Unveiling Trade Dynamics of India's Economic Engagement with BIMSTEC : A Bibliometric Review

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Abstract: Over the last 20 years, the Indian involvement in the "Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation" (BIMSTEC) has started to receive more and more academic and strategic interest. This paper is a bibliometric analysis of the economic relation of India with BIMSTEC member countries between the year 2001 and 2024 using 59 journal articles indexed by Scopus. With the help of tools such as VoS Viewer and Biblioshiny in R-Studio, the study examines the intellectual structure and development of scholarly activities in this domain in terms of publication trends, prominent authors, collaboration networks, key word co-occurrence, and bibliographic coupling. The result shows that the most prolific contributing nations are India and Bangladesh, and Bangladesh has the highest number of total link strength (TLS) and total citation (TC). Qamruzzaman M., and Pesaran M.H. are the most prominent authors, while the journals such as "Journal of Environmental Management and Sustainability (Switzerland)" are especially prominent due to their significant scholarly contribution. The 5 key source clusters and 4 country clusters are identified in the analysis that reveals regional and cross-regional academic collaboration. According to the keywords co-occurrence analysis, there is an increased concern on renewable energy, and sustainable development. This paper forms a baseline review of the scholarly contributions to the research on India-BIMSTEC trade, offering valuable insights for policymakers, stakeholders, and scholars. It highlights the importance of having a deeper empirical study and more interdisciplinary engagements to improve the regional economic cooperation and achieve the full potential of BIMSTEC.

Keywords: Bibliometric Analysis, Regional Economic Integration, Trade Competitiveness, India-BIMSTEC trade, South Asia trade, India foreign trade.

1. Introduction

One of the most significant element of economies development has been the flow of commodities and services (De et al., 2014). Because of geopolitical tensions, global supply chains disruptions, and protectionism the multilateral trade agreements facing the increasing challenges (Hajarath, 2025). Thus, in a modern environment of the global economy, the role of regional trade groupings has increased (Ling, 2025). Regional trading blocs have become one of the most important platforms of development, integration, and economic cooperation. These platforms facilitate deeper economic interdependence, create robust regional supply chains, and allow nations to harness shared resources and capabilities (Ali & Medhekar, 2022; Yusuf, 2025). As a result, India has directed its foreign trade policy to increase regional cooperation, and the "Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation" (BIMSTEC) has become a crucial part of its regional trade and diplomacy activities (Ali & Medhekar, 2022; Hans, 2023). In 1997, BIMSTEC was formed as a regional group, consisting of seven member countries "India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand" that lie in the area around the "Bay of Bengal" (Kamal Ahamed, 2019).

The 1.7 billion people that live in the BIMSTEC countries together, or 22% of the world's population, allow them to support the global economy and each other. The BIMSTEC countries now have a GDP of roughly US$4.5 trillion, but greater economic integration will enable the area to grow at quicker rates in the future (CII, 2024). Its location, large population, rich natural resources and common culture make BIMSTEC very important at the geopolitical and geoeconomic levels. Being the biggest economy, India has a major impact on the bloc's economic plans and efforts to unite the region. Even though BIMSTEC was designed to collaborate in several areas, it now mostly concentrates on developing its trade and economy (Basu & Ghosh, 2020; Htun & Vishwanatha, 2024; Rakhahari Chatterji & Chaudhary, 2020). There are several reasons why India is involved with BIMSTEC (Basu & Ghosh, 2020). It is in line with India's "Neighbourhood First" and "Act East" policies which stress the need for more links and teamwork with its neighbours and Southeast Asia (Rao, 2020). From an economic standpoint, India can explore new trading relationships, depend less on its old partners in the West and enhance its role in a region with quick development. BIMSTEC also allows India to build regional development corridors, improve infrastructure, enhance connectivity and secure its energy supply, each of which is significant for India's future and strategic plans (ADB, 2022; Yusuf, 2025). Still, the BIMSTEC trading framework has not been fully used or developed to its full potential. The amount of trade among the BIMSTEC countries is often found to be less than 10% of their total trade (WTO, 2017). In addition, as India plays a bigger part in the Indo-Pacific and aims to challenge China's influence in the region, BIMSTEC cooperation has become more important (Kim, 2024; Lin, 2024).On the other hand, trade between countries in ASEAN and the European Union is much greater than it is in Asia-Pacific. An important reason for this is that infrastructure is not up to the standard, transactions are costly, there are numerous barriers to trade, the institutions are weak, and the political climate is uncertain. India's trade with BIMSTEC nations appears unbalanced, limited in scope, and lacking in diversity, raising concerns about its long-term sustainability and fairness for all member countries (Chaudhary & Paudel, 2024; CII, 2024; Yusuf, 2025). Because of these issues, it is important to study India's trade patterns with other BIMSTEC member countries. Most studies on trade have centered on bilateral data, comparative advantage and discussing policies in general (Behuria et al., 2012; Bhardwaj et al., 2023; Dhami & Kaur, 2016; Hossain & Sarkar, 2025; Sarath Chandran, 2019; Sikri, 2009). Even though these methods are helpful, they tend to ignore the big picture: how the research on this subject has progressed, what is still missing and what areas need more exploration. To address this gap, this paper applies bibliometrics which conducts an extensive and orderly analysis of the research published in this field through the years. Providing a brief bibliometric examination of the current body of BIMSTEC literature is the aim of this paper. A chance to carefully integrate all of the existing literature on the topic is presented by bibliometrics, a quantitative research method that examines patterns in the literature that has been published (Öztürk et al., 2024). To examine the citation trends, coupling clusters, and important publications in this quickly developing field of study, this paper takes an organised approach. The primary research questions of the paper are as follows:

