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India-African Union: An asymmetric Quasi-interregional Sub-system

S. Venkata Krishnan*, Gayatri Dhal

Department of Politics and International Studies, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry, India

Abstract

Historical events had created warm relations between India and Africa. Even though both are in developing category and with structural similarities, India has achieved success in many areas. At the same time, beyond regionalism a new arrangement has emerged in international system called as interregionalism. India has also acknowledged the importance of interregionalism and started to use this arrangement in its external relations. Recently, India entered into a variant of such arrangement, Quasi-interregionalism, with African continent. In order to get success out of the schemes and programmes and to build strong Africa the nature of this arrangement is to be studied deeply. This paper will be arranged in two parts and studied by using qualitative methods and with the help of Systems Theory. The first part of paper will discuss about quasi-interregionalism and its nature and second part will discuss India-African Union capabilities within that framework.

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1. Interregionalism

The increasing complexity of international environment created a situation where the traditional frameworks are to be supplemented by new thinking. One such thinking is “interregionalism.” One scholar defines, ‘Interregionalism as an arrangement between two regionalisms, either contractual or de facto allowing regions to interact

* Corresponding author. Tel.: + 91-9786034795; fax: +0-000-000-0000.
E-mail address: vksharma80@gmail.com
Interregionalism is not a single coherent phenomenon, but it covers a broad spectrum of arrangements. At the ‘lower’ end of the spectrum, we find relations between a regional organization and a third state in other region and the ‘upper’ end of the spectrum, we find relationships among states, group of states, and regional organization from two or more regions. The lower end of the spectrum is called Quasi-interregionalism like EU-India relations and the upper end is called Megaregionalism like APEC. Between these two extremes regional organizations external relations with counterparts in other regions like EU-ASEAN constitute the ‘ideal’ type of interregionalism or ‘pure interregionalism.’ The trilateral arrangements like IBSA (India, Brazil, and South Africa) and RIC (Russia, India and China) can be cited as examples of hybrid form of interregionalism (Gratius, 2008). Theoretically also a convincing argument about interregionalism is still outstanding. Roloff approached it by combining neorealist and interdependence theories. Gilson approached it with constructivist logic and Jürgen Röland used functionalist approach. It clearly shows interregionalism needs multiple theories or mix of theories for understanding the phenomenon (Hänggi et al., 2006).

2. International System and Quasi-interregionalism

A system is a combination of structures/units/entities working together with their capabilities, perception and influence which may be taken as inputs, to achieve some goals, which may called as functions or outputs. In the broadest sense, international system denotes a collection of independent states and non-state actors and their interactions. In general, the interactions between the states or group of states are systematic, structured and more in frequency, when comparing the interactions between non-state actors. Exceptions to this are also there as such United States recent War on Terror is largely against non-state actors. Systems approach had become fashionable in the international relations since Morton A. Kaplan published his work "System and Process in International Politics" in 1957. Taking clue from the work of Cantori and Spiegel, this work assigns international system in to three levels:

Lower Level/Unit Level: Individual States, INGOs, MNCs, and Terror/Criminal Groups and their internal and external interactions. Even though all the units are gaining importance, out of all the units, the most predominant in this level is States.

Middle Level/Sub-system Level: The structured interaction of the two or more units. Bilateral relations, Regional Organizations, Quasi-interregional arrangements and other Interregional arrangements are examples of this level.

Higher Level/International system Level: This is the complex level, where cobwebs of interactions, of both the lower and middle levels are seen in its entirety. Sometimes single state or two states or multiple states or regional organizations dominate this level. Accordingly, the system is called unipolar or bi-polar or multi-polar or multi-bloc respectively. However, this level is not a single system and at any one time the world is the scene of many distinctive and overlapping systems that differ from each other in terms of their structural properties and in terms of the purposes of the individuals and groups that constitute them (Lampert et al., 1978).

