

*Sustainable Development Goals in
SAARC Countries:
Key Issues, Opportunities and Challenges*



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INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH SAARC COUNTRIES (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL)

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Introduction

With a total area of 5 million square kilometers, a total population of over 1.60 billion, of whom more than 65% are under the age of 35, and a combined GDP of over \$6 trillion in purchasing power parity terms, the eight powerhouses are: It will play an important role in Asia's new century if it can overcome problems such as unreliable domestic governance, export of terrorism by some, sporadic ethnic, sectarian and sectarian conflicts and unresolved border disputes brought on by colonies. it must be. Since its independence in the 1940s, the South Asian region has pursued protectionist policies focused on state control of economic activity and self-reliance by reducing dependence on foreign investment through tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade. Sri Lanka pioneered economic liberalization in the 1970s, while other countries embarked on a new path of globalization in the 1980s and 1990s. In most of the countries, the process of economic reforms is progressing at different pace. It was also a precondition for realizing a meaningful regional and institutional mechanism. So seven South Asian nations including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka agreed in 1985 to form a trade bloc called the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and provide a forum for it. expressed. The first article of the SAARC Charter is presented as follows; We, the Heads of State or Government of India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka; "Desire to promote peace, stability, amity and progress in the region through strict observance of the United Nations Charter and the principles of non-alignment, in particular, universal equality, territorial integrity, national independence, non-use of force, respect" and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and the peaceful settlement of all disputes; Let the people of South Asia work together in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding."

The SAARC Charter further stipulates that decisions are to be taken on the basis of consensus in all fora of SAARC. Bilateral and contentious issues are expressly excluded from its deliberations and cooperation is based on sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Ironically, these provisions have a cumbersome history of their own and have effectively stalled the functioning of SAARC as they have been seen more in violation than in compliance.

In the Dhaka Declaration of the 13th SAARC Summit in November 2005, Afghanistan was admitted to the Forum as its 8th newest member. SAARC currently has nine observers (China, the European Union, Iran, South Korea, Australia, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar and the United States). The acceptance of new observers, or the advancement of observers to negotiator status, has been suspended until the nature and direction of SAARC's relations with observers is clarified.

India's First Neighborhood Policy

1. India's Neighborhood First Policy is a foreign policy launched by the Government of India in 2014.
2. The policy aims to strengthen India's ties with its neighbors, especially in the South Asian region.
3. The Neighborhood First Policy is based on mutual interest and aims to build stronger economic, political and cultural ties between India and its neighbors.
4. The focus is on improving connectivity, increasing trade and investment, promoting cultural exchange, and tackling common challenges such as terrorism, climate change and poverty.
5. Since independence, India's foreign policy has continued to evolve and cooperation with its neighbors has always been a top priority for the country. The centerpiece of India's foreign policy, the Neighborhood First Policy, focuses on peaceful relations and cooperative and synergistic joint development with its South Asian neighbors.

6. India's Neighborhood First Strategy focuses on the development of people-centred regional structures of mutual benefit for peace and development.

Objectives of Indian Neighborhood Policy

The Indian Neighborhood Policy aims to strengthen India's relationship with its neighbors and promote stability, prosperity and security in South Asia and the rest of the region. The policy is based on the idea that a stable and prosperous neighborhood is essential to India's economic and security interests. The Neighborhood First policy is also part of India's larger vision to become a leading regional and global power. India seeks to increase its influence and influence in regional and global affairs by building close ties with its neighbors.

Connectivity: Waterway connections between India and Bangladesh have contributed to the supply chain, especially between Bangladesh and northeast India. The \$484 million freight forwarding project, called the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project, will connect the port of Sittwe, Rakhine State, Myanmar, to Kolkata in eastern India. The Rail Services Agreement (RSA), 2004 regulates rail freight transport between India and Nepal.

1. India has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
2. Cooperation in the economic field
3. Trade relations between Sri Lanka and India are governed by the Indo-Sri Lanka Free

7. India's Neighborhood First Policy aims to strengthen ties with neighboring countries while promoting international peace and cooperation.

