

South Asia and The Contemporary World

PART 1

Objective Questions

• Multiple Choice Questions

1. and established and maintained democratic system since independence.

(a) India, Pakistan
(b) India, Maldives
(c) India, Sri Lanka
(d) India, Nepal

Ans. (c) India and Sri Lanka established and maintained democratic system since independence.

2. was under constitutional monarchy till 2006.

(a) Bhutan
(b) Maldives
(c) Bangladesh
(d) Nepal

Ans. (d) Nepal was under constitutional monarchy till 2006. Later in 2008, monarchy was abolished and democracy was established.

3. Which among the following was the first country to liberalise its economy in the South Asia region?

(a) Nepal
(b) Bhutan
(c) Sri Lanka
(d) Bangladesh

Ans. (c) Sri Lanka was the first country to liberalise its economy in the South Asian region. Sri Lanka got its independence in 1948 and since then it has retained democracy.

4. Which among the following statements about South Asia is wrong? [NCERT]

(a) All the countries in South Asia are democratic.
(b) Bangladesh and India have signed an agreement on river-water sharing.
(c) SAFTA was signed at the 12th SAARC Summit in Islamabad.
(d) The US and China play an influential role in South Asian politics.

Ans. (a) All countries in South Asia are not democratic and consists different kinds of political systems. South Asia stands for diversity in every sense and yet constitutes one geo political space.

5. Who took the administration after Pakistan framed its first constitution?

(a) General Zia-ul-Haq
(b) General Yahya Khan
(c) General Parwez Musharra
(d) General Ayub Khan

Ans. (d) General Ayub Khan took the administration after Pakistan framed its first constitution. He had to give up office when there was popular dissatisfaction against his rule.

6. Name the party which won 1970s election under Sheikh Mujib-ur-Rahman.

(a) Awami League
(b) Jaliya Party
(c) Bangladesh Nationalist Party
(d) Bangladesh People's League

Ans. (a) Awami League Party won 1970s election under Sheikh Mujib-ur-Rahman. He is also considered as the founding father of Bangladesh who led to struggle for its independence.

7. In which year the king of Nepal dismissed the elected government and implemented absolute monarchy?

(a) 2000
(b) 2003
(c) 2002
(d) 2004

Ans. (c) In 2002 the king of Nepal dismissed the government and abolished the Parliament.

8. Which two countries signed Indus Water Treaty with the World Bank as negotiator?

(a) India and Bangladesh
(b) India and Pakistan
(c) India and Afghanistan
(d) India and Nepal

Ans. (b) India and Pakistan signed Indus Water Treaty with World Bank as a negotiator. It was signed in 1960 by then PM Jawaharlal Nehru and President Ayub Khan.

9. Which among the following statements about the Ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka is incorrect?

(a) The neglect of Tamils concerns and interests resulted in militant Tamil Nationalism.
(b) Tamil people were the largest ethnic group of Sri Lanka.
(c) There was lack of political equality in Sri Lanka.
(d) Sinhalas were favoured as they dominated the politics of the state.

Ans. (b) Sinhalese people were the largest ethnic group of Sri Lanka and after the independence this group dominated the politics of the state.

10. Arrange the following in correct sequence.

- (i) Sri Lanka gains independence.
- (ii) Democracy restoration in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- (iii) Proclamation of Independence by leaders of Bangladesh.
- (iv) Pakistan joined the Cold War Military blocs SEATO and CENTO.

Codes

- (a) (i), (iii), (iv) and (ii) (b) (ii), (iii), (iv) and (i)
- (c) (i), (iii), (ii) and (iv) (d) (i), (iv), (iii) and (ii)

Ans. (d) The correct sequence is

- Sri Lanka gains independence on 4th February, 1948.
- Pakistan joined the Cold War Military blocs SEATO and CENTO in 1955.
- Proclamation of independence by leaders of Bangladesh was on 25th March, 1971.
- Democracy was restored in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal in 2008.

11. Arrange the following in correct sequence.

- (i) South Asian Free Trade Agreement came into force.
- (ii) IPKF operation in Sri Lanka.
- (iii) India and Bangladesh signed Farakka Treaty.
- (iv) India's nuclear test in Pokhran.

