

## Solution

### B-1 CONTEMPORARY SOUTH ASIA WS 2

#### Class 12 - Political Science

##### Section A

1.  
**(b)** India and Bangladesh  
**Explanation:** The Ganges Water Sharing Treaty between Bangladesh and India signed on 12 December 1996 for a period of 30 years was marked as a major footstep towards the conclusion of a longstanding conflict over sharing of the Ganges water.
2.  
**(d)** Sheikh Mujib Ur Rahman  
**Explanation:** Sheikh Mujib Ur Rahman
3.  
**(b)** South Asian state  
**Explanation:** South Asian state
4.  
**(d)** Dhaka  
**Explanation:** The first summit was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on December 1985 and was attended by the Government representative and president of Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the kings of Bhutan and Nepal, and the Prime Minister of India.
5.  
**(c)** Sheikh Mujibur Rahman  
**Explanation:** Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
6.  
**(d)** The interference of China in the internal politics of Pakistan  
**Explanation:** There were several factors that led to the failure of Pakistan in building a stable democracy including the social dominance of the military, clergy, and landowning aristocracy along with the lack of genuine international support. However, China-Pakistan friendship is a very recent turn of events. Hence it cannot be the factor.
7.  
**(d)** Over the Chittagong Hill Tracts  
**Explanation:** Bangladeshi governments have felt that the Indian government behaves like a regional bully over the sharing of river waters, encouraging rebellion in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, trying to extract its natural gas and being unfair in trade. The two countries have not succeeded in resolving their boundary dispute.
8.  
**(b)** Prime Minister  
**Explanation:** Prime Minister
9.  
**(c)** Communists who believe in the ideology of Mao  
**Explanation:** Maoist were the **communists who believe in the ideology of the** Chinese communist revolutionary **Mao Zedong**. During the nineties, the Maoists of Nepal were successful in spreading their influence in many parts of Nepal. They believed in armed insurrection against the monarch and the ruling elite.
10.  
**(b)** Genuine international support for democracy  
**Explanation:** The lack of genuine international support for democratic rule in Pakistan has further encouraged the military to continue its dominance. The United States and other Western countries have encouraged the military's authoritarian rule in the past, for their own reasons.
11.  
**(c)** World Bank

**Explanation:** India and Pakistan have had problems over the sharing of river waters. Eventually, in 1960, the World Bank resolved the 'Indus River Water Dispute' between India and Pakistan.

12. (a) 2009

**Explanation:** Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is a militant organisation that fought an armed struggle with the army of Sri Lanka and demanding 'Tamil Eelam'. The armed conflict came to an end, as the LTTE was vanquished in **2009**.

13. (a) 1998

**Explanation:** 1998

14. (a) 2015

**Explanation:** 2015

15.

(d) Nepal

**Explanation:** Nepal

16. (a) Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

**Explanation:** A popular struggle against West Pakistani dominance was led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In the 1970 election, the Awami league under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman won all seats but the government dominated by the West Pakistani leadership refused to convene the assembly.

17.

(b) India

**Explanation:** India enjoys a very special relationship with **Bhutan** and does not have any major conflict with the Bhutanese government. India is involved in big hydroelectric projects in Bhutan and remains the Himalayan kingdom's biggest source of development aid.

18. (a) Nepal

**Explanation:** **Nepal** is the landlocked country of South Asia with Maoist guerrillas. During the nineties, the Maoists of Nepal were successful in spreading their influence in many parts of Nepal. They believed in armed insurrection against the monarch and the ruling elite. This led to a violent conflict between the **Maoist guerrillas** and the armed forces of the king.

19.

(c) General Yahya Khan

**Explanation:** Pakistan faced the Bangladesh crisis during Yahya Khan's military rule and after a war with India in 1971, East Pakistan broke away to emerge as an independent country called Bangladesh.

20.

(d) South Asian Free Trade Agreement

**Explanation:** South Asian Free Trade Agreement

21. The demand for a new democratic Constitution was accepted by the King of Nepal in the year 1990 in the wake of a strong pro-democracy movement.

22. Bangladesh spent 15 years under military rule and although democracy was restored in 1990, the political scene remains volatile. Islamist extremism has also been rising in the traditionally tolerant country.

23. Maldivian Democratic party (MDP).

24. After testing nuclear explosion, India and Pakistan seem to have built a military relationship in which the possibility of a direct and full-scale war was declined.

