

South Asia's Celestial Ascendancy: Unpacking Recent Space Milestones and

Space Exploration · Answer Key · 17 Questions

1. In the period between January 2025 and April 2026, Pakistan significantly increased its Earth observation satellite launches. How many such satellites were deployed during this 16-month timeframe?

- A) Four
- B) Five
- C) Six**
- D) Seven

2. Which South Asian nation is developing a National Space Policy, with a multidisciplinary expert committee recently approved by its Cabinet of Ministers in May 2026?

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

3. The Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO) launched a \$50 million fund in October 2025. What is the primary objective of this fund, known as MSCHIF?

- A) To fund deep space missions to Mars
- B) To accelerate the Maldives' space sector and benefit other Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**
- C) To establish a lunar research base
- D) To develop indigenous rocket launch capabilities

4. Nepal has successfully launched three nano-satellites. Which of these was manufactured within Nepal, tested in India, and launched from China?

- A) NepaliSat-1
- B) Slipper2Sat**
- C) Munal
- D) None of the above

5. In May 2024, Pakistan achieved a significant milestone in lunar exploration by sending its first lunar satellite. What is the name of this satellite, which was part of China's Chang'e-6 mission?

- A) iCUBE-Q**
- B) PakSAT-1R
- C) Badr-1
- D) HS-1

6. Sri Lanka's space timeline includes the launch of RAAVANA-1 in 2019. What type of satellite was RAAVANA-1, and where was it deployed from?

- A) A 1U CubeSat deployed from the ISS**
- B) A 6U Nanosatellite launched by SpaceX
- C) A commercial communication satellite launched by China
- D) A 2U CubeSat deployed from a Chinese Long March rocket

7. Bhutan has collaborated with India on space technology. What was the name of the joint satellite project launched in November 2022?

- A) BHUTAN-1
- B) INDIA-BHUTAN SAT**
- C) INS-2B
- D) SAARC-SAT

8. India's Chandrayaan-2 mission, despite its lander's setback, has continued to yield scientific data. What significant potential discovery has been indicated from its radar data concerning the Moon's south pole region?

- A) Evidence of active volcanism
- B) The presence of subsurface water-ice**
- C) A vast network of lava tubes
- D) Signs of microbial life

9. The 'Loktak Protocluster,' a massive cosmic structure dating back approximately 12.6 billion years, was discovered by an Indian astrophysicist. What is the significance of this discovery?

- A) It provides the first evidence of dark matter
- B) It reveals how galaxies formed in the early universe**
- C) It confirms the existence of extraterrestrial life
- D) It offers a new method for interstellar travel

10. Between January 2025 and April 2026, Pakistan launched six Earth Observation (EO) satellites. Which of these launches utilized SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket?

- A) PRSC-EO1
- B) PRSS-2 EO
- C) HS-1
- D) PAUSAT-1**

11. As of May 2026, which South Asian nation is actively developing its space sector and has recently approved the establishment of a multidisciplinary expert committee for its inaugural National Space Policy?

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

12. Nepal's Munal satellite project, designed by students, faced a setback during its launch in January 2026. Which country's rocket was carrying the Munal satellite when the anomaly occurred?

- A) China
- B) India**
- C) United States
- D) Japan

13. Pakistan's iCUBE-Q satellite, launched as part of China's Chang'e-6 mission in May 2024, was developed through collaboration between which two entities?

- A) SUPARCO and ISRO
- B) IST and Shanghai University**
- C) APSCO and CNSA
- D) Pakistan Air University and SpaceX

14. Which South Asian nation, aiming to become a leader in the global space community for island nations, launched a \$50 million fund in October 2025 to advance its space sector?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Maldives**
- C) Indonesia
- D) Philippines

15. India's 'state startup developmental partnership' model in space is exemplified by companies like GalaxEye, which launched the world's first OptoSAR satellite. What is the key capability of OptoSAR technology that addresses challenges in South Asia?

- A) It enables deep space communication
- B) It provides high-quality Earth observation in cloudy tropical conditions**
- C) It is designed for lunar sample return missions
- D) It specializes in detecting exoplanets

16. The 'INDIA-BHUTAN SAT' project, launched in November 2022, is a collaboration between India and Bhutan. Which Indian organization was involved in this joint satellite development?

A) IN-SPACe

B) ISRO

C) Antrix Corporation

D) NRSC

17. Pakistan's recent spate of satellite launches, primarily with Chinese support, has raised concerns in India. Which US-based space situational awareness firm's analysis suggests that at least one Pakistani satellite was optimized for frequent observations over South Asia?

A) COMSPOC

B) Maxar Technologies

C) SpaceX Analytics

D) Planet Labs