

The Way Forward

Coastal resilience is not only about saving lives—it is about securing livelihoods, ecosystems, and national stability.

AIDMI's experience shows that when disaster risk reduction is embedded into local economies and governance, a resilience economy emerges. India must now transition from reactive response to proactive preparedness, ensuring its coasts remain thriving spaces of growth, safety, and sustainability.

"Cost of inaction around coastal regeneration is cost of loss and damage to India's coast".

¹ Presented at Indian Coastal Alliance Conference: Addressing Priorities and Challenges in the Indian Coastal Region from Environmental, Economic and Geopolitical Perspectives, August 21–22, 2025, Kochi, Kerala, India.

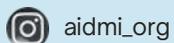


Photo: AIDMI.

"Coastal resilience is not only about saving lives—it is about protecting livelihoods, empowering communities, and securing our shared future."

— Mihir R. Bhatt, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), at Indian Coastal Alliance Conference, Kochi, August 2025.

Join us—governments, businesses, communities, and citizens—in shaping a cooler, safer, and more resilient future for India's coastal people and economy.



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AIDMI's Work on Coastal Resilience¹

"The climate emergency is a race we are losing, but it is a race we can win if we act together—governments, businesses, and communities alike."

— António Guterres, Speech at the Climate Action Summit, UN Headquarters, New York, September 23, 2019.



Photo: AIDMI.



ALL INDIA DISASTER MITIGATION INSTITUTE

Why Coastal Resilience Matters Now

India's 11,098 km coastline is home to millions of fishers, small businesses, and tourism-dependent communities. While cyclone early warning systems have reduced fatalities, economic losses, livelihood disruptions, and ecosystem degradation continue to escalate. Climate change is intensifying risks—rapidly strengthening cyclones in the Arabian Sea, rising seas, and salinization threaten both national prosperity and security

"Building resilience is not a choice—it is an imperative for economies, for people, and for the planet."

— Kristalina Georgieva, Opening Remarks, IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings, October 2021.

AIDMI's Coastal Resilience Work

Environmental Front:

- Promoting ecosystem-based DRR, including mangrove restoration and wetland protection.
- Piloting nature-based solutions in schools, bus stations, and market spaces that poor communities use daily.

Economic Front:

- Extending microinsurance and anticipatory cash transfers to small fishers and women-led coastal businesses.
- Supporting community-led eco-tourism where income strengthens disaster preparedness and conservation.

Security and Governance Front:

- Advocating a whole-of-coast strategy that integrates ecological resilience with security frameworks.
- Highlighting climate-induced migration as both a humanitarian and national security concern.

"Adaptation saves lives. Investing in climate-resilient infrastructure and ecosystems is far less costly than rebuilding after disasters."

— Hoesung Lee, Statement at the release of IPCC AR6 Working Group II Report, Geneva, February 28, 2022.

Action Priorities for Regenerating Coasts

1. Strengthen Community Governance

- Institutionalise community-based disaster management and fisheries monitoring.

2. Scale Ecosystem-Based Protection

- Invest in mangroves, wetlands, and coral reefs as frontline defences.

3. Resilient Infrastructure and Livelihoods

- Expand cyclone-resistant housing, micro-grids, and insurance coverage for coastal families.

4. Cross-Sector Collaboration on Nature Restoration

- Link fisheries, tourism, and climate agencies via joint platforms and integrated early warning systems.

5. Regional Cooperation

- Work on for shared data, anticipatory action, and migration planning in the region's coasts.



Photo: AIDMI.



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