



**RAJIV GANDHI AND SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR
REGIONAL CO-OPERATION (SAARC)**



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ABSTRACT

The idea to establish a regional grouping in South Asia can be traced back to the year 1977. The idea of South Asian co-operation was proposed by the Bangladesh President Late Zia-Ur-Rahman in course of his good will visits to several South Asian countries. The issue was broached with the Indian leaders when he (Zia-Ur-Rahaman) visited India in December 1977 and his visit was returned by Prime Minister Morarji Desai on April 15-1, 1979. It however could not be anticipated that the Janata rule in India was on its way out. Subsequently when Mrs. Gandhi came back to power in January 1980, Bangladesh leader approached her on the subject. The formal launching of SAARC through the first Summit of the seven Heads of States or Government of the region in 1985 was the culmination of a long and strenuous process. The path to the summit was smoothed by five years of meeting of officials and foreign ministers.

KEYWORDS

Rajiv Gandhi, SAARC, ministers, PM, Model