- Which publication year, keywords, top 10 affiliations, top 10 authors, scientific mapping, and bibliographic coupling of countries and sources make up the fundamental conceptual topography of BIMSTEC?
- What are some possible avenues for future BIMSTEC research based on the findings of this study?

These are the study's two primary goals: The first is the bibliometric analysis of the selected articles that conceptualise BIMSTEC's topography, and the second is the determination of future research directions. The research methodology is explained in Section 2, and the findings of the bibliometric analyses are covered in Section 3. The paper ends with conclusion and future directions in Section 4.

2. Literature Review

Regional economic integration has increasingly become a strategic imperative for emerging economies to promote trade, reduce dependency on volatile global markets, and accelerate development (Batra, 2010; Kelegama, 2001; Ling, 2025; Yusuf, 2025). Classical theories like "Balassa's "stages of economic integration" - ranging from free trade areas to full economic unions - continue to shape regional integration strategies in Asia (Balassa, 1961). BIMSTEC, formed in 1997, emerged as a promising framework to foster economic convergence among seven littoral and landlocked countries of South and Southeast Asia: "India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Thailand" (Dhami et al., 2020; Kelegama, 2001; Sarath Chandran, 2019). The early literature mainly discussed about how BIMSTEC was formed and what its main objectives were (Kelegama, 2001; Yahya, 2005). Batabyal, (2006); Kaul, (2006); Kelegama, (2001); Sarkar, (2009); Yahya, (2005) pointed out that it could connect the lively ASEAN region with the underdeveloped economy of South Asia. The existing research pointed out that BIMSTEC was established to encourage collaboration across many areas such as trade (Bhattacharya & Bhattacharyay, 2007; Dhami et al., 2020; Dhami & Kaur, 2016; Yusuf, 2025), technology (Hazra, 2021; Naveed et al., 2023; Saha, 2023), energy (Basu Ray Chaudhury, 2024; Bilgili et al., 2024), transport and tourism (Jahanger et al., 2023; Naveed et al., 2023; Yixing et al., 2021). Yusuf, (2025) emphasized India's strategic focus on connectivity infrastructure, including the "Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project" and the "India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway". India's trade volume with BIMSTEC countries has grown, but it remains quite below its full potential, primarily due to infrastructural bottlenecks and limited product complementarity (Bari, 2018; Chaudhary & Paudel, 2024; Kaur, 2020). Bureaucratic obstacles and a lack of political initiative are the two main barriers to multilateral collaboration (Kaul, 2006). South Asia's largest nation in terms of people, economy, size, and military potential is India (Behuria et al., 2012). BIMSTEC is a sector-driven cooperative organization focusing on regional value chains, investment, trade, technology, energy, capacity building, connectivity, management, and people-to-people contact (Sarath Chandran, 2019). India's export-import complementarity with Thailand and other BIMSTEC countries grew between 1998 and 2015, opening commercial prospects for Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. While import diversification reduced, export diversification to other countries rose (Dhami et al., 2020). BIMSTEC also aimed to achieve economic and social growth where everyone is treated equally, so that countries in the region would benefit economically, socially and with new technologies (Dhami et al., 2020). It also included intra-regional help with training, research and development, as well as cooperation in industry, agriculture, trading, investment, better communication and transport, boosting living standards and teaming up with other global organizations (Hazra, 2021). When the BIMSTEC members signed an agreement in February 2004 to start FTA (Free Trade Area), it marked the beginning of more integration in the organization. Besides, the BIMSTEC influential meeting held in Bangkok in July 2004 decided to expand their work into matters like protecting the environment, monitoring weather and climate, biotechnology, and managing natural disasters (Khan, 2011; Raghuramapatruni, 2018). BIMSTEC is playing vital role to attractive an essential trade bloc in Asia-Pacific region. India was key to the process by helping to connect trade and investments and support economic cooperation. BIMSTEC stands out because it is the only organization made up of countries from both South and Southeast Asia (Dhami et al., 2020). India actively helping set up the BIMSTEC trade system by using its key location and economic power. India engaged in constant efforts to expand trade, promote regional integration, and assisting members to collaborate in the economic sphere (Bhardwaj et al., 2023). The BIMSTEC members had been in the process of collectivizing their national plans towards common "Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs) to boost regional integration and socioeconomic growth (Yhome, 2017). The BIMSTEC countries are constantly striving to accomplish SDGs, zero hunger, and sustainability in agriculture. Although India is experiencing rapid economic development, the country is yet to achieve its development goals (Gogoi & Kohli, 2021). The BIMSTEC nations had been attempting to achieve the goals of SDG 7, SDG 8 and SDG 13, but their attempts were not significantly noticeable so far. Naveed et al., (2023) investigated the impact of tourism, transportation, economic growth, and renewable energy using the ecological footprint. The Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs) were playing a role in the economic growth of the BIMSTEC region in terms of helping people get employment, generating revenue, and facilitating developments (Ali et al., 2017).