25. On wards on the negligence of Tamil interest by Sri Lanka government, 'Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam' emerged in the year 1983. Hence, LTTE took birth demanding a separate state for Tamil in Sri Lanka.

26. The states of South Asia recognised friendly relations and cooperation among themselves which gave birth to the formation of SAARC for understanding and mutual trust among its member states.

27. People of South Asia prefer democracy over other forms of government and support the institutions of representative democracy.

28. Nepal was a Hindu kingdom in the past.

29. South Asia signifies a group of 7 countries comprising of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. All these countries stand for diversity in every sense but still constitute one geo-political space.

30. The expression 'South Asia' usually includes the following countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The mighty Himalayas in the north, the vast Indian Ocean in the south, the Arabian Sea in the west and the Bay of Bengal in the east provide a natural insularity to South Asia. Its boundaries were not clear in the east and the west.

31. Sri Lanka

32. SAARC stands for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.
33. The togetherness of countries who are bound with each other geographically and their interests are also interlinked economically and politically is termed as Geo-politics.
34. Besides India, other nations which have conflicts in South Asia are as follows:
- i. Nepal and Bhutan, as well as, Bangladesh and Myanmar, have a disagreement over the migration of ethnic Nepalese into Bhutan and Rohingyas into Myanmar.
  - ii. Bangladesh and Nepal bear some differences over the future of Himalayan river water.
35. Changes that occurred in Maldives are:
1. In 1968, it transformed into a republic with a presidential form of government.
  2. Parliament voted unanimously to introduce multi-party system in June 2005.
  3. Democracy strengthened after 2005 elections.
36. General Ayub Khan
37. The two Scandinavian countries which are trying to bring the warring groups in Sri Lanka back to negotiations are Norway and Iceland.
38. The full form of SPA is Seven Party Alliance to protest against monarchy in Nepal.
39. Bhutan
40. The North-Eastern parts of Sri Lanka is controlled by the LTTE. After its defeat, the area is now under the control of the Government of Sri Lanka.

### Section B

41.
  - After Pakistan framed its first Constitution, General Ayub Khan took over the administration of the country and got himself elected. He gave up the office when popular dissatisfaction against his rule rose.
  - But again General Yahya Khan took over and put Pakistan under Military rule.
  - The elected Bhutto government was removed by General Ziaul-Haq in 1977. Examples of Zia-ul-Haq in 1977.
  - General Pervez Musharraf removed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and in 2001 got himself elected as the President.
42.
  1. **Social Dominance of Power Groups:** The social dominance of the military, clergy, and landowning aristocracy has led to the frequent overthrow of elected governments and the establishment of military government.
  2. **Conflict with India:** Pakistan's conflict with India has empowered pro-military groups. These groups argue that political parties and democracy in Pakistan are flawed, claiming that Pakistan's security would be compromised by selfish-minded parties and chaotic democracy, thus justifying the army's stay in power.
  3. **Pro-Democracy Sentiment:** Despite challenges, there is a strong pro-democracy sentiment in Pakistan, evidenced by a courageous and relatively free press and a strong human rights movement.
  4. **Lack of International Support:** The lack of genuine international support for democratic rule in Pakistan has further encouraged military dominance.
43. The various countries in South Asia have experienced mixed record of democracies and the people also share an aspiration for democracy to be flourished not only in rich or developed countries but in developing and underdeveloped countries also which can be drawn from the examples of Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Maldives, because:
- i. Every ordinary citizen, rich or poor belonging to different religions view the idea of democracy positively and support the institutions of representative democracy.
  - ii. They prefer democracy over any other form of democracy and think that democracy is suitable for their country.
  - iii. There has been a hint of spread and demand for democracy as we have witnessed in the case of Nepal. Nepal has transformed politically from Monarchy to Democracy. It confirms the expansion of Democracy in South Asia.
44. The two common features relevant to the countries of South Asia are as:
- i. The various countries in South Asia do not share same type of political system. Despite many problems and limitations, all countries of South Asia operated a fully democratic system of government.
  - ii. South Asia to means the seven countries which stands for diversity in every sense and constitutes one geo-political space.
45. During the rule of Yahya Khan, the Pakistani suppression led the large scale migration of Bangladeshi population in India. Secondly, India was always in favor of East Pakistan's demand of their independence. This led to the involvement of India in the affair.
46. Features of the Constitution of Bangladesh
- i. Secularism
  - ii. Democracy
  - iii. Socialism.

