

# 'Dealing with South Asia: Culture Shows the Way'

**Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty**

Former Vice Chancellor, Central University of Orissa  
Member, Governing Board, Auroville Foundation, MHRD, Govt. of. India

## Abstract

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Following the many progressive movements in terms of regional cooperation, it was believed at one time that SAARC would usher in an era of improved understanding among the nations in the region.

Regrettably, such beliefs have been belied in the recent years, by big power rivalry and mutual suspicion among the nations of the region. Barring Bangladesh, India has been having endemic problems with Pakistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka in particular.

Based on a personalized account, this illustrative talk, resting on cultural travel to Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, will argue that Culture, often perceived as a soft option, and thereby neglected, could bring in lasting ties among the nations of the SAARC nations.

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