Trade Agreement (ISFTA), signed on December 28, 1998 and entered into force on March 1, 2000.

4. The ASEAN-India Trade Agreement on Goods (hereinafter "Agreement") is a trade agreement between 10 ASEAN member countries (including Myanmar) and India. In April 1993, seven SAARC members India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka signed the SAARC Preferred Trade Agreement (SAPTA).

Disaster prevention cooperation

This southern Asian geographic location is subject to a variety of natural disasters such as volcanoes, earthquakes, cyclones, monsoons, and ultimately massive floods. About two billion people in the region are now vulnerable to longer and more intense monsoons and droughts due to climate change. India has taken the lead in enhancing cooperation among South Asian countries on disaster mitigation.

Cooperation in military and defense

India is also committed to enhancing regional security through military cooperation by conducting and participating in various defense exercises. Write the names of neighboring countries of India The information about the 8 neighboring countries of India under SAARC is given in the table below.

S.N	Country	Border Length (km)	Bordering States
1.	Afghanistan	106 Km	Jammu & Kashmir (PoK)
2.	Bangladesh	4096.7 Km	West Bengal
3.	Bhutan	699 Km	Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura & Assam
4.	Myanmar	1643 Km	Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram & Manipur
5.	Nepal	1751Km	Bihar, Uttarakhand, UP, Sikkim & West Bengal
6.	Pakistan	3323Km	Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan & Gujarat
7.	Sri Lanka	Sea Border	Separated from India by Gulf of Mannar
8.	Maldives	Sea Border	Lies in the south-west of India below the Lakshadweep Island

Note - that India has the third largest borders in the world after Russia and China. Down load adjacency

Joint Exercise Name	Exercise Type	Between
Mitra Shakti	Joint Military Exercise	India-Sri Lanka
SLINEX	Joint Naval Exercise	India-Sri Lanka
Surya Kiran	Joint Military Exercise	India-Nepal
PANEX-21	Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise	India-BIMSTEC
SAMPRITI	Joint Military Exercise	India-Bangladesh

1. India-Pakistan relations
2. India-Nepal Relations
3. India-Bangladesh relations
4. India-Bhutan Relations
5. India-Myanmar Relations
6. India-Sri Lanka Relations
7. India-Maldives Relations
8. India-Afghanistan Relations

1. India-Pakistan Relations

Located in South Asia, India is currently one of the most influential countries in the world. To the north lies the Himalayas and to the south lies the vast Indian Ocean. Geographically, it is connected to both water and land. Its location on the Asian continent is very important because of its size and peaceful image. Neighboring countries are also aware of this. Due to its size, it has many neighboring countries. India's neighbors include Pakistan, China, Nepal, China, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Each of our neighbors is of great importance and India strives to develop positive relations with all of them.

India's closest neighbor is Pakistan to the northwest. In a sense, Pakistan is part of India. Before 1947 there was no country called Pakistan. Before independence, India had to accept both independence and partition because some selfish and power-hungry politicians in India advocated a "two-state" ideology.

Pakistan gained independence on her August 14, 1947 and India on her August 15, 1947, according to the British policy of partitioning India. Relations between the two countries remain strained after the division, just as the strife between the brothers continues after the division of their ancestral property. Indeed, tensions have persisted between the two countries since the Kashmir conflict began. After Kashmir's Maharajah Hari Singh signed an accession treaty with India, in terms of morality and balance, Kashmir became an integral part of India, while Pakistan was a Muslim-majority state. I keep insisting and always keep punctuality in mind. Because of this, relations between India and Pakistan have never been normal. Regarding the January 1964 riots in East Pakistan and the Hindu Mahavishkraman, Jayaprakash Narayan said, "Dividing the country has not proven to be a rational solution to the problem." Pakistan invaded India four times (1947 and 1999). India must respond to defend its sovereignty and integrity. What counts is every time Pakistan

attacks India first, and every time it loses to India.

