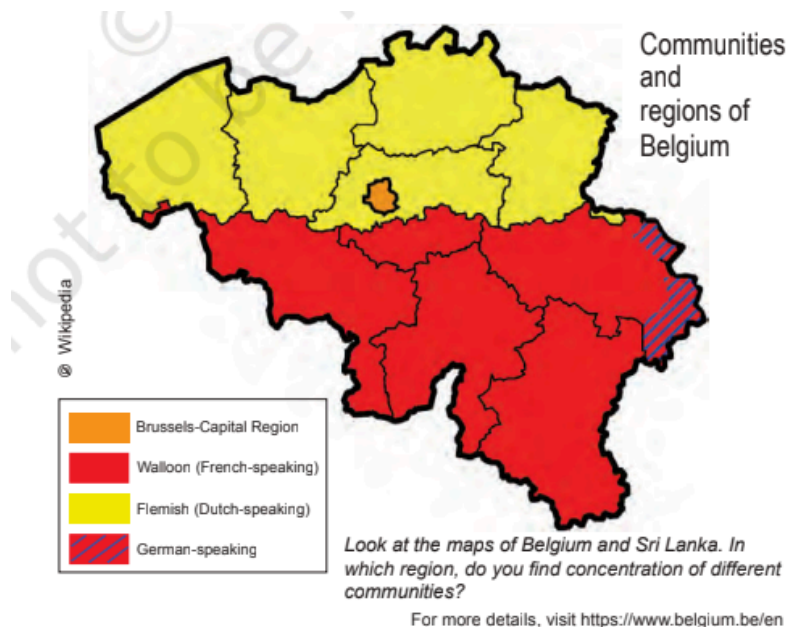# 📚 Class 10 Civics – Chapter 1: **Power-sharing**

🔹 **What is Power-sharing?**

Power-sharing means **dividing political power among various organs, levels, and social groups** in a country. It ensures that **no one group or institution gets absolute power**, and everyone gets a say in governance.

In a **democracy**, it is crucial because:

- People are the source of all political power.
- All sections of society must feel included.
- It helps prevent conflicts and maintain peace.

🌍 **Case Study 1: Belgium**

Communities and regions of Belgium

- Brussels-Capital Region
- Walloon (French-speaking)
- Flemish (Dutch-speaking)
- German-speaking

Look at the maps of Belgium and Sri Lanka. In which region, do you find concentration of different communities?

For more details, visit https://www.belgium.be/en

Location: A small European country bordered by France, Netherlands, Germany, and Luxembourg.

Population: About 1 crore people.

Ethnic Composition:

- **59%** – Dutch-speaking in the **Flemish region**
- **40%** – French-speaking in the **Wallonia region**
- **1%** – German-speaking
- In **Brussels (capital)**:
  - 80% French-speaking
  - 20% Dutch-speaking

📌 **Problem**:

- French-speaking people were **rich and powerful**, causing resentment among the Dutch-speaking majority.
- This created tension between communities, especially in Brussels, where Dutch-speaking people were a minority.

📌 **Belgian Solution (1970–1993)**:

Belgium took a **unique approach** by **sharing power among communities**:

1. **Equal Representation**: Central government had equal number of ministers from Dutch and French communities.
2. **Special Laws**: Required support from both Dutch and French-speaking groups.
3. **Regional Governments**: More powers were given to regional governments (Flemish and Wallonia).
4. **Brussels Government**: Separate government with equal representation from both communities.
5. **Community Government**:
   - A third level of government based on language, not territory.
   - Handles cultural, educational, and language-related issues.
   - Dutch, French, and German-speaking people elect their own representatives.

✅ **Result**: Helped maintain peace, prevented civil war, and avoided the division of the country.

