

Geography

Location: Southern Asia, between China and India

Map references: Asia

Area:

total area: 47,000 sq km

land area: 47,000 sq km

comparative area: slightly more than half the size of Indiana

Land boundaries: total 1,075 km, China 470 km, India 605 km

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked)

Maritime claims: none; landlocked

International disputes: none

Climate: varies; tropical in southern plains; cool winters and hot summers in central valleys; severe winters and cool summers in Himalayas

Terrain: mostly mountainous with some fertile valleys and savanna

Natural resources: timber, hydropower, gypsum, calcium carbide

Land use:

arable land: 2%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 5%

forest and woodland: 70%

other: 23%

Irrigated land: 340 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: soil erosion; limited access to potable water

natural hazards: violent storms coming down from the Himalayas are the source of the country's name which translates as Land of the Thunder Dragon; frequent landslides during the rainy season

international agreements: party to - Nuclear Test Ban; signed, but not ratified - Biodiversity, Climate Change, Law of the Sea

Note: landlocked; strategic location between China and India; controls several key Himalayan mountain passes