However, it continues its anti-India activities and is now directly or indirectly supporting terrorist organizations aimed at promoting terrorism in India. The terrorist attacks on the Indian Parliament Building on December 13, 2001 and the Taj Hotel and other locations in Mumbai on November 26, 2008 confirm this fact. Despite Pakistan's hostile attitude, India has always maintained a positive attitude toward Pakistan. India recognizes the importance of a stable political environment in the region and advocates a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute through dialogue. Previous orders led to the signing of the Tashkent Agreement between the two countries in 1966 and the Shimla Agreement in 1972. Rail service between the two countries was launched on 22nd July 1976 under the name of the Shimla Agreement Samdjawta Samdjawta Samdjawta. to express. However, even after that, there was no significant change in Pakistan's behavior, and India continued its efforts toward peace.

In February 1999, then-Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee established friendly relations through a historic bus tour to Lahore, but in May and July 1999 Pakistan again betrayed and invaded India's Kargil district. Pakistan lost the battle of Kargil and India won Operation Vijay. In December 1999, shortly after the Kargil War, an Indian Airlines passenger plane was hijacked in Pakistan. Both incidents seriously affected India-Pakistan relations. Cricket and diplomatic relations between the two countries remained broken for many years. Relations between the two countries normalized with the declaration of a ceasefire in November 2003. However, relations between the neighboring countries soured again in late 2008 following an attack in Mumbai by the Pakistan-backed terrorist group Lashkarr - e-Taibah. Later several efforts were made within the cricket board to improve the relations between the two countries. Talks were held several times from the Indian side to improve relations, which are still going on.

2. India-Nepal Relations

India's second important neighboring country is - Asia's rapidly emerging powerful country 'China' touching the borders of the north-eastern states of India. China is bigger

than India in terms of area, these two countries are regarded as each other's rivals. Known as Although the relations between India and China are historically and culturally thousands of years old, even after independence, friendly relations between the two have been maintained. Even India, while supporting China internationally, played a role in getting it permanent membership in the United Nations, and in the Bandung Conference in the year 1955, both the countries fully supported each other and declared 'Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai'. ' slogan, but due to the Tibet dispute, there was a rift in this friendly relationship. The Panchsheel agreement was signed between the two countries in the year 1954, at that time it seemed that the period of bitterness in relations had ended, but the Government of India could not support the oppression of the Chinese administration in Tibet. In fact, the insurgency in the Tibet region in 1958 was being supported by the spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. China feared this rebellion. After this, on March 31, 1959, the Dalai Lama took refuge in India.

China was deeply offended by India's asylum to the Dalai Lama, and with the aim of humiliating India internationally, attacked some areas of Jammu and Kashmir on October 20, 1962, on the border of Ladakh in the North-Eastern Frontier Region of India. Occupied. The reason for giving shelter to the Dalai Lama was just one thing, in fact China wanted to prove its weakness to India by demonstrating its power through this attack. Jawaharlal Nehru was shocked by this Chinese invasion and he died in the year 1964. India-China hostile relations started from here. In the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971, it made its hostile intent completely clear by indirectly supporting Pakistan. Even at the present time, China talks about the right to be its own on some parts of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, as well as it is trying to increase its supremacy in the Chinese Sea and the Indian Ocean. He is laying a network of wide-lane roads in the Indian border areas in preparation to write off India on strategic fronts from all sides and is also working on a project to divert the flow of the Brahmaputra river. All these activities are not in the interest of India.

In the year 1954, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar had said- "If India had given recognition to Tibet, as it was given to the

Republic of China in the year 1949, today the Tibet-China border dispute would not have been an India-China border dispute. It happens. The Prime Minister, who gave authority over Lhasa to China, is bringing his forces completely to the border of India to the Chinese people. Although efforts to remove the deadlock between the two countries started from the year 1968 itself. In the year 1988, Rajiv Gandhi made the first beginning of friendship by visiting China. In the year 2008, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh also tried to improve relations between the two countries, following Rajiv Gandhi's manifesto. During this, the 'Common Goal of the 21st Century' document was issued by both the countries, so far many agreements have been made between the two in the fields of trade, science and technology etc. and the economic participation of both has increased. Settlement of the border dispute between the two countries was discussed during the visit of Chinese President Mr. Xi Jin Ping after Mr. Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister in the year 2014, as well as 16 different agreements were signed. Undoubtedly, this visit of the Chinese President has developed a sense of mutual brotherhood; the relations between the two countries are still in an atmosphere of doubt.

