

ISBN: 978-93-94819-42-9

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Jyotikiran Publication, Pune
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Publishing Agency

Jyotikiran Publication, Pune

Publisher Address

Santosh Pandurang Mane

Sr. No. 204, Sahajeevan Society,

Bhekrinagar, Hadpsar, Pune-8

Mob- 8888454089

Email- jyotikiranpublicationpune@gmail.com

Printed By

Amitsons Digital Copier 106, Paras

Chamber, 1st Floor, Above Bank Of

India, Near Laxminarayan Theatre,

Swargate, Pune- 411009

Edition Details: Ist

ISBN: 978-93-94819-42-9

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Publication Date: 20/08/2023

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AMMAA	Agreement on Monitoring the Management of Arms and Armies
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
CBMs	Confidence Building Measures
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear Weapons
CCBLE	Civilian Capacity Building for Law Enforcement in Pakistan
CCIT	Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism
CCOMPOSA	Coordination Committee of the Maoist Parties of South Asia
CFA	Ceasefire Agreement
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Accord
CPN (M)	Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
CrPC	Criminal Procedure Code
CTC	Counter-Terrorism Centre
CUFL	Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited
EPRLF	Eelam Peoples' Revolutionary Liberation Front
EU	European Union
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
HeI	Hizb-e-Islami
HPI	Human Poverty Index
HUJI	Harkat-ul-Jihadi Islami
HUJI-B	Harkat-ul-Jihad-al Islami Bangladesh
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IIGs	Indian Insurgent Groups
IoM	Islam-o-Muslim
ISCN-IM	National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak Muivah
JATM	Joint Anti-Terrorism Mechanism
JI	Jamaah Islamiah
JMB	Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh
JMJB	Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh
JTMM	Janatantrik Tarai Mukti Morcha
KIA	Kachin Independent Army
KLO	Kamatapur Liberation Organisation
KPK	Khyber Pakhtunkwa LeJ Lashkar-e-Jhangvi
LeT	Lashkar-e-Tayyeba
LLRC	Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission
LOAC	Law of Armed Conflict
LOC	Line of Control

LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
MCCI	Maoist Communist Party of India
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
MNDF	Maldives National Defence Force
MNLF	Madhesi National Liberation Front
NDFB	National Democratic Front of Bodoland
NSCN	National Socialist Council of Nagaland
NSI	National Security Intelligence
PLA	People's Liberation Army
PPP	Pakistan People's Party
PPW	Protracted People's War
PSI	Proliferation Security Initiative
PWG	People's War Group
RAB	Rapid Action Battalion
RGST	Reformed General Sales Tax
RIM	Revolutionary International Movement
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SIMI	Student Islamic Movement of India
SLFP	Sri Lanka Freedom Party
SPA	Seven-Party Alliance
SSP	Sipah-e-Sahaba
STOMD	SAARC Terrorism Monitoring Desk
ULFA	United Liberation Front of Asom
UNLF-M	United National Liberation Front-Manipur
UNP	United National Party
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
VDCs	Village Development Committees
YCL	Young Communist League

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF SAARC

The idea or concept of establishing regional cooperation among South Asian countries first arose in 1980. In May 1980, the first initiative was taken to set up or establish SAARC. The foreign ministers of the seven Member States visited Colombia for the first time in April 1981. First his five priority areas were added to the list of regional cooperation, and many more have since been added. The organization was finally established after the charter was formally accepted by the heads of government of Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka on December 8, 1985 in Dhaka. Areas identified as the main areas of activity of this organization included rural and agricultural improvement, social issues, tourism and human resource development, trade, finance and economics.

States of SAARC Member

SAARC was established with the initiative to create South Asian regional cooperation among the countries of the South Asian region. The importance of SAARC is related to building strong international relations among countries in the South Asian region. The importance of SAARC is recognized by the countries that are members of this organization. Eight of her states are primarily identifiable as members of this organization, with nine other her states acting as observer states to this organization. Members of this organization are listed below.

These are the members directly involved in the SAARC organization. The establishment of this organization gave these countries the opportunity to build strong international relations.

Role of SAARC

SAARC's main mission is to work for the development or growth of the people of the South Asian region by achieving common or equivalent goals in terms of cultural, social and economic development. SAARC has several features that help build strong and effective international relations between different countries. SAARC features include:

- Promote well-being and improve quality of life for people in South Asia
- Strengthen the power of mutual trust between countries, understand and recognize each other's problems
- Accelerate social progress, economic development and cultural growth in the South Asian region by enabling all individuals to live with dignity and reach their potential
- Promoting active cooperation and mutual aid in social, technological, cultural and scientific fields
- Promote and strengthen the collective self-reliance of South Asian member states or nations
- All these functions of SAARC play an important role in building mutual international relations among all South Asian countries. Meaning of SAARC
- The importance of SAARC can be seen in many areas. SAARC means:

The organization plays an important role in promoting peace among its member states in South Asia.Helps build mutual trust and promote political stability.Creating opportunities for friendship and cooperation among the peoples of South Asia.Contributing to improving the quality of life of people in South Asia.

Organization of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.(SAARC) SAARC cooperation is based on adherence to five basic principles: equality of sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of member states, and mutual benefit. Bilateral and international exchanges of SAARC member countries are complemented by regional cooperation. The SAARC Summit is held annually and is chaired by the country hosting the summit.

The SAARC organization is divided into the following levels.

Summit |

The summit is a biennial meeting attended by leaders of all SAARC member countries. This is the highest authority or decision-making body under SAARC.

Cabinet |

Each country is represented on the Council by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of each member country. Councils are the highest political decision-making bodies. Available every two years.

Standing Committee |

It is composed of foreign ministers of member countries. Its main tasks are:

Program monitoring and adjustment.

The focus will be on defining funding modes and cross-cutting priorities.

The aim is to develop new areas of cooperation, based on appropriate research and the mobilization of resources within and outside the region.

Australia Group - Know Your Members, Importance to India, Purpose for UPSC is Here!

Technical Committee |

Member State representatives develop programs and plan initiatives in their respective areas. The Technical Committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of these measures and reporting to the Standing Committee. program committee This committee is composed of SAARC Division Heads (JS/DG/Directors) of Member States. Its features are:

- It assists the Standing Committee in various areas related to the selection of regional projects, such as cost-sharing mechanisms among Member States and external funding.
- Cross-cutting priorities of the work program
- Check the activity calendar.

Working committee

The SAARC Charter provides for up to two working committees, including all Member States involved in implementing the Initiative.

office

The SAARC Secretariat was established in 1987 and began operations on January 1, 1988. The Secretariat's role is to oversee the operational conduct of SAARC, support the organization's meetings, and act as a channel of communication.

Apex Bodies of SAARC

- **SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI)**,
Recognized as the regional apex trade organization by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the association is a conglomeration of eight national federation chambers of commerce from SAARC member countries. The rationale behind the establishment of the SAARC Chambers of Commerce of the SAARC countries was to

promote trade and industry in the region and to develop and achieve common goals in the fields of trade and industry. In addition, the SAARC Chamber of Commerce is recognized as the voice of the private sector across the region.

As instructed by the SAARC Secretariat, the SAARC Chambers of Commerce, with the support of the National Associations, submitted a draft constitution to the SAARC Secretariat for approval in December 1992. This meant that the SAARC Chambers of Commerce (SAARC CCI) would be formally recognized by all SAARC national governments as the apex body of the National Association of SAARC Chambers of Commerce.

- Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry
- Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry
- Maldives National Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry
- Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry
- Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka
- **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Law (SAARCLAW)**

The South Asian Association for Legal Cooperation (SAARCLAW) is an association of the legal community of SAARC countries, composed of duly registered judges, lawyers, academics, legal teachers, civil servants and other legal practitioners. Granted the status of SAARC Secretariat and SAARC Regional Governing Body in Kathmandu. It grew out of the desire of members of the legal community to establish an association within the SAARC region to bring the legal community together, increase understanding, and facilitate the exchange of ideas and dissemination of information. born. Please be sure to bring it with you. Develop and use law as a source and tool of social change for development, and build cooperation among local peoples. SAARCLAW was established in Colombo on 24th October 1991 when the then President of Sri Lanka His Excellency Ranasingha Premadasa inaugurated the Association in the presence of a large gathering of legal professionals.

EDUCATION, SECURITY FACTOR AND CULTURE

Education

The SAARC Principles recognize that literacy is a fundamental human right and a foundation for lifelong learning pursued through education. Because of its life-changing ability, it is essential for social and human development. For individuals, families and societies alike, it is a means of enhancing health, income and relationships with the world. Therefore, heads of state and governments of SAARC member countries have paid special attention to improving literacy in the region by promoting the quality of education. Illiteracy is a major obstacle to economic development and social liberation, and the eradication of illiteracy in the region should be vigorously promoted through cooperative efforts within SAARC. At the 2nd SAARC Summit (Bangalore, 16-17 November 1986), Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the importance of increasing public participation to the success of regional cooperation. Member States stressed the need to promote contact between peoples of the region through means such as regular and frequent exchanges of scientists, scholars, artists, writers, professionals and businessmen, and promotion of tourism.

