient supply chains, and inclusive climate governance offers opportunities to mitigate climate-related security risks. The study concludes that strengthened India-Europe cooperation is essential for managing climate-driven insecurities and contributing to global stability in an era of accelerating environmental and geopolitical change.

Key Words: Climate Change; Climate Security; Security Dilemmas; Power Transitions; Multipolar World Order; India-Europe Relations; Energy Security; Global Stability.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Climate change is one of the most important problems of the twenty-first century, having moved beyond its conventional categorisation as an environmental problem to a major geopolitical and global security concern. An increasing number of academics and policymakers alike are realising that climate change is a "threat multiplier" that amplifies already existing political and socioeconomic conflicts, thereby leading to instability, conflict, and humanitarian disasters. In this context, with shifting global power structures toward a multipolar order, the relationship between security dynamics and climate change has grown increasingly intricate and politically significant.

Examples of the effects of extreme weather events, resource scarcity, and forced migrations, as well as interruptions of the necessary infrastructure and economic volatility, are some of the ways and means through which climate change and security are related. This impacts and influences the way international cooperation and geopolitics are configured, aside from security itself. The way in which security and climate change are related is becoming progressively more integrated in the economic governance of such a scenario.

Whilst the relationship that currently abounds between climate change and security can be considered complex, this can also be attributed in part to different avenues that were presented through this relationship and its implications. Weather extremes, instabilities, migrations, infrastructure collapse, and economic upswings are just a few components of this effect and its influence. Thus, towards highlighting climate change, this factor can be considered and related not just as a national security measure, but also as a force for change within and between collaborative nations, as it can position economics, foreign policies, and strategies.

With the emphasis on the aspect of how power relations and new security issues are impacted by climate change, this paper examines the notion of the relationship between climate change and security in the viewpoints and perspectives of both India and Europe. Europe has made climate action an integral component of its strategic thinking and has connected it with energy security, technological superiority, and geopolitical freedom. On the other hand, India views climate security in the context of development, resilience, and equity in the context of the global system of governance.

Although such varying degrees of priority pose challenges in climate competition in clean energy, access to critical minerals, climate finance, etc., they also open doors for cooperation. The emerging partnership between India and Europe has the potential to break new paths in addressing climate insecurity, climate innovation, climate-resilient supply chains, and climate governance that is inclusive. It is argued in this study that increasing cooperation between India and Europe is the key to overcoming climate security challenges for global stability in the increasingly dynamic global environmental arena.

2. CLIMATE CHANGE - THE SECURITY THREAT MULTIPLIER

"Threat multiplier" has become a widely used term by scholars and practitioners to describe climate change implications for security in both the policy realm and climate-security literature. The term was coined in 2007 by the CNA (Centre for Naval Analyses) Military Advisory Board under the leadership of Sherri Goodman. It captures how climate change effects interact with and

have the potential to exacerbate pre-existing threats and other drivers of instability to contribute to security risks. The concept has been characterised as “definitional” in having “set a baseline for how to talk about the issue” and having shaped “the way in which people studying climate policy think about risks.” Its use has also been described as “one of the most prominent ways in which the security implications of climate change have been understood.”ⁱ

These brief outlines the history of the term “threat multiplier,” starting from its creation in the environmental security era in 2007. It tracks how military, policy, and academic circles in the United States and other countries have gradually adopted it. The brief also explores the various ideas that have emerged from this term and how it has evolved to reflect changing climate security realities.

3. FROM ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY TO CLIMATE SECURITY

The 1990s marked the rise of environmental security as a key research and policy issue in national and regional security agendas. Although the inclusion of environmental factors in security discussions began in the 1970s, the concept gained more attention after the publication of the UN World Commission on Environment and Development report in 1987. This shift occurred partly because of the end of the Cold War. This change, along with increased global interdependencies, created opportunities for new ways of viewing security interactions. Additionally, it was linked to the growing global awareness of the seriousness of environmental change.

Environmental security refers to the link between environmental harm and security. It acknowledges that changes in the environment can lead to instability and conflict. In the 1990s and early 2000s, climate change slowly became a national security issue. Even though the United States did not ratify the Kyoto Protocol, its defence agencies started to evaluate the strategic impacts of climate change. Reports from the U.S. Naval War College and the Department of Defence noted that rising temperatures could influence military operations, national security, and long-term strategic planning. This marked a significant change in how climate-related security risks were understood (Goodman & Baudu, 2023).

