

TOPICS to be covered

1 Belgium and Sri Lanka

2 Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

3 Accommodation in Belgium

4 Why Power Sharing is Desirable?

5 Forms Of Power Sharing







**Sharing Power = Dividing Power =
Weakening the Country**

Strong





Belgium



Ethnic

Social Division
based on shared culture

Linguistic

- ❖ Small country in Europe.
- ❖ Smaller in area than the state of Haryana.
- ❖ Borders with France, the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg.
- ❖ The ETHNIC composition of this small country is very complex.



(Brussels)

↳ Dutch 20%.
↳ French 80%.

Belgium

Country

Majority → Dutch

Minority → French

Dutch
59%.

French
40%.

German
1%.



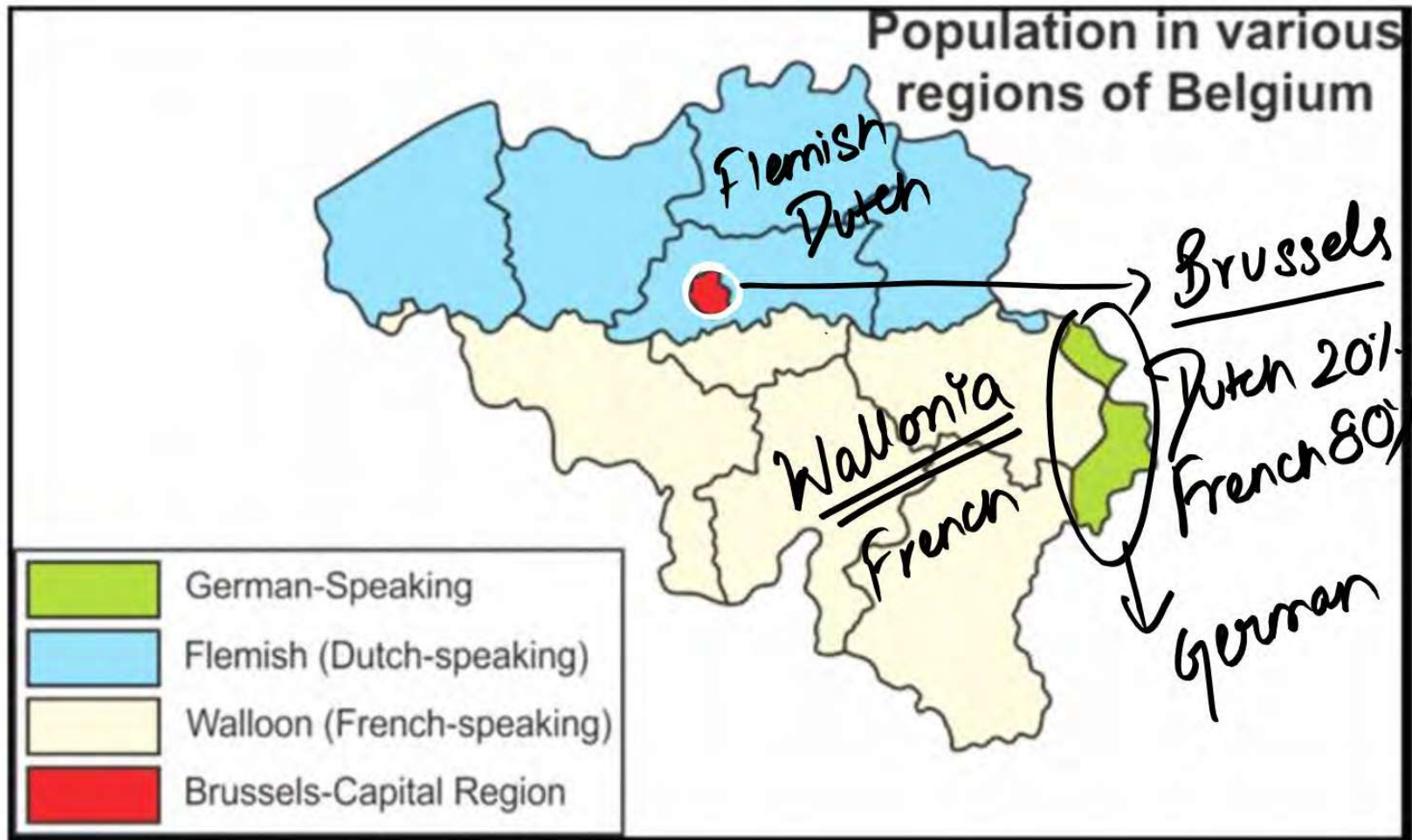
Total Population

- 59 per cent lives in the **Flemish region** and speaks Dutch language.
- 40 per cent people live in the **Wallonia region** and speak French.
- Remaining 1 per cent of the Belgians speak German.



