

South Asia's Digital Diplomacy: Memes, AI, and Shifting Global Ties

Digital Diplomacy · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which South Asian nation has formally proposed a broad spectrum of next-generation digital partnerships with Beijing, including joint ventures in 5G/6G technologies, as part of the next stage of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

- A) India
- B) Pakistan**
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Sri Lanka

2. In the context of digital diplomacy, what initiative has Nepal emphasized to advocate for international frameworks governing AI, ensuring inclusivity and giving smaller nations a voice?

- A) Developing advanced AI surveillance technology
- B) Pushing for international frameworks for AI-driven military tech**
- C) Creating a regional AI research consortium
- D) Focusing solely on AI for economic development

3. What specific online campaign, reportedly used as a political tool, has harmed public perception regarding bilateral relations between the Maldives and India?

- A) #VisitMaldives
- B) #MaldivesTourism
- C) #IndiaOut**
- D) #MaldivesFirst

4. Which South Asian country ratified the Council of Europe's Convention on Cybercrime in May 2015, becoming the first nation in the region to do so?

- A) India
- B) Pakistan
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Sri Lanka**

5. In the context of India-Pakistan relations, what trend has emerged as a significant, albeit informal, tool for shaping narratives and expressing dissent or national sentiment, often bypassing traditional diplomatic channels?

- A) Official state-sponsored poetry slams
- B) Collaborative documentary filmmaking
- C) Meme warfare and dark, sardonic humor**
- D) Joint scientific research expeditions

6. The "Digital Silk Road" (DSR) initiative, a framework for global digital interconnectivity, is central to the next phase of which major China-led economic project in South Asia?

- A) The Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program
- B) The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

C) The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

- D) The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

7. What diplomatic approach has Bhutan, a nation often positioned between India and China, utilized to de-escalate crises and maintain relations with its neighbors?

- A) Aggressive public pronouncements on social media
- B) Active military posturing

C) Careful use of silence and avoiding provocative public statements

- D) Joining regional military alliances

8. Which South Asian country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched a Twitter account in 2015, marking an official embrace of digital diplomacy, though its utilization is noted as primarily basic communication?

- A) India

B) Nepal

- C) Bangladesh
- D) Bhutan

9. Bollywood's global influence is recognized as a significant instrument of India's cultural diplomacy, particularly in shaping perceptions and fostering goodwill among which demographic group abroad?

A) The Indian diaspora

- B) Expatriate political leaders
- C) International aid workers
- D) Global academic researchers

10. In Bangladesh, what has been a notable characteristic of the government's engagement with digital diplomacy, particularly concerning its highest leadership?

- A) The Prime Minister and her office have a vibrant and active presence on all major social media platforms.
- B) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs actively engages with international peers on X (formerly Twitter), following many foreign ministries.

C) There is a deficient presence of top leadership and key ministers in the digital domain, indicating a narrow understanding of digital technologies in foreign affairs.

- D) Bangladesh ranks highly globally in social media users and actively uses these platforms for robust public diplomacy efforts.

11. Which South Asian country is actively enhancing its cybersecurity preparedness by aiming to become a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime and has ratified the Council of Europe's Convention on Cybercrime?

- A) Maldives
- B) Sri Lanka**
- C) Afghanistan
- D) Bhutan

12. The 'India Out' online campaign, which aimed to decrease India's presence in which South Asian island nation, reportedly harmed public perception of bilateral relations?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Maldives**
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Nepal