



COVID-19 cases in the SAARC Member States

Country	Total Cases	Total Deaths
Afghanistan	794	29
Bangladesh ¹	1572	60
Bhutan ²	5	0
India ³	13,387	437
Maldives ⁴	25	0
Nepal	16	0
Pakistan ⁵	7025	135
Sri Lanka ⁶	238	7
Total	23,062	668

Source:

WHO Coronavirus Situation Dashboard (Data as reported on 06:00am CET 17.04.2020),

1 Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, Govt. of Bangladesh (as on 16.04.2020)

2 Ministry of Health, Royal Govt. of Bhutan (as on 16.04.2020)

3 Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India (as on 17.04.2020 at 08:00 AM)

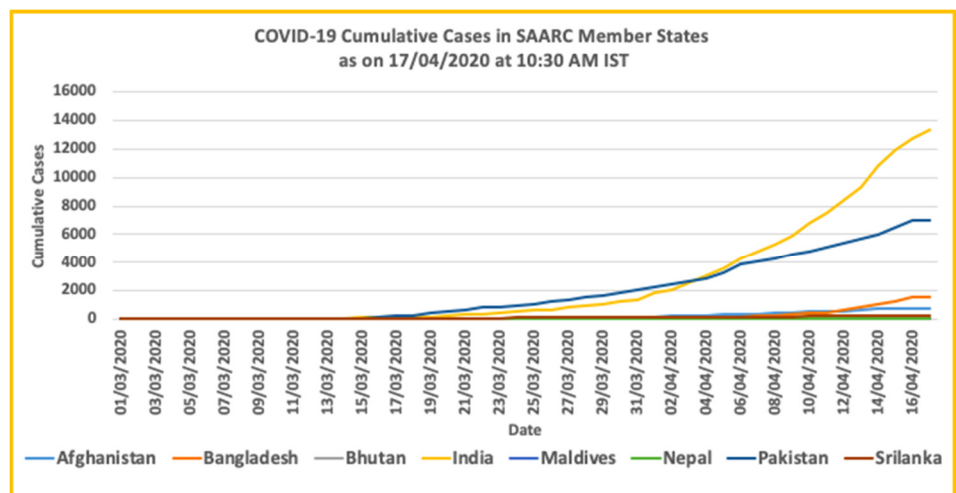
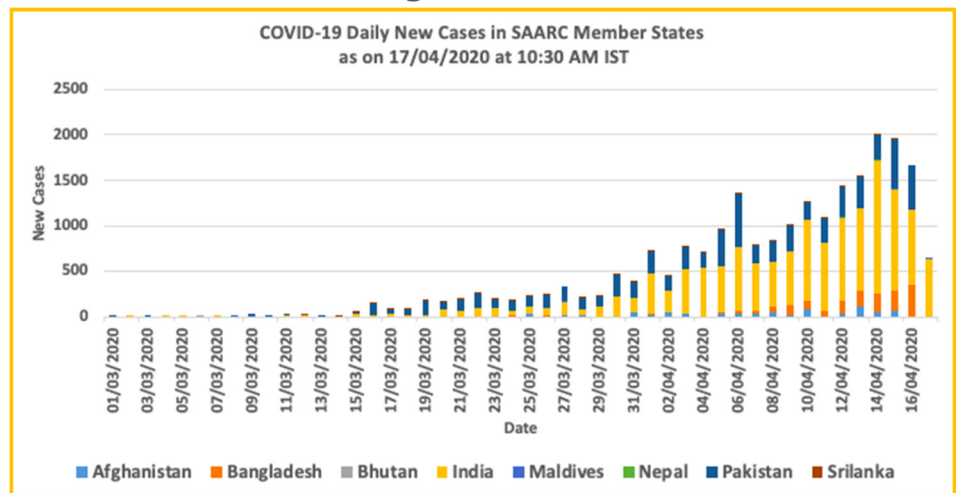
4 Ministry of Health, Republic of Maldives (as on 17 April 2020 -03:03)

5 COVID19 Portal, Govt. of Pakistan (17 Apr, 2020 - 09:46am)

6 Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health, Govt. of Sri Lanka (as on 04:00 PM, 16.04.2020)

- As of 16th April 2020- 1,991,562 people have been affected by COVID-19 worldwide. About 130,885 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 23,062 cases and a total of 668 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





- Prime Minister of India spoke on phone with Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
 - The two Prime Ministers discussed the regional situation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and updated each other about the steps being taken by their governments to control its effects.
 - Lyonchhen Dr. Tshering thanked Prime Minister for taking the lead to promote anti-COVID coordination at the regional level, even while fighting the pandemic within a large and complex country like India.
 - The leaders expressed happiness at the progress made in implementing the special arrangements agreed on 15 March between the leaders of the SAARC countries.
(Source: pib.gov.in)
- In India, WHO is deploying its national polio surveillance network and other field staff to help with the COVID-19 response. *(Source: WHO)*
- To help build capacity in our fight against COVID -19, Ministry of External Affairs through its ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Program) Portal is conducting e-ITEC (web based) short training live webinars for healthcare professionals in SAARC countries on COVID-19 Management Strategies and related aspects. The first session will be led by AIIMS Raipur will start on April 17, 2020 with a total of 4 sessions and is called 'COVID-19 Pandemic: Prevention and Management Guidelines for Health Care Professional'. Registration and further details can be found on MEA's ITEC website: <https://www.itecgoi.in/e-itec.php> . These e-ITEC webinars for training on basic COVID-19 management are 45 minutes to 1 hour interactive sessions.