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The true constituent member of the International order of the future are communities of states - **Walter Lippman**

Historical Background

SAARC was established with the signing of SAARC charter in DHAKA on 8 December 1985.

Brainchild of Bangladesh President Zia Ur Rehman

Afghanistan becomes a member of SAARC during the 14th SAARC Summit(2007)

SAARC is the Regional Intergovernmental Organization and Geopolitical union of states in South Asia.

Headquarter and secretariat – Kathmandu(Nepal)

Motto – “Deeper Integration for Peace and Prosperity”

Member of SAARC

8 member countries-

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

Observers States:-

1. Australia
2. China
3. EU
4. Japan
5. Mauritius
6. Myanmar
7. South Korea
8. United states



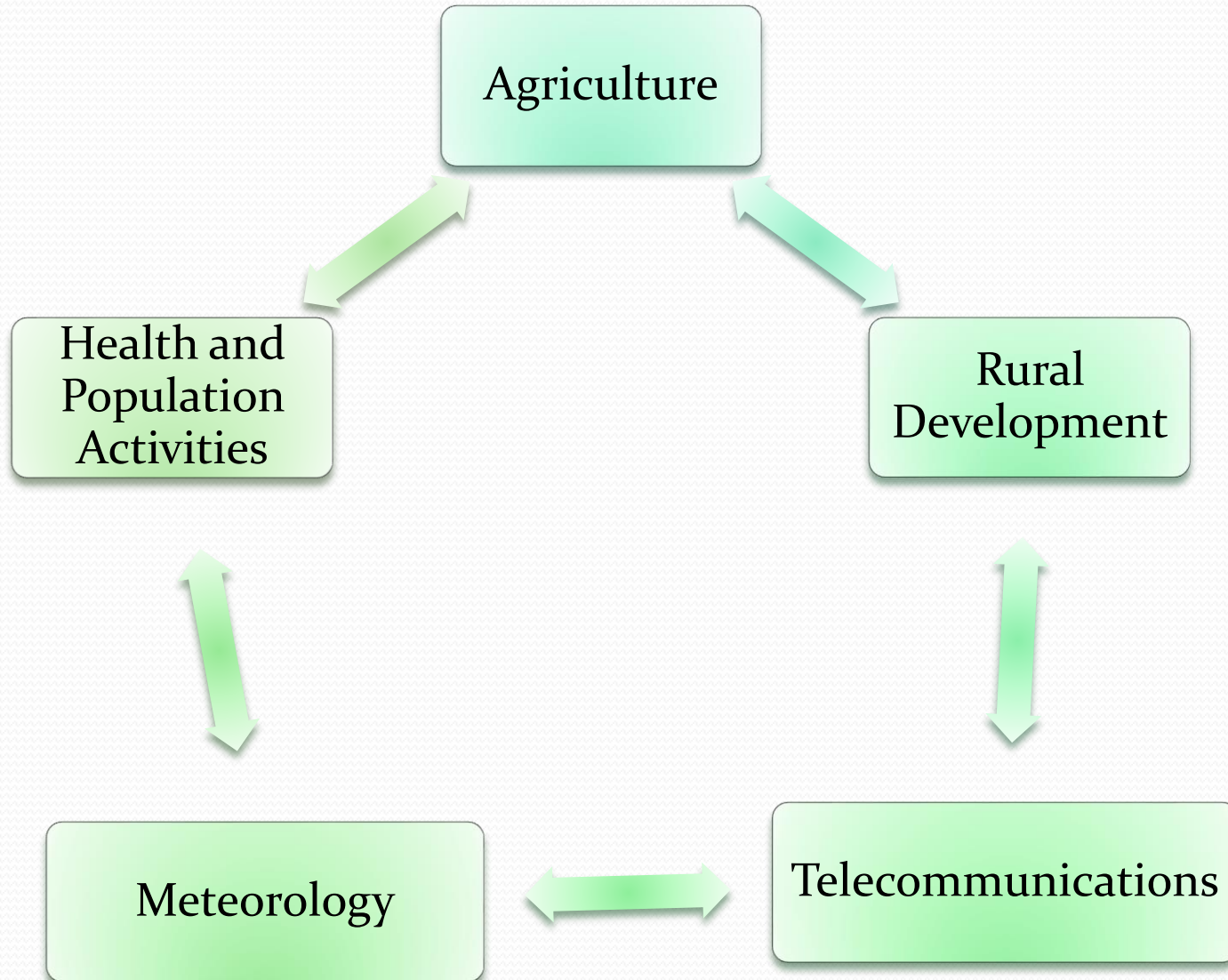
Objectives:

- To promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life;
- To accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potential;
 - To promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia;
 - To contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems;
 - To promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural technical and scientific fields;
 - To strengthen cooperation with other developing countries;
 - To strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interests;
 - To cooperate with international and regional organisations with similar aims and purposes.