At the 3rd Summit (Kathmandu, 2-4 November 1987), Heads of State and Governments establish SAARC Chairs, Fellowships and Fellowships among SAARC Member States for the purpose of promoting educational institutions in the SAARC region. set a schedule. During the 4th Summit (Islamabad, 29-31 December 1988), Heads of State and Government agreed to include education as an area of cooperation, as all children are an important means of human resource development. decided that it could be done. Therefore, children should be given top priority in national development plans. At the Eighth Summit (New Delhi, May 2-4, 1995), Heads of State and Government declared illiteracy to be one of the main causes of poverty, backwardness and social injustice. called on Member States to launch more concrete plans. To. By the year 2000, the region will be illiterate. Heads of State and Government have decided that 1996 will be the SAARC Literacy Year.

At the 9th Summit (Malay, May 12-14, 1997), Heads of State and Government agreed to promote vocational and higher education in the region, and to increase the literacy level of the region, human resources and human resources. , recognizing the limited infrastructure, agreed to assist in that area. New and innovative pathways such as open education and distance learning can play an effective role in meeting local needs in a cost-effective and flexible manner. Leaders therefore agreed that locally available institutional facilities should be used for this education at the regional level. The possibility of forming an open university network within the region should also be considered.

At the 11th Summit (Kathmandu, 4-6 January 2002), Heads of State and Government, Recognizing that access to quality education is an important factor for the empowerment of all sectors of society, Agreed to develop a national strategy and action plan to develop or strengthen. . have an obligation to By 2015, ensure that all children, especially girls, have access to quality primary education. and to close the gender gap in access to education, as envisioned in the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All at the World Education Forum held in Dhaka in April 2000. improve adult literacy by 50 percent.

At the 13th SAARC Summit (Dhaka, 12-13 November 2005), Heads of State and Governments recognized the achievements of Member States in recent years in the field of primary education and made significant contributions to Member States to achieve their goals. He emphasized that he has made great efforts His 21st century challenges in the face of significant advances in science, technology and higher education.

During the 18th Summit (Kathmandu, 26-27 November 2014), Leaders committed to eradicating illiteracy in the region through curriculum and education reforms, in line with the global goal of "Education for All", Agreed to ensure quality education in all educational institutions. ". We have accepted Did's resolution. The method and scoring system are adequately supported by physical, technical and other facilities.

Heads of State and Governments agreed to promote regional cooperation in the field of vocational training. The Leaders instructed Education Ministers to develop a strategy to improve the quality of education in the region to raise the standards of educational institutions in South Asia and better serve youth in the region.

Security factor

SAARC has implemented several directives to ensure protection from terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking of children and women, transnational crimes which are common social evils within the region. Condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, it has been emphasized in several SAARC meetings that collective action should be taken in fighting this menace and that terrorists should not escape prosecution.

Practical solutions to address the challenges of controlling cyber crimes, transnational organized crimes, to ensure safety and security for social and economic development, especially to ensure a secure future for youth, women and children The need to identify the , Therefore, SAARC is trying to improve surveillance system, exchange of information and sharing of technology to fight these common social evils within the region.

During the Second SAARC Summit (Bangalore, 16–17 November 1986), the Heads of State or Government agreed that cooperation among SAARC countries was vital if terrorism was to be prevented and eliminated from the region. The leaders unequivocally condemned as criminal all acts, methods and practices of terrorism and their impact on life and property, socioeconomic development, political stability, regional and international peace and cooperation. At the 3rd Summit (Kathmandu, November 2-4, 1987), the SAARC Regional Anti-Terrorism Convention was signed, considered a historic step in the prevention and eradication of terrorism in the region.

At the 4th Summit (Islamabad, December 29-31, 1988), Heads of State and Government expressed serious concern over the prevalence and serious consequences of drug abuse and drug trafficking, especially among young people. Recognizing the need for immediate and effective action to eliminate this threat, Heads of State and Government decided to designate 1989 as the SAARC Year to Combat Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking. His SAARC Convention on Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances was signed at the 5th SAARC Summit (Male, November 21-23, 1990).

At the 12th Summit (Islamabad, 2-6 January 2004), the Additional Protocol to the SAARC Regional Counter-Terrorism Conference was signed. SAARC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Signed.

Culture

Regional cultural cooperation began with the first meeting of the Technical Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture in New Delhi in January 1989. Since then, this area has become an important area of cooperation among his SAARC countries.

The Tenth Summit (Colombo, 20-31 July 1998), Recognizing that the deep cultural continuity of South Asia is the historical basis for maintaining friendly relations among the peoples of the region, Welcomed Sri Lanka's proposal to host a Culture Ministers' Meeting. Among other things, it aims to establish a South Asian Cultural Center.

A preliminary meeting of Ministers of Culture was held in Colombo in November 2001 to recommend practical measures for the protection, preservation and maintenance of cultural and pilgrimage sites. Development of archeology and musicology. Promotion of contemporary art and culture. Engaging the business sector and non-governmental organizations in cultural activities. Build partnerships with the United Nations and other regional organizations. The Culture Ministers' Meeting (Colombo, 5-7 February 2003) took steps to protect, preserve and foster the cultural heritage of South Asia, as well as promote cooperation among Member States in the promotion of contemporary arts and culture. adopted.

In September 1999, the first SAARC Film Festival was held in Sri Lanka. The occasion also featured three seminars on various aspects of South Asian cinema, including cultural expression, film marketing and distribution, and cinema as the future of the film industry. Another film festival will be held in Sri Lanka in December 2004. A recommendation of the Human Resources Development Technical Committee at its first meeting (Colombo, 4-5 March 2004) was approved that the SAARC Film Festival could be held on a rotating basis among member countries. by the Standing Committee; This will greatly contribute to the promotion of culture in SAARC countries.

During the 12th Summit (Islamabad, 4-6 January 2004), Heads of State and Governments took pride in the rich cultural mosaic of the peoples of South Asia, preserving traditional skills and crafts, He stressed the need to promote cultural exchanges between countries.

During the 13th Summit (Dhaka, 12-13 November 2005), Heads of State and Government recognized the important role of culture in bringing the peoples of South Asia closer together. They also stressed the importance of cultural cooperation to strengthen and showcase South Asia's unique identity. SAARC culture ministers have been instructed to meet soon to formulate SAARC's cultural agenda.

At the 13th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka in November 2005, Heads of State and Government instructed the SAARC Ministers of Culture to meet as soon as possible to finalize the SAARC Cultural Agenda.

The 2nd Culture Ministers' Meeting was held in Colombo on 31st October 2007 at the invitation of the Government of Sri Lanka.

The meeting considered matters related to the SAARC agenda for the establishment of the SAARC Cultural Center in Sri Lanka and the establishment of the SAARC Museum of Textiles and Handicrafts in India, culture, preservation, protection and maintenance of South Asian cultural heritage including intangible cultural heritage. In South Asia, expanding cooperation among member states to promote contemporary art and culture in South Asia,

promote cultural tourism, pilgrimages, organize cultural festivals, film festivals, etc., and collaborate with international organizations

Further, he declared the year 2016 as the SAARC Year of Cultural Heritage and tasked the concerned bodies to develop an action plan for its success. They agreed to facilitate access by persons visiting major and sacred sites of Islam, Hinduism, Christianity and all other major religions in South Asia.

OVERVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM IN SAARC COUNTRIES

SAARC is the short form of "South Asian Association Regional Corporation". It is an intergovernmental foundation or organization aimed at regional integration and economic reform. SAARC was established in 1985 by seven countries. In 2005, the country of Afghanistan applied for SAARC membership and formally applied for membership. SAARC was established on 8 December 1985 in Dhaka. Potential future members such as Russia and Turkey also applied to join the organization. The members of this organization are from eight different states, and there are nine observer states that belong to this organization. The establishment of this organization gave an opportunity to establish or build strong internal relations among various countries and states, in addition to this India also faced various challenges and overcome all the hurdles globally by implementing the original sources of its plans and also reduced the pressure.

It has a total area of 5.12 million square kilometers, a total population of more than 1.65 billion people, more than 60% of whom are under the age of 30, and a total GDP of over \$6 trillion at purchasing power parity (PPP). The eight powerful SAARC groups will remain a major force in Asia's new century as long as they overcome the problems of poor domestic governance, the export of terrorism by some, sporadic ethnic and sectarian conflicts, and unresolved border disputes. expected to play a role. It may be the colonial past.

Since gaining independence in the 1940s, the South Asian region has pursued protectionist policies, focusing on government control of economic activity and self-reliance by reducing its dependence on foreign investment through tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade. Left it. Sri Lanka spearheaded economic liberalization in her 1970s, while other countries embarked on a new path of globalization in her 1980s and her 1990s. In most countries, the process of economic reform is proceeding at varying speeds. It was also a condition for achieving a meaningful regional institutional mechanism. So seven South Asian nations including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka agreed to form a trade bloc called the South Asian Regional Association.

Cooperation (SAARC) in 1985 and to provide a platform for the SAARC Charter, the first article of which read as follows; Heads of State or Government of We, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka;"Desired to promote peace, stability, amity and progress in the region through strict adherence to the United Nations Charter and the principles of non-alignment, in particular the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, national independence, non-use of force 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 at all SAARC fore are to be taken on the basis of consensus. Bilateral and contentious issues are expressly excluded from its deliberations and cooperation based on sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. The irony is that these provisions themselves have a tortuous history and have proven to be effective. It is considered a violation rather than a compliance and limits the functioning of SAARC. The

Dhaka Declaration of the 13th SAARC Summit in November 2005 included Afghanistan in the forum.

8. Newest Members. Currently, SAARC has nine observers (China, European Union, Iran, South Korea, Australia, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar and the United States). Until the nature and direction of SAARC's relationship with observers becomes clearer, there are plans to add new observers or upgrade observers to dialogue partner status.

