

(CURRENT AFFAIRS)

Q. Give recommendations to make SAARC an effective organisation at regional level keeping in view success of European Union. (20 marks)

Ans

(1)

INTRODUCTION

SAARC, the south asian association for regional cooperation is an intergovernmental organisation which objectifies at the social, economic, and political cultural development of the region. While, EU, European Union is an intergovernmental supranational organisation of European countries aims at political and economic progress of region. Many factors such as political tensions, lack of trust, and economic disparities make SAARC an ineffective organisation. SAARC needs to learn from EU to become an effective organisation at regional level.

(2) BACKGROUND ; CAUSES FOR THE FORMULATION OF SAARC AND EU

SAARC was formed in 1985 for the economic development, social progress, cultural development and scientific and technical progress of the South Asian region. On the other hand, EU was formed as the result of post world war II in the Europe which endangered its security and peace. Thus, the objectives of EU were the political and economic progress of the region along with maintaining peace and stability of the whole region.

(3) SAARC: AN INEFFECTIVE ORGANISATION; AND CHALLENGES WHICH HINDER ITS EFFECTIVENESS

3.1) Political Tensions between the south asian countries especially between Pakistan and India; The political rivalries between the SAARC nations like India Bangladesh's Farakha barrage issue, and Pakistan India's Kashmir issues have hindered the effectiveness and progress of SAARC.

3.2) Economic disparities between the SAARC countries; Moreover, the economic inequalities between the SAARC nations reduced the economic development of the SAARC region as some countries like Bangladesh, and Afghanistan are facing economic instability, while countries like India have higher economic size.

3.3) Lack of political will; Another challenge to the SAARC is the lack of political will from the member countries. The countries prioritizing their own national interests and bilateral relations, like in case of Pakistan and India, over the overall regional progress.

(4) RECOMMENDATIONS TO MAKE SAARC AN EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION AT REGIONAL LEVEL KEEPING IN VIEW THE SUCCESS OF EU

4.1) Reducing Political Tensions and Building Trust; SAARC can be made an effective organisation by reducing the the ongoing tensions and conflicts, and building trust and confidence among members. For instance, track I diplomacy can be effective in this regard.

4.2) Establishing economic co-operation and integration among the members;

SAARC, like EU, can use economic integration as a tool to make it effective. This can be done by making bilateral and regional economic agreements (BREAs) as done by EU nations. This will be very beneficial for increasing intra regional trade of SAARC which is almost (47%) much less than that of EU which is 40%.

4.3) Addressing common challenges faced by the SAARC nations; SAARC

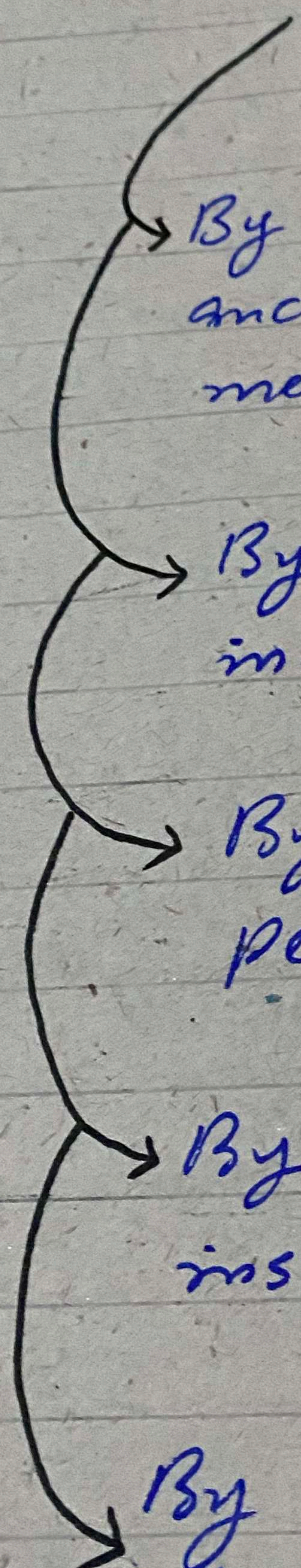
can be an effective organisation by working and addressing the common challenges faced by its members.

These include climate change, health, education, poverty reduction, enhancing security and reducing terrorism. EU nations addressed their security concerns collectively during Russia Ukraine war by supporting Ukraine is the best example for this.

4.4) Focusing on people to people contact; SAARC should enhance the people to people contact between its member countries to become an effective organisation at regional level. This can be done by promoting tourism, free visa system. The latter is already initiated by it. but it needs to be more.

4.5) Strengthening its institutional capabilities; SAARC can become an effective organisation by strengthening its institutional capacities. It can learn from EU in this regard. EU has a strong institutional system like EU Parliament for legislation, Court of justice of EU. Besides, SAARC can also address the bilateral tensions among its members if they are affecting its effecting. However, it needs the willingness of the involved countries for this involvement.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MAKE SAARC AN EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION

- 
- By reducing political tensions and building trust among member states.
 - By encouraging economic integration among members
 - By enhancing people-to-people contact
 - By strengthening its institutional system.
 - By addressing common challenges to its member countries.

(5)

CONCLUSION

In a nut shell, SAARC like EU is a regional organisation which focuses on region's progress. However, unlike EU, it is facing numerous challenges politically, economically, and administratively which are endangering and reducing its effectiveness. However, it can make EU an example to resolve these issues and become a successful organisation at regional level.
