The strategic environment of South Asia has not changed much since the end of the Cold War. Rather we should say that the issues which dominated the South Asian politics have remained same for the last four decades. The same old contentious issues dominate the security scene. However, with the end of the Cold War, and the disintegration of the USSR, there have been some perceptible difference in attitude of the countries of the regions and the priorities of the member countries of SAARC have changed. Security concern in the traditional military sense has give place to economic, social and environmental security. In this direction SAARC can play a very important role by desescalating tension among its constituent member countries. By Fostering economic cooperation it can increase the prospect of closer ties among the countries of the region, though the nuclear tests of India and Pakistan in May 1998 has given a setback to this process of economic Integration. However with the realization of the fact that no longer the traditional concept of security can be a reliable parameter. For judging a country's vulnerability chances, the countries of the world and particularly the region are putting much stress on other aspects of security. Here in lies the hope for the region.

As a consequence of the above I decided to study the subject in detail. As such, I approached Dr. R.S. Siwach, the then Head of the Department, D.S. M.D. University, Rohtak to take me as a research scholar on this subject. I am indeed grateful to Dr. R.S. Siwach for giving me an opportunity of life times encouraging and guiding me in my research continuously since Sept., 1999.

The present study seeks to study this very problem of security in the South Asian region and India's place in it. For thus purposes the entire work is divided into 8 chapters.

Chapter 1 is introduction which introduces us with the topic and gives an overview of the topic.
Chapter II takes into account the challenges to Indian security, both internal and external. Keeping in consonance with the prevailing notion of security the researcher has given much stress on the internal dimensions of security.

Chapter III is an effort at finding a conciliating method. For the solution of the problems facing the South Asian countries, the mechanism is existing in the form of SAARC.

Chapter IV gives a detailed account of South Asian nuclear texts of May 1998 which has changed the security environment of the region, in more ways than any other episode in the history of the region the problems and prospects of the test have discussed in detail.

Chapter V discusses the strategic trends in the Indian Ocean and their impact on the region. Indian Ocean has emerged as a region of immense importance, but the recent trend there has been a worrying factor for small countries of the region in particular and other littoral powers in general.

Chapter VI takes a note of the involvement of super powers in the subcontinent as without understanding their role it is impossible to have a locus standi on the subject of strategic environment of South Asia.

Chapter VII deals with the security policy perspective of India which shows consistency but lacks coherence. A historical note of the evolution of India's strategic thinking will help us in our understanding of the under current of tensions which India represents at the international levels.

The final chapter VIII which is conclusion comes out with the research findings and suggest measures and ways which will help the policy makers in their endeavours to chalk out a path of peace and stable environment in the region.

Yogesh Bajwan
Deptt. of Defence & Strategic Studies
M.D. University, Rohtak