SAARC Member Countries

Afghanistan

Bangladesh

Bhutan

India

Maldives

Nepal

Pakistan

Sri Lanka

Australia

SAARC Member Country SAARC Observer Country

Australia

China

European Union

Iran

Japan

Mauritius

United States of America

Myanmar

Republic of Korea

Vision:

Harmonization of laws and policies for close cooperation and cooperation in economic, technological, social and cultural development in South Asia.

Tarklow believes that legal ties can bring prosperity, peace and cooperation to South Asia.

SAARC is the Administrative Law Council, a member of which he is the legal community of the SAARC countries. Executive Council He is the decision-making body of SAARC law. SAARCLAW National Associations have been established in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SAARC has a regional secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal.

- **South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA)**

The idea of forming a federation of accounting institutions in South Asia was put forward at the Third National Congress of Accountants in Sri Lanka in December 1982 by then-President of ICAI, Mr. Ashok Kumbat. At the Board of Directors of Accounting Firms Meeting He held in New Delhi in August 1984 the General Assembly of the Agencies of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka where the constitutions of the Agencies were signed. The meeting was attended by the heads of accounting authorities from South Asia.

The South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) was founded by him in 1984 to support the accounting profession in the South Asian region and maintain its preeminent position in the accounting community. As an IFAC network partner, SAFA represents more than 375,000 accountants who are members of the National Institute of Audit and Cost Control Accounting in South Asian countries such as Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan,

Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. SAFA was established at the initiative of South Asian Accounting Professional Associations with a common culture and homogeneous professional environment.

SAFA Board of Directors

The SAFA Board consists of a President, Vice-President, Executive Secretary, and one member nominated by each Member, and may be accompanied by a Technical Advisor to SAFA Board meetings. The President and Vice-President shall be deemed to be nominated members of the organization he represents and such organization shall not have the right to appoint members of the Board of Directors during the term of office of the President and Vice-President.

Each Board member, with the exception of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, shall serve a three-year term unless for some reason he resigns or ceases to serve on the Board. In such event, the Nominated Member Body shall appoint another person to the Board for the remainder of the term. No candidate may serve on the Board for more than two consecutive terms. A partially fulfilled term counts as a full term.

The SAFA Board meets physically at least four times a year and as often as necessary by telephone or videoconference as deemed necessary by the President.

- **South Asia Foundation (SAF)**

Founded in 1991, the South Asia Foundation (SAF) is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-political independent development organization. SAF was established to unleash the creativity of the people of South Asia and transform South Asia into a land of peace and opportunity. We believe in the power of ideas and the power of ordinary people. The goal is to build a network of people in the region and share energies to rid South Asia of prejudice and suffering.

The Foundation believes in the power of ideas and the strength and creativity of ordinary people. The goal is to build a network of people in the region and focus our energies on building a South Asia free of prejudice and stigma.

For more than 20 years, SAF has undertaken various initiatives to improve people-to-people contact and cooperation in South Asia. We work with artisans, cultural and social activists, policy makers, artists, filmmakers, NGOs and more to design and implement programs with lasting results.

Mission of SAF

- * Promoting active participation of women
- * Health and environment
- * find a solution to poverty
- * Dispute resolution and international relations building
- * Promote and preserve local handicrafts

- **South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)**

The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children is a SAARC apex body which is an inter-governmental body with a vision that all children, girls and boys, throughout South Asia, should be able to live in their own environment free from all forms of violence, abuse, enjoy the rights. Exploitation, neglect and discrimination. Our work is divided into the following thematic areas:

SAIEVAC, the South Asia Regional Movement to End Violence Against Children by South Asian Governments and Civil Society Organizations (NACGs) from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, organized a virtual event with ECPAT International During the briefing on 17 May 2022, agreed to take steps to review and improve its legal and policy framework to deal with the growing problem of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

SAIEVAC endorsed the legal checklist as a tool to take steps to harmonize laws in the region by improving the national legal and policy framework on sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism, as well as its online elements . This is a significant development for the South Asia region which joins the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPA) and the Regional Action Group of the Americas (GARA), where this legal checklist has already been endorsed and legal and policy frameworks are in place. Used as a reference for reconciliation, cooperation and reform of the justice system. In South Asia, the Legal Checklist was endorsed as part of the Regional Action Plan to End Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, including Online Safety (CSAE&OS). Child sexual abuse is a global problem that requires a global solution. The Legal Checklist is used to monitor local progress and contribute to global indicators of progress. They provide practical guidance on how to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse. Governments need to take steps to prevent children from becoming victims of legal and policy loopholes and to ensure effective protection. This is all the more urgent now that the situation has been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused an unprecedented crisis across the globe, with the South Asian region taking a hit. We provide an environment where sex offenders can gain trust and connect with victims online and while traveling nationally and internationally. Key provisions to be implemented through regional and national actions in South Asia include: Strengthen the use of extraterritorial jurisdiction and extradition laws as tools to combat child sexual abuse in travel, tourism and online settings. Criminalizing the sexual exploitation of children through the Internet and other communication technologies that enable online or offline sexual exploitation. Establish federally regulated child protection standards required by industries including travel and tourism, and regulate the use of volunteers in environments and activities that involve direct contact with children. Use the NACG platform to continually raise awareness and lobby governments and the travel and tourism industry to set regulatory standards.

- **Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL)**

The SAARC Foundation for Writers and Literature (FOSWAL) is the only SAARC apex organization in the SAARC region. Working under the banner of SAARC, she organizes and promotes cultural ties through literary and cultural exchanges between SAARC member countries, through person-to-person contact and dialogue, for peace and tranquility in the region. nurtured and strengthened.

History:

FOSWAL launched her vision of cultural ties between her neighboring SAARC countries in 1987, and has worked in this particular cultural field to facilitate the creation of creative fraternity and cultural ties through intellectual think tanks. It grew to be the first and only non-governmental organization to operate. And the writers create peace activists who share

common sensibilities and common concerns about local socio-cultural, political, economic, tribal and gender issues.

FOSWAL organizes various arts, literature and cultural festivals to ensure the participation of prominent authors and scholars from across the South Asian region.

Secretaries-General of SAARC

SN	Name	Country	Took office	Left office
1	Abul Ahsan	Bangladesh	16 January 1985	15 October 1989
2	Kant Kishore Bhargava	India	17 October 1989	31 December 1991
3	Ibrahim Hussain Zaki	Maldives	1 January 1992	31 December 1993
4	Yadav Kant Silwal	Nepal	1 January 1994	31 December 1995
5	Naeem U Hassan	Pakistan	1 January 1996	31 December 1998
6	Nihal Rodrigo	Sri Lanka	1 January 1999	10 January 2002
7	Q.A. MA. Rahim	Bangladesh	11 January 2002	28 February 2005
8	Chenkyab Dorji	Bhutan	1 March 2005	29 February 2008
9	Sheel Kant Sharma	India	1 March 2008	28 February 2011
10	Fatimath Dhiana Saeed	Maldives	1 March 2011	11 March 2012
11	Ahmed Salim	Maldives	12 March 2012	28 February 2014
12	Arjun Bahadur Thapa	Nepal	1 March 2014	28 February 2017
13	Amjad Hussain B. sial	Pakistan	1 March 2017	29 February 2020
14	Esala Ruwan Weerakoon	Sri Lanka	1 March 2020	3 March 2023
15	Golam Sarvar	Bangladesh	4 March 2023	Incumbent

Date and Year List of SAARC summits

No	date	Country Host	Host Leader
1.	7-8 December 1985	Bangladesh Dhaka	Ataur Rehman Khan
2.	16-17 November 1986	India Bengaluru	Rajiv Gandhi
3.	2-4 November 1987	Nepal Kathmandu	Raja Birendra Bir Bikram Shah
4.	December 29-31 December 1988	Pakistan Islamabad	Benazir Bhutto
5.	21-23 November 1990	Maldives Male	Maumoon Abdul Gayoom
6.	21 December 1991	Sri Lanka Colombo	Ranasinghe Premadasa
7.	10-11 April 1993	Bangladesh Dhaka	Khaleda Zia
8.	2-4 May 1995	India New Delhi	P V Narasimha Rao
9.	12-14 May 1997	Maldives Male	Maumoon Abdul Gayoom
10.	July 29-31 July 1998	Sri Lanka Colombo	Chandrika Kumaratunga
11.	4-6 January 2002	Nepal Kathmandu	Sher Bahadur Deuba
12.	2-6 January 2004	Pakistan Islamabad	Zafarullah Khan Jamali
13.	12-13 November 2005	Bangladesh Dhaka	Khaleda Zia
14.	3-4 April 2007	India New Delhi	Manmohan Singh
15.	1-3 August 2008	Sri Lanka Colombo	Mahinda Rajapaksa
16.	28-29 April 2010	Bhutan Thimphu	Jigme Thinley
17.	10-11 November 2011	Maldives Addu	Mohammad Nasheed
18.	26-27 November 2011	Nepal Kathmandu	Sushil Koirala
19.	15-16 November 2016	Pakistan Islamabad	Cancelled
20.	Plan for Pakistan 2023 or 2024	Islamabad	N/A

Principles of SAARC

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) embodies the desire of the people of the region to work together to find mutually beneficial solutions to their challenges. The association's main objective is to promote the social and economic development of its member countries through cooperation in specific areas of cooperation. Accelerate the process of economic development.