47. a. Sheikh Mujib-ur Rahman led the popular struggle in East Pakistan.  
 b. In 1975 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman got the constitution to change from parliamentary to presidential form of government. He demanded autonomy for the eastern region. In 1970 elections in the then Pakistan, the Awami League-led by Sheikh Mujib won all the seats in East Pakistan. This led to tensions and conflicts and ultimately to his assassination in August 1975.
48. Economic relations have improved considerably in the last 20 years.
1. Bangladesh is a part of India's Look East (Act East since 2014) policy that wants to link up with Southeast Asia via Myanmar.
  2. On disaster management and environmental issues, the two states have cooperated regularly.
  3. In 2015, they exchanged certain enclaves
  4. Efforts are on to broaden the areas of cooperation further by identifying common threats and being more sensitive to each other's needs.
49. The main causes of ethnic conflicts in Sri Lanka are as follows:
- i. Sinhala community had been hostile to a large number of Tamils who had migrated from India to Sri Lanka and settled there. This migration continued even after independence. The Sinhala nationalists thought that Sri Lanka should not give 'concessions' to the Tamils because Sri Lanka belongs to the Sinhala people only. The neglect of Tamil concerns led to militant Tamil nationalism. This led to a series of conflicts.
  - ii. The neglect of Tamil concerns led to militant Tamil nationalism. From 1983 onwards, the militant organisation, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has been fighting an armed struggle with the army of Sri Lanka and demanding 'Tamil Eelam' or a separate country for the Tamils of Sri Lanka. The LTTE controls the northeastern parts of Sri Lanka.
  - iii. In Sri Lanka, the Sinhala language was made the official language, therefore there was a closed door for job opportunities in government offices for Tamils.
50. The principle of equality has not been adopted in Sri Lanka as it is majoritarianism.
51. According to Jinnah and his Two Nation Theory, the decisions made by Hindus would not always be in favour of Muslims. Moreover, there could be a politics of discrimination towards Muslims. Hence, he advocated the demand of a separate nation for Muslims.
52.
  - **Kashmir Issue:** Two countries got embroiled in a conflict over the fate of Kashmir.
  - **Terrorism:** India's conflict with Pakistan is also over strategic issues like the control of the Siachen glacier and over-acquisition of arms. The Indian government also believes that Pakistan had aided the pro-Khalistani militants with arms and ammunition during the period 1985-1995. Its spy agency, Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), is alleged to be involved in various anti-India campaigns in India's northeast, operating secretly through Bangladesh and Nepal.
  - **Blame-Game:** Both governments continue to be suspicious of each other. India blamed the Pakistan government for using a strategy of low-key violence by helping the Kashmiri militants with arms, training, money and protection to carry out terrorist strikes against India. Pakistan, in turn, blames the Indian government for fomenting trouble in the provinces of Sindh and Balochistan.
  - **Water Sharing:** India and Pakistan also have had problems over the sharing of river waters. Until 1960, they were locked in a fierce argument over the use of the rivers of the Indus basin.
 (any TWO)
53. India and Nepal enjoy the following agreements:
- The India Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship was signed between the two government. The treaty provide everlasting peace and friendship and mutual acknowledge and the respect to sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of each other.
  - Allow their citizens to travel and work without visas and passport.
  - India is the largest aid giver to Nepal to provide financial and technical assistance in areas of trade, scientific cooperation, common natural resources and electricity generation.
54. Sri Lanka and India have successfully operated a democratic system since their Independence from the British. The role of the Government of India has been as given below:
- i. It has tried to negotiate with the Sri Lankan Government on different occasions.
  - ii. The government of India has from time to time tried to negotiate with the Sri Lankan government on the Tamil question.
  - iii. In 1987 the Indian Government signed an accord to stabilise relations between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamils. In 1989, the Indian Peace Keeping Force(IPKF) pulled out of Sri Lanka without attaining its objective.
55. Soon after independence, India and Pakistan got embroiled in a conflict over the fate of Kashmir. Wars between India and Pakistan in 1947- 48 and 1965 failed to settle the matter. In 1971, India won a decisive war against Pakistan, but the Kashmir issue remained unsettled.