2. Research Methodology

2.1 Articles Search Method

The current research employs the bibliometric analysis to analyse the intellectual foundations and growth of the literature on BIMSTEC from 2001 to 2024. This approach achieves methodological and conceptual rigour in mapping the state and future directions of BIMSTEC research. A bibliometric analysis that entails performance analysis and scientific mapping is conducted to fulfil the study objectives. Table 1 shows how the database, period, relevant keywords, subjects, and various inclusion and exclusion criteria were determined.

Table 1: Articles Shortlisting; Source: Author's compilation

Selection Criteria	Eliminated	Accepted
Selected Database: "Scopus"		
Search Date: "28 May 2025"		
Search Result for Keywords (Analysis Period: 2001-2024): "BIMSTEC"		133
Articles Published in 2025 till date		3
Selected Subjects: "Social Sciences, Economics, Econometrics and Finance, Business, Management and Accounting, Environmental Science, Energy"	11	122
Type of Publications: "Articles, Book Chapter, Review, Conference Paper"	6	116
Language: Include documents published in English only." Publication Stage: "Final and in Press"	2	114
Source Type – Journal	53	61
Incomplete Records	2	59
Duplicate Records	0	59
Articles Shortlisted for Analysis		59

2.2 Acquisition Method and Source of Data

The research data was collected from the Scopus database because it stands as the most significant and most dependable source of academic articles (Amiri et al., 2023; Burnham, 2006; Guerrero-Bote et al., 2021). The researchers collected the data for the 2001-2024 period. The search generated a final 59 shortlisted articles using the keyword "BIMSTEC". The final 59 documents in .csv format were obtained through this search string:

TITLE-ABS-KEY ("BIMSTEC") AND PUBYEAR > 2000 AND PUBYEAR < 2026 AND PUBYEAR > 2000 AND PUBYEAR < 2026 AND (LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "SOCI") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "ECON") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "BUSI") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "ENVI") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "ENER")) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "ar") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "ch") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "re") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "cp")) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE , "final")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE , "English")) AND (LIMIT-TO (SRCTYPE , "j")).

A manual pre-processing step was implemented to exclude unrelated articles, duplicates, and incomplete records from the dataset (Donthu et al., 2021; Zupic & Čater, 2015). The dataset included no duplicate entries, and 2 incomplete records were detected and carefully excluded.

