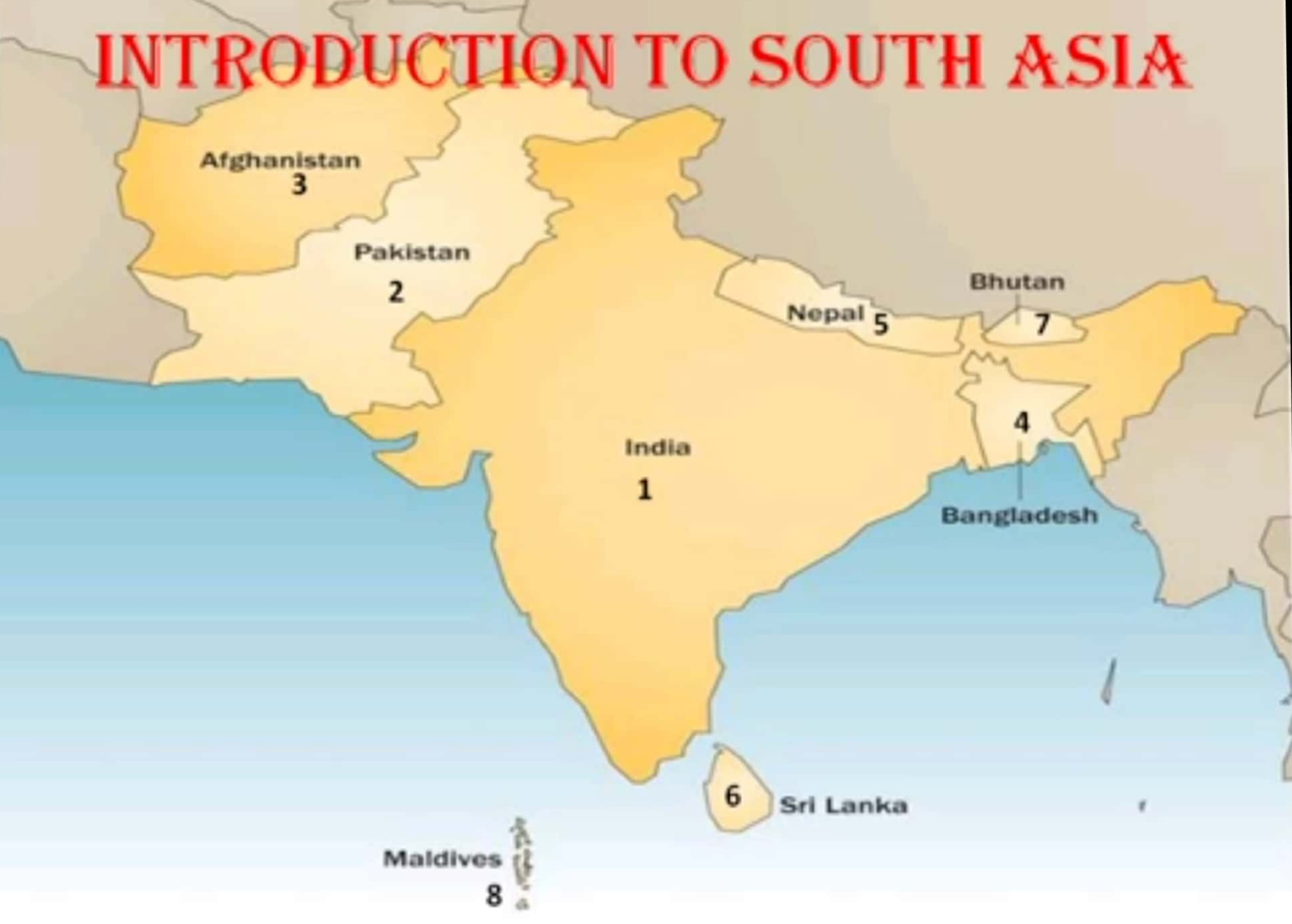


INTRODUCTION TO SOUTH ASIA












South Asia

South Asia or **Southern Asia** is the southern region of [Asia](#), which is defined in both [geographical](#) and [ethno-cultural](#) terms. The region consists of [Afghanistan](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Bhutan](#), [India](#), the [Maldives](#), [Nepal](#), [Pakistan](#), and [Sri Lanka](#). Topographically, it is dominated by the [Indian Plate](#) and defined largely by the [Indian Ocean](#) on the south, and the [Himalayas](#), [Karakoram](#), and [Pamir](#) mountains on the north. The [Amu Darya](#), which rises north of the [Hindu Kush](#), forms part of the northwestern border. On land (clockwise), South Asia is bounded by [Western Asia](#), [Central Asia](#), [East Asia](#), and [Southeast Asia](#).