56. South Asia constitutes one geo-political space but has a diversity as:
- It includes a wide variety of ethnic groups and cultures.
  - Different countries of South Asia have their own distinct languages, dress codes and social behaviour.
  - Different countries have different political system.
57. India's ties with the Maldives remain warm and cordial.
- In November 1988, when some Tamil mercenaries from Sri Lanka attacked the Maldives, the Indian air force and navy reacted quickly to the Maldives' request to help stop the invasion.
  - India has also contributed towards the island's economic development, tourism and fisheries.
58. SAARC members signed the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA). The SAFTA has the following features:
- i. Free Trade Zone for whole south Asia.
  - ii. To sustain mutual trade and cooperation among SAARC members.
  - iii. SAFTA aims at lowering trade tariffs by 20% by 2007.
59. i. The term SAFTA stands for the South Asian Free Trade Area Agreement. It was signed in 2004 at the 12th SAARC summit in Islamabad to provide for a free trade zone for the whole of South Asia. It was SAPTA which gradually progressed to SAFTA. The leaders at the tenth SAARC summit in Colombo decided to set up a committee of experts to conclude a treaty by 2001 on SAFTA. SAFTA would ensure the free flow of items between the South Asian countries and promote and sustain mutual trade and economic co-operation in the region.
- ii. The spirit behind SAFTA is that peace and cooperation would evolve in South Asia if all the countries in the region allow free trade across the borders. The agreement on SAFTA came into effect on 1st January 2006. SAFTA aims at lowering trade tariffs by 20 percent by 2007.
60. The SAARC seeks to:
- i. promote the welfare of the people of South Asia.
  - ii. strengthen collective self-reliance.
  - iii. promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in various fields.
  - iv. cooperate with international and regional organizations.

### Section C

61. Despite the ethnic conflict, how had Sri Lanka has registered considerable economic growth and recorded high levels of human development. Sri Lanka was one of the first developing countries to successfully control the rate of growth of population, the first country in the region to liberalise the economy, and it has had the highest per capita gross domestic product (GDP) for many years right through the civil war. Despite the ravages of internal conflict, it has maintained a democratic political system.
62. The following are some ideas for improving bilateral relations between India and Pakistan:
- i. **Need to increase trade relations:** There is a need to strengthen trade relations between the two countries. One of the main reasons that tensions between India and China have not escalated is that both countries rely on each other for trade. A situation similar to this can be created in Pakistan. Both countries should work together to create an industrial corridor that benefits the economy, employment, and infrastructure development.
  - ii. **Media should play a positive role:** To avoid instilling venom in people, both sides of media must be taken into account. They should be encouraged to remain objective and avoid inciting hysteria. Collaboration between media outlets across the border to promote goodwill between nations. India can use Bollywood to foster a sense of brotherhood among nations by promoting Bollywood actors and personalities as cultural ambassadors.
  - iii. Both countries should respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other.
  - iv. The conflicts between the two nations should be resolved with dialogue and negotiations (such as Indus Water Treaty in 1960)
  - v. They should stop cross-border terrorism and blaming each other.
  - vi. To improve trade practices and open the border for cultural and social interaction.
- (any TWO measures can be explained)
63. The various countries in South Asia have experienced mixed record of democracies, the people in all these countries share the aspiration for democracy. The five big countries as Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Maldives there is widespread support for democracy because:
- Every ordinary citizen, rich as well as poor and belonging to different religions, view the idea of democracy positively and support the institutions of representative democracy.
  - They prefer democracy over any other form of democracy and think that democracy is suitable for their country.
64. The following two issues prevent SAARC from operating effectively:

- i. The biggest obstacle to SAARC's operation has proven to be the hostility between India and Pakistan. It has frequently resulted in the cancellation of official SAARC meetings.
  - ii. The SAARC's lesser-developed nations are concerned about India's power. India needs to gain the confidence of these countries and earn their trust.
65. SAFTA stands for the South Asian Free Trade Area and entered into force on December 7, 1995. It is an agreement signed by SAARC members that promised the formation of a free trade zone for the whole of South Asia. SAFTA was also formed in order to increase the level of trade and economic cooperation among the SAARC nations.
- i. Advantages of SAFTA:
    - a. Peace and cooperation among all countries in South Asia through free trade can be established.
    - b. It has reduced tariffs by 20 percent in 2007.
  - ii. Limitations of SAFTA:
    - a. Countries in South Asia consider India would influence their culture, politics, and societies through free trade. They, therefore, shrink their hands to enhance trade with India.
    - b. Almost all countries in South Asia are under the influence of the USA and China.
66. Nepal and India enjoy a very special relationship that has very few parallels in the world. A treaty between the two countries allows the citizens of the two countries to travel to and work in the other country without visas and passports. Despite this special relationship, the governments of the two countries have had trade-related disputes in the past. The Indian government has often expressed displeasure at the warm relationship between Nepal and China and at the Nepal government's inaction against anti-Indian elements. Despite differences, trade, scientific cooperation, common natural resources, electricity generation and interlocking water management grids hold the two countries together.
67. The issues of tension (negative aspects) between India and Bangladesh are :
- i. Sharing of river waters of Ganga and Brahmaputra has been one of the biggest issues between India and Bangladesh.
  - ii. Indian Government is not happy with Bangladesh's refusal to act on unlawful immigration to India. It seems that the government of Bangladesh is deliberately not trying to stop these activities.
  - iii. Bangladesh's support to anti-Indian Islamic fundamentalist groups. Therefore there has been a matter of conflicts between both the countries.
  - iv. Bangladesh refused to allow Indian troops to move through its territory to the North-East region.
  - v. Bangladesh refused to export natural gas to India and allow Myanmar to do so through its territory.
68. The Maldives' democratic process is as follows:
- o The Maldives was a Sultanate till 1968 when it was transformed into a republic with a presidential form of government.
  - o In 2005, multiparty system was introduced by the Parliament of Maldives. After 2005, free and fair elections were held.
  - o In June 2005, the parliament of the Maldives voted unanimously to introduce a multi-party system.
  - o The Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) dominates the political affairs of the island. The MDP won the 2018 Elections.
69. The four causes of ethnic conflict were :
- i. The bone of contention was the region of Ceylon which was represented by the majority Sinhala group. They opposed the migration and settlements of Tamils from India in their region. Hence a series of conflict started between both the countries.
  - ii. According to the group, Sri Lanka was only for Sinhala people and not for Tamils. They did not want to share power as well as resources with Tamils. This attitude of Sinhala people led to the establishment of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a militant organization, which desired for a separate country.
  - iii. In Sri Lanka, the Sinhala language was made the official language, therefore there was a closed door for job opportunities in government offices for Tamils.
  - iv. The presence of Indian troops was not liked by many Sri Lankans and hence in 1989, the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) pulled out of Sri Lanka without attaining its objective.
70. Nepal was a Hindu kingdom in the past and then a constitutional monarchy (now a Democratic Republic) in the modern period for many years-
- i. Throughout this period, the political parties and common people wanted to establish democracy, but the king retained full control with the help of the army and restricted expansion of democracy.
  - ii. The king accepted a new democratic constitution in 1990 due to pro-democracy movement but again in 2007, due to a triangular conflict of monarchists, democrats, and Maoists, king abolished the parliament.
  - iii. A massive countrywide pro-democracy protest took place and achieved first major victory to force the king to restore the house of representatives.

- iv. Nepal's transition to democracy is almost complete. A largely non-violent movement was led by Seven-Party Alliance (SPA), the Maoist, and the Social Activists. It has drafted a constituent assembly to draft the constitution for Nepal. In 2008, Nepal became a democratic republic after abolishing the Monarchy. In 2015, it adopted a new constitution.

**Section D**

71. Areas of cooperation between India and Bangladesh are as follows:

- i. Bangladesh is a part of India's Look East policy that wants to link up with Southeast Asia via Myanmar.
- ii. On disaster management and environmental issues, the two states have cooperated regularly.

Areas of disagreement each between India and Bangladesh are as follows:

- i. The governments of India and Bangladesh have had differences over several issues including the sharing of the Ganga and Brahmaputra river waters.
- ii. The Indian government has been unhappy with Bangladesh's denial of illegal immigration to India, its support for anti-Indian Islamic fundamentalist groups, Bangladesh's refusal to allow Indian troops to move through its territory to northeastern India, and its decision not to export natural gas to India or allow Myanmar to do so through Bangladeshi territory.
- iii. Bangladeshi governments have felt that the Indian government behaves like a regional bully over the sharing of river waters, encouraging rebellion in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, trying to extract its natural gas and being unfair in trade. The two countries have not succeeded in resolving their boundary dispute.

