Conclusions
The concept of security has undergone drastic changes in the recent years. It has come to acquire ever greater ambiguity as it has been realized that the manifold dimensions of security demand a more cooperative approach to tackle the threats, and it is appreciable that by many ways both the developed and the developing world are encountering problems, some of them strikingly similar.

Security is a primary concern of every state which generally implies territorial integrity, stability of the nation and realizations of national interest and safeguard of the life and property of their citizens from any threat, which can damage their national core values. There are many threats to the security of a state which come from diverse ways and pose risk to the security in diversified manner. The concept and nature of security differs from state to state and time to time keeping in view the domestic policies and geo-political locations.

As far as SAARC countries national security is concerned, it is more complicated because of their border disputes, inter-state conflicts, internal disturbances, terrorists and secessionist problems, ethnic and sectarian violences as well as nuclear threat.

National Security of SAARC countries is threatened from extra-regional powers, the emergence of China as a nuclear power state, presence of big powers military bases in Indian Ocean and the fall out of a possible nuclear conflict at the
global level. The interventionary activities of developed countries are also posing threat. The economic, social and political backwardness of SAARC countries has become a source of exploitation in the hands of strong powers as well as the monetary organisations like IMF and World Bank, which amount to a bridging of their right to decide their own ways of economic, political and social development.

The other threat is from the inter-state conflicts, and mutual apprehensions in the region. India and Pakistan have fought three times and nobody can completely rule out the possibility of these two countries engaging in an armed conflict again. So it is said that peace and security of this region depends on India & Pakistan relations.

National Security of SAARC countries is also much threatened from within. The ethnic, sectarian violences and destructive forces have taken whole region in their grips. The insurgency problems in Kashmir & North Eastern region, Naxalist's problems, communalism and castism in India, the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, the Chakmas's problems in Bangladesh, the terai and hill tribes in Nepal, the Nepali origin problem in Bhutan and Baluchi, Sindhi - Mohajir and sectarian violences in Pakistan etc. all are fast assuming grave dimensions, so there is need to take serious steps to tackle these problems by the responsible country.

In the changed world scenario, South Asia has started experiencing the realities of a new poly centric world.
South Asia is one of the such regions which is in the midst of several security problems. But the inclination of extra regional powers for increasing interdependence and cooperation in various fields would prove the way of stability and socio economic development, that would lead towards peace and tranquility in the whole region. However a multi polar international order would undoubtedly make interstate relations in this region more complicated because of all the seven member countries of SAARC are passing through different stages of development and nation-state building.

There are several differences between India and Pakistan which give rise of misunderstanding between them. Pakistan finds it difficult to reconcile itself to India’s pre-eminence in South Asia, its policy maker emphasis that Pakistan can never accept such a situation.

India & Pakistan still remain trapped in the nightmare of enmity and tension. The two countries could have settled down to good neighbourly co-existence with commonalities of languages and cultures fostering mutual sympathy trust and understanding. The important thing is that since 1947, India and Pakistan not only maintains bitter and antagonistic postures against each other, but also fought three wars. The root cause of differences between India and Pakistan is mainly Kashmir dispute as well as aiding, abetting to terrorists who are creating troubles in Indian states.
Kashmir issue is the key for Pakistani leaders to divert public attention from domestic politics and that is why this issue is kept alive by Pakistan.

Mostly, all peace loving countries have urged both India and Pakistan to resolve their outstanding problems bilaterally with in the Simla Agreement. Instead of helping in solving Kashmir and other disputes Pakistan is continuously aiding and abetting the militancy in Kashmir. Recent statement of Ms. Bhutto, that she will continue to help Kashmiri militants and she will not hesitate in using nuclear weapon against India for Kashmir, has again contributed to a deterioration of India Pakistan relations.

Another trouble maker is the potentiality of nuclear capability. So in this situation both countries have to revise again their nuclear policies in favour of non-military uses.

Taking as a whole the intra-regional perspective, it can be speculated that South Asia is an Indo-Centric region to the extent that India is in position of playing the role of a central actor in South Asia on account of it tangible elements of power and performance. The Indian objectives have not only been to strengthen defence preparedness for traditional military role but also to support the cause of non interference and non aggression in the region. India's neighbours on the contrary avoid any public commitment to
the Indian security policies are based upon the assumption of an Indian guarantee against outsider aggression.

Instead of playing a big brother role in South Asia, the present situation demands for India to adopt new orientations and approaches in matter of her relations with neighbours and to prevent the extra-regional involvement in South Asian domestic affairs and their covert linkages with the neighbours.

At the policy level, India must take some internal decisions in such areas where it can make positive offers to its neighbours in the economic, environmental and developmental fields. Secondly, wherever possible India should abandon the Indo-Centric stance as long as it does not negatively affect India's security, political and economic interests. Thirdly, while keeping technical and specialized factors in mind, issues related cooperation with neighbours should be decided upon taking the overall political objective of mutually beneficial relationship with neighbours, as the overriding factor.