Capital city Brussels, **80 per cent** people speak **French** while **20 per cent** are **Dutch** speaking.

Population in various regions of Belgium





Problem in Belgium



- ❖ The minority French-speaking community was relatively **rich and powerful** and **resented by the Dutch-speaking community** who got the benefit of economic development and education much later
- ❖ Led to tensions between **the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities** during the 1950s and 1960s
- ❖ More acute tensions **in the capital city** Brussels. **WHY?**





Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka is an island nation, just a few kilometres off the southern coast of Tamil Nadu.

India ↘
Southern
Neighbour





Sri Lanka



- Has about **two crore** people.
- Has **a diverse** population.



Majority
Sinhalas (74%)

Mostly Buddhists ✓

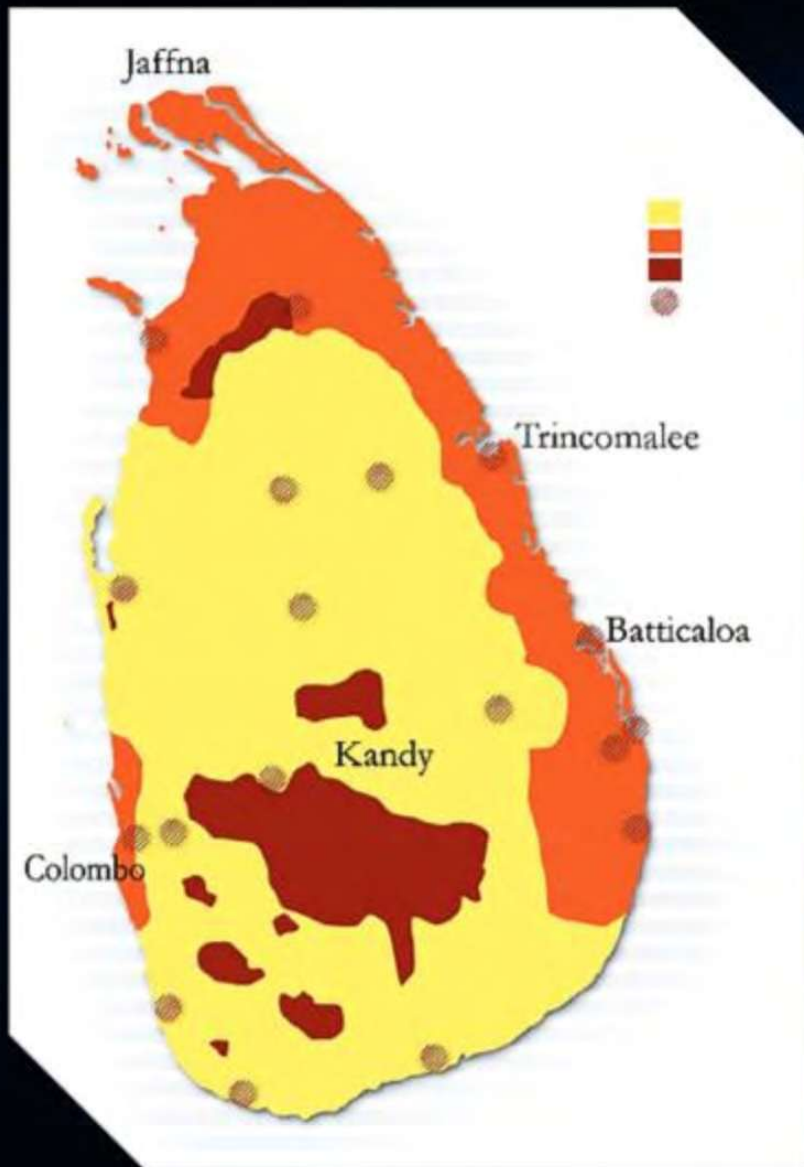
Minority
Tamils (18%)

