

# Power Sharing

## Level - 1

## CORE SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

## MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs)

- Option (C) is correct  
**Explanation:** Belgium adopted the Holding Together route to federation, where the central government shares its powers with regional governments to accommodate diverse communities and prevent conflicts.
- Option (D) is correct  
**Explanation:** The primary objective of forming a separate government in Brussels was to ensure linguistic accommodation between the French-speaking and Dutch-speaking communities, fostering unity and reducing conflicts.
- Option (D) is correct  
**Explanation:** Option I is true, as the government of Brussels ensures equal representation of both Dutch and French-speaking communities.  
Option II is also true, to maintain a balance of power and avoid dominance by any one community, there were equal Dutch and French speaking ministers in the Central government.  
Option III is true as the community government handles cultural, educational, and language-related matters.  
Option IV is false as Belgium avoided majoritarianism by adopting a power-sharing model that accommodates all communities.
- Option (D) is correct  
**Explanation:** The primary objective of power-sharing arrangements in Belgium was to address the linguistic and regional differences between Dutch-speaking, French-speaking, and German-speaking communities. This was achieved by accommodating their interests through a federal structure, equal representation, and community governments.
- Option (C) is correct  
**Explanation:** Option I is true as power sharing ensures fair representation of all groups, reducing bias in decision-making.  
Option II is false as power sharing may slow down decision-making, but it does not create barriers; rather, it ensures inclusivity.  
Option III is true as power sharing is designed to address and accommodate social, cultural, and regional diversities.  
Option IV is true as power sharing allows more groups and individuals to have a say in governance, promoting democracy.
- Option (D) is correct  
**Explanation:** Vertical division of power refers to the sharing of power among different levels of government, such as the central government, state government, and local government. This ensures decentralisation and allows each level to function independently within its jurisdiction.
- Option (A) is correct  
**Explanation:** Option I is true as power sharing allows for greater participation of different groups in governance, strengthening democracy.  
Option II is true as by accommodating diverse groups, power sharing reduces the likelihood of social conflicts.  
Option III is true as Inclusive governance through power sharing ensures stability by preventing dominance by any single group.  
Option IV is false as power sharing is designed to address and resolve socio-economic and political struggles, not bring them.
- Option (B) is correct  
**Explanation:** Option I is false as Majoritarianism often ignores minority interests and can lead to conflict, which is contrary to the essence of democracy.  
Option II is true as power sharing promotes co-operation and reduces tensions among diverse groups.  
Option III is true as by accommodating diverse interests, power sharing minimises social conflicts.  
Option IV is true as Democracy thrives on participation, inclusion, and shared governance, which are the principles of power sharing.
- Option (B) is correct  
**Explanation:** In 1956, the Sri Lankan government passed an act declaring Sinhala as the official language of Sri Lanka. This decision marginalised the Tamil-speaking population and was a key factor in escalating ethnic tensions in the country.

10. Option (B) is correct

**Explanation:** Option I is false as imposing majority rule contradicts the principles of power sharing, which aim to include all groups.

Option II is true as power sharing accommodates diverse groups, reducing the risk of conflict.

Option III is true as by preventing domination by any one group, power sharing promotes political stability.

Option IV is false as power sharing aims to foster co-operation, not opposition, among political and social groups.

11. Option (B) is correct

**Explanation:** In Sri Lanka, there are about 7 percent Christians, who are both Sinhala and Tamils. They are the minority group.

12. Option (D) is correct

**Explanation:** Sri Lankan Tamils repeatedly demanded greater autonomy for the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka, where they were in significant numbers. This demand was denied by the Sri Lankan government, leading to tensions and eventually a prolonged civil conflict.

13. Option (D) is correct

**Explanation:** Statement (i) is correct as: a “community government” is elected by people belonging to one language community (Dutch, French, and German-speaking), regardless of where they live. This system is part of Belgium’s power-sharing arrangement.

Statement (ii) is correct as: the community government has powers over cultural, educational, and language-related issues, ensuring each community’s interests are respected.

Statement (iii) is incorrect because economic issues are not a primary power of the community government.

Statement (iv) is incorrect because the Spanish-speaking community is not part of Belgium’s language communities.

14. Option (C) is correct

**Explanation:** Proportionality refers to the fair allocation of representation, jobs, and participation among different groups based on their population or agreed-upon terms. Reserving 24% of Lok Sabha seats for SC-ST categories is an example of proportional allocation to ensure these historically disadvantaged communities have representation in governance.