With Pakistan, India should make an unconditional offer of totally free trade. India tries to make a clear offer of reasonable commissions on water sharing and delimitation of the maritime boundary.

Regarding India's relation with Bangladesh, India may remove tariff and non-tariff barriers against Bangladeshi goods for which there is domestic demand. On water disputes
India would sign agreements for periods of three to five years each time. Supply of water should be subject to review at the end of each agreement period. But minimal quantities of water should be assured to Bangladesh instead of controversial negotiations every year. India must have a similar approach on water resources management and trade matters with Nepal.

If India can work out these arrangements in favour of its neighbours, it will generate positive pressure and create the necessary atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence for regional cooperation. Though political and strategic matters are not discussed at the SAARC summit, India should make some concrete suggestions about creating a suitable security environment in the South Asian Region. India should examine possibilities of establishing a South Asian security forum in which all members of the SAARC affirm their commitment to democracy, requirements of economic development and non-resort to force in resolving disputes. The five principles of Punchesheel may be affirmed as the basis of this regional security arrangement.

As the domestic unrest in South Asian countries is concerned, it is on the rise from past several years. The major problem is that of ethnic minorities, which has taken a ugly shape of secessionism. Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are multi-ethnic societies, which have been facing separatist or autonomist movements for a very long
time. The authoritarian regimes which are moro-ethnic in character, such as in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are greatly responsible for alienating the allegiance of the minority groups. But the crux of successful management of the varied ethnic demands lies in an equitable economic distribution and development which is lacking in developing societies. Increasingly, autonomy or separate statehood is visualized as the most satisfactory way for the fulfillment of their aspirations by the ethnic minorities.

The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka should teach each one of these countries that the majority communities cannot prescribe to large minorities a restricted form of existence in the same society, that deprived of their legitimate aspirations and demands, large minorities will fight back, and their struggle will become militant if political settlement of political issues is delayed beyond a reasonable span of time. If minorities are located in territories of their own, and if they can be mobilized on the basis of cultural, linguistic nationalism, their struggles are likely to turn into armed ones and they would demand autonomy or even independence. To pre-empt these developments, national leaders have to adopt the reasonable demands of minorities in time and integrate the moderate elements in minority communities in to the political process.

Particular care needs to be taken to see that political issues involving cross national minorities do not lead to
conflict between the neighbours concerned. It is necessary that South Asia acquires a regional pool of knowledge about the dynamics of cross national ethnic minorities. Policy makers and opinion makers should be able to anticipate future conflicts and take pre-emptive measures well in time. As a first step in this direction, it is necessary to set up a South Asia Institute of Ethnic Studies which should be manned by scholars from all regional countries and which should initiate studies of actual and potential ethnic and minorities issues that may generate inter-state tensions and conflict. Only on the basis of well informed insightful studies can policies be formed to pre-empt conflict or resolve them when they can be controlled with relative ease.

South Asian elite must learn that, they gain nothing and stand to lose a lot by trying to get involved in one another domestic issues and conflicts. Elite of individual countries will no doubt have their political and ideological persuasions. They will like these persuasions to prevail in neighbouring countries too. But the dynamics of political change generally belongs to domestic societies, though these are often influenced by external forces. In the present phase of political development in the South Asian Countries, each political society is in midst of several problems, some big, others small, each must traverse its own political path to arrive at destinations each must define for itself. Outside intervention can only distort the dynamics of political change. The elements released by outside
intervention more often than not play into the hands of the powers that be. Not only do changes desired by the interventionist outsider not come off, bilateral relations come under severe strain. Conflict situations promptly build up.

In the contemporary world order of inter dependency no country can afford to remain isolated from world community. In this environment neighbouring countries and co-existing with them find a higher priority in a nations policy. It is historical fact that neighbourly amity is true key to national peace and security and well being of a country. With this distinct shift from self dependence to interdependence, credible neighbourly relation build upon mutuality of interest, trust and faith are assuming a very significant dimension. These are the significant determinants which led to South Asian countries to form a regional organization for the socio economic political and cultural ties which is now known as South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

In a global scenario characterized by centripetal trends of regional associations for economic cooperation, the South Asian region remains stultified. Compared to the achievements of organisations like, the ASEAN, NAFTA, APEC and EC, SAARC remains stuck in general discussions. However, SAARC's achievements in facilitating unanimity regarding drug trafficking, terrorism and other contentious
bilateral issue can not be ignored. SAARC could also most beneficially be utilized to advertise each country's economic, industrial and technological progress to bring about greater cooperation in these fields and this is where India could play a most vital role.