South Asia



Area	5,134,641 km ² (1,982,496 sq mi)
Population	1,947,628,100(2020) ^[1]
Population density	362.3/km ² (938/sq mi)
GDP (PPP)	\$12.752 trillion (2018)
GDP (nominal)	\$3.326.trillion(2020)
GDP per capita	\$1,707 (nominal)
HDI	▲ 0.642 (<i>medium</i>)

<u>Ethnic groups</u>	<u>Indo-Aryan, Iranian, Dravidian, Sino-Tibetan, Austroasiatic, etc.</u>
Religions	<u>Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism</u>
<u>Demonym</u>	South Asian <u>Desi</u> (colloquial)
Countries	<u>8 states</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •  <u>Afghanistan</u> •  <u>Bangladesh</u> •  <u>Bhutan</u> •  <u>India</u> •  <u>Maldives</u> •  <u>Nepal</u> •  <u>Pakistan</u> •  <u>Sri Lanka</u>
Dependencies	 <u>British Indian Ocean Territory</u>
Languages	Official languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Bengali</u> • <u>Dari (Persian)</u> • <u>Dzongkha</u> • <u>English</u> • <u>Hindi</u> • <u>Dhivehi</u> • <u>Nepali</u> • <u>Pashto</u> • <u>Sinhala</u> • <u>Tamil</u> • <u>Urdu</u>

Systems of government

Country	Capital	Forms of government	Head of state	Head of government	Legislature	Official language	Currency	Coat of arms / National Emblems
 Afghanistan	Kabul	Unitary presidential Islamic republic	President		House of Elders, House of the People	Pashto, Dari	؋ Afghani	
 Bangladesh	Dhaka	Unitary parliamentary constitutional republic	President	Prime Minister	Jatiya Sangsad	Bengali, English	৳ Taka	
 Bhutan	Thimphu	Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy	King	Prime Minister	National Council, National Assembly	Dzongkha	Nu. Ngultrum	
 India	New Delhi	Federal parliamentary constitutional republic	President	Prime Minister	Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha	Hindi, English	₹ Indian rupee	
 Maldives	Malé	Unitary presidential constitutional republic	President		People's Majlis	Maldivian	₹ Rufiyaa	
 Nepal	Kathmandu	Federal parliamentary constitutional republic	President	Prime Minister	National Assembly, House of Representatives	Nepali	₹ Nepalese rupee	
 Pakistan	Islamabad	Federal parliamentary Islamic republic	President	Prime Minister	Senate, National Assembly	Urdu, English	₹ Pakistani rupee	


 Sri Lanka

Colombo

Unitary semi-presidential constitutional republic









Land and water area

This list includes [dependent territories](#) within their [sovereign states](#) (including uninhabited territories), but does not include claims on [Antarctica](#). EEZ+TIA is exclusive economic zone (EEZ) plus [total internal area](#) (TIA) which includes land and internal waters.

Country	Area	EEZ	Shelf	EEZ+TIA
 Afghanistan	652,864	0	0	652,864
 Bangladesh	147,570	86,392	66,438	230,390
 Bhutan	38,394	0	0	38,394
 India	3,287,263	2,305,143	402,996	5,592,406
 Nepal	147,181	0	0	147,181
 Maldives	298	923,322	34,538	923,622
 Pakistan	881,913	290,000	51,383	1,117,911
 Sri Lanka	65,610	532,619	32,453	598,229
Total	5,221,093	4,137,476	587,808	

Population

The population of South Asia is about 1.749 billion which makes it the [most populated region](#) in the world. It is socially very mixed, consisting of many language groups and religions, and social practices in one region that are vastly different from those in another.[\[201\]](#)











Country	Population in thousands (2019) (%Share) [202] [203]	Density (per km ²)	% of world [204]	Population growth rate [205]			Population projection (in thousands) [202] [203]						
				2005-10	2010-15	2015-20	1950	1975	2000	2025	2050	2075	2100
 Afghanistan	38,042 (2.07%)	46	0.420%	2.78	3.16	2.41	7,752	12,689	20,779	43,531	64,682	76,199	75,974
 Bangladesh	163,046 (8.88%)	1106.8	2.17%	1.18	1.16	1.04	37,895	70,066	127,658	170,937	192,568	181,282	151,393
 Bhutan	763 (0.04%)	165.8	0.00957%	2.05	1.58	1.18	177	348	591	811	905	845	686
 India	1,366,418 (74.45%)	138.3	17.5%	1.46	1.23	1.10	376,325	623,103	1,056,576	1,445,012	1,639,176	1,609,041	1,450,421
 Maldives	531 (0.03%)	225	0.00490%	2.68	2.76	1.85	74	136	279	522	586	564	490
 Nepal	28,609 (1.56%)	781.8	0.383%	1.05	1.17	1.09	8,483	13,420	23,941	31,757	35,324	31,818	23,708
 Pakistan	216,565 (11.8%)	1,104.8	2.82%	2.05	2.09	1.91	37,542	66,817	142,344	242,234	338,013	394,265	403,103
 Sri Lanka	21,324 (1.62%)	194.4	0.279%	0.68	0.50	0.35	7,971	13,755	18,778	21,780	21,814	19,194	15,275

