

#### COVID-19 cases in the SAARC Member States

Country	Total Cases	Total Deaths
Afghanistan	423	14
Bangladesh <sup>1</sup>	218	20
Bhutan <sup>2</sup>	5	0
India <sup>3</sup>	5734	166
Maldives <sup>4</sup>	19	0
Nepal	9	0
Pakistan <sup>5</sup>	4322	63
Sri Lanka <sup>6</sup>	189	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,919</b>	<b>270</b>

#### Source:

WHO Coronavirus Situation Dashboard (Data as reported on 06:00am CET 09.04.2020),

1 Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, Govt. of Bangladesh (as on 08.04.2020)

2 Ministry of Health, Royal Govt. of Bhutan (as on 08.04.2020)

3 Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India (as on 09.04.2020 at 08:00 AM)

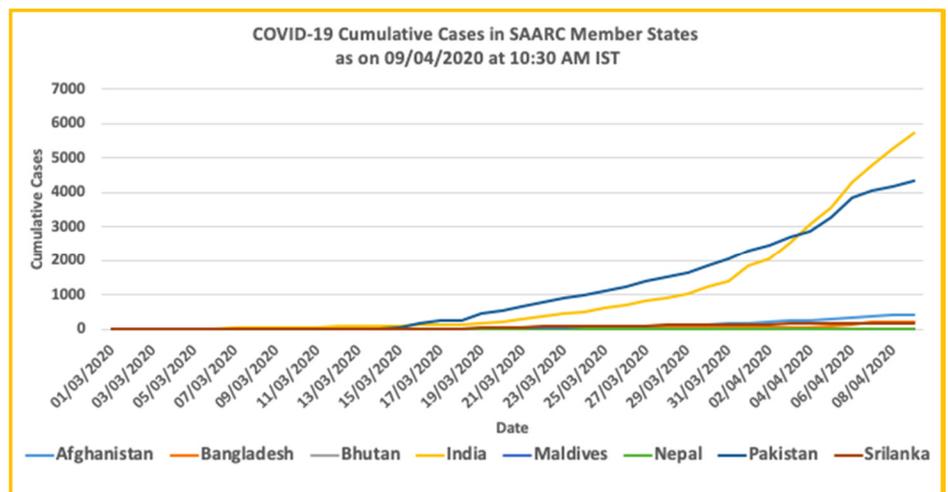
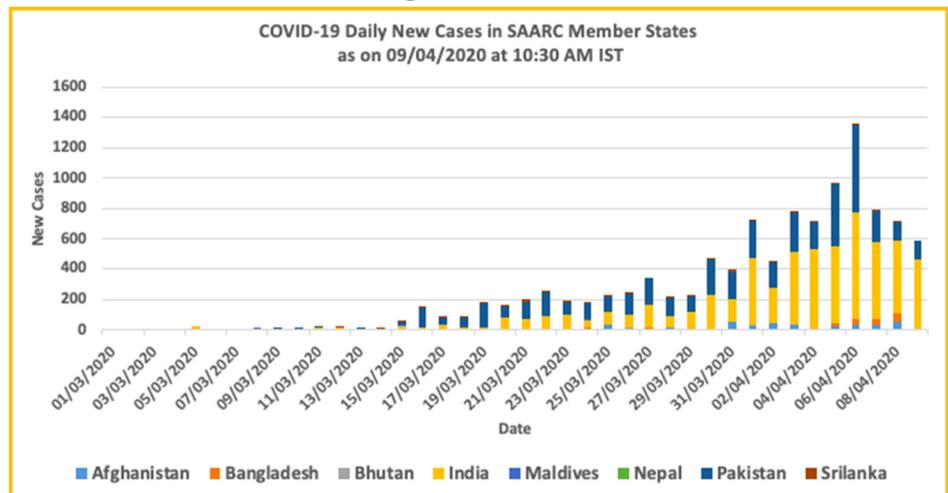
4 Ministry of Health, Republic of Maldives (as on 08 April 2020 -21:11)

5 COVID19 Portal, Govt. of Pakistan (9 Apr, 2020 - 09:39am)

6 Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health, Govt. of Sri Lanka (as on 06:00 PM, 08.04.2020)

- As of 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020- 1,353,361 people have been affected by COVID-19 worldwide. About 79,235 lives have been lost. (Source: WHO)
- SAARC region comprises of over 21% of the world's population which remains vulnerable towards COVID-19. The Member States have reported 10,919 cases and a total of 270 deaths in the region.
- Based on the day wise data of COVID-19 cases in the SAARC Member States, time-series graphs below shows the trend of daily cases and cumulative figures:

#### Regional Situation





- As follow up action of the announcement made by the Prime Minister of India at the Video Conference of SAARC Leaders on 15 March 2020, a video conference of senior trade officials, inviting all SAARC countries, was held on 8 April 2020 to discuss the impact of travel restrictions and the larger Covid-19 situation on intra-regional trade.
  - It was recognized that the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have a considerable adverse impact on trade in the SAARC region. In order for the countries to deal with the situation, it was stressed that new ways and means be jointly identified to sustain and expand the intra-regional trade until the normal trade channels are fully restored.
  - Some specific issues addressed at the video conference included facilitation of trade through pragmatic solutions such as provisional clearance of imports at preferential duty with suitable conditions, provisional acceptance of digitally signed certificates of origin, acceptance of scanned copies of documents for clearance of imports by customs and release of payments by banks, resolving issues being faced for exports/imports at land customs stations on land border.
  - Impact of health issues such as Covid-19 on regional trade and possible measures to mitigate it was seen as a new focus area for discussion in the larger framework of trade facilitation in the SAARC region. *(Source: mea.gov.in)*
- The Government of Maldives has extended its deep appreciation to the Prime Minister of India, External Affairs Minister, the Government and people of India for its timely assistance in transporting 6.2 tonnes of medicines, including essential medicines being used in hospitals, including for the treatment of COVID-19. The transportation between India and the Maldives was facilitated by the Indian Armed Forces. *(Source: foreign.gov.mv)*