Codes

- (a) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) (b) (iv), (ii), (iii) and (i)
- (c) (iv), (i), (ii) and (iii) (d) (iii), (ii), (iv) and (i)

Ans. (b) The correct sequence is

- India's nuclear test in Pokhran—1974
- IPKF operation in Sri Lanka—1987
- India and Bangladesh signed Farakka treaty—1996
- SAFTA came into force—2006

12. Consider the following statements are select the correct statement(s).

- (i) Sheikh Mujib was assassinated in 1975.
- (ii) Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was removed by General Zia-ul-Haq in 1976.
- (iii) Lt. general HM Ershad step down in Sri Lanka in 1990.
- (iv) General Parwez Musharraf removed PM Nawaz Shariff in 1999.

Codes

- (a) Both (i) and (iv) (b) Both (ii) and (iii)
- (c) Both (i) and (ii) (d) All of these

Ans. (a) Sheikh Mujib was assassinated in 1975.

- Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was removed by General Zia-ul-Haq in 1977.
- Lt Gen HM Ershad step down in Bangladesh in 1990.
- General Parwez Musharraf removed Prime Minister Nawaz Shariff in 1999.

13. Consider the following statements are select the incorrect statement(s).

- (i) Bhutan became Constitutional Monarchy in 2008.
- (ii) Multiparty system was introduced in Maldives in 2004.
- (iii) India-Pakistan crises began in 1971.
- (iv) Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was removed in 1976.

Codes

- (a) Both (i) and (iii) (b) Both (ii) and (iv)
- (c) Only (iii) (d) Only (iv)

Ans. (b) Statement (ii) and (iv) are incorrect as Multiparty system was introduced in Maldives in 2005 and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was removed in 1977.

14. Which among the following was earlier an island ruled by Sultan as the head of state and now it is a republic country?

- (a) Sri Lanka (b) Malaysia
- (c) Maldives (d) Indonesia

Ans. (c) Maldives was earlier an island ruled by Sultan as the head of state and now it is a republic country.

15. Which of the following country is related to the cartoon?

- (a) Bangladesh (b) Bhutan
- (c) Nepal (d) Pakistan

Ans. (d) The country related to the cartoon is Pakistan and it represents the dual role of Pakistan's Parvez Musharraf.

• Assertion-Reasoning MCQs

Directions (Q. Nos. 16-20) In the following questions, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Mark the correct choice as

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.

16. Assertion (A) Despite the mixed record of the democratic experience, the people in all these countries share the aspiration for democracy.

Reason (R) A recent survey of the attitudes of the people in the five big countries of the region showed that there is widespread support for democracy in all these countries.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A as despite the mixed record of all democratic experience people wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them as a democratic government. As per the recent survey, People believe that democracy is suitable for their country as it is a legitimate government.

17. Assertion (A) Various countries in South Asia do not have the same kind of Political systems.

Reason (R) Despite many problems and limitations Sri Lanka and India have successfully operated a democratic system since their independence from the British.

Ans. (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A as various countries in South Asia do not have the same kind of political systems. In the case of India and Sri Lanka despite of frequent ups and downs they both managed their democratic status. The path to democracy for them was not easy but they overcome every obstacle to maintain stability in democracy.

18. Assertion (A) The Sri Lankan problem involves people of Indian origin and there is considerable pressure from the Tamil people in India to the effect that the Indian government should protect the interests of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Reason (R) The government of India has from time to time tried to negotiate with the Sri Lankan Government on the Tamil question.

Ans. (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A. The Indian intervention in the Sri Lankan Civil War was the deployment of the Indian Peace keeping force in Sri Lanka that intended to perform a peacekeeping role. India signed an accord with Sri Lanka and sent troops to stabilise relations between Sri Lankan Government and the Tamils.

19. Assertion (A) Bhutan never became a constitutional monarchy.

Reason (R) Under the leadership of the king, Bhutan emerged as a multi-party democracy.

