

South Asia's Tech Boom: Quantum Leaps, Digital Payments, and Space Aspirations

Technology News · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which South Asian nation is actively developing intermediate-scale quantum computers with a goal of 50-1000 qubits by 2031 as part of its National Quantum Mission?

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

2. In Pakistan, what percentage of all retail transactions were conducted using digital payment channels in Q3 FY25, according to recent fintech trends?

- A) Approximately 75%
- B) Approximately 89%**
- C) Approximately 60%
- D) Approximately 95%

3. India aims to become the fourth nation to launch its own crewed spacecraft. What is the name of this ambitious human spaceflight program?

- A) Mangalyaan
- B) Chandrayaan
- C) Gaganyaan**
- D) Aditya-L1

4. What is the primary focus of Bangladesh's 'One Citizen-One ID-One Digital Wallet' initiative?

- A) Agricultural development
- B) Linking identity, payments, and government services**
- C) Promoting tourism
- D) Developing renewable energy infrastructure

5. Which South Asian country is establishing its first semiconductor pilot fab and training hub through South Asia Semiconductor Limited (Sasemicon)?

- A) India
- B) Bangladesh
- C) Pakistan**
- D) Nepal

6. As of the second half of 2024, what was the year-on-year transaction volume growth for UPI in India?

- A) Approximately 20%
- B) Approximately 31%
- C) Approximately 42%**
- D) Approximately 50%

7. Nepal has made significant strides in solar energy adoption. What percentage of its population has access to electricity, with a significant portion being rural?

- A) Approximately 70%
- B) Approximately 85%
- C) Approximately 95%**
- D) Approximately 99%

8. Which Indian city is set to host a major quantum computing initiative with the deployment of an IBM Quantum System Two, as part of the Quantum Valley initiative?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Mumbai
- C) Amaravati**
- D) New Delhi

9. What is the main goal of India's National Quantum Mission (NQM) concerning quantum computing systems by 2031?

- A) Develop quantum sensors for navigation
- B) Create quantum computing systems with 50 to 1,000 physical qubits**
- C) Establish inter-city quantum key distribution networks
- D) Demonstrate satellite-based secure quantum communications over 2000 km

10. In Pakistan, which fintech trend is highlighted as a growth engine for businesses in 2025, focusing on streamlining processes and lowering operating costs?

- A) Increased reliance on cash-based B2B payments
- B) Adoption of manual accounting methods
- C) Integration of digital wallets, QR codes, and e-payments**
- D) Reduced demand for cross-channel payment solutions

11. India's Supreme Court AI Committee has published a preliminary draft for the regulations of Artificial Intelligence in courts. What is the proposed year for these regulations to potentially be in force?

- A) 2025
- B) 2026**
- C) 2027
- D) 2028

12. Which of these countries in South Asia has commercial 5G services, despite being one of the smaller nations in the region, while larger nations like India and Pakistan were still in the process of full commercial rollout as of late 2022?

A) Afghanistan

B) Bhutan

C) Nepal

D) Sri Lanka