72. The issues of tension (negative aspects) between India and Bangladesh are:

1. Sharing of river waters of Ganga and Brahmaputra.
2. Indian Government is not happy with Bangladesh refusal to act on unlawful immigration to India.
3. Bangladesh's support to anti-Indian Islamic fundamentalist groups.
4. Bangladesh refused to allow Indian troops to move through its territory to the North-East region.
5. Bangladesh refused to export natural gas to India and allow Myanmar to do so through its territory.

The issues of cooperation (positive aspects) between both countries are :

1. From the last decade, economic relations have been strengthened.
2. India's Look East Policy does involve Bangladesh that links South-East Asia via Myanmar.
3. Cooperation is noticeable on the grounds of disaster management and environmental issues.
4. Area of cooperation is being broadened by identifying areas of common threat and by responding sensitively to each other's needs.

Chances for improvement in relationships:

Today India and Bangladesh are partners of progress and development and our destinies are, in a sense, becoming increasingly intertwined. This is also a manifestation of India's 'Neighbours First' policy that stems from the realisation that for India's continued growth and development, the entire region needs to prosper.

73. India and Nepal have very good relations that have very few parallels in the world as mentioned below:

- a. There is a treaty between the two countries that allow their citizens to travel to and work in the other country without visas and passports. A large number of Nepalese are in Indian army. Indian citizens are doing business in Nepal.
- b. Trade, scientific cooperation, common natural resources, electricity generation and interlocking water management grids have brought the two countries closer to each other. But in spite of this relationship there are following differences between the two countries :
  - i. The Indian government has often expressed displeasure at the warm relationship between Nepal and China and at the Nepal government's inaction against anti-Indian elements.
  - ii. Maoist movement in Nepal is considered a growing threat to the security of India.
  - iii. Citizens in Nepal think that the Indian government interferes in their internal affairs, has designs on its river waters and hydro-electricity and prevents Nepal access to the sea through Indian territory.

However, it is hoped that the consolidation of democracy in Nepal will bring the two countries closer to each other.

74. The differences between the SAARC and the European Union are as follows:

<b>SAARC</b>	<b>European Union</b>
It was established with a view to evolving cooperation through multilateral means.	It was established by NATO to devise a plan in order to enable its 16 member nations in Europe to revive their economy which shattered in Second World War. It was observed as support to capitalism against communism/socialism.

There is no common institution to guide the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.	European Union is guided by common institutions such as the European Commission, European Parliament, European Court of Justice, etc.
It shows a reluctant attitude to sacrifice national sovereignty.	It shows the attitude of sacrificing national sovereignty for greater and united Europe.
The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation nations prefers technology adoption rather than innovation. United States of America and China have undue interference in internal affairs of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation as they provide technology to these nations.	European Union nations are driving for invention and innovation. This resists interference of technologically advanced nations such as United States America and China.
The nature of the economy in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is agriculture and manufacturing sector.	The nature of the economy in the European Union is knowledge-based service sector.
A few member countries (e.g. Pakistan), due to their self-centered approach understand the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's efforts only favorable to India as it may invade their markets and influence their societies.	Its member countries have their own foreign relations and defense policies that are often at odds with each other e.g., Britain's Prime Minister was America's partner in Iraq invasion whereas Germany and France opposed American policy.

All these statements have made it very clear that at one place the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation has a self-centered approach but the European Union has a totally different approach. The European Union has more number of developed countries in comparison to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

75. South Asia includes countries like India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The various natural areas such as Himalayas, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean are part of this region.

The common problems among them are:

- i. **Poverty:** All countries of South Asia suffer from large masses living in poverty. In India, nearly 38 per cent of people are living in poverty.
- ii. **Violation of human rights:** There exists a great threat to human rights from anti-social elements, communalist and from people with negative attitude, thinking, and approach.
- iii. **A problem faced by democracy:** Several countries of South Asia aspire to be a democratic country, but face a problem.
- iv. **Women employment:** Women are generally seen at the lower position in most of the South Asian nations. They are restricted and are not as free as their counterparts.
- v. **Global Warming:** The temperature has been increasing in South Asia and the climate has started changing due to which floods and droughts are being experienced in various parts of South Asia. This has been considered the biggest threat not only for South Asia but also to the world.