South Asia	1,835,297 (100%)	357.4	23.58 6%	-	-	-	476, 800, 1,390	1,958	2,293	2,313	2,120
							220 335 ,946	,046	,069	,208	,014

Population of South Asian countries in 1950, 1975, 2000, 2025, 2050, 2075 and 2100 projection from the United Nations has been displayed in table. The given population projections are based on medium fertility index. With India and Bangladesh approaching [replacement rates](#) fast, population growth in South Asia is facing steep decline and may turn negative in mid 21st century.)

8 Largest urban areas

South Asia is home to some of the most populated cities in the world. [Dhaka](#), [Delhi](#), [Mumbai](#), [Karachi](#) and [Lahore](#) are some of the world's largest megacities.

Rank	City	State/Province	Country	Population ^[206]	Area (km ²) ^[206]	Density (/km ²) ^[206]	Classification
1	Delhi	National Capital Region	 India	25,399,141	2,072	12,100	Capital region
2	Karachi	Sindh	 Pakistan	20,431,848	3780 ^[207] ↓	5500	Metropolis
3	Dhaka	Dhaka Division	 Bangladesh	20,283,552	360	43,500	Capital city
4	Mumbai	Maharashtra	 India	20,185,064	546	32,400	Megacity
5	Kolkata	West Bengal	 India	14,667,000	1,204	12,200	Megacity
6	Lahore	Punjab	 Pakistan	12,414,000	1772 ^[208] ↓	12,700	Megacity
7	Bengaluru	Karnataka	 India	10,248,000	1,116	8,400	Megacity
8	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	 India	9,714,000	375	25,900	Metropolis
9	Hyderabad	Telangana	 India	8,754,000	971	10,000	Metropolis
10	Faisalabad	Punjab	 Pakistan				

Organization in South Asia region

(South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)

The South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) is an organisation of South Asian nations, which was established on 8 December 1985 when the government of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka formally adopted its charter providing for the promotion of economic and social progress, cultural development within the South Asia region and also for friendship and cooperation with other developing countries.

It is dedicated to economic, technological, social and cultural development emphasising collective self-reliance. In terms of population, its sphere of influence is the largest of any regional organisation: almost 1.5 billion combined population of its member states. In April 2007, Afghanistan became its eighth member.

Objectives of SAARC:

The objectives of SAARC, as defined in its charter, are

- i. Promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and improve their quality of life;
- ii. Accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region by providing all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and realise their full potential;
- iii. Promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among the countries of South Asia;
- iv. Contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems;
- v. Promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields;
- vi. Strengthen co-operation with other developing countries;

vii. Strengthen co-operation among themselves in international forms on matters of common interest; and

viii. Cooperate with international and regional organisation with similar aims and purposes.

SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangements (SAFTA):

SAPTA which came into operations in 1995 heralds a new chapter of economic co-operation among the SAARC countries. It concretises the first step towards creation of a trade bloc in the South Asian Region. Under the SAPTA mechanism, the SAARC countries, to begin with, have identified 226 items for exchange on tariff concessions ranging from 10 per cent to 100 per cent.

India has agreed to extend tariff concessions on 106 items, while Bangladesh has agreed to offer tariff concessions on 12 items, Maldives on 17, Nepal 14, Pakistan 35, Sri Lanka 31 and Bhutan 11. Out of 106 items offered by India for tariff concessions, 62 items would be for the least developed countries in the SAARC.

SAPTA to SAFTA:

The South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement came into force from July 1, 2006. With this, the earlier SAPTA established in 1995 had paved the way to SAFTA. The South Asian developed countries are well endowed with labour and natural resources.

Further, with growing openness among themselves, higher production and expansion of labour, intensive exports, increased employment, increased wages and thereby helping in reducing poverty, the region is poised to play an important role in the growing international trade relations