Background of the Establishment of the SAARC

Indian Sub-continent was known with different names in the different ages. Jambu Dweep is its' most ancient name and when it existed it was separate from today's Asian Continent. The reference of Jambu Dweep is found in the ancient writings of Vedic Dharma and other religious books which interpreted ancient Vedic religion in the context of Jambu Dweep. No proof could be gathered to prove it because no evidence is available and therefore, many scholars consider it to be myth or theological writings.

The movements of plates in the ocean took place in the geological times. Indian plate and Asian plate were two different plates, they collided with each other and therefore the ocean between them disappeared and in its place Himalaya was born. Geologist claim that Himalaya is youngest, virgin, longest and tallest mountain in the world. Khaiber and Bolan were the only two passes used by travelers to cross it.

The link between Indian Sub continent and remaining Asia could be established only during summer; Bolan and Khaiber passes were open only during this time. In winter crossing of Himalaya was and is impossible by land route.

Nature blessed Indian sub continent with abundance. Therefore it was centre of attraction for the people of different continents. The path of Bolan and Khaiber passes along with sea routes were the only approach routes to Indian sub continent. By making use of land routes Greeks, Kushans, Mangols, Hun etc. entered India and looted the wealth of Indian Sub continent and took it to their motherland. In
the course of time some of them made India as their abode. Their settlement in India Sub-continent resulted in mixing up their religion, culture, art with that of Indian religion, culture art and thereby gaining higher heights in the form of composite culture and art. This has enriched Indian Sub continent almost in all the spheres of life.

Sea routes, were used to reach Indian Sub-continent by the western colonial powers. India was of utter importance to them. Vasco-de-Gama, Columbus etc. took up the challenge to find new sea routes to India. Columbus reached America in this process and discovery of America was made, new world was added, to the traditional world of that time. Dutch, French, Portuguese and Britishers took concessions from the then rulers of the Indian States to make trade in their respective kingdoms. These European traders brought along with them their religion and cunningness. Slowly and steadily they established trading colonies and also got permission from the rulers to keep arm forces for the protection of their colonies. It was a trident attack of Europeans on Indians i.e. Trade, Religion and power. Britishers proved to be more stronger than other European powers and established their Empire in India. The combining of Britishers and Indian with each other has created new race in the form of Anglo-Indians. In the initial stages India was ruled by the East India Company. The independent war of 1857 became a cause for East Indian Company to transfer it's power of rule to British Parliament. At this time India was artificially divided in British India and India of princely States, British India was divided into Presidencies and was administered as per the laws enacted by the British Parliament. Some of the Princely States accepted the dominance of the British King and were advised by the British residential Officers in the administration of that related Princely States. Very few states were totally independent of British influence.

1. Mahajan V.D.: Constitutional History of India, P.P. 175
2. Ibid, P.P. 175
Scientific advancement gave way for Industrial revolution. England, being the birthplace of Industrial Revolution established many industries manufacturing different types and kinds of goods. Mass production process required new markets to sell the products. Colonies were converted into markets by the Britishers. Local, cottage and small scale industries in the colonies were terminated and British goods were made available in the local colonial markets. Colonies thus became totally dependent upon colonial power for its economy. The more and more dependency of the colonies on its colonial power and the policy of exploitation employed by the colonial power on its colonies made these colonies ‘broke’.

Indian Sub Continent was also one of the exploited colony of the British Empire.

The realisation of Nationalism and struggle for supremacy of ideology were the causes for first and second World Wars. They changed the political structure of the world community in the total too. These two world wars not only changed political and geographical boundaries of European States but also destabilised colonial power which had to relinquish their colonies from all the continents as an impact of second World War. Colonial powers lost their kingdoms therefore, had to be content with their national boundaries. Second World War broke traditional colonial powers into pieces and realigned political and military might in the form of two super powers.

India Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma became independent and established themselves as an independent and sovereign state in the community of States. At the time of their independents the world politics was divided into communist block and non-communist block led by the super power i.e. the U.S.S. R and the U.S.A. India embarked upon non-alignment policy and subsequently established third block in
the form of non-aligned block. Establishment of non-aligned block gave option to the
new emerging independent, sovereign states the choice of keeping themselves aloof
from the military pacts of NATO, CEANTO and Warsa Pact. Nehru not only led not-
aligned block successfully but also became balancing and contact-making personality in
between Kenedy and Khrusheve; Nehru alongwith Kenedy and Khrusheve was
considered to be one of the ‘Trimurti’ of world politics. World war changed the status of
numerous states in the world politics, for example England and France, considered to be
the world powers, became only big power after Second World War. The Suez war and
the challenge of Nasser to them along with Israel resulting in their degradation in status
and might and there after they were classified as medium powers by the expert of
military strategy. The degradation of U.K. brought it at par with newly independent state
of Indian Sub-continent. Nehru forced England to delete British word from the British
Common Wealth of Nations, thereby making England to realize it is only ‘Great Britain’
by name but in reality it is ‘little England’.

i) Tense situation in world Politics :

‘New political actors came on horizon of world politics immediately
after the end of Second World War. Old political order has given way to new political
order in the world politics. This period of history witnessed the transition in Govt. and
politics through out the world and therefore, some what ‘Baffling State’ came into
existence. This situation created doubt about the victory in war and placed question
before a victorious state that at what cost this victory is achieved ? for example U.K. lost
all colonies, it’s economy shattered and Great Britain became junior partner of the
U.S.A. in world politics. The only state who was benefited from the Second World War in
the term of acquiring more and more success in spreading its ideology and converting
its neighbour state into its satellite states was the U.S.S.R. The spread of communism
by the U.S.S.R. on vast terrain of land, its break through in creating atom bomb and its breaking away from the aligned powers and establishing its own power block and challenging the U.S.A. for the supremacy over the world politics. This led U. S. A. to adopt the policy of ‘containment’ and to restrict Communism in limited area. Thus safeguarding democracy from the influence of communism, if needed U.S.A. prepared to restrict communism, by making use of military might this has led to the establishment of NATO and CEANTO under the leadership of U.S.A. The U.S.S.R. created WARSA Pact to counter act the moves made by the U.S.A. This has lead in creating 'Super power rivalry'. This in turn established Bi-Polarity in world politics.

Problem of East and West Germany, North and South Vietnam, North and South Korea, Problem of Indo-China, (Laos Combodia), question of Palestine etc. has made the USA and the U.S.S.R. arch rivals to each other.

India, adopted ‘Non-aligned policy’ and therefore did not make military alienation with either bloc but at the same time India wanted to establish cordial relations with both the super powers. World powers, did not understand the policy of Non-alignment. Nehru made every effort to remove the confusion regarding the meaning of non-alignment.

The U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. suspected India's Non-alignment policy and therefore they kept themselves away from India. This has made India's foreign policy as the one which cannot be easily understood.

Independence of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Burma, Conversion of Japan into Parliamentary form of Government, transfer of power in main land China, splitting of Indo-China, etc, along with the confrontations between India-Pakistan, North-
South Vietnam, North - South Korea, Arab - Israel, etc. made Asia as a tense place in world politics.

ii) UN's failure in keeping world - peace:

After the failure of the League of Nations, the necessity of an international organisation of world wide character was expressed through Atlantic Charter. The charter of the U.Ns contains a Preamble and in that preamble it relates the basic ideals of the U.N.s...... good neighborly relations can be established amongst the States for maintaining international peace and security. They also pledged not to use armed forces except for the common interest of the people of the world. In the case of dispute between states pacific settlement and other measures not leading to the use of force are to be resorted to.

The provision of the Security Council to solve the dispute between two or more states amicably was utilised from time to time to solve the international problem without any success or success which was neglected in the later years, due to changed circumstances in the international atmosphere. The disputes which were reported to the Security Council of the UN's for solution but were not solved are given below for study.