📌 Add: *(Fig. 1 - Map of Belgium's Communities)*

🌊 Case Study 2: Sri Lanka

Ethnic Communities of Sri Lanka

For more details, visit https://www.gov.lk
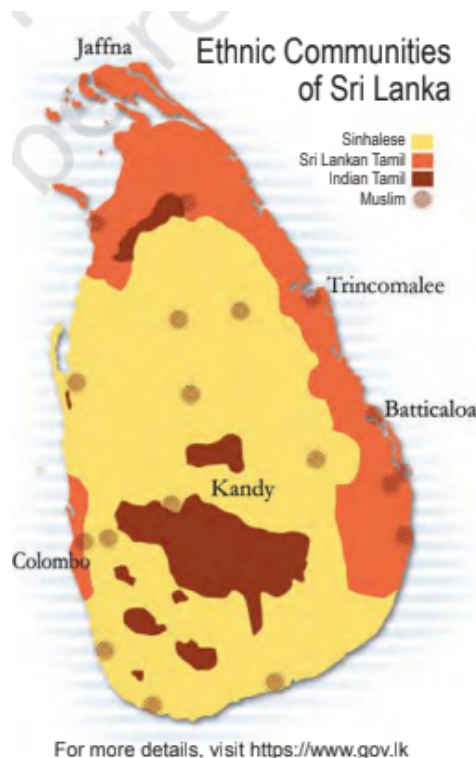
Location: Island nation near Tamil Nadu, India.

Population: About 2 crore people.

Ethnic Groups:

- **74%** Sinhala-speaking (mostly Buddhists)
- **18%** Tamil-speaking
  - 13% Sri Lankan Tamils (native)
  - 5% Indian Tamils (brought during British rule)
- **7%** Christians (Sinhala & Tamil)

📌 **Problem**:

After independence in 1948, **Sinhala leaders followed a majoritarian approach**.

📌 **Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka**:

1. **1956** – Sinhala declared the **only official language**.
2. **Preferential policies** for Sinhalas in jobs and education.
3. **Buddhism protected by the state**.
4. Tamil people felt **neglected and discriminated**.

📌 **Outcome**:

- Tamils demanded:
  - Equal rights
  - Tamil as an official language
  - Regional autonomy
- Demands were **denied** repeatedly.
- Led to **civil war**, destruction, and loss of lives.
- War ended in **2009**.

📌 Add: *(Fig. 2 - Map of Sri Lankan Communities)*

🧠 What Do We Learn?

Belgium	Sri Lanka
Power shared equally	Power dominated by majority
Recognized diversity	Ignored minority rights
Prevented conflict	Led to civil war

Moral: *Imposing majority rule harms national unity. Power-sharing brings peace and unity.*

⚖️ Why is Power-sharing Desirable?

1. **Prudential Reasons** (Practical benefits)

- Reduces the chances of conflict and civil war.
- Ensures stability in society.
- Encourages cooperation between groups.

📌 *Example*: Belgium avoided civil war through careful sharing of power.

2. **Moral Reasons** (Based on values of democracy)

- Democracy means people should have a say in how they're governed.
- Sharing power ensures **citizens feel respected and included**.
- Gives **legitimacy** to the government.

📌 *Example*: In India, regular elections give power to citizens.

📌 Add: *(Fig. 3 - Cartoon on coalition government in Germany)*

🧩 Forms of Power-sharing

There are **four main forms** of power-sharing in modern democracies:

1. **Among Different Organs of Government** – *Horizontal Distribution*

- Power is shared between the **Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary**.
- All are placed at the same level.
- Each checks the power of the other – **system of checks and balances**.

📌 *Example*: Indian Parliament (legislature), Prime Minister (executive), and Supreme Court (judiciary).

2. **Among Governments at Different Levels** – *Vertical Distribution*

- Power is shared between the **Union, State, and Local governments**.
- Each level has its **own area of work**, defined by the Constitution.

📌 *Example*: Central Government (Delhi), State Government (Uttar Pradesh), Local Government (Panchayat/Municipality)

📌 Add: *(Fig. 4 - Diagram showing vertical & horizontal power-sharing)*

3. **Among Different Social Groups**

- Power shared with **religious, linguistic, and ethnic groups**.
- Helps avoid exclusion and gives everyone a voice.

📌 *Example*:

- Community government in Belgium.
- Reservations for SC/STs and women in India.

4. **Among Political Parties, Pressure Groups, and Movements**

- Political parties compete for power through elections.
- In coalition governments, multiple parties share power.
- Pressure groups influence government decisions.

📌 *Example*:

- Coalition government in India (e.g., NDA, UPA).
- Trade unions and farmer groups influencing policies.

📝 Important CBSE Questions & Trends

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **1 mark**:
  - Define majoritarianism / prudential reason.
- **3 marks**:
  - Describe Belgium's power-sharing.
  - What is majoritarianism? Explain with an example.
- **5 marks**:
  - Explain the four forms of power-sharing.
  - Compare Sri Lanka and Belgium's approach to power-sharing.
  - Give prudential and moral reasons with Indian examples.
- **Map-based**:
  - Identify linguistic groups in Belgium and Sri Lanka.