Quasi-interregionalism is one of the sub-systems of international system, formed by the arrangement of an interactions set up, in which a regional organization as an actor on one side and a country of another region on another side. In other words, a state, which is a lower level unit of international system, when it interacts with a comparatively higher level unit, regional organization, then this arrangement will produce a kind of sub-system in international system i.e. called Quasi-interregionalism (Hänggi et al., 2006). Thus it is an arrangement where two different levels of international system are coming into contact with one another. In order to reduce confusion, Quasi-interregional arrangement is placed in the sub-system level, rather than an intermediate between the middle level and high level.
Fig 1: International System (before Regionalism and Interregionalism)
- Interactions which may be Cooperative and Conflictual in nature
IGOs - Inter-Governmental Organisations; MNCs - Multi National Corporations
INGOs - International Non-Governmental Organisations

Fig 2: International System (after Regionalism and Interregionalism)
- Interactions which may be Cooperative and Conflictual in nature
IGOs - Inter-Governmental Organisations; MNCs - Multi National Corporations
INGOs - International Non-Governmental Organisations
Quasi-interregionalism, like interregionalism, can also be viewed from different theoretical dimensions. The structural and functional arrangements of quasi-interregionalism can be explained with the help of Neo-liberalism, because, which has accepted cooperation between states in anarchical set up and importance of role of non-state actors in international relations. But the units of quasi-interregionalism i.e. state and regional organization, by their intended functions like balancing are interested to increase their individual prestige, in international relations, which is an act of ‘Realism’ (Morgenthau, 1995). In this atmosphere, systems analysis holds out real promise of meeting the needs of the researchers as a sharp analytical tool for understanding the complex concept, Quasi-interregionalism. The utility of imposing a systems framework lies precisely in the assistance it provides in identifying the patterns which we assume to exist (Lampert et al., 1978).

**Quasi-interregional sub-system Attribute list 5**
1. Two different Geographic Regions [Africa- South Asia]
2. One Regional level Organization/Arrangement and a Country [African Union- India]
3. Internal recognition as distinctive arrangement [India is a special partner for Africa Union]
4. External recognition as distinctive arrangement [many think-tanks writings]
5. Actors pattern of relations or interactions exhibit a particular degree of regularity and intensity [High level visits from both sides]
6. Substantial power for the actors and distinctive capabilities (Military, Economic, Governance and Cultural), but less than the power of dominant system or collective power of international system
7. Some degree of shared perceptions about international system or dominant system and other sub-systems [South-South co-operation etc.,]
8. Explicit institutional arrangement [India-Africa Forum Summit]
9. Autonomy i.e. intra-system actions and responses predominate over external influences
10. Likelihood to transform into other types of interregionalism like pure interregionalism or mega interregionalism. [African Union-SAARC]

### 3. Nature of Quasi-interregional Sub-system

Quasi-interregional sub-system may be either strong or weak, on the basis of its power, in delivering its functions and on their interactions. And a corollary to this they are flexible or brittle and influential or non-influential one. Depending upon its level of involvement in the processes of international system, a sub-system can be regarded as either a principal or secondary one. The Quasi-interregional sub-systems which are having major actors of international system as units can be regarded as principal and non-major actors as their units are secondary. Nature of Quasi-interregional system depends on three factors. They are capabilities, perceptions and influences of the units of the sub-system. This paper is a case study and interested only about the capabilities of the units of the sub-system.

Capability: The Quasi-interregional sub-systems with units having more capabilities are strong in nature. Quantitatively and qualitatively superior population (Demography), adequate natural resources and abilities to convert those raw materials into productive products (Economic Strength), capacity to secure against internal and external threats (Defence and Science and Technology) and ability to keep members of regional organization together (Governance and Integrating strength) are some of the qualities of the actors that add strength to its nature. If both the actors are more or less same in these capabilities then this sub-system will be a balanced one. On the other hand if one of the actors lacks many of these capabilities then that will be an asymmetric one.