1) The Iranian Dispute

The Iranian dispute is the first dispute that was brought before the security council just after two days of its first sitting. On January 19, 1946 Iran alleged

1. Talukdar G.: Role of the U.N.'s in world politics, P.P. 13
that the Soviet Troops had been staying in Iran and this interfered in the internal affairs of Iran. The Anglo Soviet troops occupied Iran during the Second World War so that essential supplies could be sent to the U.S.S.R. In 1945 the Russian troops were in control of Iran. Soviet troops in northern Iran supported a puppet regime in Iranian Azerbaijan .... Thus we see that the dispute between Iran and the USSR was settle amicably without references to security council. 

2) The Indonesian Dispute

On Jan. 21, 1946 Ukraine referred the case of Indonesia before the Security Council under Article 34 of the chapter stating that the British Troops in Indonesia threatened the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council could not accept any proposal and hence the issue was dropped. 

3) The Greek Question

The Greek question was brought before the Security Council on January 21, 1946 by the Soviet Union alleging that the presence of British troops in Greece was a threat to peace. Britain stated that the troops were in Greece as per agreement between the two parties. The Council considered the matter and the issue was closed.

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1. Op-Cit, P.P. 49-50
2. Ibid, P.P. 50
3. Ibid, P.P. 52
4) Kashmir Question

The issue of Kashmir was brought before the Security Council on January 1, 1948 by India. Till today this question is not solved.

5) The Korean Question

During Second World War U.S.A. Command was stationed in South Korea and soviet Command was stationed in North Korea. The efforts of Security Council, Commission and Conference to sort out the dispute between American and Russian failed and South Korean Government was formed. On 15th August, 1948 with Dr. Risen as its President with Seoul as a capital of South Korea. In September, 1948 another Government was formed in North Korea with Kim II Sung as President with Capital at Pyongyang.

On June 25, 1950 North Korea attacked South Korea. The U.S.A. referred the matter to the Security Council. On the same day the Security Council with nine votes to none declared that North Korea made a breach of peace and wanted cease-fire and ordered that North Korea withdraw her forces upto 38th Parallel the boundary between North and South Korea. Till now it has been seen that there has not been unification of North and South Korea with 38th parallel as the dividing line between two Koreas. But recently there has been moves for the unification of North and South Korea.

1. Op-Cit, P.P. 56
6) The Suez Canal Question

Suez canal was manned by U.K. for international transaction of passengers and cargo ships. The levy collected was deposited with Suez Canal Company. England and France had maximum shares in this company.


7) The Hungarian Question

The Hungarian question is related to the withdrawal of the U.S.S.R's troops from the Hungary. On 28th Oct. 1956 the U.K. the U.S.A. and France referred to the Security Council of the U.Ns about the entry of the Russian troops into Hungary and suppression of movement there. All the efforts by Security Council and General Assembly's Emergency Session to solve this problem was useless and in UNs agenda this question is treated as it is, i.e. nonsolved.¹

8.) The Congo Question

Congo, a Belgian colony became independent on 30th June, 1960

Katanga, a province of Congo was declared independent State by Moise Tshombe.

Seven years of work by the UN to defeat the designs of the division of the Congo.²

¹ Op-Cit, P.P. 66
² Ibid, P.P. 69
9.) The Cyprus Question

The UK referred the question of Greek and Turkish citizens demands regarding the future of Cyprus to the Security Council of the UNs. There was a confrontation between Greek Cypriot forces and the Turkish Governmental forces. Some -how the cease-fire was accepted and temporarily the problem seems to be solved.¹

The UNs contribution towards establishing long term peace and security of the world is not at all in the sight. The question related to Iran, Cyprus, Iraq, Kashmir, Korea, Congo or related to the transfer of technology, the role of the security Council of the UNs was always dubious, and the question were dragged for years together and lastly left as it is, i.e. without solving or the related states finding that they can not get justice from the UNs as such the involved parties amicably solve their problem out of the UN's. The member states realised the drawbacks of the UN's structure and charter which were ineffective to solve the disputes. Not only General Assembly but Security. Council is also used by the member States as a platform for the propaganda and Publicity of their foreign policy and therefore the peace keeping work is hampered.