SAARC principles are:

Adherence to the ideals of universal equality, geographical cohesion, political independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and mutual benefit form the basis for cooperation within the framework of the organization. Such cooperation should be strengthened rather than replaced by bilateral or multilateral cooperation. We will not interfere in discussions of bilateral or controversial issues. Such cooperation must be consistent with Member States' obligations bilaterally and globally. In SAARC, decisions are made by consensus at all levels.

Current leaders

Country	Chief executive	Incumbent
Afghanistan	supreme leader (de facto)	Hibatullah Akhundzada
Bangladesh	Prime Minister	Sheikh Hasina
Bhutan	Prime Minister	lotte schering
India	Prime Minister	Narendra Modi
Maldives	chairman	Ibrahim Mohammad Solih
Nepal	Prime Minister	flower lotus dahal
Pakistan	Prime Minister	Shahbaz Sharif
Sri Lanka	chairman	Ranil Wickramasinghe

About South Asia

Note that about 3.5% of the world's surface is in South Asia. But in terms of population, her quarter of the world's population lives here. From this we can conclude that South Asian participation is important for overall international development. This entire region is based on interregional trade. According to statistics, 5% of the total trade in this region depends on inter-regional trade. The average GDP per capita here is about 9.64% of the world average. Sadly, over 30% of the world's poor live in South Asia. The region has long faced economic and ecological challenges.

Development goals and Challenges

Current scenario in South Asia

There has always been a lack of mutual economic cooperation among South Asian countries. Initiatives like BIMSTEC and Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) have made great efforts to bring these countries together. These are initiatives to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. It provides opportunities for collaboration, synergy and convergence (3C).

While most countries in South Asia have made great efforts to end extreme poverty, they lag far behind in terms of industry, innovation and infrastructure, zero hunger, gender equality, education and sustainable cities. always making progress. face challenges. In addition, South Asian countries are facing natural disasters and climate change.

Challenge

An ambitious and interconnected global development agenda requires a new global partnership among South Asian countries. These include financing development, connecting people through information technology networks, managing international trade flows, and enhancing data collection and analysis. Official development assistance reached a record high of \$135.2 billion in 2014, even as the world prepares for global growth. So far, only seven countries have met the UN target of providing 0.7% of their gross national income as official development assistance. Physical and digital networks have brought people closer together all over the world, but more than 4 billion people do not have internet access, 90% of them live in developing countries. In the least developed countries, the gender gap in Internet use is as high as 29%.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a list of goals set by the United Nations which was prepared in 2015. The 17 goals mentioned in this are to be fulfilled by all the member countries by 2030. These goals are –

- End all forms of poverty worldwide
- Ending hunger, promoting food security and better nutrition and sustainable agriculture
- Promoting health protection and healthy living for people of all ages
- Providing learning opportunities to all while ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education
- Empowering women and girls while achieving gender equality
- Ensuring access to sanitation and sustainable management of water for all
- Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy.
- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
- Promoting resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization
- reducing inequality between and within countries
- Building safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements
- Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Taking urgent action to combat climate change and its effects
- Conservation and use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Striving to stop the growing loss of terrestrial ecosystems, protect forests, land degradation and biodiversity while encouraging sustainable use
- Encouraging peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development as well as making them effective, accountable at all levels to ensure justice for all
- Strengthening the means of implementation as well as revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development.
 - The safety or Security of the area.
 - Low trading inside the region.
 - Population growth in rural regions. In the SAARC region, more than 1 billion people reside in rural regions.
 - The SAARC states have poor physical, electronic, and knowledge connectedness.

Poor performance of south Asia in the context of sustainable development and goals

India's performance in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals is worse than other countries in South Asia. It should be noted that India has the largest and most diverse

economy in the region, with fast income growth. However, given India's performance, it can be said that there is no direct link between achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and economic prosperity. This is also reflected in the fact that even landlocked and underdeveloped countries such as Bhutan and Nepal score very high in this regard.

The main concern is that South Asian countries' progress toward any goal is not yet back on track. Sri Lanka is the only country with commendable work on Goals 6 and 8. Countries in the region are performing well and appear to be making progress towards some goals, but the pace of progress is considered insufficient to reach their goals. . Most countries are designed to achieve many goals.

If this situation continues, 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals may not be achieved. There are 12 goals with negative progress.

INDIA'S OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Since the May 2014 elections, India has accorded top priority to building closer ties with its neighbours. The act of inviting leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to the swearing-in ceremony may seem symbolic, but it is the necessary impetus to propel SAARC to the top of India's foreign policy lexicon. Since then, several measures have strengthened the government's determination to forge closer strategic ties with regional countries. High-level visits by major economic and geopolitical powers such as Japan, China, the United States, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan demonstrated not only the importance of India's foreign policy priorities, but also the foundation for strong power and strong cooperation. Similarly, unorthodox ideas for cooperation, including the proposed SAARC satellite and Good Governance Centre, reflect the government's intention to play an active role in providing leadership and governance structures for the region. During Nepal's Prime Minister's visit to India, Modi described SAARC as "an important tool for consolidating the strengths of each member state and promoting collective action towards shared prosperity in the region".

The measures taken in recent months have breathed new life into it and are expected to increase integration and cooperation in the region. Against this backdrop, his 2014 SAARC summit, scheduled for November in Kathmandu, offers an opportunity (despite the difficulties, for many). To reinforce the Group's goals, objectives and future direction. In fact, there are great expectations that this year's SAARC Summit will be a turning point for SAARC.

In the past

SAARC has its roots in the South Asia Regional Cooperation Declaration and Integrated Action Plan (IPA) adopted by the South Asian Foreign Ministers in 1983, calling for regional cooperation in areas such as agriculture, rural development, telecommunications and meteorology. I was. teeth. health and population activities; SAARC was then formally established at his 1st Summit in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1985. The overall goal of the alliance was to enhance South Asia's economic and geopolitical potential, promote the welfare of the region's people, and improve the quality of life.

But more than 30 years after its inception, SAARC is in a precarious position, largely a "sleepy and dilapidated organisation," according to some experts, whose results have been tenuous and unconvincing. there is

Economically, the region is one of the least integrated in the world, with very low levels of intra-regional trade and investment. Compared to 50 years ago, intra-regional trade accounts for less than 5% of total official trade, while intra-regional foreign investment accounts for only a small percentage of total investment. In contrast, intra-regional trade accounts for about 35 percent of total trade in East Asia, 25 percent in Southeast Asia, and about 12 percent in the Middle East and Africa. The SAFTA (South Asia Free Trade Agreement) group encompasses a region of enormous economic potential, home to 23 percent of the world's population, but one of the world's largest economies on a purchasing power parity basis. It produces only 6% of GDP and 2% of global GDP. Goods trade is a percentage. , 3 percent of global foreign direct investment but more than 40 percent of the world's poor.

SAARC has also done little to rectify bilateral disagreements and skirmishes, and the Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism has failed to combat terrorist activities. Interstate conflict is also one of the most important reasons for stalling SAFTA. The group's commitment to the SAARC Charter's goals for democracy has been disappointing as many member states grapple with military coups, unstable governments, rampant corruption and abuse of power.

While SAARC's failure to achieve its goals can be attributed to a number of factors – ranging from terrorism, strained bilateral relations, and the absence of military and strategic cooperation – India's own engagement with SAARC has been found to be low, though it has evolved over the past few years.

India's initial attitude towards SAARC was, according to one observer, "an attempt to bind Gulliver like a Lilliputian." As a result, it played a limited role in alliances rather than engaging bilaterally with its neighbors on the basis of reciprocity. However, as its economic clout increased in the mid-1990s, India began to assume a greater role as a regional leader. The so-called Gujral Doctrine, in which Prime Minister I.K. Gujral's outline of five principles to govern India's relations with its immediate neighbors prompted this change in large part. The theory stemmed from the belief that India's stature on the world stage was closely linked to relations with its neighbours.

Subsequent governments – especially those led by Prime Ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh – continued to engage with India's neighbors in this spirit. During India's leadership of the 2007 SAARC summit, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, while addressing a conference of parliamentarians from the SAARC region, urged the region to "open up its asymmetrical responsibilities, including accepting" the markets for India's South. Declared as the largest nation. Asian neighbors without insisting on reciprocity."

Despite the change in stance, India has not been able to deliver on all its promises. Studies show that the presence of a large economy is often a positive externality for smaller economies in the region. However, the International Monetary Fund has found that India's development has had little impact on the development of its neighbors. The negligible level of intra-regional trade stems from the region being one of the least open in the world, but within the region, India remains the least open country with the lowest trade-to-GDP ratio. Moreover, SAARC is still far from achieving the most basic objective of a regional organization – a war-free scenario among its members.

In the future

Despite SAARC's dismal past, India has boldly raised new hopes for the future of SAARC. Modi is widely seen as a reformist prime minister who is expected to open up the economy and liberalize trade. Moreover, the agreements resulting from visits to neighboring countries reveal a certain line of thinking – cooperation, particularly in infrastructure and energy, aimed at solving shared problems. It is therefore logical that the government would seek similar opportunities to enhance and deepen engagement with SAARC.

However, India's ambition for SAARC is beset by external and internal challenges. Externally, continuing tensions with Pakistan, uncertainty over Afghanistan and the role of external actors, especially China, pose a threat to reinvigorating SAARC. Internally, the limited capacity of the Indian state, especially the small size of the foreign service, as well as

the ability to engage major state governments as stakeholders in foreign policy are also challenges that need to be addressed.

