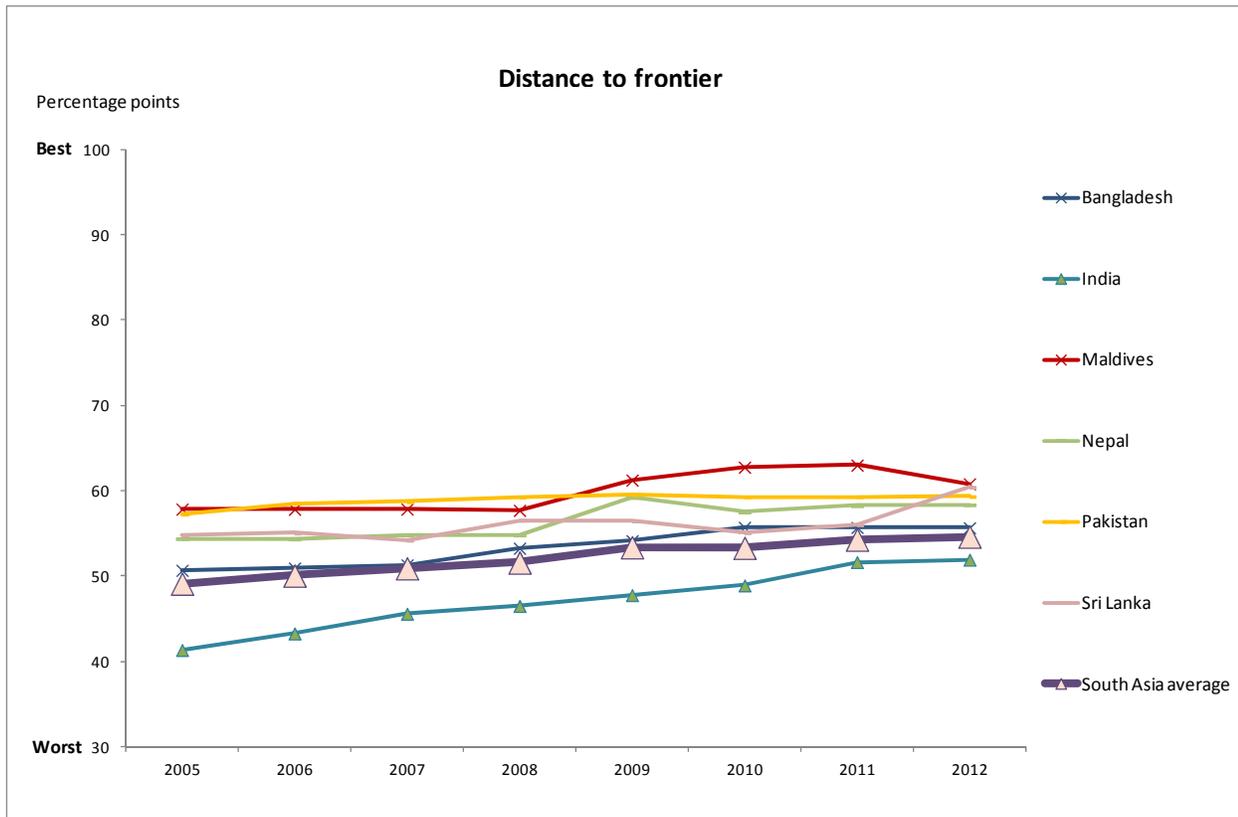


**Doing Business 2013 Fact Sheet: South Asia**

- Economies in South Asia have implemented 65 regulatory reforms making it easier to do business since 2005. India leads the region with 17 reforms during this period.
- Sri Lanka is among the 10 economies globally that improved the most in the past year across three or more areas measured by *Doing Business*—the first time since 2005 for a South Asian economy.
- Sri Lanka claims the region's highest spot in the global ease of doing business ranking, at 81 out of 185 economies.
- Bangladesh improved access to credit information in the past year by establishing an online platform for sharing such information. India made dealing with construction permits easier for firms by setting strict time limits for preconstruction approvals.



*Note:* The distance to frontier measure shows how far on average an economy is from the best performance achieved by any economy on each *Doing Business* indicator since 2005. The measure is normalized to range between 0 and 100, with 100 representing the best performance (the frontier). The data refer to the 174 economies included in *Doing Business 2006* (2005). Eleven economies were added in subsequent years.  
*Source:* *Doing Business* database.

**Summary of 2011/12 *Doing Business* Reforms in South Asia**

**Bangladesh** improved access to credit information by establishing an online platform for sharing such information. However, Bangladesh made getting electricity more difficult by requiring all customers to meet 7 percent of their electricity needs through solar energy, making it necessary to install solar panels.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Getting credit (credit information), Getting electricity (making it more difficult)

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 129

**India** reduced the time required to obtain a building permit by establishing strict time limits for preconstruction approvals.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Dealing with construction permits

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 132

**Maldives** introduced a goods and service tax, a business profit tax, and additional social contributions.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Paying taxes (making it more difficult)

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 95

**Sri Lanka** made starting a business easier by computerizing and expediting the process of obtaining a registration number for the Employees Provident Fund and Employees Trust Fund. It made registering property faster by introducing an electronic system at the Land Registry in Colombo. In addition, Sri Lanka strengthened its secured transactions system by establishing an electronic, searchable collateral registry and issuing regulations for its operation. Finally, it reduced the time to export by implementing the ASYCUDA World electronic data interchange system.

**Areas of business regulation reform:** Starting a business, Registering property, Getting credit (legal rights), Trading across borders

**Rank in Doing Business 2013:** 81

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### **About the *Doing Business* report series**

*Doing Business* analyzes regulations that apply to an economy's businesses during their life cycle, including start-up and operations, trading across borders, paying taxes, and protecting investors. The aggregate ease of doing business rankings are based on 10 indicators and cover 185 economies. *Doing Business* does not measure all aspects of the business environment that matter to firms and investors. For example, it does not measure the quality of fiscal management, other aspects of macroeconomic stability, the level of skills in the labor force, or the resilience of financial systems. Its findings have stimulated policy debates worldwide and enabled a growing body of research on how firm-level regulation relates to economic outcomes across economies. This year's report marks the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the global *Doing Business* report series. For more information about the *Doing Business* report series, please visit [www.doingbusiness.org](http://www.doingbusiness.org). Join us on [Facebook](#).

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