

**Summary Report on the outcome of the
“First Meeting of the Heads of Statistical Organisations
of SAARC Member States” held at Kolkata during 26-27 May 2005**

Introduction:

The Thirtieth Session of the Standing Committee of SAARC (Islamabad, 18-19 July 2004) approved the proposal for cooperation in statistics among Member States and subsequently, the Twelfth Meeting of the Committee on Economic Cooperation (Islamabad, 20-21 November 2004) welcomed the offer of India to host the First Meeting of the Heads of Statistical Organisations of SAARC

2. The Meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Oscar Fernandes, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India. Mr. P.S. Rana, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India was unanimously elected as Chairman of the meeting.

Outcome:

3. The Meeting decided to form a *SAARC Group on Statistics* which will hereafter be called as SAARCSTAT and formed following subgroups to take up the work in the following areas:

S. No.	Technical Sub-Group on	Coordinator
1.	SAARC Statistical Yearbook	Bangladesh
2.	Informal Sector	India
3.	Capacity Building	India
4.	SAARCSTAT Action Plan	India
5.	SAARCSTAT Website	Pakistan
6.	Classification	Pakistan
7.	SNA93	Sri Lanka

4. The Meeting welcomed the offer of India to take up and fund a Project on Concepts, Definitions and Standards of Health Statistics for the SAARC region.

5. The Meeting recommended that the Chairmanship of SAARCSTAT would rotate in alphabetical order starting with Bangladesh.