3. India-Bangladesh relations

Bangladesh, located to the east of India, was earlier known as East Pakistan. It was earlier a part of Pakistan, but due to the dictatorial attitude of the Pakistani government, the then East Pakistan had to suffer repression. At that time many Bangladeshis took refuge in India. Then India was forced to intervene militarily. Bangladesh was recognized as an independent nation on December 6, 1971 by the combined efforts of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the international world. Although Bangladesh is the second largest Muslim country in the world in terms of population, but it is very backward economically, so India provides as much support as possible to Bangladesh. It is notable that Bangladeshis see India in the role of 'big brother', yet India-Bangladesh relations were not very close till August, 1975. Later, with the Awami League coming to power in Bangladesh, relations between the two countries warmed up. In December 1997, an agreement was signed between the two countries on the sharing of the

waters of the river Ganges for 30 years. There was also talk of cooperation on the issue of flood warning and preparedness from both the countries. At present, there is definitely friendly relations between the two countries, but there is a situation of dispute on some issues. Bangladesh periodically claims Padua and New Moore Islands, which were under Indian control since 1971. Apart from this, there is also a dispute between the two over the sharing of the waters of the Ganges River and the official territory of the Bay of Bengal. In addition to all this, terrorist organizations like him are also active in Bangladesh, through which Pakistan's ISI organization carries out terrorist activities in India. According to an estimate, more than 2 million Bangladeshis are living illegally in India. .

Whenever India raises this problem, the answer received from Bangladesh is that there is not a single Bangladeshi migrant in India. In order to solve this problem, in the year 2002, India imposed flood on a border more than a mile long, but there was no special benefit from this also. Overall, there are some contentious issues between the two countries despite cultural similarities, but these can be resolved through dialogue. More recently (June, 2014) Indian External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj gave a positive direction to the relations with Bangladesh by increasing the frequency of 'Maitri Express Train', starting bus service from Dhaka to Guwahati and Shillong, 100 MW from Tripura to Bangladesh. It has been announced to provide electricity and develop a special economic zone there. During this, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Mr. Abul Hasan Mahmood Ali had said- "Bangladesh wants to be the number one friend of India and invites Indian companies to set up special economic zones in the country and invest in automobile, energy and manufacturing sectors. Is ." The relations between the two countries will definitely improve in the coming times.

4. India-Bhutan Relations

Historically, relations between India and Bhutan have been very close. In August 1949, the two countries signed a treaty of friendship, under which the two countries would not interfere in each other's internal affairs to maintain mutual peace, although the government of Bhutan would consult the government of India regarding its foreign

relations. However, on February 8, 2007, the treaty was amended keeping in view the abiding ties of close friendship and cooperation between Bhutan and India. Now India will not only guide Bhutan in giving direction to international level relations, but both countries will also cooperate on national level issues and neither of these countries will use their land for the other's harm. After this amendment, Bhutan's position as an independent and sovereign nation has been strengthened. In the year 2008, Indian Prime Minister Mr. Manmohan Singh visited Bhutan and inspired it to establish democracy and signed an agreement to import electricity from Bhutan. A hydroelectric dam has been built in Bhutan by the Indian company Tata Power. This has not only created employment opportunities in Bhutan, but the electricity generated by this dam is also exported to India to meet India's growing energy needs. This has led to the development of the Bhutanese economy. The dam project has resulted in a 20% boom in the Bhutanese economy, which is the second highest growth rate in the world. India is also the largest trading partner country of Bhutan.

In August 2013, the then Prime Minister of Bhutan visited India, then the Government of India gave an agreement of million US dollars giving financial assistance to the economy of Bhutan. Bhutan is an important neighboring country for India, so in June 2014, the current Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose Bhutan as his first foreign trip. The purpose of his visit was to promote mutual cooperation. During this, he inaugurated the Supreme Court complex of Bhutan and promised to cooperate with Bhutan in the information technology and digital sector. Certainly our relationship with Bhutan will deepen in the times to come.