2.2. Techniques for Analysis

The method of bibliometric analysis examines a specific topic by performing the key processes of scientific mapping and performance-based evaluation (Lal et al., 2024; Singh et al., 2023; Srividhya et al., 2025; Verma et al., 2024). Bibliometric methods can facilitate literature reviews and make them more meaningful which is beneficial to research activities (Suominen et al., 2016). VoS Viewer (van Eck & Waltman, 2010) and Biblioshiny (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017) were used in this study to perform the various analyses. Bibliometric and network analysis was

performed to discover the top 10 authors and countries of origin in BIMSTEC. The keywords review allows the researchers to observe the most frequently used keywords and identify new research areas and modifications throughout the field over time (Goodell et al., 2021).

3. Conceptual Topography

This paper has used conceptual topography approach to determine the insights from the existing literature on BIMSTEC. The next sub-sections provide a graphical and visual representtaions to analyse and comprehend the intellectual structure of this domain by studying growth patterns, author networks, bibliographic relations and co-citations.

3.1 Publication Trends

Table 2 represents the growth of studies on BIMSTEC from 2001 to 2024. The analysis of BIMSTEC-related publications indicates a gradual and steady growth in scholarly interest, with an annual growth rate of 4.68%. A total of 59 documents were published across 46 sources, suggesting moderate academic engagement with the topic. On average, each document is 6.46 years old and has received approximately 10.92 citations, reflecting a fair level of academic impact. Authorship data reveals a relatively balanced mix of collaboration and individual work. Out of 109 total authors, 27 documents were single-authored, with 26 unique authors contributing to these. The average number of co-authors per document is 2.07, and 30.51% of the publications involved international collaboration, indicating a modest level of global scholarly engagement. In terms of content, the documents included 141 keywords plus and 208 authors keywords, suggesting a wide diversity. Overall, the trend shows a slowly growing but consistent scholarly interest in BIMSTEC, with increasing international collaboration and a steady accumulation of citations over time.

Table 2. Publication Trends; Source: Biblioshiny

Description	Results
Analysis Time Period	2001:2024
Total Sources	46
Total Documents	59
% Growth Rate (Annual)	4.68
Average Age of Document	6.46
Per Document (Average) Citations	10.92
Total References	2823
Contents of Document	
"Keywords Plus" Keywords	141
"Author's Keywords"	208
Authors	
Total Authors	109
Authors of Single-Authored Documents	26
Author's Collaboration	
Single-Authored Documents	27
Co-Authors (Per Document)	2.07
Global Co-authorships %	30.51
Document Types	
Articles	57
Review Articles	2

3.2 BIMSTEC Publications

The data in Table 3 illustrates a significant upward trend in scholarly publications related to BIMSTEC from 2001 to 2025. From 2001 to 2008, only 5 articles were published, which doubled to 10 in the 2009 - 2016 period. This number increased to 41 articles between 2017 and 2024, indicating growing academic interest. Notably, 3 articles have already been published in 2025 alone, suggesting a considerable acceleration in research activity and continued rising relevance of BIMSTEC in scholarly discourse.

Table 3. BIMSTEC Publication; Source: Biblioshiny

Year	Articles
2001-2008	5
2009-2016	10
2017-2024	41
2025	3

3.3 Top 10 Authors related to BIMSTEC Publications

The "co-citation analysis" provides valuable findings about the key contributors whose works have significantly shaped the discourse on BIMSTEC, as illustrated in Table 4. Out of 3527 authors analysed, 17 met the threshold of at least 10 citations in the VoS viewer, highlighting the relatively small proportion of highly influential contributors in this field. The top-ranked author, Qamruzzaman M., stands out with 40 total citations (TC) and an impressive total link strength (TLS) of 501.