iii) Groupism in world politics:

'Little Boy' and 'Fat Man' were used by the USA to tame the Japan. Japan suffered the misery, loss of life and destruction of wealth unparalleled in the history of mankind. Second World War ended but its mark remained. War was

¹. Op-Cit, P.P. 70
substituted by diplomacy and therefore, bi-party and multi-party diplomacy along with
summit diplomacy became popular in world politics. The acceptance of secret diplomacy
in modern world politics has created the atmosphere in which every state felt insecure;
particularly small and poor states fell prey to the call of big and mighty power in
establishing Military Joint Command for collective security of the group, the created.
NATO WARSA PACT, CEATO etc. are few example of military groupism.

Ideology and its utility became one of the important factor around
which groups were created. Ideology of Non-Alignment became so much popular in a
short span of time, that non-aligned bloc is a having highest numbers of members. Non-
Alignment is a policy which keeps away the state from two super powers only in military
and its related matters, in other matters it keeps normal relations with both the powers.
New states took shelter under NAM to keep themselves away from the bi-polarity or
power politics of the world.

Oil Producing and Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a group in world
politics which is dominating world trade and transportation. It's members strictly adhere
to the instructions given by the OPEC, because OPEC is their international Organisation
created solely for safeguarding their commercial and other interests in world politics.

To get rid of American Economic dominance the states of Western
Europe joined with each other to establish 'European Common Market'. The closeness
of the U.K. with the USA was one of the reason to keep the U.K. out of the ECM.

The changes which took place throughout the world has reduced
the importance of ideology and up-graded the utility and importance of geographical
regions, on this basis the UK was made the member of ECM. This incidence has given
new functional definition to the term ‘regionalism’. From this incidence onwards in the field of Trade and Commerce ‘regionalism’ dominated the world politics.

In oriental world, China could not compete with either Western giants or Japan in World Trade. Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore could establish themselves in World Trade, and business to some extent but Japan dominated world market. to protect national industries, trade and business from the invasion of the super economic and industrial powers of the world and to retain from becoming their ‘commercial Colony’, the states of the various regions undertook the responsibility of creating geopolitical based economic block of the region. Pan-American Block, Arab Block, Afro - Asia Block etc. ANZUS and ASEAN are the two economically based blocks successfully working in the pacific region and keeping these states safe from the onslaught of the Super Economic Powers.

South Asia i.e. Indian Sub continent is having number of states which are geo-politically united by the ‘Indian Plate’ and the culture, developed on it. Indian Sub Continent itself is a region but till last decade the situation did not permit the neighboring states to take positive steps in integrating them and creating regional Organisation.

iv) Alienation of the Neighboring States:

All the modern South Asian States are post World War II creations. They were colonies prior to their independence. They are economically depressed states and are among the most populous states of the world.
India and Sri Lanka have consistently been maintaining some semblance of democratic systems while Pakistan and Bangladesh have, most of the time been under the military dictatorship. Nepal and Bhutan remained as monarchies. Maldives has also been under autocratic rule though it claims to be a republic with an elected President.

India is centrally located strong state and is scientifically and technologically and industrially most advanced state of the region.

The seeds of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission were sowed on 27th August 1947, just 12 days after attaining independence, since then slowly and steadily India established itself as one of the front runner state in nuclear technology. India's land neighbors are nowhere in comparison with India's nuclear might.

Regional nuclear diplomacy in South Asia primarily originates from the interaction of the nuclear policies of India, Pakistan and the five nuclear weapon states. India established institutes and laboratories to carry on research in nuclear science and technology i.e. use of Uranium 233, 235 plutonium, production of heavy water indigenous machinery and tools along with robots to carry out repairs in the nuclear ovens, various uses of nuclear energy including testing its destructive capacity, etc. etc.