Ans. (d) A is false as Bhutan became a constitutional monarchy in 2008. R is true as this happened under the leadership of king and Bhutan emerged as a multi-party democracy.

20. Assertion (A) Democratic government had a short and troubled career.

Reason (R) India continued to enjoy democratic status since its inception. It is considered to be among the best democracies of the world.

Ans. (b) A is false, but R is true as it depends upon the leaders of the nation whether the country enjoys the democratic status for longer period of time or not. In the case of Indian politics, it had never tried to curb the Fundamental Rights of the people. Due to this fact, India is considered to be among the best democracies of the world.

● Case Based MCQs

1. Study the following and answer the questions.

Nepal's transition to democracy is almost complete. Nepal has undergone a unique moment in its history because it formed a Constituent Assembly to let's know more draft the constitution for Nepal. Some sections in Nepal thought that a nominal monarchy was necessary for Nepal to retain its link with the past. The Maoist groups agreed to suspend armed struggle.

They wanted the constitution to include the radical programmes of social and economic restructuring. All the parties in the SPA did not agree with this programme. The Maoists and some other political groups were also deeply suspicious of the Indian Government and its role in the future of Nepal. In 2008, Nepal became a democratic republic after abolishing the monarchy. In 2015, it adopted a new constitution.

(i) Why it is said that Nepal is undergoing a unique movement in its history?

(a) As it is moving towards the formation of Constituent Assembly that will write the constitution.

(b) As it is moving towards uncivilised protests and movement.

(c) Due to nominal monarchy in Nepal.

(d) None of the above

Ans. (a) Nepal is undergoing a unique movement in its history as it is moving towards the formation of Constituent Assembly that will write the constitution.

(ii) What is the desire of Maoist groups in Nepal?

(a) They have agreed to suspend armed struggle.

(b) They want the constitution to include the radical programmes of social and economic restructuring.

(c) They were deeply suspicious on the intentions of Indian Government.

(d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans. (b) The desire of Maoist groups in Nepal is that they want the constitution to include the radical programmes of social and economic restructuring.

(iii) Why were some political parties suspicious in Nepal?

(a) Political groups were deeply suspicious regarding the role of Indian government in the future of Nepal.

(b) Because they were against the democratic set-up.

(c) Because they were suspicious regarding the social restructuring.

(d) All of the above

Ans. (d) Some political parties were suspicious in Nepal as they were not sure of role on Indian Government in future of Nepal, they were against democratic set up and social restructuring.

(iv) In the above passage, SPA stands for

(a) State Party Alliance

(b) Seven Party Alliance

(c) Static Party Alliance

(d) Six Party Alliance

Ans. (b) In the above passage, SPA stands for Seven Party Alliance. Seven Party Alliance was a coalition of seven Nepali Political Parties who wanted to end the autocratic rule in the country.

(v) Why Nepal is important for India?

(a) Because Nepal is a buffer state between India and China.

(b) Because of internal security as Nepal shares a long open border with India.

(c) Due to socio-economic development.

(d) All of the above

Ans. (b) Nepal is important for India due to the following reasons

- Nepal has a strategic importance as it is a buffer state between India and China.
- Nepal shares a long open border with India and this can become a threat to India's internal security.
- Nepal helps in socio-economic development of bordering states especially Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

PART 2

Subjective Questions

• Short Answer Type Questions

1. Despite the mixed record of democratic experience, the people of all the countries of South Asia share the aspiration of democracy. [Delhi 2012]

or 'Democracy is becoming the first choice of the people of South Asia'. Justify the statement.

[All India 2015]

or Despite the mixed record of democratic experience, why do the people in South Asian countries, even today, share the aspiration in favour of democracy? Explain with the help of examples.

Ans. The various countries in South Asia have experienced mixed record of democracies. The people also shared aspirations for democracy to be flourished not only in rich or developed countries but in developing and underdeveloped countries also which can be drawn from the examples of Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Maldives because

- Every ordinary citizen, rich or poor belonging to different religions view the idea of democracy positively and support the institution of representative democracy.
- They prefer democracy over any other form of democracy and think that democracy is suitable for their country.