## MATCH THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. Option (D) is correct

**Explanation:** (a) Ethnic refers to a social division based on culture.

(b) Majoritarianism is the belief that the majority community should rule a country.

(c) Civil war is a violent conflict opposing groups within a country.

(d) The unitary system is a system of governance with either one or two levels of government.

2. Option (B) is correct

**Explanation:** Social division of power involves

power-sharing among different social groups. Horizontal division of power refers to power-sharing among different branches or organs of government. Vertical division of power refers to power-sharing among different levels of government.

3. Option (D) is correct

**Explanation:** India has a federal division of power, Belgium has a community government system and Sri Lanka has ethnic-based power-sharing.

## ASSERTION-REASON QUESTIONS

1. Option (A) is correct

**Explanation:** Division of power is good for democratic systems because it ensures a balance of power and prevents the concentration of authority in a single institution or group. This is a fundamental principle in democracy to promote inclusiveness and fairness.

Division of power helps reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups by ensuring that all groups have a say in governance and their interests are represented. This is particularly important in diverse societies with multiple social, ethnic, or linguistic groups.

Reason directly explains why the division of power is beneficial in democratic systems.

2. Option (A) is correct

**Explanation:** Power sharing is indeed the spirit of democracy because democracy thrives on

the principles of inclusiveness, equality, and representation. It ensures that no single group dominates and that all sections of society feel valued and included in decision-making.

A legitimate government is one where all groups participate and connect with the government, fostering trust and acceptance among citizens. This participation is a key aspect of power sharing, which strengthens the democratic fabric of a society.

Reason explains why power sharing is essential for democracy, as it ensures legitimacy and inclusivity.

3. Option (A) is correct

**Explanation:** Belgium amended its constitution four times between 1970 and 1993 to address issues arising from its diverse population, particularly the tensions between the Dutch-

speaking and French-speaking communities.

The amendments aimed to ensure that all communities (Dutch, French, and German-speaking) could live together harmoniously in the same country by introducing power-sharing mechanisms, granting autonomy to regions, and ensuring equal representation and participation.

Reason provides the rationale for the multiple constitutional amendments, making it the correct explanation for the Assertion.

4. Option (D) is correct

**Explanation:** Sri Lanka did not adopt Tamil as the official language. Instead, it adopted Sinhala as the sole official language in 1956 through a Act, marginalising the Tamil-speaking population.

Reason is true. The government of Sri Lanka implemented several majoritarian measures, such as making Sinhala the only official language and promoting policies favouring Sinhala speakers and Buddhism, which alienated the Tamil minority and led to ethnic tensions.

5. Option (A) is correct

**Explanation:** Power sharing helps to prevent conflict in society by ensuring that no single group dominates others and that all groups feel included and represented.

Power sharing ensures that different social groups are included in decision-making processes, thereby reducing feelings of marginalisation and fostering inclusivity. This inclusiveness leads to greater social harmony and reduces the likelihood of conflict.

Reason directly explains why power sharing helps prevent conflict, making it the correct explanation for the assertion.

6. Option (A) is correct.

**Explanation:** Power sharing is desirable in a democracy because it ensures fairness, representation, and inclusivity, which are fundamental to a democratic system.

Power sharing reduces the possibility of conflict between social groups by giving each group a stake in governance. When all groups are included in decision-making, it helps to build trust and co-operation among different sections of society.

Reason explains why power sharing is desirable, making it the correct explanation for the assertion.

7. Option (A) is correct

**Explanation:** The total reserved seats for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Lok Sabha are based on their proportion in the population. Currently, 84 seats are reserved for SCs and 47 seats are reserved for STs, making a total of 131 reserved seats. The Lok Sabha has 543 elected seats. The percentage of reserved seats is:  $131/543 \times 100 = 24.12\%$ . Thus, assertion is true.

Reason emphasises the democratic principle of inclusivity and representation. Reserving seats for SCs and STs ensures that marginalised groups have a voice in decision-making, which aligns with democratic values.

Reason is true and is a valid explanation for why reserved seats exist.

## VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- 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.
- Power sharing helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. It is a good way to ensure the stability of political order. It controls social conflicts, violence and political instability. It helps to unite the nation. A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system. Power Sharing is the very spirit of democracy.
- The horizontal distribution of power ensures that power is shared among different organs of the government—legislature, executive and judiciary. All organs are placed at the same level to exercise different powers. It controls exercising of unlimited power by any one organs. Thus, it maintains balances of power. It works as Check and Balance.
- Power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. Social conflict often leads to violence and political instability. It ensures the stability of political order.
- Horizontal Power Sharing      Vertical Power Sharing

Horizontal Power Sharing		Vertical Power Sharing
(i)	Power is shared among different organs of the government such as legislature, executive and judiciary.	Powers is shared among governments at different levels such as General or Union Government for the entire country and government at provincial or regional level.
(ii)	It allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers.	The constitution clearly lays down the powers of different levels of government. This is called federal division of power.



(iii)	Such a separation ensures that none of the organ exercises unlimited powers.	Different level exercise their powers independent of each other.
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(Any two)

6. Power may be shared among different groups such as the religious and linguistic groups.
  - (i) 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.
  - (ii) This method is used to give minority communities a fair share in power.
  - (iii) There are constitutional and legal

arrangements to give representation to weaker section and women in the legislature and administration.

- (iv) Power sharing reduces the chances of conflicts amongst different social groups. (Any two)

7. (i) In 1956 an act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language thus disregarding Tamil.
- (ii) The governments followed preferential policies for university positions and government jobs for Sinhalese.
- (iii) The new constitution stipulated that the State shall protect and foster Buddhism.
- (iv) Sinhala government ignored the interests of Tamils through their majoritarian policies. (Any two)

## SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. In modern democracies, power sharing arrangements ensure that power is distributed among different levels and groups to promote inclusivity and prevent conflicts. It can take many forms:
  - (i) **Horizontal Division of Power:** Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary. This ensures a system of checks and balances.
  - (ii) **Vertical Division of Power:** Power is divided among different levels of government, such as the central, state, and local governments. For example, India has a federal structure where powers are shared between the Union and State governments.
  - (iii) **Community-based Power Sharing:** Power is shared among different social, religious, or linguistic groups. For instance, Belgium has a system of community government to accommodate its diverse population.

These arrangements are essential for fostering unity in diversity and ensuring that all sections of society are represented in decision-making processes.

2. During the 1950s and 1960s, the minority French speaking community was relatively rich and powerful in Belgium. This was resented by the Dutch speaking community who got the benefit of economic development and education much later. He said the tension between the two communities was more acute in Brussels, the capital of Belgium. Brussels presented a special problem: the Dutch speaking people constituted a majority in the country, but a minority in the capital.

3. The leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over the government by virtue of their majority and thus, democratically elected government adopted a series of majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy. It followed majoritarianism.
4. (i) Government adopted majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy. In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language.
  - (ii) The government followed preferential politics that favoured Sinhala applicants for University positions and jobs.
  - (iii) A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.
5. The Belgian leaders recognised the existence of regional and cultural diversities. They amended their Constitution four times so as to work out an innovative arrangement that would enable everyone to live together in peace and harmony, i.e. there was sharing of power between the Dutch and the French both in the Central government, State government and Community government. They followed a policy of accommodation. This helped to avoid civil strife and division of the country on linguistic lines.

On the other hand, the Sinhalese who were in the majority in Sri Lanka as compared to the Tamils followed a policy of majoritarianism and adopted a series of measures to establish Sinhala supremacy by passing an Act in 1956. These measures alienated the Tamils leading to civil strife between the two communities.

6. (i) This is an example of providing minimum benefit to each party to co-operate in collective decisions.
- (ii) (a) The French speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels because the Dutch-speaking community accepted equal representation in the Central

Government – providing minimum benefit to each party for co-operating in collective decisions.

- (b) Community government in Belgium protects group autonomy in sensitive policy areas.

## LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. The idea of Power sharing has emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power.

Different forms having common arrangements of Power sharing are:

- (i) **Horizontal Division of Power:** Power is shared among different organs of government such as the legislature, executive and judiciary.
- (ii) **Vertical Division of Power:** Power can be shared among governments at different levels, i.e. at national and provincial or regional levels.
- (iii) **Community-based Power Sharing:** Power is shared among different social groups such as religious and linguistic groups.
2. Belgium model for the accommodation of diversities:
- (i) Though the Dutch were in majority in the country, the French and Dutch speaking population was given equal representation in the Central government.
- (ii) Belgium was declared as a Federal state and thus, State governments were given important powers.
- (iii) The State government did not act as a subordinate to the Central government.
- (iv) The capital city of Brussels has a separate government. Though the French speaking people was in majority in the city, they accepted equal representation in Brussels. This was because the Dutch speaking people has accepted equal representation in the Central government in spite of being in majority.
- (v) Community government was elected by the Dutch, French and German speaking people and looked after educational, language and educational issues.