✓ Both Hindus and Muslims

TAMIL NATIVES (13%)
[SRI LANKAN TAMILS]

TAMILS WHOSE FOREFATHERS
CAME FROM INDIA AS
PLANTATION WORKERS (5%)
[INDIAN TAMILS]

Christians
7%
(Sinhalas /
Tamils)
1%





Accommodation in Belgium

1. Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. No single community can make decisions unilaterally.
2. The state governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.

Constitution of Belgium was amended





Accommodation in Belgium

3. Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.
4. { Apart from the Central and the State Government, there is a third kind of government. This 'community government' is elected by people belonging to one language community.

Unique

only in Belgium

Dutch French German
Community
govt. — Educational
— Cultural
— Linguistic





Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948.
- The leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over the government by virtue of their majority.
- Democratically elected government adopted a series of MAJORITARIAN measures to establish Sinhala supremacy.

Majoritarian
A belief that the majority community can rule in whichever way that it wants.
By disregarding the wishes & needs of minority community.





Majoritarian Measures

1. In 1956, an Act was passed to recognize Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil.
2. The governments followed preferential policies that favored Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs
3. A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.





Feeling of Alienation

- ❖ Tamils felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders were sensitive to their language and culture.
- ❖ The constitution and government policies denied them equal political rights, discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities and ignored their interests

Alienated



- The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for the recognition of Tamil as an official language, for regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs.
- By 1980s several political organisations were formed demanding an independent Tamil Eelam (state) in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.
- Result? Tensions/Disrust → Conflict → Civil War





Why Power Sharing is Desirable?



❑ **Moral Reason :**

- Power sharing is good for democracies. Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy. A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects. 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.



Prudential Reasons



- Power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. Since social conflict often leads to violence and political instability, power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.
- Tyranny of the majority is not just oppressive for the minority; it often brings ruin to the majority as well



Forms of Power Sharing

{Diff. ways to share power}



□ Among different organs of government:

(Horizontal form of Power Sharing)

- Horizontal distribution of power.
- Ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power.
- This results in a balance of power among various institutions.
- This arrangement is called a system of checks and balances.





Among Governments at Different Levels

(Vertical form)



- A general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level. Called federal government.
- There are many countries where there are no provincial or state governments. (Unitary Level)
- But in those countries like ours the constitution clearly lays down the powers of different levels of government.
- The same principle can be extended to levels of government lower than the State government, such as the municipality and panchayat.
- Vertical division of power.





Among Different Social Groups Such as the Religious and Linguistic Groups



- 'Community government' in Belgium.
- Constitutional and legal arrangements whereby socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislatures and administration.
- System of 'reserved constituencies'.
- This type of arrangement is meant to give space in the government and administration to diverse social groups who otherwise would feel alienated from the government.
- This method is used to give minority communities a fair share in power.



Among Political Parties, Pressure Groups and Movements



- In a democracy, the citizens must have freedom to choose among various contenders for power. This takes the form of competition among different parties.
- In the long run, power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups.
- Sometimes this can be direct, when two or more parties form an alliance to contest elections. If their alliance is elected, they form a coalition government and thus share power.
- In a democracy, we find interest groups such as those of traders, businessmen, industrialists, farmers and industrial workers.

NDA

UPA



Summary



Belgium

Sri Lanka



Homework



- ① Majoritarian measures
- ② Accommodative principles of Belgium
- ③ List down the different forms of power sharing,