5. India-Myanmar Relations

Myanmar is located in the east of India, adjacent to the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. Myanmar is very important for India because of its geographical location. Historically India and Myanmar have been very close countries. After the independence of Myanmar in the year 1948, India established strong cultural and commercial relations with Myanmar. Later, the military coup in Myanmar strained the relations between the two countries, as India strongly condemned the suppression of democracy in

Myanmar, yet due to geopolitical concerns, India sought to revive its relations with Myanmar. Tried to Due to this purpose, the Indian Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi visited Myanmar in the year 1987, but due to the anti-democracy movement in the year 1988, the number of Myanmar refugees in India increased very rapidly, due to which the relations between the two countries deteriorated further. During this time, China wanted to grow closer with Myanmar, which Indian politicians saw with concern, so the Prime Ministers after 1998 (especially PB Narasimha Rao and Atal Bihari Vajpayee) insisted on improving relations with Myanmar. .

After the establishment of democracy in the year 2010, a period of prosperity has started in India-Myanmar relations. Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who visited India at the end of the year 2012, had said- "I consider myself an Indian citizen partially." This statement of Myanmar's Nobel laureate leader shows the mutual love between the two countries. He did his education from Delhi based college in the 60s. Our former Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh had visited Myanmar in the year 2012 and 2014. In the year 2013, India has given a loan of 500 million Amorka dollars to Myanmar for development. In addition, India is currently the fourth largest trading partner of Myanmar. India accounts for 25% of Myanmar's total exports. Governments of both countries are cooperating with each other on issues like agriculture, telecommunication, information and technology, steel, oil, natural gas, food etc. Keeping this in mind, on February 18, 2001, both countries inaugurated the 260 km long India-Myanmar Friendship Road. It is mainly created by the Indian Army Border Road Organization, whose main objective is to strengthen the trade relations between the two countries. The Government of India is focusing on the expansion of water, land and air routes to increase trade with Myanmar.

In this sequence, an agreement has been reached between India and Myanmar for the construction of 3,200 km long, 4-lane triangular highway, which will be ready by the year 2016. Thus, together India and Myanmar are giving a new dimension to their bilateral relations. Our current Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has further strengthened the friendship between the

two countries by visiting Myanmar during the ASEAN and East Asia Summit in November, 2014. Hope we can be closer to each other in future.

6. India-Sri Lanka Relations

Sri Lanka, located in the Indian Ocean, is located to the south of India; the Palk Strait is the international boundary line between the two nations. Generally, Sri Lanka and India have had friendly relations, but the Indian intervention during the Sri Lankan Civil War severely affected the relations between the two countries. In order to stop the war in Sri Lanka and the terrorist activities of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ilam 1775, in the year 1987, India sent the Indian Peace Keeping Force to Sri Lanka under 'Pawan' operation. India's aim was to rescue Sri Lanka from the civil war, but the opposite result came to the fore. The Tamil community settled in Sri Lanka looked at it with suspicion and because of this suspicion, the LTTE organization active in Sri Lanka caused a great blow to India. LTTE assassinated our former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi on May 21, 1991 by using a human bomb. This incident was heart wrenching for India. Taking strict action on this, India declared LTTE a terrorist organization. India's relations with Sri Lanka weakened in this whole event, although later relations between the two countries began to improve. In the last decade (2001-10), there has been a qualitative and quantitative change in the relations between the two countries. Along with political relations, bilateral relations have strengthened in the fields of trade, investment, defense etc. At this time, India-Sri Lanka has implemented many more development-oriented schemes. In the year 2006-07, India provided financial assistance of Rs.28 crores to Sri Lanka.