COINING “THREAT MULTIPLIER”: SHERRI GOODMAN AND THE CAN. In 2006, the Centre for Naval Analyses’ (CNA) Military Advisory Board on Climate Change and National Security was founded by Sherri Goodman, who served as the first Deputy Undersecretary of Defence for Environmental Security from 1993 to 2001. During this era, DOD developed its first global environmental assessments, its first environmental security metrics for cleanup and compliance, and engaged former Soviet militaries in cooperative efforts to reduce contaminants from the Cold War. The CNA Military Advisory Board was the first group of military leaders to address the national security implications of climate change. It consisted of eleven then-recently retired top generals and admirals from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps who had, each in their own way, included environmental considerations in their military planning.ⁱⁱ

In April 2007, the CNA Military Advisory Board published the first-ever report by military leaders on the national security implications of climate change. The goal was to reframe thinking within both the security community and broader public about the impact of climate change on national security. Until that point, climate change had been viewed primarily as an environmental issue, not a security concern. One goal was to guide the U.S. Congress and Administration in their

key legislative and administrative capacities, such as the National Defence Authorisation Act and the President's National Security Strategy. One early impact of the study's release was the inclusion of its findings and recommendations in the markup of the Senate's version of the National Défense Authorization Bill (the FY2008 National Défense Authorization Act (NDAA), which required "the first national security strategy, national defines strategy, and quadrennial defence review to include guidance on the effect of projected climate change on current and future DOD missions, including preparedness for natural disasters from extreme weather events." In addition, the UN Security Council was holding its first session on climate security within a week of the report's publication. The opening letter of the CNA report, signed by each member of the board, states that: "climate change can act as a threat multiplier for instability in some of the most volatile regions of the world, and it presents significant national security challenges for the United States." "Threat multiplier" became the board's signature phrase and has become a key concept in the debate on climate change and its connections to national security, with substantial influence on U.S. and international security policy.ⁱⁱⁱ

The concept of climate change as a threat multiplier has significantly reshaped the understanding of climate security by emphasising that climate change rarely acts as a direct cause of conflict but instead intensifies existing vulnerabilities. It aggravates challenges such as food and water insecurity, poverty, displacement, weak governance, and social inequalities, thereby increasing the likelihood of political instability, conflict, and extremism, particularly in fragile states. The concept also encouraged the integration of climate considerations into military planning, disaster preparedness, and national security strategies. Furthermore, it broadened the policy discourse by recognising climate change as both an environmental and security issue, fostering cooperation among defence, diplomatic, and development sectors and promoting collective international action to address transnational climate-related security risks.

Since its introduction in 2007, the term threat multiplier has become a central concept in climate security, shaping how governments, researchers, and policymakers understand the security implications of climate change. Over time, the concept has evolved beyond its original focus to promote a broader and more integrated approach that combines defence, development, diplomacy, and disaster management. This framework has strengthened collaboration among different sectors and supports efforts to build climate resilience while addressing the complex and interconnected security challenges posed by climate change (Goodman & Baudu, 2023).

4. CONFLICT AND RESOURCE SCARCITY

Throughout the world, some of the fiercest and most protracted conflicts are not ideological or religious in nature, but rather very simple in origin; they stem from the question of who will control the river, the forest, the mine or a piece of arable land. When a resource is of high value and at the same time scarce, there is little agreement between the competing parties regarding its allocation. Resource conflict is a recurrent issue in conflict resolution and peace building. To resolve a resource conflict, it is important to understand its underlying causes and drivers.

The resource conflict is one where individuals, groups, or countries are competing for access to and control over natural resources which are usually important and valuable. The natural resources could either be renewable (e.g. water, forests, fertile lands), or non-renewable (e.g. fossil

fuels like oil, coal, etc.). Most of the time, the conflict is not just about the presence of the resource, but the rights associated with its use, management, and benefit. It is likely that such resource conflicts continue for a long time since these natural resources are directly related to livelihood, economic wellbeing, and even survival. While environmental scarcity plays a part in fuelling the conflict, many scholars posit that it is not lack of resources but inequality, bad governance, and competition over the same that cause such conflicts.