### 4. Capabilities of India:

#### 4.1. Demographic Capability

India, currently the second most populous country in the world, has grown by 181 million people over the past decade to 1.21 billion, according to the 2011 census (www.bbc.co-south-asia-) and will overtake China to become the most populous by 2030, it is estimated (www.telegraph.co). At present this huge population is not fully considered as an advantage because of three reasons. Firstly, in India, 32.7% of population is living at $1.25 a day. Secondly,
seven infectious diseases like malaria, diarrhea, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, measles, hepatitis B and pneumonia impose great socio-economic burden on India. The picture about TB and malaria reveals the health condition in India. India is the highest TB burden country with an estimated incidence figure of 2.2 million cases out of a global incidence of 8.7 million cases (www.tbfaqs.org). The worst part of this is, in some states of India, there are no TB medicines for new patients to be treated. Trends of malaria incidence in India from 1960 to 2005 also show that nearing eradication in 1960s to resurgence in the mid 1970s and stabilizing trend to around 2 million cases in the 1990s (www.mrcindia.org). Thirdly, the literacy level, gap in the male-female literacy rate and lesser enrolment in higher education affect the effective functioning of the society. The part of India’s demographic capability is its diaspora. India has the second largest Diaspora in the world with 25 million overseas Indians spread across every major region in the world. Overseas Indians comprise People of Indian Origin and Non Resident Indians and today are amongst the best educated and successful communities in the world. Overseas Indians have made significant contributions not only to the country of residence but also to India for socio-economic development (moia.gov.in).

4.2. Economic Capability

The Indian economy now ranks third largest in the world, measured in PPP terms, and world-leading Indian enterprises have emerged across a number of sectors, not least in information technology and business services. Young population, high national savings rate and expansion of the corporate sector are some of the items helped to India’s increasing economic capabilities (www.oecd.org). India also managed to end its anaemic rate of economic growth and started to make a dent in rural and urban poverty (Ganguly and Mukherji, 2011). More than reduction in poverty, living standards are on the rise in the country. India now has the World’s largest ‘middle class,’ a relative term, but indicative of progress of a sort. This has created an impression that India is an important market for goods and services. Microsoft’s Bill Gate’s visit to India was observed as a symbolic recognition that India will soon be the world’s largest market for PCs (Lewis Keith & Matthew Housden, 1998). In 2006, Boeing and Air India signed an order agreement for 68 Boeing commercial jets, the single largest commercial airplane order in India’s civil aviation history, with a value of more than $11 billion at list prices. With its new airplanes, Air India plans to start a range of new services including non-stop India-US and India-Australia flights (www.boeing.co.in). This shows the economic connectivity that India has developed with these regions of the world. On the negative side, Indian economy is increasingly dependent on energy imports. India imports 75% of its oil and 16% of its gas. By 2031, it has been projected that India will need to import 78% of its coal, 67% of its gas and 93% of its oil to meet its demands (www.thedailystar.net). This has created heavy stress on India’s economy. Even after liberalisation of economy, the manufacturing sector is also not matching the requirements of the country. Absence of necessary infrastructures like power, roads and ports creates barriers for investments in the country.

4.3. Military Capability

India, a nuclear weapon state, has the largest standing volunteer Army in the world (indianarmy.nic.in). Indian Air force is the fourth largest air force in the world with approximately 170,000 personnel and 1,500 aircrafts and the Indian Navy is today the fifth largest in the world and the largest in the region (www.indiatvnews.com, www.thedailystar.net). The recent boost to its defence capability is acquisition of C-17 Globemaster III airlifters from U.S. (www.thehindubusinessline.com). Indian Air Force is procuring this latest heavyweight to strengthen India's strategic airlift capabilities (pib.nic.in). Indian defence forces are not only defending Indian Territory, but, involved in various UN peace keeping missions around the world. Apart from that, Indian defence forces are known for their humanitarian assistance in the events of natural disasters. However, India’s Special Operations Capability is not as efficient as compared to USA or Israel, which are in front of similar threats like India (www.indiandefencereview.com).

4.4. Science and Technology Capability

The Scientific and Technological capabilities of the country are equally worthy as its defence capabilities. In Space, Bio-technology, Nuclear, Polar and IT research India is competing with developed world. The foremost among these areas is space activities. Indian Space Research Organisation has launched 70 Indian satellites and 35 Foreign Satellites for various scientific and technological applications into a variety of orbits so far. In medical field also India has created a niche for itself among the developing world. For example, the Serum Institute of India
Ltd has established itself as the world's largest producer of Measles and DTP group of vaccines. It is estimated that two out of every three children immunized in the world is vaccinated by a vaccine manufactured by Serum Institute (www.serumstitute.com). In spite of significant achievements in science and technology, the country is having low rank in innovation. Research and Development is still weak in many areas. For example, in pharmaceutical sector, which is one of the main items of exports, India is known for generic drugs but original innovation is largely absent.

