

South Asian Economic Pulse: Fintech, Crypto Bans, and Bollywood's Financial

South Asia Finance · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. In 2026, which South Asian country has implemented a comprehensive ban on all cryptocurrency activities, including usage, trade, investment, and mining, rooted in laws like the Foreign Exchange (Regulation) Act of 1962 and the Nepal Rastra Bank Act of 2002?

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

2. According to the Asian Development Outlook April 2026, what is Pakistan's projected real GDP growth rate for fiscal year 2026?

- A) 2.5%
- B) 3.5%**
- C) 4.5%
- D) 5.0%

3. As of April 2026, Sri Lanka's debt restructuring process is nearing completion, with significant progress recorded. Which international financial institution's report highlighted this advancement?

- A) World Bank
- B) Asian Development Bank
- C) Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable (GSDR)**
- D) International Finance Corporation (IFC)

4. In India's fintech sector in 2026, a major trend involves the large-scale deployment of AI. What specific type of AI is noted for proactively resolving complex customer issues and executing actions autonomously?

- A) Generative AI
- B) Predictive AI
- C) Agentic AI**
- D) Explainable AI (XAI)

5. Bhutan's economy is projected to grow significantly in 2026, with its GDP expected to grow by 6.5%. What is identified as the main support for this strong economic growth?

- A) Manufacturing and exports
- B) Tourism, agriculture, and government spending**
- C) Information technology and services
- D) Natural resource extraction

6. In 2026, Bangladesh's startup ecosystem is receiving a significant boost with the launch of the 'Onkur Bangladesh Fund 1'. This venture capital platform is backed by how many commercial banks under the guidance of Bangladesh Bank?

- A) 25
- B) 39**
- C) 45
- D) 50

7. The Maldives is targeting 2.5 million tourist arrivals in 2026. Which international event is planned for 2027 to further elevate the Maldives' global tourism presence?

- A) Global Tourism Summit
- B) Visit Maldives Year**
- C) Island Nations Economic Forum
- D) Ocean Preservation Conference

8. As of April 2026, Fitch Ratings affirmed Sri Lanka's sovereign credit rating at 'CCC+'. What is a primary reason cited by Fitch for this rating, indicating the fiscal crisis is far from resolved?

- A) Low interest rates
- B) High foreign exchange reserves
- C) Elevated general government indebtedness and a high interest/revenue ratio**
- D) Strong performance of state-owned enterprises

9. In 2026, India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is expanding its reach. Which of the following is a key trend identified for UPI in the Indian fintech sector?

- A) Focus on offline transactions
- B) Integration for cross-border and international payments**
- C) Replacement by a new blockchain-based payment system
- D) Mandatory use of QR codes for all transactions

10. A new United Nations report in February 2026 projected Bhutan's GDP to grow by 6.5% in that year, higher than the South Asian average of 5.6%. What is a significant challenge mentioned for Bhutan despite its strong growth outlook?

- A) High levels of foreign debt distress
- B) Rapidly declining tourism revenue
- C) Moderate risk of debt distress and potential impact of global oil prices**
- D) Stagnant agricultural output

11. In May 2026, a report indicated that Pakistan's investment-to-GDP ratio remained unchanged at 14.4% for FY2025-26, missing the official target. What was the savings-to-GDP ratio during the same period?

- A) 14.3%
- B) 14.0%**
- C) 13.8%
- D) 13.5%

12. The Indian film industry is predicted to have a record haul in 2026, with net box office receipts potentially surging by 25-30%. What type of films are expected to be major contributors beyond the conventional big-star releases?

- A) Foreign language films
- B) Documentaries on economic policy
- C) Films that connect deeply with audiences and 'sleeper hits'**
- D) Animated feature films