2. How are the external powers influencing bilateral relations in South Asia? Take any one example to illustrate your point.

Ans. The external powers are influencing bilateral relations in South Asia like. China and United States remain a key player in South Asian politics. America has been influencing the bilateral relations in South Asia since the end of the Cold War in the following ways

- The United States has worked as a moderator in Indo-Pakistan relations.
- Economic reforms and liberal economic politics in both the countries have increased the American participation.
- The South Asian diaspora are working in USA and this gives America added stake in the future of regional security and peace.

3. Analyse the common problems of South Asian countries. [All India 2011]

Ans. South Asia includes countries like India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The various natural areas such as Himalayas, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean are part to this region.

The common problems among them are

- **Poverty** All countries of South Asia suffered from large masses living in poverty. In India, nearly 22 percent people are living under poverty as per 2011-12 census.
- **Violation of Human Rights** There exists a great threat to human rights from anti-social elements, communalists and from people with negative attitude, thinking and approach.
- **Problem Faced by Democracy** Several countries of South Asia aspire to be a democratic country, but face a problem of stable democracy.
- **Women Empowerment** Women are generally seen at lower position in most of the South Asian nations. They are restricted and are not as free as their counterparts.

4. Describe the crucial conflicts between India and Pakistan.

Ans India and Pakistan represent very crucial conflicts of an international nature that are discussed below

- (i) **Kashmir Dispute** After the partition, the two countries got embroiled over the fate of Kashmir. Wars between India and Pakistan in 1947-48 and 1965 failed to settle the matter. The 1947-48 war resulted in division of the province into Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) and the Indian Provinces of Jammu and Kashmir divided by LOC.
- (ii) **Bangladesh Issue** In 1971, there was a war between India and Pakistan over the question of liberation of Bangladesh (Former East Pakistan). In 1971 the war continued for about two weeks and then Pakistan's Army General surrendered unconditionally to India and the Bangladesh Liberation forces.
- (iii) **Arms Race** Arms race between the two countries assumed a new character with both states acquiring nuclear weapons and missiles to deliver such arms against each other in the 1990s. In 1998, India conducted nuclear explosion in Pokhran and Pakistan responded by carrying nuclear test in Chagai Hills.

5. Mention some of the recent agreements between India and Pakistan. Can we be sure that the two countries are well on their way to a friendly relationship? [NCERT]

Ans. The agreements between India and Pakistan are as follows

- The two countries have agreed to undertake confidence building measures to reduce the risk of war.
- A number of bus routes have been opened up between the two countries.
- A train service has started operating between two countries.

- Finalising of Kartarpur Corridor has shown a ray of hope for initiation of talks between India and Pakistan after the 2019 Pulwama Terror Attack.

No doubt, efforts are being made to have a durable peace but there is little possibility of friendly relationship because Kashmir continues to be the main problem between the two countries. Pakistan is also responsible for terrorist activities in India such as Bombay blasts. Such actions on the parts of Pakistan are obstacles in the way of friendly relations between the two countries. Therefore, the two countries are not well on their way to a friendly relationship.

- 6.** What are some of the commonalities and differences between Bangladesh and Pakistan in their democratic experiences? [NCERT]

Ans. Commonalities between Bangladesh and Pakistan are

- There is majority of Muslim population in both countries.
- There have been military take over in both countries from time to time.
- There have been pro-democracy movements in both the countries.

Differences between Bangladesh and Pakistan are

- The US and Western countries have encouraged military's despotic rule in Pakistan in the past for their own interest. It is not so in case of Bangladesh.
- Pakistan is a nuclear power state but Bangladesh is not.
- In Pakistan, military, clergy and land-owning aristocrats dominated socially to overthrow elected governments whereas in Bangladesh, the leaders and their party members dominated for the same.

- 7.** Discuss the issues of disagreements and disputes between India and Bangladesh.