5. Governance capability

Governance can be divided into two categories (i) Domestic and (ii) External:

Domestic: After independence, India adopted a quasi-federal and parliamentary form of government. The major political developments of the last fifty years can be summed up as (a) loosening of centralism and corresponding growth of regional power (b) gradual dismantling of a long practised single-party dominant system (c) fragmentation of the Indian party system on different kinds of loyalties such as personal, caste and ethnicity and regional interest (d) coalition politics both at the centre and in the states and (e) broadening of the political base on ‘gender’ and ‘socially marginalised’ dimensions (aura.edu.in). The fragmentation of the polity dictates that any nation-wide political party must rely on smaller, regional, caste-and interest-based parties in order to obtain a governing majority. Such a development, although making for more contentious politics, may have an unintended positive consequence: national governments will increasingly reflect the diversity of the country and compulsively will make India a more “federal” republic in fact as well as in theory. The dramatic process of political mobilisation under way also promises to steadily erode upper caste dominance in Indian politics and to make India a more representative polity. Moreover, the renewal of constitutionally mandated bodies such as the Supreme Court and the Election Commission bodes well for the future of Indian democracy (Ganguly and Mukherji, 2011). In spite of these positive aspects, there are more things which are critical to the health of India’s polity and governance. They are long-term survival of Indian secularism, containment of naxalism and insurgency, establishment of progressive environment in Kashmir and infusion of ethics in all levels of administration.

External: The year ‘1991’ is a watershed in the history of international relations. Bipolar world became unipolar and has now become ‘unipolar era’ as conceived by Charles Krauthammer (belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu). Externally, India started to face a unipolar international system. Internally, India faced two crises at this time. One of its important political leaders, Rajiv Gandhi, was assassinated by a neighbouring country terrorist group. Secondly, the BoPs situation of the country had reached a crisis level. The opening of the economy with other factors mentioned above stimulated a change in the external relations of the country i.e. from foreign policy to external governance. In the period of external governance, along with the traditional influential ministries like External Affairs, Defence and Finance, ministries like Commerce, Environment and Forest, Petroleum & Natural Gas and Overseas Indian Affairs, also emerged as important players in the issues related to external governments and other external entities. (Venkata Krishnan S, 2013)

India’s capability to changing external exigencies also can be explained by two examples. Firstly, when new arrangements for trade, WTO and regional trade agreements emerged, the country created the Centre for WTO Studies in the year 1999, to be a permanent repository of WTO negotiations-related knowledge and documentation. It has been regularly called upon by the Government of India to undertake research and provide independent analytical inputs to help it develop positions in its various trade negotiations, both at the WTO and other forums such as Free and Preferential Trade Agreements and Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements. The Centre has also organised a Training programme for some top business houses in India with a view to set-up WTO Cells in these houses so that they can participate and contribute effectively in the policy making process of Government of India (wtocentre.iift.ac.in). Secondly, when unipolarity and unilateral actions became order-of-the day, India has started to working with other like-minded countries and regional organisations for building support to strengthen UN and multilateralism. Among the other activities, to strengthen UN, India as a member of G-4 along with Brazil, Germany and Japan pushed for UN Security Council reforms. India is also a member of the L.69 Group of pro-reform developing countries, which have been engaged with the African Union (AU), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and others to proactively push for early reforms of the Council.12 Thus, by aligning with both worlds, developed and developing, India is effectively increasing its external governance capability.
6. Capabilities of Africa Union

African Union is neither a political union like India nor monetary union like European Union, still, an inter-governmental arrangement of countries with members having strong adherence to the concept of sovereignty. So, capabilities are observed in both the levels i.e. a sum of general condition or cumulative capabilities of the member countries of the Union and the second in African Union level.