Until the Indian Nuclear (First Test - under ground at Pokhran ) there was no significant interaction between Indian and her neighbours in this field. Immediately after underground nuclear test at Pokhran Pakistani P.M. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

1. E. Sudhakar: SAARC, Origin, Growth and future, P.P. 55
sought a nuclear guarantee against the Indian nuclear threat and proposed the declaration of South Asia as a nuclear weapon free zone. But nothing materialized.

Bangla Mukti Vahini worked along with Indian Armed Forces to liberate East Pakistan, from West Pakistan. Vang Bandhu Sk. Mujibur Rehman thanked India for the role it played in the Independence struggle of Bangla Desh. The assassination of Mujeebur Rehman has changed all equations of relations between India and Bangla Desh. In foreign Policy of Bangla Desh India was no more treated as a big brother but with a suspicion. Bangladesh deserted secularism and embraced Islam as a State religion. Thus, the number of Islamic States on India’s land border became three.

‘Azad Kashmir is a fact, its Pakistan controlled and guided government is a continuous threat to India’s border, Azad Kashmir is serving as head quarters and a route to enter India by insurgents or Pakistani intelligence officials to undertake ‘subversive’ activities in India.

‘Tamil tigers’ (LTTE) is an organization which had been in the forefront in the relationship between India Sri Lanka. It is LTTE which master-minded the assassination plan Rajiv Gandhi and executed it at Perumber. IPKF was specially created to please Sri Lanka that India will solve their problem, but all efforts by India met with failure.

Nepal and Bhutan are ‘Protectorates’ of India. Nepal often tries to neutralize India’s advantage by giving more weightage to the relations with China (Communist).
India had to deal with these neighbors by keeping in mind that they have some sort of suspicion and fear in their mind. Time and again India tried to make cordial relations with these neighbours and co-operate with them to undertake joint ventures in the fulfillment of common goals, but failed miserably again and again.

v) Growing Importance of the Regional Organisations:

In spite of India’s dominant position in South Asia, India till the 9th decade of 20th Century could not unify South Asian States in regional organisation. The close scrutiny of this fact reveals that the attitude of the India’s land neighbours was that of keeping aloof from India and its dominance. As a matter of reality, almost all the South Asian countries except Pakistan are within the confines of its informal regional security framework. In the case of Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka formal treaties, accords and agreements have connected these countries with the regional security framework of India. It is significant to point out here that even though Nepal might have strived to balance China against India in the diplomatic game, Kathmandu could not follow the India line on all security issues affecting South Asia in a polycentric world order.

The end of cold-war and the growing regional consciousness along with the policy of economic liberalisation at the international level are the trends which have induced south Asian countries to come together and establish their own regional identity.

‘Panch-Sheel’ is a base to establish relations with neighboring states, India practiced it even in relations with Pakistan but Pakistan never responded it

1. Neeraj Gopal: India and the Small Powers in South Asia, P.P. 5
favourably. Pakistan exercised extra regional options while dealing with India. Since, the beginning the U.S.A. tried to establish balance of power in South Asia by making Pakistan militarily at par with India. United State’s policy of balancing India with Pakistan came to an end miserably when East Pakistan became independent Bangladesh. The addition of Bangladesh in the community of the South Asian States has created new geopolitical and Socio-economical situation in the region.

The preponderance of India in South Asia is undeniable. In the region India occupies 72 percent of the area, is inhabited by by 77 percent of the population, has 84 per cent of the arable land under permanent crops and accounts for between 90 and 100 percent of the known mineral resources of region (excluding Afghanistan). In terms of industrial infrastructure, capacity and production in terms of numbers of highly trained personnel, strength of armed forces, stability of institutions, and other indices of tangible power, India is the only country in the region which can be compared with China or be ranked as a power of international consequence. It is for New Delhi to assume the smaller countries of the region need Indian Co-operation more than India needs theirs and to fear that their demands on India would far exceed than their contributions. To some people with that angle of vision, the idea of confederation, or imperium, appears more appealing than the idea of regional co-operation. They would like to translate India's natural preponderance into a political predominance.