Table 4. Top 10 Ranked Authors Based on Citation Count; Source: VoS Viewer

Sr. No.	Author	Total Citations (TC)	Total Link Strength (TLS)
1	Qamruzzaman M.	40	501
2	Pesaran M.H.	29	558
3	Awan A.	15	278
4	Hossain M.R.	15	422
5	Jahanger A.	15	416
6	Shahbaz M.	14	341
7	Shahzad U.	14	200
8	Adebayo T.S.	12	370
9	Balsalobre-Lorente D.	12	320
10	Ozturk I.	12	331

Similarly, Pesaran M.H. follows with 29 TC and a TLS of 558, reflecting a high level of influence and regular author co-citations. Other prominent authors include Awan A., Hossain M.R. and Jahanger A., with 15 TC and a TLS of 278, 422 and 416 respectively, highlights the important connections between their work and the research network.
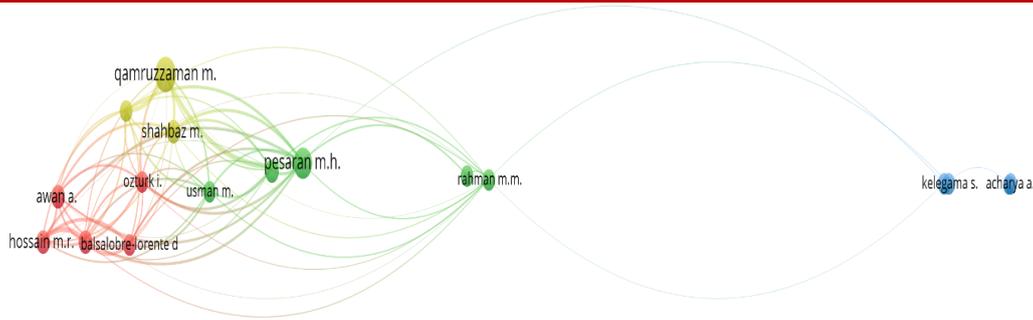
Figure 1. Co-citation Analysis of Authors ; Source: VoS Viewer

Shahbaz M. and Shahzad U. with 14 TC each, and TLS of 341 and 200 respectively contributed immensely to developing the literature on BIMSTEC. Remaining highly effective authors in top 10 list are Adebayo T.S. (TC=12, TLS = 370), Balsalobre-Lorente D. (TC=12, TLS =220) and Ozturk I. (TC=12, TLS =331). Four distinct clusters, varying in size and colour, have emerged from the 30 authors. 5 authors are in the "red cluster", 5 authors are in the "green cluster", 4 authors are in the "blue cluster" and 3 authors are in "yellow cluster". Figure 1 displays the network analysis of co-citations of the 17 connected authors.

3.4 Bibliographic Coupling

Bibliographic coupling, which was conducted using "VoS Viewer", enables identifying connections between sources based on the references used. Two documents are bibliographically coupled whenever they share common references (Chang et al., 2015; Fonteyn et al., 2020). With the help of this technique, the researchers can observe clusters of related studies and select the most important sources that present the basic information about BIMSTEC, as well as the preceding and subsequent history in this area.

3.4.1 Top 10 Publication Sources for BIMSTEC

The study enumerated 46 sources, the minimum document and citation counts of which were 1 and 5, respectively, to be eligible. A total of 24 sources were selected out of the reviewed ones that met the established criteria and were examined more closely. The analysis was performed to determine the connections between these sources based on their citations using VoS Viewer.

Table 5. Bibliographic Coupling of Sources; Source: VoS Viewer

Sr. No.	Source	Documents	TC	TLS
1	"Journal of Environmental Management"	2	262	20
2	"Sustainability (Switzerland)"	1	39	22
3	"China Report"	1	33	1
4	"Asia-Pacific Review"	1	30	0
5	"Global and Planetary Change"	1	30	0
6	"Energy Strategy Reviews"	1	25	20
7	"Journal of Asian Economics"	2	22	12
8	"Journal of the Indian Ocean Region"	4	22	12
9	"Australian Journal of Political Science"	1	20	4
10	"Strategic Analysis"	1	17	2