Demographic Capability: The current population of Africa, 1.1 billion will increase to at least 2.4 billion by the middle of the century, because of baby boom in the continent (http://www.telegraph.co.uk/.../Africas-population). African mothers have an average of 5.2 children and the continent is home to some of the countries with high fertility rate.13 This huge population is not able considered as an asset, because, 239 million people is undernourished (www.worldhunger.org) and 69 per cent of the world’s 34 million people estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS are in Sub-Saharan Africa (www.who.int). Moreover, Africa is lagging behind in reducing cases of – and deaths from – TB and malaria. These issues have a cumulative effect on the average life expectancy of the continent and it stands lowest globally with 54.4 years (www.au.int). In Africa, the literacy situation is also alarming because 38 % of adults are illiterate and two-thirds of these are women and the drop-out rate is 42% (www.unesco.org/...education/literacy, www.unesco.org/ ...about-this-office). Africa is the only continent more than half of parents are not able to help their children with homework due to illiteracy (www.unesco.org/...education/literacy).

Economic Capability: Africa holds 30 per cent of the world’s mineral reserves and its share of global oil and gas production has stood at 10 per cent and 6 per cent respectively (www.iol.co.za...-view-on-mining-in-africa, africanaarguments.org). African economies are growing faster than any other region of the world except for East Asia. Another important fact is that, growth in Sub-Saharan Africa has remained robust at over five per cent for the past 10 years. But, still, the structure of African economies relies heavily on agriculture and pastoralism. Particularly, pastoralism contributes 10 to 44 percent of the GDP of African countries. The pastoralist population in Africa is estimated at 268 million, living on area representing about 43 percent of the continent’s total land mass. Pastoralists supply very substantial numbers of livestock to domestic, regional and international markets and therefore, make crucial – but often undervalued – contributions to national and regional economies in Africa. Their production systems are highly adaptive, constantly responding to market and climatic trends. Against these positive aspects of pastoralism is the reality that human development and food security indicators for many pastoral areas of Africa are among the lowest on the continent, and in some cases, worsening. 14 The prevailing infrastructure also acts as a constraint on the status of Africa as the rising star of global growth and created difficulties in moving money, goods and people within the continent. One of the infrastructures, roads, is poorly serviced in Africa. The road density is on the average 5 km per 100 square km, which is low when compared with other developing regions, such as Asia 18 km respectively per 100 square km. The 52,450 km Trans African Highway (TAH), still, has been stunted by political issues such as slow border crossings, local taxes, road blocks and the harassment of passing traffic (www.cesa.co.za). Remittances are another important part of African economy and source of income to an estimated 120 million Africans. But, the transaction costs are remaining high and that affect who depend on remittances for their continued existence (www.afdb.org). Although, Africa’s economy has expanded rapidly in recent years, it has neither created manufacturing capacity for the continent’s needs nor kept pace with the growth of its youth population’s need for jobs. Moreover, the present economic development in Africa is termed as ‘discordant development.’ This idea conveys that, deepening inequalities and rapid progress juxtaposed with group distress can generate uncertainty and violent conflict (africajournalismtheworld.com). But, some are optimistic, because, the possibility infrastructural developments with investments from countries like China15 and employment promise through digital jobs for Africa’s unemployed youth (www.irinnews.org).

Military Capability: ‘After 50 years of independence, Francophone Africa's armies have failed to defend their own national territories (www.brookings.edu).’ ‘The conflicts in Mali and Congo have yet again confirmed fears about how poorly equipped, badly commanded, ill trained and hated most sub-Saharan security forces are (www.theafricareport.com).’ These two statements describe the defence capabilities of African armies. If we consider the air power of African continent then, ‘African states’ ability to respond to violent conflict, transnational threats, natural disasters, and other security challenges is severely constrained by limited airlift capacity (africacenter.org).’ Africa has a coastline of about 30,490 km (www.africanaonline.com) but, ‘African naval hierarchy is unique among the Third World regions in its preponderance of ineffective navies. This holds true even when the northern Arab-African navies are included...The maritime capability of 44 sub-Saharan countries be
ranked one littoral navy (South Africa), two “possible” coastal navy contenders (Nigeria and Kenya), seven constabulary navies and 18 “token navies.” Sixteen states, most land locked, had “virtually no maritime capability.”¹⁶ In Africa Union level, ‘although there are plans for an African force…but not going to have these types of forces for at least another ten years.’¹⁷ However, presently a Peace and Security Council (PSC) and African Standby Force (ASF) is going to assume responsibilities for the deployment of peace keeping and quick intervention missions to assist in cases of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity (africacenter.org/…/The-African-Standby-Force-…pdf).