Principles (According to article 2)

- Cooperation within the framework of the association is based on Respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, Political independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and mutual benefit.
- Such cooperation is to complement and not to substitute bilateral or multilateral cooperation.
- Such cooperation should be consistent with bilateral and multilateral obligations of Member States.

Five Agreed Area of Cooperation



Institutional Setup

The summit-

meeting of head of state or Government
(usually an annual basis)

The council of minister

The standing committee

It provides overall monitoring and coordination

The Technical committee

Specialized Ministerial Meetings

List of SAARC Summit

Number	Year	Place
1	1985	Dhaka
2	1986	Bangalore
3	1987	Kathmandu
4	1988	Islamabad
5	1990	Male
6	1991	Colombo
7	1993	Dhaka
8	1995	New delhi
9	1997	Male
10	1998	Colombo
11	2002	Kathmandu
12	2004	Islamabad
13	2005	Dhaka
14	2007	New delhi
15	2008	Colombo
16	2010	Thimphu
17	2011	Addu city(Maldives)
18	2014	Kathmandu
19	2016	Islamabad (Cancelled)



Significance of SAARC

- The combined economy of SAARC is the 3rd largest in the world in the terms of GDP(PPP)
- SAARC Nations comprise 3⁰% of the world's Area
- SAARC Nations contains 21⁰% (around 1.7 billion)of the world's Population
- SAARC Country have common tradition, Dress, Food and Culture thereby synergizing their actions
- SAARC Countries have common Problem and issues like Poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, natural disasters, poor socio – economic condition.

Significance for India

Geostrategic –counter China (OBOR Initiative)

Regional Stability

Neighborhood First policy

Game Changer for India's Act East Policy

Global Leadership Role

Potential For India's export

Journey So Far

- SAPTA
- SAFTA
- SAARC Film Festival
- SAARC Development Fund
- South Asian Federation Game
- SAARC Food Bank
- SAARC Visa Exemptions Scheme
- SAARC Disaster Management Centre
- SAARC Chamber of commerce & Industry
- Framework agreement on cooperation in Power sector
- SAARC Satellite(South Asia Satellite)

South Asian
University

SAARC
Arbitration
Council

SAARC
Development
Fund

South Asian
Regional
Standards
Organization

SAARC
Specialized
Bodies

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graph TD; A[South Asian University] --> D((SAARC Specialized Bodies)); B[SAARC Arbitration Council] --> D; C[SAARC Development Fund] --> D; E[South Asian Regional Standards Organization] --> D;
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Challenges of SAARC

- Role Of external factors in Keeping south Asia divided
- Low frequency of meetings
- Presence of china in south Asia reduces the dependency
- Pending Disputes like land boundary ,water disputes, Ethnic Conflicts.
- Domestic Politics shapes foreign Policy
- In South Asia no body wants south Asian Identity(Pakistan seeks west Asian identity, Sri Lanka seeks South East Asian Identity)
- Limitation in SAFTA
- Rivalry between India and Pakistan
- Suffer from Regional politics
- Asymmetric power Balance
- Low Intra –regional trade only 5% (EU-more than 64%,ASEAN-more than 26%)
- Perception of India being a Big Brother

In Era of Covid-19(The Corona Diplomacy)



- Prime minister Narendra Modi's convened a **VIDEO CONFERENCE** of leaders of the SAARC to collaborate on tackling COVID-19 corona virus pandemic.
- The virtual summit is the first high level SAARC meet since 2014.

The Virtual summit led to the setting up



- SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund(India will contribute \$10 million)
- Rapid Response Team (Doctors, specialists, attendant infrastructure)
- Integrated Disease Surveillance portal

**Thank
You**