It is hardly surprising that the smaller states of South Asia should suspect regional Co-operation as a mask for Indian domination. They seek to balance their giant neighbour India by developing close ties with other giants external to the region.'

1. Ed. Verinder Grover: International Relations and Foreign Policy of India, P.P. 672
India and Sri Lanka, the two very close neighbours, are separated by a narrow stretch of water called the Palk strait. Its location in the mid-Indian Ocean is of focal importance not only for sea-borne routes but also for air-communications in the world. Still the cardinal fact has been that it lies near the tail end of the Southern Indian Peninsula. Its proximity to India and longer distance from other countries has left a deep importance on it. Therefore Sri Lanka is bound to keep good relation with India in any circumstances.

India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Pakistan are closely related, this relationship is to be tapped and utilized for their development and this could be achieved only by grouping them in regional organisation.

vi) Establishment of Regional Markets in Asia and Pacific Region:

The U.N. Charter calls for equality of nations and international good will, but in reality nations are inherently unequal and prone to mutual suspicion because of their differing strength and resources. Occasionally, they face uneasy situations while dealing with other nations, particularly when they have a neighbour of gigantic size and strength. The situation becomes more delicate when the largest partner has a lot in common with its smaller neighbours. In South Asia India is dominant power. India's size, population, the level of industrial and technological development, the degree of political and administrative institutionalization, and military strength gives her a status of a dominant power in the region. But at the same time India has striking commonalities with her South Asian Neighbours in terms of geographical factors, socio-political Orientation of the elites, economic interdependence, and historical, religious and cultural tradition, socio-political Orientation of the elites, economic interdependence, and
historical, religious and cultural tradition. The other countries of the region too share more with India than with one another. That is why South Asian situation is generally described as as Indo-centric and the nature of inter-actions are exclusively bilateral.

A region is more than a country and less than a continent; Co-operation is an acting together, not in conflict but without integration either. The concept of regional co-operation, therefore, implies the existence of several states willing and able to contribute in a roughly equal manner to their common good. No other region of the world exhibits such vast disparities among its members; few regions share such strong cultural bonds as South Asia.¹

All South Asian States are pre-dominantly agricultural states in nature and their economy is based on agriculture produce of the State. these States rely on the developed countries for their economic survival. Asian countries along with states of Pacific Region wanted to get rid of the Western dominance on their economy.


In South Asia, U.S. military aid and arms supplies promote expansions claims by Pakistan against India and are drawing the former into imperialist aggression against Afghanistan. In the Indo-China Peninsula Washington tries to set the local States with different politics orientation against each other.²

¹ Grover Verinder: India and its neighbours, P.P. 774 & 775
² Andrei Krutskikh: U.S. Policies in the Indian Ocean, P.P. 211
Asian States, have realized, the interests of various outside powers in Asia. Whether it is U.S.A. or France or U.K. or any other advanced State, they want to make use of Asian States as their permanent customers, they want to convert their commercial Centres as their market place. For achieving this goal the USA propagates 'Open Market Policy' in world politics. Open Market Policy' if accepted by the world will establish the dominance of the USA in world and will control the World Trading Centres.

Asian states barring Japan are in the category of developing States' hence they can not compete with developed states hence they openly do not favour 'open market policy', they oppose it. Their opposition to the 'Open Market Policy' can be seen in keeping aloof from USA and developed powers and creating regional association.

ASEAN Created its own markets. Singapore and Hongkong established their own mark as a world trading centre along with Tokyo. Mumbai, Beijing, Manila flourished as a regional world trade centre.