Despite these challenges, or indeed because of them, cooperation through SAARC on infrastructure, energy, water, trade, climate change mitigation, higher education, health care, terrorism and even military cooperation is India's key to development and stability in the neighbourhood. Twin driver. Contribute to goals. India rejected the challenge that "South Asian countries should identify specific areas of common heritage, challenges and opportunities to promote regional cooperation." This briefing book serves as Brookings India's effort in that direction, which is expected to set the tone for New Delhi's new leadership role in SAARC.

Non-tariff barriers to trade

SAFTA aims to remove both tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade. High fees in the South Asia region encourage the use of unofficial channels. South Asian countries impose non-tariffs in the form of quantitative restrictions that limit the flow of trade, especially through formal routes (Nisha Tanya, 2001). Too often, the role of factors other than tariff incentives is ignored. actual tariff

Profit is the second factor. Related research clearly shows that the exchange of tariff concessions alone cannot help developing countries expand their trade, and that more efforts are needed in the non-tariff sector. "Experience with generalized preferential systems has shown that tariff preferences should not be expected to be drivers of trade, but to act as mere pawns." Implementation also showed that it is possible to reduce import tariffs achieved without the necessary measures to remove existing non-tariff trade barriers.

Informal trade

Outside the scope of SAFTA, there are many factors that influence informal trade flows. Domestic political distortions also lead to informal trade. Such distortions are evident in various financial systems in South Asian countries. The government also plays an active role in the distribution of some goods. these factors

This leads to cross-border price volatility, making informal trading profitable. An important point about domestic distortions is that they are not addressed by SAFTA or WTO commitments. It should be noted that South Asia's economy differs in many ways from those of other developing countries that have formed in the past or are currently considering the creation of preferential trade zones. Unlike most of them, in the pre-1947 subcontinent Pakistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India were politically, economically and politically a single country. This historical fact remains important because much of the informal economy thrives on traditional, historical, economic and ethnic bases.

Comparing formal and informal trade in an institutional setting, the costs associated with formal trade are comparable or higher, regardless of the actual costs associated with smuggling. Smuggling may not be driven by taxes, but rather an attempt to circumvent onerous government regulations and regulations that make trade through normal routes very difficult. More specifically, transaction costs can be higher when operating through formal channels than through informal channels. Therefore, as long as transaction costs are high, exporters prefer to use informal channels. South Asian countries are characterized by inadequate transportation. This is often due to high transport costs in the region, creating strong incentives for trade through informal routes. Both direct and indirect transport costs

are not entirely relevant to the economic and industrial policy environment of the region, and this type of informal trade will persist even if national liberalization policies continue. you can see that it is possible. Tariff increases within the SAARC region will facilitate informal cross-border trade. High tariffs create strong incentives to avoid formal routes to tariff evasion. Both India, Bangladesh and Pakistan show high tariffs on commodities and industrial goods.

Political party

Lack of political will to strengthen economic cooperation among member states. This is partly due to a certain sense of constraint and lack of economic incentives for intra-regional cooperation, but partly concerns about India's possible dominance over all other countries in the region. It is also due to This concern not only affects trade relations, but also appears to be a deliberate irresponsibility for economic cooperation. Boundary disputes, caste issues, affiliations, etc. create mutual mistrust among some union members, hinder emotional intimacy, and thus hinder progress.

Cooperation. Rules of origin

A free trade regime requires the removal of both tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, but ensures that goods from third countries are legally and informally imported into countries with high trade barriers. A rule of origin is also required for Low tariffs on smuggling are not coming into this country. All her SAARC member countries cut their tariffs in her early 1990s, but the pace of cuts varied from country to country.

Domestic policy

Even if South Asian countries remove both tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, informal trade will continue unless domestic policies are aligned. Therefore, the tax structures of SAARC countries are very different. An example of domestic political distortions is the price-controlled public distribution system. In India, many agricultural products and essential commodities are sold under a dual pricing policy.

Transaction cost

Even if trade policy distortions were rectified under SAFTA, a large number of rules and regulations coupled with rigid administrative procedures, bureaucratic practices, poor infrastructure and lack of institutional support would hinder public trade. can generate costs. Already implemented. In the context of South Asia, informal channels have lower transaction costs than formal channels, making them attractive channels.

Development of banking system

It can also be pointed out that the development of banking systems and networks in the region has the potential to bring many benefits to promotion and cooperation, especially in the areas of trade and commerce. Banking has evolved in this area over the last decade, but there is no connection between them. In order to accelerate the development of economic cooperation in the region, it would be worth setting up some South Asian regional banks.

Other issues

Lack of technology, lack of economies of scale and poor quality of goods not only lead to high production costs, but also reduce the competitiveness of the manufacturing industry in the local and international markets. Due to different levels of development and economic strength, relatively advanced member countries will be the biggest beneficiaries of cooperation, while the least developed member countries may not benefit from other

countries. This is the general view. At least not last; SAARC countries are competitors, not complementers. India and Bangladesh compete in the global market for jute products. India competes with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in the ready-made garment sector. India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh vie to export labor to Asia. South Asia has long been characterized by domestic political, economic and sociocultural differences. Because of this; progress on the SAARC program will also be slow and stagnant. But this fact should not diminish the importance of his SAARC as a positive development in South Asia.

INDIA'S SERIOUS CHALLENGES TO TERRORISM UNDER SAARC

SAARC is an intergovernmental organization comprising eight South Asian countries, including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, and Afghanistan. The region has been grappling with various forms of terrorism and violent extremism for many years. The SAARC Convention on Territories to Suppress Terrorism, signed on November 4, 1987, entered into force on August 22, 1988, following ratification by all Member States. However, cooperation under the SAARC banner was not successful for the reasons mentioned above.

At the 11th Summit in Kathmandu in January 2002, SAARC leaders once again decided to unite against terrorism. At the January 2004 Islamabad summit, Member States adopted additional protocols to his SAARC Regional Counter-Terrorism Convention.

During the Dhaka summit, an additional protocol to the SAARC Regional Counter-Terrorism Convention entered into force, reaffirming the determination of all seven member states to "wage a common war on terrorism." All Member States have ratified the Protocol, but its implementation requires some changes to their respective Codes of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). Member States must enact the legislation necessary to implement the Terrorism Protocol. Above all, the validity of this agreement depends on its faithful implementation. The implementation of the Protocol would also enable action to be taken to prevent and counter the financing of terrorist activities.

Some progress was also seen at the SAARC summit held in Colombo, with the leaders of South Asian countries reaching an agreement on building a regional legal framework to deal with the crisis. The SAARC Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty aims to strengthen regional cooperation in the fight against transnational crime, especially terrorism. In this regard, the Convention calls on all Parties to provide for each other.

Maximize cooperation in fighting crime by strengthening cooperation in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses. Extended assistance is subject to the domestic laws of the Contracting States to the Convention. The Convention outlines procedures to be followed in investigations, including search and seizure, obtaining evidence, documents and witnesses, and providing mutual legal assistance.

After taking power, Sheikh Hasina's government also discussed the establishment of a regional counter-terrorism task force. But the government soon realized that it was better for each country to fight terrorism individually than to wait for regional cooperation to begin.

India's major challenges to countering terrorism under SAARC can be attributed to several factors:

1. Cross-border terrorism: India has consistently accused Pakistan of supporting and harboring terrorist groups that carry out attacks on Indian territory. The most significant terrorist threat emanating from across the border is from terrorist groups based in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). These groups have been involved in several high-profile attacks in India, such as the 2008 Mumbai attack and the 2019 Pulwama attack.
2. Insurgency and extremism: Apart from the issue of cross-border terrorism, India has also faced internal challenges with insurgency and extremist movements in some of its

northeastern states and central regions. These groups have sometimes sought refuge and support from neighboring countries, complicating counterterrorism efforts.

3. **Inadequate Information Sharing:** Counter-terrorism efforts are hampered by limited cooperation and information sharing among SAARC member states. Some countries have been reluctant to share intelligence on terrorist activities due to political differences and historical tensions.
4. **Lack of effective mechanisms:** SAARC has faced criticism for its inability to establish robust mechanisms to effectively address regional security challenges. Political differences and focus on other issues often hinder meaningful counterterrorism cooperation.
5. **Financing of Terrorism:** India, like many other countries, has faced challenges in tracking and disrupting the flow of funds to terrorist organizations. Terrorists often take advantage of weak financial systems and informal channels for their operations.
6. **Radicalization and Online Propaganda:** The rise of online radicalization has become a significant concern, with terrorist groups taking advantage of social media and the Internet to recruit and radicalize individuals in the region, including India.
7. **India is actively engaging with SAARC member states to address these challenges and promote regional cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts. However, progress has been slow, largely due to underlying political tensions between India and Pakistan, which have historically dominated the dynamics of SAARC.**

INDIAN REBELS SUCH AS ULFA AND NSCN

These groups also approve training camps for terrorist organizations such as ULFA. This support can be traced to the fact that such groups are fighting against the state on both sides, and more importantly, in the case of the Nagas, caste ties have fostered cooperation. do. Since the Nagas are on both sides of the border, they found it easier to work from Myanmar with the help of their compatriots. The Naga rebels established a strong base in the Somra hills opposite Manipur. Sinkling Hakmati and Noklak served as the headquarters of the Naga Federation Forces during the 1960s and his 1970s.