Table 5 represents the bibliographic coupling of the primary sources determined by Scopus according to the highest number of TC. Among the sources, the "Journal of Environmental Management" ranks first in total citations (262), having 2 documents and 20 TLS. The "Sustainability (Switzerland)" follows with 39 citations from just 1 document and 22 TLS. "Computers in Human Behavior" stands out for its high number of documents (5), TC = 824, and TLS = 352. This reflects both high thematic integration and centrality in the research field, underscoring its role in exploring psychological and behavioral dimensions of AI's interaction with human users. "Sustainability (Switzerland)", (TC = 39, TLS = 22),"China Report" (TC = 33, TLS = 1), "Asia-Pacific Review" (TC = 30, TLS = 0), "Global and Planetary Change" (TC = 30, TLS = 0) , "Energy Strategy Reviews" (TC = 25, TLS = 20) , "Australian Journal of Political Science" (TC = 20, TLS = 4) , and "Strategic Analysis" (TC = 17, TLS = 2) each have produced the 1 document. "Journal of Asian Economics" (TC = 22, TLS = 12) have published the 2 articles and "Journal of the Indian Ocean Region"   (TC = 22, TLS = 12) have produced the 4 articles.
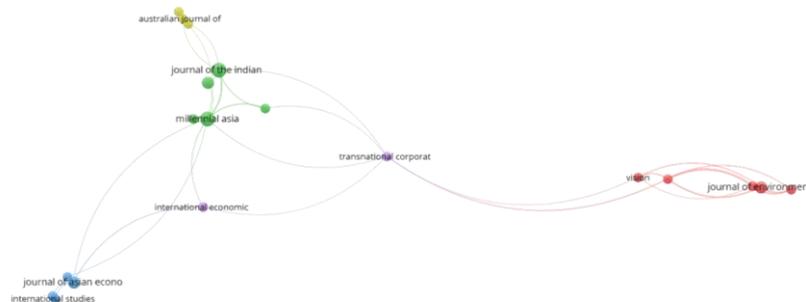

Figure 2. Bibliographic Coupling of Sources; Source: VoS Viewer

Five source clusters were located during the investigation, illustrated in Figure 2. The initial cluster, indicated by red, comprised of 5 sources, whereas the second cluster, indicated by green, also comprised 5 sources. There were 4 sources in the third cluster, depicted in blue, the yellow cluster has 3 source and in last the cyan cluster have the 2 sources.

3.4.2 Top 10 Nations for BIMSTEC Publications

This analysis examines the relationship between countries based on their shared citations in BIMSTEC research, illustrated in Table 6. This analysis, conducted using **VoS Viewer,** identifies how academic research from various countries is interconnected through standard references, helping to understand global trends and collaborations in BIMSTEC related research. The threshold for inclusion was set at a minimum of 1 document and 10 citations per country, with 15 countries meeting these criteria out of the 21 countries analysed.

Table 6. Bibliographic Coupling of Countries; Source: VoS Viewer

Sr. No.	Country	Documents	(TC)	(TLS)
1	Bangladesh	16	380	1698
2	India	33	368	779
3	China	3	267	935
4	Pakistan	2	74	849
5	Turkey	2	74	849
6	Australia	2	71	710
7	Uzbekistan	1	65	659
8	United States	2	50	412
9	Saudi Arabia	2	44	386
10	United Kingdom	2	40	50

In the top 10 nations contributing to BIMSTEC-related research, Bangladesh leads with 16 publications, achieving the highest citation count of 380 and a remarkable Total Link Strength (TLS) of 1698, indicating strong scholarly influence and collaboration. India, while having the highest number of publications (33), follows closely with 368 citations and a TLS of 779, reflecting both a broad and substantial contribution. China, with only 3 publications, has garnered 267 citations and a TLS of 935, showing that its work, though limited in quantity, holds high academic impact. Pakistan and Turkey each contributed 2 publications, receiving 74 citations and sharing a TLS of 849 each, suggesting that their few studies are well-cited and collaborative.

