

GS-2 - IR.

3. BIMSTEC can act as key to new South Asian Regional order. Do you agree with this view? comment.

South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation is (SAARC) has been the pan South Asia level. ~~Intergovernmental~~ organization, currently technically dead due to internal issues.

SAARC - Issues

1. Pakistan used the forum to block vital initiatives e.g. Motor vehicle agreement.
2. Deepening India-Pakistan conflict, affected Integration between the members.

Impact

1. India ^{wants} to secure its regional interests, - following 'Neighbourhood 1st policy'. For this, such organisation is vital.

2. successful Institutions like South Asian University which projects India's Soft policy will be weakened.

How to achieve Regionalism & nation Interest?

Option - Other Regional Instruments like Bay of Bengal Initiative for Scientific, Techn. Coop [BIMSTEC]

organisation. with India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Sri Lanka [without Pakistan] will be promising. Its charter has been recently framed [early 2022]. Article 6 - provides 'Admission of new members' - paves way for inclusion of Maldives in future.

Concerns Needed to be addressed - in BIMSTEC.

The organisation does not allow for flexible economic participation. Eg: Organisation like Association for South East Asian Nations 'allows for 2 or more members to initiate policies and extrapolate to other later, this prevents possibility of vetoing vital initiatives

∴ BIMSTEC organisation must incorporate BIMSTEC x ^{minus} ~~member~~ partnership for furthering Free trade agreement and gradually extending consensus with other members.

way forward.

Organisation ^{will} ~~must~~ ensure quality Free trade agreement, Economic Integration and ensure new South Asian Regional order, if the above success mechanisms are incorporated.