5. THE ROLE OF SCARCITY

Scarcity exists when the demand for a resource outstrips its available supply. But scarcity is not a single phenomenon. The political scientist Thomas Homer-Dixon and others studying environmental security identified that scarcity arises in different ways, and each pathway shapes conflict differently. Recognising these types helps us see why two regions facing “shortages” may experience completely different kinds of trouble.^{iv}

5.1. Types of Resource Scarcity

[i] Scarcity induced by the Supply of Natural Resources

The supply of natural resources can decline owing to factors like environmental destruction, overutilization, or global warming. The occurrence of issues like deforestation, desertification, pollution, and depletion of groundwater limits the resources available for use.

[ii] Scarcity induced by the Demand for Natural Resources

When there is an increase in the population, urbanization, or consumption, the resources become scarce. The increasing demand makes people compete for the resources.

(a) Absolute Scarcity

It involves natural resources that are available in limited amounts and cannot be replenished, such as fossil fuel and mineral resources. When such resources are exhausted, they become absolutely scarce.

(b) Structural Scarcity

Structural scarcity occurs when resources are available but are not shared equally. Unequal access caused by political, economic, or social factors often creates tensions, even when there is no actual shortage of the resource.

[iii] Resource Capture and Ecological Marginalization

In situations of limited resources, powerful entities tend to have more control over them; this is referred to as resource capture. Due to this, poor populations are likely to be forced to live in areas that are less fertile or less sustainable from an environmental perspective. This is referred to as ecological marginalization, which results in increased environmental damage coupled with further poverty and inequalities.

6. FACTORS AFFECTING RESOURCE DISPUTES

The availability of resource scarcity does not always lead to disputes. In fact, the probability of disputes arising depends on various elements such as the degree of resource scarcity, the number

of people sharing the same resource, the level of imbalance in power relations between the competitors, and availability of other resources.

6.1. Migration

Migration refers to the movement of people from their usual place of residence, either within a country or across international borders. People may migrate voluntarily in search of better employment, education, or living conditions, or they may be forced to move because of conflict, political instability, natural disasters, environmental changes, or human rights violations. Migration often brings significant social and cultural changes for both migrants and the communities that receive them.

6.1.1. Definition of Migration

According to the Migration Data Portal, at the end of 2020, there were 280.6 million migrants globally. Migration may begin internally but often crosses international boundaries, just as international migration may one day cycle back home.

Human beings have migrated since the beginning of time, and there are currently 281 million international migrants in the world, representing 3.6% of the global population (World Migration Report, 2022).

Reasons: in search of greener pastures or better opportunities, safety, increased standard of living, etc. Migration, usually, occurs from a poor, unstable place or country to a rich, developed, and stable country or region.^v

6.1.2. Types of Migration

- [i] **Internal Migration:** "The movement of people within a state involving the establishment of a new temporary or permanent residence. Internal migration movements can be temporary or permanent and include those who have been displaced from their habitual place of residence, such as internally displaced persons, as well as persons who decide to move to a new place, such as in the case of rural–urban migration. The term also covers both nationals and non-nationals moving within a state, provided that they move away from their place of habitual residence."^{vi}
- [ii] **External Migration:** "The movement of persons away from their place of usual residence and across an international border to a country of which they are not nationals." Note: Migration could also take the dimensions of climate migration, labour migration, irregular migration and forced migration or displacement, as explained earlier".^{vii}

6.2. Displacement

Displacement is the forced movement of people from their homes or places where they normally live. Unlike voluntary migration, people who are displaced do not leave by choice. They are forced to move because of situations such as armed conflict, violence, human rights abuses, natural disasters, or human-made disasters. Their main purpose is to protect their lives and ensure their safety.

Displacement can take place within the borders of a country, where people are known as internally displaced persons (IDPs), or across international borders, where they may seek

protection in another country. Being displaced often means losing one's home, livelihood, community, and access to basic services such as education, healthcare, and employment. As a result, displaced people frequently require humanitarian assistance and long-term support to rebuild their lives.

6.2.1. Definition of Displacement

There have been displaced persons spread throughout history as long as there has been natural or man-made disasters, climate change, conflict, war, persecution, and political instability.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), at the end of 2021, there were 89.3 million people worldwide who have forcibly had to flee their homes as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order. This includes 27.1 million refugees, 53.2 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and over 4.6 million asylum seekers. Currently, there are more displaced persons world-wide than there have been at any time since the end of World War II (1939-1945).^{viii}

6.2.2. Forms of Displacement

Displacement can occur in different forms depending on the reasons people are forced to move and their legal status. The main forms of displacement include Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons, victims of human trafficking, and human smuggling.