The Tatmadaw (Myanmar Army) signed about 17 large-scale ceasefire agreements with rebel groups in the 1990s, but some 20 armed rebel groups, including the Karen National Alliance and the Shan State Army (Southern), still remain in Myanmar. It operates in the frontier border areas. . Karen National Liberation Army. These militants allied with Indian rebels and jointly formed the Indo-Burma Revolutionary Front in May 1990. Their goal was to build a huge network for exchanging funds and ammunition. Infighting quickly disintegrated, but large-scale rebel groups such as the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), Nagaland National Socialist Council-Isaac Muiyba (ISCN-IM), Asom United Liberation Front (ULFA), and United National Liberation formed. Organized. I support you. merged. The Manipur Front (UNLF-M) and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on both sides of the border.

After improving relations, India and Myanmar conducted joint military operations, Operation Golden Bird (May 1995) and Operation Reach (1996). As part of Operation Golden Bird, Indian and Burmese forces flank about 200 Indian rebels along the Mizoram border. The 44-day attack killed 60 ULFA and other Northeast Indian rebels and arrested many more. The rebels have returned to their bases in India after purchasing large amounts of weapons from Bangladesh. This military cooperation between the two countries has largely continued, although there have been some ups and downs in recent years.

In 2000, ULFA entered into a Joint Operations Agreement with UNLF. ULFA described it as "a bond of camaraderie united to achieve specific strategic goals". But the deal comes as ULFA, under pressure in Bhutan, seeks new safe havens and keeps an eye on UNLF bases and training facilities in Myanmar and Bangladesh. The UNLF had a good balance with the Myanmar military government, and ULFA seemed to want to take advantage of it unless Myanmar took a stand against the IIG. In December 2001, 192 UNLF cadres, including some top leaders, were "arrested". All were released in four stages by February 14, 2002.

At the same time, the Yangon government pledged assistance to the Indian leadership in investigating the cross-border violence. Similarly, Meitei rebels from Manipur, Myanmar, were detained and released instead of being handed over to the Indian authorities. Myanmar's position against rebels in the northeast is unclear. His forces specifically target Indian rebels. As a result, despite regular raids on NSCN Kaplan, ULFA and PLA rebels operate easily from there. According to Indian militias, some Tatmadaw officials have very close ties to the leaders of these groups and use the Sagaing Division as a launch pad, so that they can reach all NSCN camps and ULFA bases in Myanmar. No government can destroy the that is. It was used for smuggling and terrorist activities. His 28th Battalion of ULFA and his KLO militant group are

reported to have taken refuge in Myanmar (Sangin, Lunglang, Huwet) under the protection of NSCN(K) after fleeing Bangladesh in 2008.

Sri Lanka-India cooperation in counter-terrorism

Sri Lanka and India have a history of cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts. Both countries have recognized the importance of working together to combat terrorism and maintain regional security. Some of the areas of cooperation include intelligence sharing, joint military exercises, capacity building programs and coordinated border security measures. Sri Lanka faces the problem of the LTTE, which was originally set up to get its fair share of Tamils from the Sri Lankan state. But gradually spreading terror became their main purpose. In his later years, Supreme Commander Prabhakaran was reluctant to seek a negotiated settlement with the Sri Lankan state.

Sri Lanka has now successfully contained the LTTE threat, and the country is considering various measures to consider the interests of the Tamil people. To counter the LTTE threat, the Sri Lankan state has accepted military equipment from various countries, including China, Pakistan and Israel. Given the sensitivity of India's large Tamil population, it was difficult for India to assist the Sri Lankan state with military equipment. But India helped Sri Lanka's efforts by sending radars and other non-lethal equipment. Critical information was also shared with the Sri Lankan military, resulting in significant change. Based on this information, various ships carrying LTTE weapons were destroyed, weakening and eliminating the LTTE.

1. Cooperation between Sri Lanka and India in countering terrorism has been significant in terms of information sharing and operational coordination. They have conducted joint exercises and training sessions to enhance the capabilities of their respective security forces in responding to terrorist threats.
2. In addition, the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean region has also played a role in promoting cooperation between the two countries. Given their geographical proximity and shared maritime borders, they have a vested interest in securing the region against any possible terrorist activities.
3. It is important to note that the nature and extent of cooperation has evolved since my last update, so I recommend checking the latest sources for the latest information on Sri Lanka-India cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts.

India-Maldives cooperation in counter-terrorism

The Maldives archipelago in the Indian Ocean is not connected by land to any country in South Asia. However, it shares the Indian Ocean with some of these countries. The Maldives is not a direct threat to India's security, but the country, which recently introduced a multi-party democracy, has been radicalized. President Nasheed's administration is aware of this problem and is making serious efforts to combat this threat. Several Maldivians have been killed in fighting between al Qaeda cadres in Waziristan and the NWFP. Some of them were arrested. Maldivians are also educated in Indian and Pakistani madrasas. The Nasheed administration is concerned about the incident. Nasheed recently said that the Indian Ocean seen in the Nov. 26 terrorist attacks is India's soft belly. It is encouraging that India and the Maldives have decided to work together. Indian ships were allowed to patrol the waters near the Maldives.

And since many of the Maldives' islands remain uninhabited, some fear the LeT may seek to set up a base in the Maldives. However, President Nasheed insists LeT does not exist in the Maldives. India and Maldives have a history of cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts. Both

the countries have been working together to address security challenges and combat terrorism in the South Asian region. Here are some key aspects of their collaboration:

1. **Sharing of intelligence:** India and Maldives are engaged in exchange of intelligence and information related to terrorist activities and threats. This exchange of information helps both countries to better understand and respond to potential security threats.
2. **Joint Military Exercises:** Both the countries have conducted joint military exercises to enhance their capabilities in dealing with various security scenarios including counter-terrorist operations. Such exercises improve coordination and interoperability between their armed forces.
3. **Capacity building:** India has provided training and technical assistance to Maldivian security forces to strengthen their counter-terrorism capabilities. This assistance includes intelligence gathering, surveillance and training in counter-insurgency techniques.
4. **Maritime Security:** Given the strategic location of Maldives in the Indian Ocean, cooperation between India and Maldives in maritime security is significant. They work together to prevent smuggling, human trafficking and movement of terrorist elements through their territorial waters.
5. **Efforts to de-radicalise:** Both countries have emphasized the importance of combating radicalization and extremism at the grassroots level. They collaborate on various deradicalization programs to prevent the spread of extremist ideologies.
6. **Extradition and Legal Cooperation:** India and Maldives have extradition treaties, which facilitate the handing over of criminals and suspected terrorists for prosecution. Legal cooperation is critical to ensure that terrorists do not find safe haven in any country.
7. **Regional Initiatives:** Both countries actively participate in regional fora and initiatives such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) to collectively address counter-terrorism challenges in the region.

Afghanistan - Pakistan

The growing influence of the Taliban in both Pakistan and Afghanistan calls for a joint analysis of the situation in both countries. For successful counter-terrorism cooperation in South Asia, it is essential that India and Pakistan also work together.

Unfortunately, this cooperation has not been as fruitful as between India and other countries. It is outdated to deny that terrorism originated in Pakistan. Pakistan is currently in a turbulent process. Weak democratic governments face traditionally powerful militaries with their own worldviews. More recently, Islamist groups such as Tehreek-i-Taliban have also played an important role. Thus, Pakistan is intensifying a three-way battle for control. The country is in transition and these actors have not been given enough time to overhaul existing policies. Meanwhile, the goal of gaining strategic depth by gaining greater authority over Afghan affairs further complicates the whole picture. Until a strong democratic government takes root in Pakistan and, like the Bangladeshi government, recognizes that terrorists are not Pakistan's friends, a clear-cut approach to Pakistani terrorism is unlikely to emerge. The situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan is of great concern not only to South Asia but also to the rest of the world. For this reason, major Western powers also have a presence in Afghanistan within the framework of ISAF and NATO. Unfortunately, they also seem to be out of control, and the deepening crisis in the West has forced them to seek solutions as soon as possible.

Nepal

Nepal's Maoists, once at war with the state, chose to join democracy. This is an interesting experiment. This would be the first successful mainstreaming of an insurrection group large enough to have a significant impact on the country's population.

This would also affect India, where similar riots have affected large parts of the country. The world today has no clue about the mainstreaming of the Taliban. The success of Maoist mainstreaming in Nepal may provide some clues.

INDIAN REBELS SUCH AS ULFA AND NSCN

These groups also approve training camps for terrorist organizations such as ULFA. This support can be traced to the fact that such groups are fighting against the state on both sides, and more importantly, in the case of the Nagas, caste ties have fostered cooperation. do. Since the Nagas are on both sides of the border, they found it easier to work from Myanmar with the help of their compatriots. The Naga rebels established a strong base in the Somra hills opposite Manipur. Sinkling Hakmati and Noklak served as the headquarters of the Naga Federation Forces during the 1960s and his 1970s.

The Tatmadaw (Myanmar Army) signed about 17 large-scale ceasefire agreements with rebel groups in the 1990s, but some 20 armed rebel groups, including the Karen National Alliance and the Shan State Army (Southern), still remain in Myanmar. It operates in the frontier border areas. . Karen National Liberation Army. These militants allied with Indian rebels and jointly formed the Indo-Burma Revolutionary Front in May 1990. Their goal was to build a huge network for exchanging funds and ammunition. Infighting quickly disintegrated, but large-scale rebel groups such as the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), Nagaland National Socialist Council-Isaac Muiya (NSCN-IM), Asom United Liberation Front (ULFA), and United National Liberation formed. Organized. I support you. merged. The Manipur Front (UNLF-M) and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on both sides of the border.

