

South Asia's Tech Diplomacy: AI, Connectivity, and Cross-Border Relations

Technology Diplomacy · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which two South Asian countries have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cybersecurity cooperation, including in spheres like e-governance and research and development?

- A) India and Pakistan
- B) India and Bangladesh**
- C) Nepal and Bhutan
- D) Sri Lanka and Maldives

2. The 'Digital Silk Road' initiative, primarily driven by China, aims to enhance digital connectivity. Which South Asian country is a key partner in this initiative, with significant infrastructure development through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

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

3. Bhutan has been working to integrate its digital payment systems with international frameworks. Which country's payment system, specifically its UPI framework, has Bhutan established a direct connection with to improve cross-border payment capabilities?

- A) China
- B) India**
- C) Nepal
- D) Sri Lanka

4. India and the United States have a strategic technology partnership through the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET). What is a key focus area for this collaboration?

- A) Renewable energy development
- B) Space exploration and defense innovation**
- C) Agricultural modernization
- D) Maritime trade routes

5. Which South Asian country is actively developing a national digital resilience framework, incorporating elements like communication networks, satellite backup, and cybersecurity, with potential support from India?

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

6. The India-Bangladesh Digital Partnership aims to leverage digital technologies for economic growth and regional prosperity. What is one of the key areas of investment mentioned for this partnership?

- A) Quantum computing
- B) 5G technology and next-generation communication networks**
- C) Space-based solar power
- D) Biotechnology research

7. The 'Pax Silica' initiative is a U.S.-led effort to strengthen technology cooperation among allies to build secure supply chains. Which South Asian country has joined this initiative alongside nations like Japan and South Korea?

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

8. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) includes a Digital Silk Road (DSR) component. Which South Asian countries are likely to see greater participation from Chinese tech companies in their digital economies as part of this initiative?

- A) Only India
- B) Only Pakistan
- C) South Asian and Central Asian countries**
- D) Only Sri Lanka and Nepal

9. The United States has been involved in reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, including improving its telecommunications system. What was a significant step taken to enhance connectivity within the country?

- A) Establishing a high-speed rail network
- B) Deploying a satellite internet constellation
- C) Implementing a telecommunications system connecting provinces to Kabul**
- D) Developing a national 5G network

10. Bhutan's digital payment ecosystem faces challenges, including reliability and connectivity. However, it has shown openness to modern financial systems, including a past CBDC pilot with which international blockchain company?

- A) IBM
- B) Ripple**
- C) Microsoft
- D) Google

11. The 'Shared Vision for India-Bangladesh Digital Partnership' aligns with broader national visions like 'Viksit Bharat 2047' and 'Smart Bangladesh Vision 2041'. What core technologies are emphasized for collaboration in this partnership?

- A) Fossil fuel extraction and refinement
- B) Green and digital technologies**
- C) Traditional textile manufacturing
- D) Nuclear energy for civilian use

12. Pakistan and China are expanding cooperation in various sectors. Which of the following is a key sector highlighted for deepened collaboration, particularly in its '2.0 phase'?

- A) Space exploration
- B) Renewable energy, IT, and telecommunications**
- C) Agricultural machinery exports
- D) Traditional handicrafts

13. India has been enhancing its international internet connectivity by expanding its undersea cable network. A new Microsoft-led consortium is building a cable system connecting India with which Southeast Asian countries?

- A) Indonesia and the Philippines
- B) Singapore and Malaysia**
- C) Vietnam and Thailand
- D) Myanmar and Cambodia

14. The U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) aims to foster cooperation in developing fields. Which of these is NOT a primary focus area mentioned for this initiative?

- A) Artificial intelligence
- B) Quantum computing
- C) Biotechnology
- D) Blockchain for supply chain management**

15. The 'Sambandh' initiative by Brookings India focuses on mapping India's links with neighboring countries. Which of the following is a key aspect of India's regional connectivity policy in South Asia?

- A) Strategic military alliances
- B) Focus on cultural and economic indicators**
- C) Exclusive trade agreements
- D) Border militarization