3.

	Belgium	Sri Lanka
(i)	Belgium is located in Europe	Sri Lanka is located in South Asia.
(ii)	Belgium has a population of little over one crore.	Sri Lanka has a population of 2 crores.
(iii)	In Belgium, 59 per cent people living in Flemish region speak Dutch language, 40 per cent people living in Wallonia region speak French and remaining 1 per cent speak German.	In Sri Lanka, 74 per cent population is Sinhalese speakers and 18 per cent is Tamil speakers.
(iv)	French-speaking community is relatively rich and powerful.	Sinhalese speaking people are Buddhist and powerful.
(v)	Dutch-speaking people are in numeric majority.	Sinhalese-speaking population is in majority.

4. Sri Lanka is an Island nation in the Indian Ocean about 80 km, the East of the Southern tip of India.
- (i) It is home to more than two crore people. Sri Lanka has been centre of Buddhist religion and culture from ancient times.
- (ii) It is a multi-religious and multi-ethnic nation. Besides Buddhism (69.1%), religions like Hinduism (7.1%), Christianity (6.2%), Islam (7.6%) and others are also there.
- (iii) Here, the major social groups are the Sinhala speakers (74%) and Tamil speakers (18%). Among Tamils there two sub-groups Sri Lankan Tamils (13%) and Indian Tamils (5%).
- (iv) Sri Lankan Tamils are the natives of the country and the rest who migrated from India during colonial times are called Indian Tamils. The main languages spoken by the people are Sinhala, Tamil and English.

**Level - 2****ADVANCED COMPETENCY FOCUSED QUESTIONS****MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs)**

1. Option (C) is correct

**Explanation:** Power sharing in a democracy ensures that all social groups, especially minorities, have a voice in decision-making. This reduces the chances of conflicts and builds trust among various communities, leading to greater social harmony and political stability.

2. Option (C) is correct

**Explanation:** Belgium's power-sharing model was designed to accommodate both Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities by giving them equal representation and autonomy in decision-making. This reflects Belgium's commitment to democratic values like inclusion, diversity, and equal respect for all communities.

3. Option (D) is correct

**Explanation:** Sri Lanka's majoritarian policies — such as making Sinhala the only official language and denying equal rights to Tamils — led to deep resentment, civil war, and long-term unrest.

This highlights that in a multi-ethnic society, governance must respect and protect the rights of all communities to maintain unity, peace, and stability.

4. Option (B) is correct

**Explanation:** Power sharing ensures broader participation, meaning that various social groups, communities, and levels of government are involved in the decision-making process. This reflects the true spirit of democracy, which values inclusion, equality, and shared responsibility.

5. Option (B) is correct

**Explanation:** Horizontal power sharing refers to the distribution of power among organs of government such as the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary. Each organ checks the others, ensuring a balance of power and preventing any one branch from becoming dominant. This upholds the democratic principle of separation of powers and checks and balances.

**ASSERTION-REASON QUESTIONS**

1. Option (C) is correct

**Explanation:** Assertion is true because power sharing helps prevent the concentration of power in one hand and promotes inclusion, stability, and social harmony.

Reason is false because power sharing aims to include minority groups and ensure fair participation of all communities, not just the majority.

2. Option (A) is correct

**Explanation:** Assertion is true. Horizontal power sharing refers to the division of power among the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary.

Reason is also true. This system is based on the principle of checks and balances, where each organ keeps the other in check.

Both assertion and reason correctly explain the assertion.

3. Option (A) is correct

**Explanation:** Assertion is true. When all social groups feel included and fairly represented, tensions and conflicts are minimised.

Reason is also true. This is the core reason why power sharing helps reduce conflict — by ensuring fairness and inclusion in governance.

Both assertion and reason are true and reason is the correct explanation of reason.

**VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS**

1. Power sharing can prevent conflicts in a diverse society by ensuring that all social groups, including minorities, have a fair role in governance. When communities feel represented and heard, it reduces feelings of alienation and mistrust, thereby promoting harmony and preventing social or political conflicts.

2. Two constitutional steps taken by Belgium to ensure power sharing among different communities are:

(i) Equal representation in the central government: The number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers is kept equal to ensure that no community can dominate the other in decision-making.