Ans. The era of cordial relations between India and Bangladesh weakened after Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's assassination in 1975. There have been disagreements and disputes between the two countries on number of issues. Some of the issues are discussed below:

- Indian Government has differences with Bangladesh's denial of illegal immigration to India. This problem is not related only to land and employment in the states of Assam, Tripura and West Bengal rather it poses a threat to India's security as well.
- Bangladesh's support for anti-Indian Islamic fundamentalist groups is discouraging as it indirectly promotes violence.
- Bangladesh's refusal to allow Indian troops to move through its territory to North-Eastern India.
- Its decision not to export natural gas to India or allow Myanmar to do so through Bangladeshi territory.
- Bangladesh is increasingly being used for drug trafficking which dispatches opium from Burma and other countries of the Golden Triangle, to different destinations.

- 8.** Mention two areas each of cooperation and disagreement between India and Bangladesh.

[NCERT]

or Explain any two points of cooperation as well as confrontation each between India and Bangladesh.

Ans. Two areas of cooperation are as follows

- (i) Bangladesh is a part of India's 'Look East Policy' that wants to link up with South-East Asia through Myanmar.
- (ii) On disaster management and environmental issues, the two states have cooperated regularly.

Two areas of disagreement are as follows

- (i) Dispute over sharing of the Ganga and Brahmaputra river waters.
- (ii) The Indian Government has been unhappy with Bangladesh's denial of illegal immigration to India.

- 9.** Describe the series of events that led to the formation of Bangladesh.

Ans. The series of events that led to the formation of Bangladesh are discussed below

- The people of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) resented the domination of West Pakistan in the form of imposition of Urdu language.
- Protests were evident in the country since the partition against the unfair treatment towards the Bengali culture and language. They also demanded a fair representation in administration and a fair share in political power.
- Sheikh Mujib-ur Rahman led the popular struggle against West Pakistani domination. He demanded autonomy from the Eastern region. In 1970 elections, Awami League under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman won all the seats in East Pakistan and secured a majority in the Constituent Assembly
- Government under Yahya Khan in West Pakistan refused to call up the Assembly and after this Sheikh Mujib - ur Rahman was arrested.
- Mass movements were suppressed by the West Pakistan which led to large scale migration towards India.
- The Government of India supported the demands of East Pakistan which resulted in a war between India and Pakistan in December 1971. It ended in the formation of Bangladesh.

- 10.** "Nepal and India enjoy a very special relationship that has very few parallels in the world". Justify the statement with any three suitable arguments.

Ans. Nepal and India share a very special relationship that can be illustrated with three suitable examples as follows

- (i) A treaty between the two countries allows the citizens of the two countries to travel and work in each other countries without visas and passports.
- (ii) Nepal being a landlocked country enjoys easier access to sea through Indian territory for the purpose of trade and commerce with other nations.

- (iii) Both countries share together trade, scientific cooperation, common natural resources, electricity generation and interlocking water management grids.

11. Name the principal players in the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. How do you assess the prospects of the resolution of this conflict? [NCERT]

Ans. The principal players in the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka are the Sinhala community and Tamils who had migrated from India to Sri Lanka and settled there. The Sinhala nationalists are in majority and they do not want to give any concessions to Tamils who are in minority. This has led to militant Tamil nationalism and the LTTE has been fighting an armed struggle with Sri Lankan army since 1983. Their demand is of Tamil Eelam of a separate country for the Tamils of Sri Lanka.

However, the following crisis should be resolved with utmost diplomacy as possible. The government of Sri Lanka should provide the fundamental and basic rights to the Tamil population constitutionally and uphold the principle of democracy. It should also provide special status to the Tamil province for their rejuvenation and maintain peace and tranquility in the province and the country.

12. Countries of South Asia do not trust each other in various aspects. This region is unable to exert its influence at International level. Justify the statement and suggest measures to strengthen South Asia.

Ans. The given statement is true as the countries of South Asia do not trust each other especially in case of India they are highly suspicious. Following are the two examples to justify the statement.