[i] Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are people who are forced to leave their homes because of conflict, violence, human rights violations, or disasters but remain within their own country. The government of that country is responsible for their protection and assistance.

[ii] Asylum Seeker

An asylum seeker is a person who leaves their country and applies for protection in another country because they fear persecution. Their application is still under review, and they become a refugee only if their claim is approved.

[iii] Refugee

A refugee is a person who has crossed an international border to escape war, violence, or persecution and cannot safely return to their home country. Refugees receive international protection under international law.

[iv] Stateless Person

A stateless person is someone who is not recognized as a citizen by any country. This may happen because of changes in nationality laws, administrative errors, or lack of birth registration. Stateless people often face difficulties in accessing education, healthcare, employment, and legal rights.

[v] Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the illegal movement of people through force, fraud, or deception for the purpose of exploitation, such as forced labour, sexual exploitation, slavery, or organ removal. It is a serious violation of human rights.

[vi] Human Smuggling

Human smuggling is the illegal transportation of people across international borders for financial gain, usually with the migrant's consent. Unlike trafficking, its main purpose is illegal border crossing rather than exploitation, although smuggled migrants may still face serious risks and abuse.

7. ECONOMIC SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Economic security is often severely affected during wars, conflicts, and humanitarian crises. These situations damage infrastructure, disrupt businesses, and force people to leave their homes, making it difficult for them to earn a living. As a result, many families lose their sources of income and struggle to meet their basic needs.

One of the most serious consequences of economic insecurity is food insecurity. People affected by conflict or displacement often face shortages of food, clean water, healthcare, and other essential services. Hunger not only weakens physical health but also increases stress and emotional suffering. In recent years, factors such as armed conflict, climate change, rising food and energy prices, and economic instability have made it even harder for millions of people around the world to support themselves and their families.

7.1. Infrastructure Development in India

The Government of India has made infrastructure development a key priority to promote economic growth and improve public services. Public investment in infrastructure has increased significantly, with capital expenditure in FY2025 being much higher than in previous years. Although progress slowed during the first quarter of FY2025 due to the general elections and heavy monsoon rains, infrastructure spending gained momentum from July onwards.

During FY2025, there was noticeable progress in expanding railway rolling stock, port handling capacity, and power generation and transmission infrastructure. Growth in highways, roads, and railway lines was comparatively slower, but overall infrastructure development remained on track despite initial challenges. The government is also encouraging the use of sustainable and environmentally friendly materials and technologies in projects such as highways, waterways, renewable energy, and waste management.

India requires continued investment in infrastructure over the coming decades to maintain rapid economic growth. Priority areas include integrated transport systems, better urban planning, disaster-resilient cities, improved public transport, rural connectivity, preservation of heritage sites, and expansion of renewable energy to achieve the country's Net Zero goals.

Since government resources alone are not sufficient to meet these growing needs, private sector participation is essential. The government has introduced several Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models and initiatives such as the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), and PM Gati Shakti to encourage private investment. While these initiatives have improved planning and project implementation, greater participation from private enterprises is still needed to meet India's long-term infrastructure goals.

“The strategy to step up private participation needs coordinated action of all stakeholders involved - governments at different tiers, financial market players, project management experts and planners, and the private sector. Capacities to conceptualise projects, develop sector-specific

innovative strategies for execution, and, develop high-expertise areas such as risk and revenue sharing, contract management, conflict resolution and project closure need to improve substantially. The efforts of the Union Government would need to be supplemented with wholehearted acceptance of the need for public-private partnerships in infrastructure across the country.”^{ix}

7.2. Security Dilemma

The security dilemma is one of the most important concepts in International Relations (IR). It explains how countries trying to protect themselves can unintentionally make other countries feel insecure. As a result, other countries also increase their military strength, creating fear, mistrust, and competition. This process can lead to an arms race or even war, even when no country actually wants conflict.

The concept was first developed by Herbert Butterfield, John Herz, and Robert Jervis. It is closely linked to defensive realism, which argues that states mainly seek security rather than power. However, offensive realists believe that the same security dilemma makes conflict and war more likely because states continuously compete for greater power.^x

The security dilemma has also been used by other theories of international relations. Neoliberals argue that international institutions can reduce mistrust and promote cooperation, while liberals believe that democratic governments help reduce the security dilemma. Constructivists argue that changing identities and building trust among states can also lessen insecurity.^{xi}

The concept has been widely applied to explain important international events such as World War II, the Cold War, ethnic conflicts, arms races, and the growing strategic competition between the United States and China. It also helps policymakers understand how cooperation and confidence-building measures can reduce tensions and maintain peace.