(ii) Separate governments for different communities: Belgium established community governments for the Dutch, French, and German-speaking people. These governments have the power to make decisions on cultural, educational, and language-related issues.

3. The ways in which power is shared in modern democracies are:

(i) Horizontal power sharing: Power is shared among different organs of government such as the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary, ensuring a system of checks and balances.

(ii) Vertical power sharing: Power is divided among different levels of government —



central, state, and local — allowing for decentralisation and local self-governance.

4. The reasons why Sri Lanka's majoritarian policies alienated the Tamil community are:
  - (i) Imposition of Sinhala as the only official language: This policy ignored Tamil as a language and made Tamils feel excluded from government jobs and education.
  - (ii) Denial of equal political and cultural rights: The Tamil community was denied equal

opportunities and was discriminated against in matters of education, jobs, and political representation, leading to resentment and demand for a separate state

5. Horizontal Power Sharing: Power is shared among different organs of government — Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary — to ensure checks and balances.

Vertical Power Sharing: Power is divided among different levels of government — Central, State, and Local — to ensure decentralisation.

## SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. The reasons why power sharing is important in a democratic country like India are:
  - (i) **Prevents domination and conflict:** Power sharing ensures that no single group or community dominates others. It helps maintain social harmony in a diverse country like India by reducing chances of conflict and violence.
  - (ii) **Promotes political stability:** By giving all groups a fair share in governance, power sharing builds trust and encourages peaceful coexistence, leading to long-term political stability.
  - (iii) **Reflects true democratic values:** Democracy is based on the principle of inclusion and participation. Power sharing ensures that every section of society is involved in decision-making, making the system more accountable and representative.
2. Three features of the Belgian power-sharing arrangement that helped prevent conflict are:
  - (i) **Equal representation in the central government:** The Belgian Constitution made it mandatory to have equal numbers of Dutch and French-speaking ministers in the central government, ensuring that no single community could dominate decision-making.
  - (ii) **Separate community governments:** Belgium created community governments for the Dutch, French, and German-speaking people. These governments have the power to take decisions on cultural, educational, and language-related matters, giving each group autonomy.
  - (iii) **Power sharing between different levels:** Power sharing between different levels of government: A federal structure was adopted, where powers were divided between the central and regional governments. The state governments were not subordinate to the central government, allowing for local governance that respected community identities.
3. Three majoritarian measures adopted by the Sri Lankan government that caused unrest among

Tamils are:

- (i) **Sinhala declared the only official language (1956):** The government passed an act making Sinhala the sole official language, ignoring Tamil and making it difficult for Tamils to access government jobs and services.
  - (ii) **Preferential policies for Sinhala people:** The government followed policies that gave preferential treatment to Sinhala applicants in government jobs and university admissions, discriminating against Tamils.
  - (iii) **Denial of citizenship to Tamils:** Many Tamils, especially Indian Tamils, were denied citizenship, leaving them politically and economically marginalized.
4. (i) **Horizontal Power Sharing:** Power is shared among different organs of government — Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary. Each organ checks the others, preventing misuse of power. Example: In India, the judiciary is independent and can review laws passed by the Parliament.
  - (ii) **Vertical Power Sharing:** Power is divided among different levels of government — Central, State, and Local. This allows local issues to be addressed more effectively. Example: India has a federal structure with powers distributed between the Union and State governments.
  - (iii) **Power Sharing among Social Groups:** Power is shared among different religious, linguistic, or ethnic groups to ensure representation and avoid conflicts. Example: In Belgium, power is shared between the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities through community governments.
5. Three arguments to support that social harmony and political stability are strengthened by power sharing, with examples:
    - (i) **Ensures Fair Representation of All Communities:** Power sharing allows different social and linguistic groups to have a say in governance, reducing feelings of alienation. Example: In Belgium, equal representation of Dutch and French-speaking communities in the central government prevented tensions

and ensured peaceful coexistence.

- (ii) **Reduces Chances of Conflict and Unrest:** When power is shared, no single group dominates, which helps avoid civil unrest and violence. Example: In contrast to Belgium, Sri Lanka's refusal to share power with Tamils led to a long civil war. Belgium's model avoided such outcomes.

- (iii) **Strengthens Democracy and Trust in the System:** Power sharing reflects democratic values by involving citizens and different communities in decision-making, which builds trust and political stability. Example: In India, power is shared vertically (between central, state, and local governments), allowing for decentralised governance and promoting national unity in a diverse society.