The year 2010 is said to be the most successful year for bilateral trade between the two countries, as Sri Lanka exported 45% more to India this year. Presently Indian National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is constructing a power plant of 500 MW capacity at Sampur (Sri Lanka). It is said that this project will take India-Sri Lanka relations to a new level. By the way, Sri Lanka has also supported India's candidature for the permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council. In February 2013, Sri Lankan President Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa had visited

Bodh Gaya, the city of Lord Buddha. Then his protest was also done on behalf of Tamil politics. Our former Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh also visited Sri Lanka in March, 2014 and requested the President there to release 32 Indian fishermen arrested by Sri Lanka. Here Sri Lanka has not only invited our newly elected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, but has also expressed goodwill towards India by releasing five Indian fishermen who were facing death sentence. Our relationship will surely grow stronger in the future. |

7. India-Maldives Relations

Maldives is a group of more than 1200 small islands located in the south-west of Sri Lanka. This country located in the Indian Ocean is very important for India from a strategic point of view, therefore Maldives has a special place in Indian foreign policy. Since the independence of Maldives in the year 1966, India has established strong cultural, economic and defense relations with Maldives. In the year 1988, India provided military assistance to Maldives against the terrorist organization LTTE. The Indian Army stopped a coup in Maldives under 'Operation Cactus' which was praised by all the countries including America, Soviet Union, Britain, Nepal, Bangladesh etc. After the success of the 'Cactus' campaign, there was a significant expansion in the bilateral relations between India and Maldives. At present, India is taking Maldives towards development in various fields and is giving financial assistance as much as possible. In April 2006, the Indian Navy gifted a Fast Attack Craft to the Maldives. Maldives is a small and relatively less developed country, which is under the evil eye of terrorist organizations. Therefore, in the year 2009, New Delhi has signed an agreement with Maldives, under which India will contribute to strengthen the security system of Maldives. Former Maldivian President Mr. Mohamed Nasheed took refuge in the Indian High Commission after resigning from his post and then being issued an arrest warrant by a court there in 2013. While leaving the High Commission, he expressed his gratitude to the Indians and said-"Thank you for your kindness and hospitality during the days of refuge." Then India had appealed to all the major parties of Maldives to maintain peace and patience and had expressed the hope of maintaining positive relations

between the two countries. It is hoped that friendly relations between India and Maldives will continue like in the past.

8. India-Afghanistan Relations

India and Afghanistan have traditionally enjoyed strong and friendly relations. For the last few decades, there has been terror of Taliban in Afghanistan. Taliban terrorists have killed two of our diplomats. In the year 2013, terrorists also made Indian writer Sushmita Banerjee living in Afghanistan their victim.

India is the only South-Asian country which supported Soviet Russia's military operation to eliminate the Taliban. Presently, India is providing economic and military assistance to Afghanistan on humanitarian approach for its development.

Afghanistan considers India as its 'brother nation'. India is currently the largest regional investor in Afghanistan and most committed to its reconstruction. Many Indian workers and some part of the Indian Army are involved in the construction of roads, railways, hospitals, schools etc. on a large scale in Afghanistan. The United Nations also considers India's peace efforts in Afghanistan to be commendable. At present, the US Army ISF is making an important contribution in maintaining peace in Afghanistan, but America now wants to return this part of its army to its country. Our current Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi says that America should gradually withdraw its army from there in a phased manner, so that the roots of democracy can be strengthened. Has promised full cooperation. Hope our friendship will grow stronger in future. If India's relations with all the neighboring countries are reviewed, it becomes clear that except Pakistan and China, India has friendly relations with all other countries. India is an influential nation in South Asia, but it treats its neighboring countries cordially. Its neighboring countries see it in the role of 'big brother' and India also according to its peace-loving image, provides proper assistance to them and helps in their development. India goes ahead and helps its neighbors during natural calamities.

Examples of Myanmar (Cyclone Nargis), Sri Lanka and Maldives (Tsunami) are noteworthy. Although India is trying to improve its relations with Pakistan and China, but in this process they will also have to cooperate. China

and Pakistan also have to understand that their friendly relations with India will be in their own interest only. India wants to see its neighbor progress along with its progress. Therefore, it will always play a positive role in South Asia and will continue to fulfill its obligations towards the neighboring countries according to the time.

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