Australia also published 2 documents, earning 71 citations with a TLS of 710, demonstrating significant impact relative to its output. Uzbekistan, despite just 1 publication, achieved 65 citations and a TLS of 659, highlighting exceptional influence from a single study. The United States and Saudi Arabia each produced 2 publications, with 50 and 44 citations respectively, and TLS values of 412 and 386, pointing to moderate influence. Lastly, the United Kingdom, also with 2 publications, recorded 40 citations and a relatively low TLS of 50, suggesting limited collaborative outreach. Overall, this analysis reveals that both publication volume and research quality contribute to citation performance, with several countries showing strong impact despite a smaller number of studies.
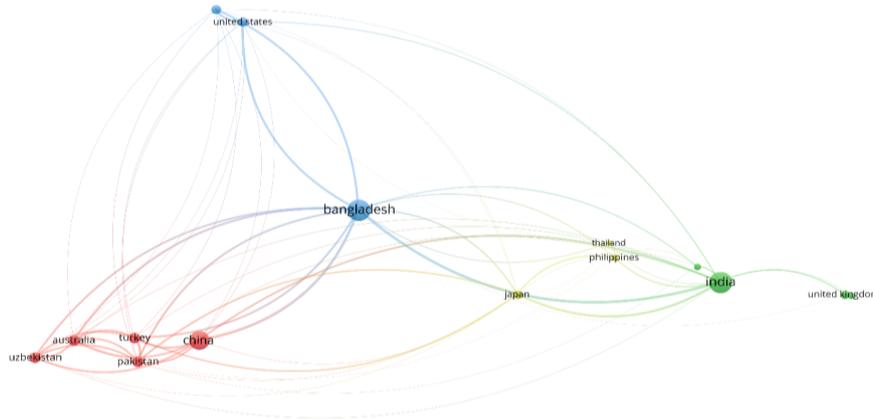

Figure 3. Bibliographic Coupling of Nations (Based on Higher TC); Source: VoS Viewer

Four distinct clusters were formed while the bibliographic coupling of the countries was performed with the help of the VoS viewer, as illustrated in Figure 3. The 1st cluster is represented by the red colour, having 5, the 2nd green (cluster) having 4, the 3rd blue (cluster) having 3, and the last 4th yellow (cluster) having 3, nations respectively.

3.5. Co-occurrence of Keywords

Based on 312 all keywords retrieved from the research paper's titles and the abstracts, a co-occurrence analysis of networks utilizing a VOS viewer is shown in Figure 4.
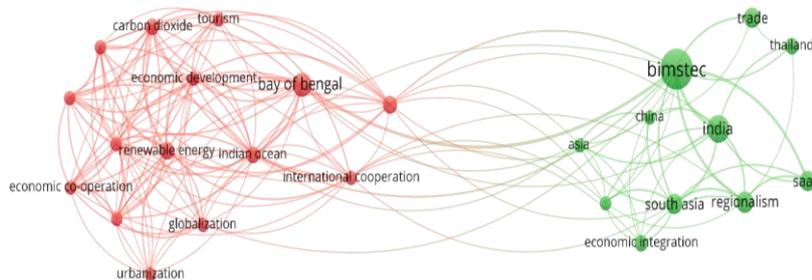

Figure 4. Keywords Co-occurrence; Source: VoS Viewer

This investigation was done to look for patterns in the co-occurrence of specific keywords. In VoS viewers, a minimum of 3 keywords is custom selected as a threshold to produce improved outputs, yielding 29 keywords that meet the criteria. Each keyword was then separated into 2 clusters and assigned to a different color. In the first cluster, most occurred keywords are - "bay of bengal", "economic growth", "renewable energy", etc. are highlighted in red. With total 11 keywords, and with most influential keywords are "BIMSTEC", "India", "regionalism", and "south Asia" are the keywords in the second cluster, indicated by a green cluster.

4. Conclusion and Future Research

This bibliometric analysis offers a thorough analysis of India's economic engagement with BIMSTEC from 2001 to 2024, highlighting key trends, contributors, and research directions. The study reveals a steady increase in scholarly output, particularly between 2017 and 2024, with an annual growth rate of 4.68%, reflecting rising academic interest in regional economic integration. India and Bangladesh emerge as the most active contributors, with Bangladesh leading in total citations and link strength, indicating its strong influence and collaborative research presence. Prominent authors such as Qamruzzaman M. and Pesaran M.H. have significantly shaped the discourse, while impactful journals

like the "Journal of Environmental Management and Sustainability (Switzerland)" have served as major publication platforms. The keyword analysis shows a growing scholarly focus on "renewable energy, sustainable development, and regionalism", aligning with broader global priorities such as the "Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs). The field of India's economic engagement with BIMSTEC is underexplored, requiring more empirical studies, interdisciplinary approaches, and policy-oriented research. Future studies should focus on infrastructure, digital trade, and SMEs to enhance regional integration and trade dynamics. Interdisciplinary approaches, including economics, environmental science, and political studies, can provide insights into the long-term potential and challenges of BIMSTEC cooperation, helping policymakers craft effective regional strategies. Same study for same of different time period can be conducted with different database like - web of science (WoS) etc to gain more insights.

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