

## SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES)

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### SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme Latest News

The Indian government recently announced that Pakistani nationals will not be permitted to travel to India under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES).

### About SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme

- The SVES was launched in 1992.
- Under the scheme, **certain categories of dignitaries from SAARC countries** are **issued a special travel document**.
- This special instrument **exempts them from the need for visas and other travelling documents** to travel among these countries.
- **Currently**, the list includes **24 categories of entitled persons**, which include **dignitaries, judges** of higher courts, **parliamentarians**, senior officials, **businessmen, journalists, sportspersons**, etc.
- Visa stickers are **issued by the respective member states to the entitled categories of that particular country**.

- The **validity** of the visa sticker is generally **for one year**.
- The implementation is **reviewed regularly by the immigration authorities** of SAAR member states.

## What is SAARC?

- The **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** was established on December 8, 1985.
- SAARC is an **economic and political regional organisation** of countries in **South Asia**.
- The **Secretariat** of the Association was set up in **Kathmandu, Nepal**, in January 1987.
- SAARC has eight member countries — **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka**.
- SAARC aims to accelerate the process of economic and social development in its member states through increased intra-regional cooperation.

**Source:** TH

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