Science and Technology Capability: Africa is poorly represented in the area of space science and technology and its applications with most African countries lacking the human, technical and financial resources to utilise in existing space-based infrastructure for even the most basic applications in meteorology, communications and natural resource management (africadefensejournal.wordpress.com). Rates of hunger in sub-Saharan Africa today are the highest in the world and a new study of sub-Saharan Africa finds serious shortcomings in the scientific research capabilities needed to improve this region's agricultural production (www.voanews.com). In medical research also Africa remains trapped in a dependency syndrome and “consume” research agenda, outcomes, as well as bio-products, from the outside world. The level of research and development is extremely low in Africa – in the range of 0.05 percent of global output, while medical research and authorship of scientific scholarly work is almost as negligible. The good news is that the situation on the continent has been changing and for encouraging research the availability of venture capital and equity vehicles are launched.¹⁸ Similarly, the innovation capability of some countries¹⁹ gives hope for improvements of science and technological capabilities in the Union.

7. Governance Capability

Domestic: The present day governance in African nations can be explained by the Mo Ibrahim words, I don’t subscribe to the narrative that Africa is backward because of colonialism. Africa has been independent for 50 years now...What actually happened in the last 50 to 60 years is that we missed a lot of opportunities. At the moment of independence, many African countries like Ghana and Egypt had higher income per capita than China, India or Singapore. Where are we now? And where are those guys? I think the blame should rest squarely on the way we have governed ourselves.²⁰

Secondly, in African Union level, for the entire continent’s governance, structures like The Assembly, The Executive Council, Pan-African Parliament, The African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, The Commission, The Permanent Representatives’ Committee (PRC), The Specialized Technical Committees, African Investment Bank (AIB), The African Monetary Fund (AMF), The African Central Bank (ACB) and The Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC) have been created either in conceptual level or practical level (http://www.au.int/en/about/nutshell). Even though African States created AU, more than half of the AU’s annual budget of $277m is paid for by non-African donors and AU’s main goal to “unite Africa” has not generally happened, though it has managed to endorse no less than 203 policies that have been agreed to by all 53 members. Thus, ‘The AU is in theory progressive but in practice regressive.’²¹

External: Africa has adjusted itself to the changing international environment. In spite of Western countries and Human rights groups’ criticisms, African leaders have welcomed the Chinese approach and have embraced investments from Beijing. China funded for African Union’s $200m project for headquarters and it was given as a gift to the AU (www.bbc.co.uk-africa-). Similarly, Africa Union has a special relationship with Brazil, another emerging power of the world. Recently, Brazil has announced that it will cancel or restructure almost $900m worth of debt with Africa (www.bbc.co.uk-latin-america-) and has doubled its diplomatic presence from 17 to 37 embassies (www.chathamhouse.org). Not only with states, but, also with non-state actors like European Union and The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation African Union had established relationship (www.eeas.europa.eu, allafrica.com). However, the external governance capability is not proportional either to its aspirations or potentialities. For instance, illicit transfer of funds out of Africa is at least double the amount of aid that Africa receives every year (www.forbes.com).

8. India-African Union: An asymmetric Quasi-interregional sub-system:

It is obvious that a nation cannot be great power without a population sufficiently large to create and apply the materials implements of national power. On the other hand, it has become obvious from past that a large population
can also exert a drastically negative influence upon power (Morgenthau, 1995). India, one of the units of sub-system, has understood that, a harmony is necessary between population and resources and started to practise population control measures. Moreover, scientific institutions like Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in India have initiated programmes particularly for neglected diseases like Tuberculosis and Malaria. On the other side, still with high fertility rates and dependent on imported drugs many African Union member countries, the second unit of sub-system, are struggling to create balance between population and production capacity. This will affect negatively the nature of the sub-system.