In simple terms, the security dilemma shows that in an international system without a central authority, actions taken by one country to improve its own security may unintentionally threaten others, creating a cycle of fear, military competition, and possible conflict.

7.3. The Security Dilemma and Power Transitions: The Connection

The security dilemma becomes more serious during periods of power transition, when one country is rising in power while another is trying to maintain its dominant position. These periods often create uncertainty and mistrust because neither side is sure about the other's future intentions.

As a rising power increases its economic and military strength, the dominant power may see these developments as a threat to its security and influence. In response, the dominant power may strengthen its military, build new alliances, or adopt policies to contain the rising state. The rising power, however, may view these actions as attempts to limit its growth and security. As a result, both sides continue to increase their military capabilities, creating a cycle of fear and competition known as the security dilemma.

This situation can lead to an arms race, where both countries continuously expand their military power. Such competition increases the risk of misunderstanding, miscalculation, and accidental conflict. Although neither country may want war, growing suspicion and military rivalry can make conflict more likely.

From the rising power's perspective, increasing military and economic strength is necessary to protect national interests, ensure security, and gain a greater role in global affairs. From the dominant power's perspective, these same actions appear to challenge the existing international order and threaten its leadership.

History provides several examples of this relationship. The rise of Germany before the First World War created tensions with Britain and contributed to a naval arms race. During the Cold War, rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union led to intense military competition and proxy wars. Today, many scholars argue that the growing competition between the United States and China reflects a similar pattern, with both countries increasing their military capabilities and strategic influence.

However, the security dilemma does not make war inevitable. Countries can reduce tensions through diplomacy, dialogue, transparency, confidence-building measures, arms control agreements, and international institutions. These measures help build trust, reduce misunderstandings, and promote peaceful management of power transitions.

8. INDIA-EU RELATIONS: CHARTING NEW VISTAS FOR CLIMATE COOPERATION IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

As India and the European Union get ready to take their partnership to the next level, they're looking back at the progress they've made so far. The India-EU Roadmap to 2025, which was agreed upon during their 15th summit in July 2020, has been a big part of this journey. This roadmap has given them a clear plan for working together over the past five years. Now, with this period coming to an end, both India and the EU are excited to start a new chapter in their relationship. The European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, has even announced plans to visit India soon, which shows just how much both sides value their partnership. They want to build on what they've achieved so far and create an even stronger, more comprehensive relationship that can help them tackle the big challenges facing the world today, from politics and economics to the environment. This is a significant moment for India and the EU, and their growing partnership is something to watch out for in the years to come.

India and the EU have been working together more and more, based on their shared beliefs in democracy, following the law, and a fair international system. They have regular meetings and talks to cooperate in many areas like trade, technology, climate change, security, and education. The EU is now India's biggest trade partner, which shows how important their economic relationship has become. This partnership has been growing over the years, with both sides benefiting from it. They discuss and work together on various issues, including sustainable development and research, which helps to strengthen their ties. The fact that the EU is now India's largest trading partner, as of 2023, highlights the significance of their bilateral economic engagement and the potential for further growth and cooperation in the future.

India and the European Union are not always on the same page, even though things are looking up. They have different views on things like trade rules, climate change, human rights, and how the world should be run. India's main focus is on being able to make its own decisions, growing its economy, and having flexible policies. On the other hand, the European Union cares more about being sustainable, protecting the environment, treating workers fairly, and upholding human rights. Because of these differences, talks about a free trade agreement between India and

the EU have been slow going. But both sides are still talking and trying to find common ground, because they know they have more in common than they have differences. They're working together to find a way forward, even if it's not always easy.

The partnership is not just about what we can do now, but also about what we can achieve together in the future. There are many areas where we can work together, like renewable energy, clean technologies, and climate action. We can also collaborate on digital transformation, artificial intelligence, research, and innovation. Moreover, maritime security, healthcare, and higher education are important sectors where cooperation can make a big difference. To make this happen, we have set up institutions like the India-EU Trade and Technology Council and the Clean Energy and Climate Partnership. These will help us work together more closely in areas that are crucial for our future. By investing in each other's countries, sharing technology, exchanging students and academics, and promoting people-to-people contacts, we can build trust and ensure our cooperation lasts for a long time. This will not only benefit our countries but also contribute to a better world.