Through Open Market Policy, the USA wanted to dominate the world trade through world trading centres. But the desire of the USA to establish such centres in Asia was smashed by the activities of Japan, China and India. Japan challenged the USA in the dominance of Industry, Trade, communication etc. China gave standing welcome to the USA to make use of if to improve her own economy without opening its all markets to the USA.

After establishing itself as a politically democratic State India undertook the task of attaining economic independence. India totally over - hauled itself
and became Industrial State, too. To keep off the super economic powers from dominating India and its land neighbours India helped Nepal, Bhutan Sri Lanka and Bangladesh economically and established new economic region including Pakistan and Maldives to secure this new region safe from economic powers and establish regional market centres in it to serve the people of this region.

vii) Fear of Indian Dominance on it’s Neighbouring States:

In Indian sub-continent India is situated centrally and her neighbouring states are situated on its periphery. The following map of Indian Sub-continent regarding the location, size and area of India and its neighbours.

The comparative study of the states shown in the Map No. 1 in relation to their sizes and location establishes the fact that India is centrally located and biggest among them. All the neighbouring states are smaller than India and are located on its periphery.

The following chart No. 1 will present the comparative data regarding area, population, type of government and its’ stability, economic strength and military capability of India and her neighbours.

The analytical study of the chart No. 1 makes it clear that of all the states India is the biggest in area and population, strongest in military capability, having strong economic base and considered to be the economic giant of Asia and is having continuous stable democracy in the form of Parliamentary Government in comparison with other States of the region. The indigenous arms, ammunition vehicles
SOUTH ASIA

Country Capital
State Capital
Other Towns
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Bangladesh</th>
<th>Bhutan</th>
<th>Maldives</th>
<th>Nepal</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>Sri Lanka</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area</td>
<td>32,880,000 Sq.Km.</td>
<td>142776 Sq.km.</td>
<td>47,000 Sq.km.</td>
<td>298 Sq.km.</td>
<td>140,000 Sq.km.</td>
<td>80,4000 Sq.km.</td>
<td>65,000 Sq.km.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989 Population</td>
<td>832.2 Millions</td>
<td>110.7 Millions</td>
<td>1.4 Millions</td>
<td>210 Thousands</td>
<td>18.4 Millions</td>
<td>109.4 Millions</td>
<td>16.8 Millions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Government</td>
<td>Republic</td>
<td>Republic</td>
<td>Monarchy</td>
<td>Republic</td>
<td>Constitutional Monarchy</td>
<td>Republic</td>
<td>Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G.D.P. in Billions In 1988-89</td>
<td>203.79</td>
<td>15.46</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>30.08</td>
<td>5.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Capability</td>
<td>Asia's superpower with Nuclear and Missile Technological capability</td>
<td>Moderate Military Power</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
<td>Small Power</td>
<td>Moderate Nuclear Power</td>
<td>Small Power</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and other military equipments manufacturing industries has made India strong and self dependent in time of peace and war.

The scientific advancement and technological development in the field of nuclear, space, electronics software, oceanography, computer, missile and delivery technology and the infra-structure available for mass production of any item in any field, has made the position of India un-parallel in South Asia. This reality has made neighbours of India to be afraid of Indian might in all respect.

In diplomacy and foreign policy India has surpassed all South Asian States, in world politics. India is treated as a “Light and spirit' of Non Aligned Movement; India is one of the aspirant of the permanent Security Council Seat, etc. are the indicators of India's future position in International Relations. The USA has declared that India is a super - power of Asia.

Military and diplomatic defeat in 1962 by China lowered India's image in world politics. India had to defeat Pakistan in 1965 and again in 1971-72 war to carve out Bangladesh by splitting Pakistan to re-establish its dignity in the community of States.

Lending military help in the form of IPKF to Sri Lanka, help to save democratic government through rapid military action in Maldives, modernisation of armed forces, advancement in nuclear space, tele-communication, computer, electronics, Ocean-technology etc., which can be equally used for civil as well as military purposes with telling effect has made its small and weak neighbours to look at India with awe and suspicion.