## CASE BASED QUESTIONS

1. (i) 59% of the total Belgium population live in the Flemish region and speak the Dutch language. 40% live in the Wallonia region and speak French. The remaining one percent of the Belgians speaks German.  
(ii) The term 'ethnic' implies a social division based on shared culture. People belonging to the same ethnic group believe in their common descent because of similarities of physical type or of culture or both.  
(iii) To solve their ethnic problem Belgium government amended the constitution. According to the amendment:
  - (1) Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.
  - (2) Belgium established a community government for different linguistic communities.
2. (i) Competition among different parties ensure that power does not remain in one hand. Power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups.  
(ii) Interest groups are associated with politics through participation in governmental committees. They bring influence on the decision-making process.
- (iii) (1) Power is shared among different organs of government such as – Legislative, Executive and Judiciary.  
(2) Power shared among governments at different levels.  
(3) Power shared among different social group.  
(4) Power shared among political parties, pressure groups and movements.
3. (i) Because it provided equal representation to different linguistic communities and gave autonomy to regional governments, preventing domination by any one group.  
(ii) Belgium accommodated diversity through power sharing, while Sri Lanka followed majoritarian policies that ignored minority rights, especially of Tamils.  
(iii) It ensured equal participation of Dutch and French-speaking communities in the central government. It gave regional governments the power to make decisions independently, respecting the autonomy of communities.

## LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. (i) **Prevents the Concentration of Power:** Absolute power in one hand leads to dictatorship. Power sharing ensures that no single person or group controls all powers, maintaining a balance.  
(ii) **Protects Minority Rights:** In diverse societies, power sharing allows minority communities to have a voice in governance, preventing their marginalisation and promoting equality.  
(iii) **Reduces Social Conflict:** When different communities feel included and respected, it reduces tensions, preventing conflicts and promoting social harmony.  
(iv) **Strengthens Democracy:** True democracy means participation of all. Power sharing allows for broader public involvement in decision-making, making governments more accountable.
- (v) **Ensures Political Stability:** By giving all groups a stake in the system, power sharing builds trust among citizens and contributes to peaceful and stable governance, as seen in Belgium.
2. (i) **Equal Representation in the Central Government:** Belgium ensured that Dutch and French-speaking communities had equal representation in the central government, preventing the domination of one over the other.  
(ii) **Separate Community Governments:** Community governments were established for Dutch, French, and German-speaking people. These governments had the power to take decisions on language, culture, and education, respecting each community's identity.



**(iii) Autonomy to Regional Governments:**

Powers were divided between central and regional governments (Flemish and Walloon regions). These regional governments had authority over areas like education, transport, and public works, allowing for local self-governance.

**(iv) Equal Representation in Brussels:** Brussels, the capital city with a French-speaking majority, was given a special arrangement where both Dutch and French speakers had equal representation, even though Dutch speakers were in the minority.

**(v) Requirement of Mutual Consent:** No single community could take unilateral decisions. Major decisions required the approval of both Dutch and French-speaking groups, ensuring consensus-based governance.

Impact	Led to civil war, unrest, and demand for separation	Maintained peace, unity, and political stability
Governance Style	Centralised power in majority community	Promoted decentralisation and autonomy for regions and communities

Lessons India can learn from their experiences:

**(i) Promote Inclusive Governance:** Like Belgium, India should continue ensuring fair representation of all communities in decision-making processes.

**(ii) Respect Cultural and Linguistic Diversity:** Encouraging multilingualism and regional autonomy helps strengthen national unity, especially in a diverse country like India.

**(iii) Avoid Majoritarianism:** Sri Lanka's experience shows that ignoring minority rights can lead to unrest. India must be careful to protect the interests of all groups, not just the majority.

**(iv) Strengthen Federalism:** Power sharing between the Centre and States, as well as local self-governments, helps address local needs and build trust among people.

**(v) Encourage Dialogue and Consensus:** Like Belgium's model of decision-making through mutual agreement, India should promote cooperative federalism and dialogue among various regions and communities.

3.

Aspect	Sri Lanka	Belgium
Approach	Adopted majoritarianism	Adopted power-sharing model
Language Policy	Declared Sinhala as the only official language	Recognized Dutch, French, and German as official languages
Treatment of Minorities	Ignored and discriminated against Tamil minority	Gave equal representation to all linguistic communities

