

- marks.
- (iii) All the parts (if any) of each Question must be attempted at one place instead of at different places.
 - (iv) Write Q. No. in the Answer Book in accordance with Q. No. in the Q. Paper.
 - (v) No Page/Space be left blank between the answers. All the blank pages of Answer Book must be crossed.
 - (vi) Extra attempt of any question or any part of the question will not be considered.

PART-II
SECTION-A

- No. 2. The people of South Asia had suffered because of missed opportunities for regional development, connectivity, and cooperation. Evaluate the performance of SAARC in the light of this statement. (20)

Question 2

The people of South Asia had suffered because of missed opportunities for regional development, connectivity and cooperation. Evaluate the performance of SAARC in light of this statement.

Ans:

Introduction:

SAARC was founded by seven states in 1985. Afghanistan joined it as eight member state in 2007. Today this region facing many issues like terrorism, poverty, deprivation of food, drug + traf and economic crisis. It is significant to have a joint effort and ^{efficient} collaboration among members to resolve these ^{threatening} issues. SAARC can fulfill its objectives only if mutual trust has existed among them. Regional and domestic issues can be resolved if leadership of countries is serious in favour of public security and

SAARC Successes

Over the last 30 years, despite extremely difficult circumstances, SAARC has managed to create situations, institutions and forums where heads of states have had to shake each others hands and go into talks together. SAARC has settled important topics such as Social charter, development agreements and even the sensitive matter of fighting terrorism. The food and development Bank, Agreements on transportation, energy are important steps in areas of civil society.

Failure of SAPTA:

SAARC preferential Trading Agreement was signed in 1995. The agreement reflected the desire of member states to promote and sustain mutual trade and economic cooperation through exchange of concessions.

But there was lack of commitment on tariff reduction; it was a completely voluntary agreement.

2) SAFTA Failed to promote free trade:

This agreement reached in 2004 to create SAARC free trade area. The members signed a framework agreement on SAFTA to reduce customs duties of all traded goods to zero by year 2016.

Major instruments of SAFTA: Trade Liberalisation programme, Rules of Origin, consultations and dispute settlements.

This could not improve trade between members of SAARC. The trade between India Pakistan is still languishing at less than 3 billion US\$. Pakistanis yet to award India, the status of MFN.

3) Activities confined to workshops:-

SAARC almost failed to accomplish its ambitious objectives during last 2 decades due to political difference, conflicts and poor economic

economic state of its members. Their activities are only confined to workshops, seminars, and training courses. During time of worst natural calamity in Bangladesh (1991), Pakistan earthquake (2005) and floods in Pakistan (2008), SAARC could not satisfy the demands of affected people.

4) Failure to hold summits:-

SAARC failed to hold 11 annual summits for political reasons, both at bilateral and ^{internal} ~~internal~~ levels. The last summit was held at Kathmandu after gap of three years.

5) Weak Cultural Identities:-

The South Asian Region comprises countries sharing common history, ^{heritage} ~~age~~ heritage, and culture. The horrors of

decisions and sub decisions has created fissures. Pakistan wants to assert itself as a Islamic state and calls India a Hindu state. The debates regarding identity are similar in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Rivalry between India-Pakistan

Rivalry between Bharat and Pakistan, the two largely states of SAARC, has hovered largely on SAARC. This rivalry continued to restrain SAARC from functioning as a sub-regional organisation. Trade between two largest members is still languishing at less than 3bn\$. Studies suggest that an equal amount of trade happens through Dubai Route and illegal trade.

Insecurity of members from India:

India is preponderant country both in terms of size and economy. India's neighbouring countries

• have often felt insecure about India's ambitious ambitions. Thus, any attempts to secure its sea trade areas are met with concerns of Indian businesses disrupting the indigenous business of countries. This in turn leads countries to use SAARC as anti-India platform.

Indian Foreign policy actions:

India's Foreign policy actions - 1971 war, Indo-Sri Lanka Accord, continue to haunt the ^{other} countries. India has not forcefully articulated its South Asian vision. Even the progressive ideas like the Chavral Doctrine have not been implemented on the ground.

Border Issues:-

South Asian region is beset with many unresolved

Issues of border and maritime. These unresolved borders have led to problems like Terrorism, Refugee crisis, drug smuggling, Narco-Trade. These issues continue to mar the cooperative relations.

Trust deficit among members:

India's ambitions in this region crisscross with china's ambitions to have an influence on region. China has in past decade strengthened its relations with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka. This has led to trust deficit in grouping.

India's Role

India constitutes 70% or more of SAARC's area and population. India has to redefine its role to being prepared to go the extra mile in meeting the aspirations of all other SAARC nations. India must invest on SAARC

as Germany did in EU through structural funding for infrastructure. The fruits of India's growth have to be shared with SAARC members. India has already taken ^{the} leadership on the agreements for bettering intra-regional connectivity.

- Prime minister Narendra Modi's plan for SAARC satellite that can launch the space exploration dreams for all countries of region is powerful idea.

- India should forcefully articulate the vision ^{South Asia} to articulate avoid internal conflicts.

- ~~SAARC must move beyond free trade area to investment activity~~

Measures to adopt

SAARC must move beyond free trade area to investment activity between its member states.

India must foster regional groupings within SAARC.

, to give clear signal to every country that no country could hold veto ~~power~~ over the functioning ^{the} SAARC.

The Indian government has already started working in grouping 'BBIN' under ~~leadership~~ larger ambit of eight member South Asian Association for regional cooperation.