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Nilanthi Samaranayake is a strategic studies analyst at CNA, a non-profit research and analysis organization located in the Washington, D.C. Her research focuses on Indian Ocean security and South Asia.

Prior to joining CNA, Samaranayake completed a fellowship at the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR), where she investigated Sri Lanka's deepening economic, military, and diplomatic ties with China. Her findings were published in the peer-reviewed journal, *Asian Security*. She has authored book chapters on the non-India/Pakistan, smaller countries of South Asia (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives) and their relations with China (for Praeger); the U.S.-China-India "strategic triangle" in the Indian Ocean region (for Kotelawala Defence University); and island states in the Indian Ocean (for Stimson Centre). Samaranayake's analysis has been featured in *World Politics Review*, *The Diplomat*, *The National Interest*, *South Asia Journal*, *Pragati*, *Yale Global*, and *Asia Pacific Bulletin* among other outlets. She has appeared in media such as *Al Jazeera*, *South China Morning Post*, and *Foreign Policy*.

Samaranayake analyzed public opinion for a decade at Pew Research Centre in Washington, D.C. While there, she twice directed the quadrennial survey, "America's Place in the World." Samaranayake holds an MSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She can be contacted at [nilanthi@cna.org](mailto:nilanthi@cna.org).

Selected CNA Research

- Nilanthi Samaranayake, Satu Limaye, Joel Wuthnow, Water Resource Competition in the Brahmaputra River Basin: China, India, and Bangladesh, CNA, May 2016.
- Nilanthi Samaranayake, Catherine Lea, Dmitry Gorenburg, Improving U.S.-India HA/DR Coordination in the Indian Ocean, CNA, July 2014.
- Nilanthi Samaranayake, Satu Limaye, Dmitry Gorenburg, Catherine Lea, Thomas A. Bowditch, U.S.-India Security Burden-Sharing? The Potential for Coordinated Capacity-Building in the Indian Ocean, CNA, April 2013.
- Nilanthi Samaranayake, The Long Littoral Project: Bay of Bengal—A Maritime Perspective on Indo-Pacific Security, CNA, September 2012.