Self-sufficiency in food, not only a relatively stable factor in national power, but one of the major capabilities of a country. Conversely, permanent scarcity of food is a source of permanent weakness in international politics. The scarcity of food from which India was suffered, regardless of the other assets of national power which were at its disposal, affected its foreign policy (Morgenthau, 1995). Starting with green revolution, India increased its food production and now it is free to act in its foreign policy from strength rather than from weakness. But, still many African countries are suffering from food scarcity. So, this will also affect negatively the nature of the system.

Indian defence establishments, while taking care of country’s requirements, are able to support the defence requirements of other countries and UN. Singaporean Air Force has signed an agreement with the Indian Air Force to use Indian air bases for conducting practice bombing runs and India has agreed to refurbish Malaysian Air Force aircraft (Ganguly and Mukherji, 2011). Peacekeeping operations, special operations to build peace by UN, require a doctrine and special techniques from a synthesis of research and experience. Drawing on India's vast experience in the field of UN Peacekeeping, a Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) has been set up in New Delhi.

The Centre conducts International Training Capsules for Military Contingent Officers, Military Observers, and Staff and Logistics Officers. 23 African defence forces are still struggling to establish peace inside the continent itself. So, this is also going to create an asymmetric sub-system.

In Science and Technology also India is performing far better than Africa. India has ventured into new areas like ITER, Arctic Council and GRA with an international support. But, except South Africa, African countries are still in their infancy in science and technological activities. The new science and technological policy within the framework of NEPAD is only in formative years. Thus, there is no equilibrium in this capability also between India and Africa.

Transparency International reports about India that the rampant corruption in the economy and governance. This has not only caused wastage of money, but, heavily hampered the growth of capabilities of the country. This is also equally true to Africa Union member countries. In addition to corruption inter-group slaughter is common in Africa. However, in India, with so much of heterogeneity, governance is happening with democratic spirit. African countries, with little exception in some countries, are still struggling to consolidate governance and democracy (www.mmegi.bw). Apart from that, leadership crisis in national and union levels in Africa is a critical issue in both domestic and external governance. If we put in one statement about the India-African Union Quasi-interregionalism, then, it is asymmetric and ‘with 54 countries (t) here, we (African Union) are still smaller than...India.’

Notes:

1. Heiner Hänggi has set typology of interregionalism. Interregionalism as a multifaceted phenomenon-In search of a typology. In: Interregionalism and International Relations: A Stepping Stone to Global Governance. (Edited by, Heiner Hänggi, Ralf Roloff and Jürgen Rüland). Routledge. London and New York.

2. Cantori and Spiegel described International politics with reference to three arenas: the globe, the region, and the nation-state. (www.jstor.org/stable/3013600)

3. Venkata Krishnan S. Quasi-Interregionalism: A Case Study of EU - India Relations. Paper presented in Young Researchers' Conference, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 29 Feb 2012. http://www.academia.edu/4731354/Quasi-Interregionalism_A_Case_Study_of_EU - India_Relations_Introduction

4. Venkata Krishnan S. Quasi-Interregionalism: A Case Study of EU - India Relations. Paper presented in Young Researchers' Conference, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 29 Feb 2012. http://www.academia.edu/4731354/Quasi-Interregionalism_A_Case_Study_of_EU - India_Relations_Introduction

5. See William R Thompson, The Regional Subsystem: A Conceptual Explication and a Propositional Inventory, International Studies Quarterly, Vol.17, No 1 (March, 1973), p-93.

6. http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdffiles/PUB1051.pdf, http://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/papers/view/109541 http://en.sii.org.cn/index.php?m=content&c=index&a=show&catid=22&id=213
7. on the basis of PPP: http://povertydata.worldbank.org/poverty/country/IND
8. Now multi-drug-resistant TB stock crisis looms in India: http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/now-multidrugresistant-tb-stock-crisis-looms/article4860970.ece
9. Niger participated in an ad hoc coalition, involving the United States, Japan and Australia, to provide relief to the tsunami-affected regions of the Indian Ocean littoral states in January 2005. As cited by Ganguly, Sumit & Rahul Mukherji. (2011). India since 1980. First South Asian edition. Cambridge University Press. New Delhi. p-54.
10. For satellites, http://www.isro.org/satellites/satelliteshome.aspx and For Launch vehicles, http://www.isro.org/Launchvehicles/launchvehicles.aspx
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