* In **democracy**, power is shared among **legislature, executive and judiciary**
* **Belgium** is a small country in **Europe**, smaller in area than the state of **Haryana**
* **Belgium** shares borders with **France, the Netherlands, Germany** and **Luxembourg**.
* **59** per cent of Belgians lives in the **Flemish region** and speaks **Dutch language**.
* **40** per cent of Belgians live in the **Wallonia region** and speak **French**.
* **One** per cent of the Belgians speak **German**.
* In the capital city **Brussels**, **80 per cent** people speak **French** while **20 per cent** are **Dutch** speaking
* **French-speaking** community was relatively rich and powerful
* **Dutch speaking community** in Belgium got the benefit of **economic development** and education **much later**. This led to **tensions between the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking** communities during the **1950s** and **1960s**
* **Brussels** presented a special problem: the **Dutch-speaking people** constituted a majority in the country, but a **minority in the capital**.
* **In Srilanka,** the major social groups are the **Sinhala**-speakers (**74 per cent**) and the **Tamil**-speakers (**18** per cent).
* **Ethnic**: 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. They need not always have the same religion or nationality.
* Subgroups of Tamils in Sri Lanka are ‘Sri Lankan Tamils’ (13 %) and Indian Tamils’ (5%)
* **Sri Lankan Tamils** are concentrated in the **north and east** of the country
* Most of the **Sinhala** speaking people in Srilanka are **Buddhists**
* Most of the **Tamils in Srilanka** are **Hindus** or **Muslims**
* There are about **7 per cent** **Srilankan Christians** are both **Tamil** and **Sinhalas**
* **Sri Lanka** emerged as an independent country in **1948**.
* The government measures, increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils were: (a) In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil, (b) The governments followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs, (c) A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.
* **Majoritarianism** is a belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority.
* Between **1970** and **1993**, **Belgium** amended their constitution **four times** so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country.
* Belgium Model: (a) Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. Some special laws require the support of majority of members from each linguistic group. Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.(b) 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 (c) 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. (d) 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 – Dutch, French and German-speaking – no matter where they live. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language-related issues.
* Brussels is the H.Q. of European
* Belgium realised that the unity of the country is possible only by respecting the feelings and interests of different communities and regions. Such a realisation resulted in mutually acceptable arrangements for sharing power.
* Sri Lanka shows us that if a majority community wants to force its dominance over others and refuses to share power, it can undermine the unity of the country.
* Power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. 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
* There are prudential reasons and moral reasons for power sharing
* Prudential reasons : Power sharing will bring out better outcomes
* Moral reasons: Emphasise the very act of power sharing as valuable.
* Prudential: Based on prudence, or on careful calculation of gains and losses. Prudential decisions are usually contrasted with decisions based purely on moral considerations
* The idea of power-sharing has emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power
* In horizontal distribution of power, Power is shared **among different organs of government** such as the legislature, executive and judiciary. It allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. Such a separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. This arrangement is called a **system of checks and balances**.
* A general government for the entire country is usually called federal government. In India, we refer to it as the Central or Union Government.
* In India, the governments at the provincial or regional level are called State Governments
* Federal division of power.
* Division of powers involving higher and lower levels of government is called vertical division of Power
* ‘Community government’ in Belgium is a good example of Power sharing **among different social groups** such as religious and linguistic groups.

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