Climate change is now a major focus of cooperation between India and the EU, especially when it comes to the Indo-Pacific region. When European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen visited India in February 2025, she and her team reiterated their commitment to working together on climate issues, renewable energy, and sustainable development. They also want to promote a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific. This shows that people are starting to realize that climate change is not just an environmental problem, but also affects security, economic growth, and stability in the region. The EU and India are taking steps to address this issue together, which is a big deal. They know that climate change can have serious consequences, like hurting economies and causing instability. By working together, they hope to create a more secure and sustainable future for everyone. This partnership is important because it brings together two major players in the global community to tackle a pressing issue. The fact that they're working together on climate change, renewable energy, and sustainable development shows that they're committed to finding solutions that benefit everyone.

Effects of climate change are showing up more and more across the Indo-Pacific. Rising temperatures keep climbing. Heatwaves last longer now. Cyclones hit harder. Floods strike more often and sea levels keep going up. Shifting weather patterns hurt people's jobs, roads and buildings, food supplies, and money growth. These environmental problems also push people from their homes and create humanitarian emergencies. Based on the Global Report on Internal Displacement 2025, disasters linked to climate could force millions of people out of their homes by the year 2050. Out of all regions, the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) are some of the most at risk - they face rising seas and don't have much room to adapt.

Recognizing these hurdles, India and the European Union have put together a solid set of rules and groups for working together on climate issues. A big part of this is the EU-India Clean Energy and Climate Partnership (CECP), which started in 2016 right after the Paris Agreement. It acts as a key space for teamwork on renewable energy, saving energy, building cities in a sustainable way, and handling climate risks. This work got even stronger through the India-EU Roadmap to 2025, a Climate Change Dialogue that kicked off in 2021, and the CECP Phase III

Work Programme (which covers 2025 to 2028). All of these efforts show that dealing with the climate is now a key part of keeping the region safe and running global affairs.

Climate cooperation is another big part of the European Union's Indo-Pacific Strategy, which was put in place back in 2021. In this plan, climate change is listed alongside trade, connectivity, maritime security, and sustainable development as main areas of focus for working with the region. India has welcomed more European involvement in the Indo-Pacific, since both sides share a common interest in promoting stability, resilience, sustainable growth, and an open maritime order. With climate-related risks posing a bigger threat to regional security, the partnership between India and the European Union has taken on greater strategic weight.

One area with real promise for working together is the Pacific Small Island Developing States. These island countries face big problems from rising sea levels, shoreline erosion, stronger storms (like cyclones), and not having enough money or technology to deal with climate shifts. India has given these nations a hand through the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) as part of its Act East Policy. This help includes backing solar energy projects, offering low-interest credit lines, sending financial aid, and supporting efforts to build climate strength. Still, when you look at how serious the issues are for these countries, what India does on its own just isn't enough to handle their growing climate risks.

A stronger partnership between India and the European Union gives us a good path forward. India knows a lot about working with nearby countries and building development. That experience can pair well with what the European Union brings to the table - things like climate funding, newer technologies, renewable energy, and sustainable building projects. Working together like this would help make the Indo-Pacific region more ready for climate shifts. It would also improve how nations prepare for disasters. On top of that, it would support the move toward green energy and encourage long-term growth that doesn't harm the environment. Another benefit is that it would help narrow the gap in development and technology that many small island countries face (these nations are often hit hard by these challenges). At the same time, this cooperation would help keep the region steady and strong.

9. CONCLUSION

The India-EU strategic partnership has broadened from being largely focused on trade and economic relations to being an all-encompassing partnership. Climate change is one common problem facing India and the EU and most of the world today. The situation within the Indo-Pacific most of the time involves the convergence of climate change with security, developmental, and peace and stability challenges. Although differences persist in some policy areas, India and the EU have shown a willingness to communicate and commit to dialogue, multilateralism, and sustainable development. Climate finance and innovation combined with the EU's technology and India's regional leadership have the potential to make a positive difference in the Indo-Pacific on climate resilience and sustainable development. The end of the Roadmap to 2025 will give both sides the opportunity to create a more ambitious partnership in the future. India - EU climate collaboration will become an important factor to achieve not only regional security and long-term strategic stability in the Indo - Pacific, but also environmental sustainability.

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