



**CBSE : Grade 10**  
**Class - X**

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**Board: CBSE**

## **POWER-SHARING**

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### **BELGIUM -**

- A small country in Europe → smaller in area than the state of Haryana.
- Borders with France, Netherlands, Germany & Luxembourg
- Population of little over one crore → about half the population of Haryana
- **Complex Ethnic Composition →**
  - **59 %** in the Flemish region speaks Dutch;
  - **40 %** in the Wallonia region speak French &
  - Remaining 1 % speaks German.
- Capital city Brussels → 80 per cent French & 20 per cent Dutch speaking
- Minority French-speaking community → relatively rich and powerful → led to tensions b/w Dutch and French during the **1950s** and **1960**
- Dutch-speaking people → majority in the country, but a minority in the capital → More acute tension between the two communities

### **Accommodation in Belgium -**

- Between **1970** and **1993** they amended constitution 4 times so that everyone could live together within the same country.

### **Some Elements of The Belgian Model →**

- Number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.
- Many powers of the central government have been given to state governments of the two regions of the country → The state governments are not subordinate to the Central Government
- Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation → The French speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels because the Dutch-speaking community has accepted equal representation in the Central Government.
- Community government is elected by people belonging to one language community → Dutch, French & German-speaking → it had power regarding cultural, educational & language related issues
- They avoided civil strife between two communities and possible division on linguistic lines.
- When EU was formed, Brussels was chosen as headquarters
- Leaders realized that unity is possible only by respecting feelings and interests of others

### **SRI LANKA -**

- An island nation, just a few kilometres off the southern coast of Tamil Nadu.
- Population → about two crore, same as in Haryana
- **The Major Social Groups →**
  - **74 percent** → the Sinhala-speakers
  - **18 percent** → Tamil-speakers (Hindus or Muslims)
  - **7 percent** → Christians



## ➤ 2 Subgroups of Tamils →

- Tamil natives of the country called 'Sri Lankan Tamils' (13 per cent).
- The rest, whose forefathers came from India as plantation workers during colonial period, are called 'Indian Tamils'.

## Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka -

- Independence in 1948
- Sinhala community → secure dominance over government by virtue of their majority → the democratically elected government adopted a series of majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy
- 1956 - Sinhalese as official language
- Preferential policies → favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs
- Protected Buddhism
- Increased feeling of alienation amongst Srilankan Tamils → felt that constitution denied equal political rights; discrimination in jobs and ignored interests
- Srilankan Tamils wanted Tamil as an official language → for regional autonomy, equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs
- In 1980s demand for separate Tamil Eelam (State) --- led to Civil war → Killing communities and forcing people as refugees → it caused setback to economic, health and social life → The civil war ended in 2009.

## Why power sharing is desirable?

- **First → Prudential reasons** → stress that power sharing will bring out better outcomes
  - It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups
  - Good way to ensure the stability of political order
- **Second → Moral reasons** → emphasise the very act of power sharing as valuable
  - Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy.
  - People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.
  - A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system

## Forms of Power Sharing -

### ➤ Horizontal distribution of power →

Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary → ensure that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the others. This results in a balance of power → Checks & Balances

### ➤ Federal Government → Vertical distribution of power

- Power can be shared among governments at different levels – a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level.
- In India --- Central or Union Government & State Governments

### ➤ Community government → Power sharing among social groups

- Power may also be shared among different social groups such as the religious and linguistic groups.
- 'Community government' in Belgium is a good example of this arrangement.



➤ **Power Sharing Among Different - Political Parties - Pressure groups - Movement Groups →**

- Represent different ideologies and social groups
- Power sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power.
- Two or more parties form an alliance to contest elections → If their alliance is elected → they form a coalition government.

◆ **Pressure groups →**

- ❖ Organisations that attempt to influence government policies.
- ❖ Do not aim to directly control or share political power.
- ❖ These organisations are formed when people with common occupation, interest, aspirations or opinions come together in order to achieve a common objective.

**Example:** BAMCEF (Backward and Minority Community Employees Federation) is a Pressure group

- ◆ **Movement Groups →** Groups that aim to achieve a specific goal in a short period of time or a wide goal over a long period of time.



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