After improving relations, India and Myanmar conducted joint military operations, Operation Golden Bird (May 1995) and Operation Reach (1996). As part of Operation Golden Bird, Indian and Burmese forces flank about 200 Indian rebels along the Mizoram border. The 44-day attack killed 60 ULFA and other Northeast Indian rebels and arrested many more. The rebels have returned to their bases in India after purchasing large amounts of weapons from Bangladesh. This military cooperation between the two countries has largely continued, although there have been some ups and downs in recent years.

In 2000, ULFA entered into a Joint Operations Agreement with UNLF. ULFA described it as "a bond of camaraderie united to achieve specific strategic goals". But the deal comes as ULFA, under pressure in Bhutan, seeks new safe havens and keeps an eye on UNLF bases and training facilities in Myanmar and Bangladesh. The UNLF had a good balance with the Myanmar military government, and ULFA seemed to want to take advantage of it unless Myanmar took a stand against the IIG. In December 2001, 192 UNLF cadres, including some top leaders, were "arrested". All were released in four stages by February 14, 2002.

At the same time, the Yangon government pledged assistance to the Indian leadership in investigating the cross-border violence. Similarly, Meitei rebels from Manipur, Myanmar, were detained and released instead of being handed over to the Indian authorities. Myanmar's position against rebels in the northeast is unclear. His forces specifically target Indian rebels. As a result, despite regular raids on NSCN Kaplan, ULFA and PLA rebels operate easily from there. According to Indian militias, some Tatmadaw officials have very close ties to the leaders of these groups and use the Sagaing Division as a launch pad, so that they can reach all NSCN camps and ULFA bases in Myanmar. No government can destroy the that is. It was used for smuggling and terrorist activities. His 28th Battalion of ULFA and his KLO militant

group are reported to have taken refuge in Myanmar (Sangin, Lunglang, Huwet) under the protection of NSCN(K) after fleeing Bangladesh in 2008.

Sri Lanka-India cooperation in counter-terrorism

Sri Lanka and India have a history of cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts. Both countries have recognized the importance of working together to combat terrorism and maintain regional security. Some of the areas of cooperation include intelligence sharing, joint military exercises, capacity building programs and coordinated border security measures. Sri Lanka faces the problem of the LTTE, which was originally set up to get its fair share of Tamils from the Sri Lankan state. But gradually spreading terror became their main purpose. In his later years, Supreme Commander Prabhakaran was reluctant to seek a negotiated settlement with the Sri Lankan state.

Sri Lanka has now successfully contained the LTTE threat, and the country is considering various measures to consider the interests of the Tamil people. To counter the LTTE threat, the Sri Lankan state has accepted military equipment from various countries, including China, Pakistan and Israel. Given the sensitivity of India's large Tamil population, it was difficult for India to assist the Sri Lankan state with military equipment. But India helped Sri Lanka's efforts by sending radars and other non-lethal equipment. Critical information was also shared with the Sri Lankan military, resulting in significant change. Based on this information, various ships carrying LTTE weapons were destroyed, weakening and eliminating the LTTE.

1. Cooperation between Sri Lanka and India in countering terrorism has been significant in terms of information sharing and operational coordination. They have conducted joint exercises and training sessions to enhance the capabilities of their respective security forces in responding to terrorist threats.
2. In addition, the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean region has also played a role in promoting cooperation between the two countries. Given their geographical proximity and shared maritime borders, they have a vested interest in securing the region against any possible terrorist activities.
3. It is important to note that the nature and extent of cooperation has evolved since my last update, so I recommend checking the latest sources for the latest information on Sri Lanka-India cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts.

India-Maldives cooperation in counter-terrorism

The Maldives archipelago in the Indian Ocean is not connected by land to any country in South Asia. However, it shares the Indian Ocean with some of these countries. The Maldives is not a direct threat to India's security, but the country, which recently introduced a multi-party democracy, has been radicalized. President Nasheed's administration is aware of this problem and is making serious efforts to combat this threat. Several Maldivians have been killed in fighting between al Qaeda cadres in Waziristan and the NWFP. Some of them were arrested. Maldivians are also educated in Indian and Pakistani madrasas. The Nasheed administration is concerned about the incident. Nasheed recently said that the Indian Ocean seen in the Nov. 26 terrorist attacks is India's soft belly. It is encouraging that India and the Maldives have decided to work together. Indian ships were allowed to patrol the waters near the Maldives.

And since many of the Maldives' islands remain uninhabited, some fear the LeT may seek to set up a base in the Maldives. However, President Nasheed insists LeT does not exist in the Maldives. India and Maldives have a history of cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts. Both the countries have been working together to address security challenges and combat terrorism in the South Asian region. Here are some key aspects of their collaboration:

1. **Sharing of intelligence:** India and Maldives are engaged in exchange of intelligence and information related to terrorist activities and threats. This exchange of information helps both countries to better understand and respond to potential security threats.
2. **Joint Military Exercises:** Both the countries have conducted joint military exercises to enhance their capabilities in dealing with various security scenarios including counter-terrorist operations. Such exercises improve coordination and interoperability between their armed forces.
3. **Capacity building:** India has provided training and technical assistance to Maldivian security forces to strengthen their counter-terrorism capabilities. This assistance includes intelligence gathering, surveillance and training in counter-insurgency techniques.
4. **Maritime Security:** Given the strategic location of Maldives in the Indian Ocean, cooperation between India and Maldives in maritime security is significant. They work together to prevent smuggling, human trafficking and movement of terrorist elements through their territorial waters.
5. **Efforts to de-radicalise:** Both countries have emphasized the importance of combating radicalization and extremism at the grassroots level. They collaborate on various deradicalization programs to prevent the spread of extremist ideologies.
6. **Extradition and Legal Cooperation:** India and Maldives have extradition treaties, which facilitate the handing over of criminals and suspected terrorists for prosecution. Legal cooperation is critical to ensure that terrorists do not find safe haven in any country.
7. **Regional Initiatives:** Both countries actively participate in regional fora and initiatives such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) to collectively address counter-terrorism challenges in the region.

Afghanistan - Pakistan

The growing influence of the Taliban in both Pakistan and Afghanistan calls for a joint analysis of the situation in both countries. For successful counter-terrorism cooperation in South Asia, it is essential that India and Pakistan also work together.

Unfortunately, this cooperation has not been as fruitful as between India and other countries. It is outdated to deny that terrorism originated in Pakistan. Pakistan is currently in a turbulent process. Weak democratic governments face traditionally powerful militaries with their own worldviews. More recently, Islamist groups such as Tehreek-i-Taliban have also played an important role. Thus, Pakistan is intensifying a three-way battle for control. The country is in transition and these actors have not been given enough time to overhaul existing policies. Meanwhile, the goal of gaining strategic depth by gaining greater authority over Afghan affairs further complicates the whole picture. Until a strong democratic government takes root in Pakistan and, like the Bangladeshi government, recognizes that terrorists are not Pakistan's friends, a clear-cut approach to Pakistani terrorism is unlikely to emerge. The situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan is of great concern not only to South Asia but also to

the rest of the world. For this reason, major Western powers also have a presence in Afghanistan within the framework of ISAF and NATO. Unfortunately, they also seem to be out of control, and the deepening crisis in the West has forced them to seek solutions as soon as possible.

Nepal

Nepal's Maoists, once at war with the state, chose to join democracy. This is an interesting experiment. This would be the first successful mainstreaming of an insurrection group large enough to have a significant impact on the country's population.

This would also affect India, where similar riots have affected large parts of the country. The world today has no clue about the mainstreaming of the Taliban. The success of Maoist mainstreaming in Nepal may provide some clues.

CONFLICT BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

India and Pakistan have a long history of conflicts, mainly centered around disputed territory. Kashmir. The conflict between India and Pakistan dates back to their independence from British colonial rule in 1947. The partition of British India led to the creation of two separate countries: Hindu-majority India, and Muslim-majority Pakistan. However, the partition was accompanied by widespread violence and mass exodus, leading to lasting bitterness and mistrust between the two countries.

Major points of conflict between India and Pakistan include:

Kashmir issue:

The territory of Kashmir has been a major point of contention between the two countries. Both India and Pakistan claim the whole of Kashmir, and the region has been divided into Indian-administered and Pakistani-administered areas since the First Indo-Pakistani War in 1947–1948. This issue has resulted in many wars and skirmishes between the two countries.

The Kashmir issue is a long-standing conflict between India and Pakistan over the territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The dispute dates back to the partition of British India in 1947, when both countries gained independence from British rule. The princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, which was ruled by Maharaja Hari Singh, had the option of joining India or Pakistan, depending on its geographical location and religious composition. Maharaja Hari Singh initially decided to remain independent, but the situation rapidly deteriorated as tribal invaders from Pakistan invaded the region in October 1947. Faced with an invasion, the Maharaja sought aid from India, agreeing to join India in return for military support. In response to this merger, India sent troops and a conflict broke out between India and Pakistan.

The First Indo-Pakistani War took place in 1947–1948 and resulted in the partition of Kashmir into Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir (commonly referred to as "Indian Kashmir") and Pakistan-administered Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan. Happened. (GB) Area ("Pakistan Administered Kashmir"). A ceasefire line was established to separate the two areas, later called the Line of Control (LoC).

Since then, there have been many other wars and skirmishes between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir issue. Both countries lay claim to the entire region of Jammu and Kashmir and consider it an integral part of their respective territories. This conflict has not only given rise to territorial disputes, but also human rights violations, political unrest and significant security challenges in the region.

The United Nations has been involved in efforts to mediate the dispute and has passed a resolution calling for a plebiscite to allow the people of Jammu and Kashmir to determine their own future. However, this plebiscite has not been held due to disagreements between India and Pakistan on the preconditions for its implementation. The Kashmir conflict remains a contentious issue in South Asia and has implications for regional stability and security. Several attempts have been made to find a peaceful solution, but no permanent solution has been found so far. The situation is complex and involves historical, political and religious dimensions, making it an extremely sensitive and challenging matter to resolve.

Terrorism:

India has accused Pakistan of supporting and sponsoring terrorist groups that carry out attacks in Indian-administered Kashmir and other parts of India. Pakistan denies these allegations and claims itself to be a victim of terrorism.

The main points of concern are as follows:

Kashmir conflict:

The Kashmir conflict began with the partition of British India in 1947, resulting in the creation of India and Pakistan. Both countries claim the entire region of Jammu and Kashmir but control different parts. This has led to several wars and skirmishes over the years.

Cross-border terrorism:

India has repeatedly accused Pakistan of supporting and sponsoring terrorist groups that carry out attacks on Indian soil. These groups, such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, have been responsible for several high-profile attacks in India, including the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

Frequent ceasefire violations:

The Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir, which separates Indian-administered and Pakistan-administered areas, has seen frequent ceasefire violations by both sides. These violations have resulted in the death and displacement of civilians living in the border areas.

Diplomatic Tension: Diplomatic relations between the two countries have become strained due to the issue of terrorism. Peace talks have been launched at various points, but progress has often been slow or derailed by incidents of violence and mistrust.

International involvement:

The international community has expressed concern over a possible escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan, especially given the nuclear capabilities of both countries. Various countries and international organizations have urged for dialogue and peaceful resolution of issues. It is important to note that India-Pakistan relations and the situation on the issue of terrorism remain fragile, and efforts for mutual peaceful resolution and cooperation are necessary to reduce further conflicts.

Nuclear Proliferation:

Both India and Pakistan are nuclear-armed states, which adds to the complexity and volatility of their relationship. Over the years, efforts have been made to resolve disputes through dialogue and diplomacy. However, despite several attempts at peace talks, the situation remains tense, and sporadic incidents of violence and cross-border firing continue to occur.

It is important to understand that the geopolitical situation between India and Pakistan is highly sensitive, and any recent developments or ongoing conflicts would be beyond the limits of my knowledge. I recommend consulting the latest and most reliable news sources to get the latest information on this matter.

CHALLENGE IN COVID-19

SAARC Teleconference Chaired by the Prime Minister On March 15, 2020, a meeting on "Fighting the Novel Corona virus Infection" was held. This demonstrates the determination of SAARC countries to fight together in the face of the unprecedented challenges of the corona virus pandemic. India has set up a COVID-19 Emergency Fund, initially providing \$10 million to cover emergency response costs. Humanitarian Aid in India This sector includes essential medicines, antibiotics, medical consumables, COVID-19 prevention and testing kits, and other laboratory and hospital equipment

Established a dedicated facility at the SAARC Disaster Management Center (Interim Unit) in Gandhi nagar with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health and our mission. New Corona virus Infectious Disease Control Homepage (<http://www.covid19-sdmc.org/>) is used by his SAARC countries. Video conferencing with medical professionals representing everyone His SAARC national visit at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) level took place in March 2020. SAARC's country meeting was held in his April 2020 to discuss the impact of the sales force's video conference travel. Restrictions on intra-regional trade and the spread of the novel corona virus disease (COVID-19).

India has developed SAARC COVID-19 Information Exchange Platform. (COINEX) Its platform is being used in all his SAARC countries to facilitate the exchange of specific information and equipment related to COVID-19 and to specialize in specific medical facilities. Medical training will be conducted within the framework of the Indian e-ITEC network. Local employees will deliver the materials. Medical care is provided by highly specialized medical facilities such as AIIMS and PGI Chandigarh. Also in May 2020, a series of three videoconferences for health workers in SAARC countries were held in New Delhi as part of the session on COVID-19.

India's challenge in SAARC countries in Covid-19

India faced several challenges in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic in the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries. Please note that the situation may have evolved since then, so it is necessary to refer to the latest data for more up-to-date information. Some of the major challenges experienced by India are as follows:

1. **Medical Aid and Vaccine Distribution:** India faced difficulties in providing medical aid and vaccines to its neighboring SAARC countries due to the sheer scale of the pandemic within its borders. In the early stages of the pandemic, India struggled to meet the growing demand for medical supplies and equipment, limiting its ability to export these resources to other countries.
2. **Pressure on healthcare infrastructure:** India's healthcare system was under severe strain during the peak of the pandemic, with a surge in cases putting pressure on hospitals. This situation made it challenging to provide timely support and assistance to other SAARC countries.
3. **Diplomatic and Geopolitical considerations:** Geopolitical factors also played a role in India's efforts to assist other SAARC countries. India's relations with some of the countries in the

region have been complex, and political dynamics may have affected the extent and nature of India's support.

4. Regional diversities and connectivity: SAARC countries have diverse socio-economic and healthcare infrastructure, making it challenging to implement a uniform response to the pandemic across the region. Additionally, connectivity issues between countries can hinder the smooth flow of medical aid and resources.
5. Vaccine production and distribution: India, being one of the world's largest vaccine manufacturers, faced the challenge of ramping up production to meet both domestic and international demand. The country played a key role in vaccine production for several SAARC countries, but production challenges and vaccine shortages remained issues during certain periods.
6. Sharing best practices: Collaborating with other SAARC countries to share best practices and experiences in managing the pandemic can be challenging due to various factors such as language barriers, resource constraints and differences in crisis handling methods.
7. It is worth noting that despite these challenges, India has made considerable progress in supporting SAARC countries through bilateral and multilateral initiatives, sharing expertise, providing medical supplies and equipment, and facilitating access to vaccines when available. Have tried.

Recommendation

• Create a common definition of terrorism.

Without a clearly defined and accepted taxonomy of terrorists and terrorism, no viable regional counter-terrorism strategy will be effective. Only suitable measures can be considered if it is clearly defined. That's not all. This must continue to be accepted and supported by industry players. Only then can the implementation begin. • Eliminate double standards.

Double standards prevent locality

Counter-terrorism tasks become even more difficult when regional member states respond verbally. To work on a problem together, members must agree. A terrorist in one country should be a terrorist in another country and nothing else.

• Expand the SAARC Terrorism Monitoring Desk to Regional Desks.

Counter terrorism center.

This center will be able to collect and disseminate regional data on any terrorist activity. Sharing some information among member countries remains a difficult problem, so the center has the potential to serve as an open source database. It can also serve as a hub for academics and other intellectuals working on terrorism-related issues. The center allows for a variety of investigative activities and research to understand terrorism.

• Building law enforcement capacity:

One step all her SAARC members can take unilaterally is to improve their respective law enforcement agencies. One of the most effective counter-terrorism strategies is strong national institutions. Therefore, law enforcement capacity building can certainly improve counter-terrorism efforts. First and foremost, this effort requires the will and commitment of governments.

Discover human-centered counter-terrorism strategies:

Most counterterrorism strategies are state-centric and rely heavily on the use of force. They focus on strengthening the nation's ability to retaliate against terrorist threats. To be effective, counter-terrorism strategies must include an element of human security. When nations and peoples unite and work together toward common goals, the potential for effective strategy increases. Therefore, working with civil society and the media in this campaign would be of great benefit to society as a whole.

- **First, work collaboratively on non-controversial agenda items.**

There are significant differences among SAARC member states on various terrorism-related issues. But the proliferation of small arms, illegal drug trafficking, money laundering, and organized crime inherently linked to terrorism are just too many common concerns that the two countries can work together to address.

SUMMARY

This article comprehensively examines the possibilities and prospects for regional integration in South Asia. In examining trade and investment flows within SAARC, the review also concludes that progress in regional cooperation has not lived up to its potential. However, the potential for greater integration still remains and is recognized by both outside observers and a significant portion of the South Asian population.

An attempt has therefore been made to focus on the 'real obstacles' to regional integration and on this basis to formulate a series of policy-oriented recommendations to promote regional cooperation in South Asia. The recommendations are addressed not only to SAARC Member States, but also to SAARC and multilateral development agency 'observers', which they may establish in collaboration with civil society organizations and think tanks. Effectively contributes to the promotion of mutual cooperation processes.

As I mentioned at the beginning, there are three main arguments of his on this.

First, increased intra-regional trade is accompanied by increased cross-border investment flows, and greater efforts should be made to achieve the latter.

Second, India, as her primary SAARC partner, must assume a disproportionately large responsibility to advance the SAARC process. This means India will continue and strengthen its recently initiated process of unilateral concessions, recognizing clearly that it does not demand reciprocity from its neighbors. But we also cannot sustain India's unilateral approach indefinitely and our neighbors, especially Pakistan and Bangladesh, need to show minimal progress to change their current position, which It also argues that it is unclear whether bilateral interests can be achieved through a justified international agreement. Apparently it seems to have earned through regional cooperation.

Third, given the widespread support for regional cooperation between civil society, academia and industry sectors in each SAARC member state, there is now a concerted and concerted effort to remove remaining obstacles to regional integration. This is a good opportunity to take action. . Efforts like this will certainly push the process past a tipping point. The resulting gains will certainly restart the virtuous circle of increased regional cooperation in South Asia.

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