- (i) India-Pakistan are powerful countries of South Asia. Both countries are involved in various conflicts and differences after partition and hence, they do not trust each other. Suspicious nature of both countries led to border disruptions especially in the Kashmir region. Indian government blames the Pakistan government for nurturing violence and helping Kashmiri militants with arms, training, money and protection to carry out terrorist activities against India.
- (ii) There are tensions between India and Sri Lanka. The settlement of Indian Tamils in Sri Lanka is the main reason behind the tensions. Indian peace keeping force was sent to resolve matter but was pulled out as it was criticised by Sri Lankans. This issue has not been resolved yet.

Following are the ways to strengthen South Asia

- To unite countries of South Asia by resolving all differences.
- To take initiative to make South Asia economically strong.
- To use powers of nuclear countries like India and Pakistan for peaceful purposes.
- To peacefully resolve mutual problems instead of using armed forces.

13. Mention two areas of cooperation and disagreement between India and Nepal.

Ans. Two areas of cooperation are discussed as follows

- Both countries work in cooperation in areas of trade, scientific, common natural resources, electricity generation and interlocking water management grids. India and Nepal relations are fairly stable and peaceful.
- South Asia's first cross-border petroleum products pipeline, constructed and funded by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. Connecting Motihari in India to Amlekhganj in Nepal was remotely inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and KP Sharma Oli on September, 2019.

Two areas of disagreements are discussed as follows

- The Nepal Government is in the notion that the Indian Government interferes in the internal affairs of Nepal had designs on its river waters and hydro-electricity and prevents the landlocked country from getting access to the sea through Indian Territory.
- Indian security agencies have shown deep concerns over the maoist movement in Nepal which however give rise to naxalism in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.

14. Discuss the relations of India and Sri Lanka in detail.

Ans. The relations between India and Sri Lanka are discussed below

- In recent years, the relationship has been marked by close contacts at all levels. Trade and investment have grown and there is cooperation in the fields of infrastructure development, education, culture and defence.
- There are steps and policies which have further strengthened ties between the two countries like the Free Trade Agreement and Post-Tsunami reconstruction in Sri Lanka.
- Political relations between India and Sri Lanka have been marked by high-level exchanges of visits at regular intervals. In June 2019, the first overseas visit of Indian Prime Minister to Sri Lanka, in his second term, is an important symbolic gesture that reflects special relationship between the countries.
- In April 2019, India and Sri Lanka also concluded agreement on countering Drugs and Human Trafficking.
- In recent years, significant progress in implementation of developmental assistance projects has further enhanced the bonds of friendship between the two countries.

15. Discuss the relations of India and Maldives and its importance for India.

Ans. India has a cordial relationship with the island nation of Maldives. Bilateral relations have been nurtured and strengthened by regular contacts at all levels. Through the decades, India has rushed emergency assistance to the Maldives, whenever sought.

- India has supported Maldives on its request, when some Sri Lankan soldiers attacked Maldives, the Indian Air force and Navy quickly reacted against the invasion.
- The 2004 tsunami and the drinking water crisis in male a decade later were other occasions when India rushed assistance.
- Given the geographical limitations imposed on the Maldives, India has exempted the nation from export curbs on essential commodities.

Maldives holds strategic importance for India due to its location in the Indian Ocean. While the Indian Ocean is considered as the key highway for global trade and energy flow, Maldives virtually stands as a toll gate. A favourable and positive maritime environment in the Indian Ocean is essential for the fulfillment of India's Strategic priority. Thus, India continuously aims at promoting an ever-expanding area of peace and stability around it. In addition, Maldives is an important partner in India's role as the net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region.

• Long Answer Type Questions

1. Analyse the working of democracy in Pakistan.

Ans. With the framing of the first Constitution of Pakistan, General Ayub Khan took over the administration and soon got himself elected. He renounced his office after the dissatisfaction from his rule and the military took over under General Yahya Khan. During Yahya Khan's military rule, Pakistan faced Bangladesh crisis and war with India in 1971 and East Pakistan was liberated as an independent country named Bangladesh.

After this, an elected government was formed under the leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto from 1971 to 1977. The government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was removed by General Zia-ul-Haq in 1977 who had to face pro-democracy movement from 1982 onwards. Again in 1988, an elected democratic government was established under Benazir Bhutto but had to face competition between her party, Pakistan People's Party and the Muslim League.

However, the duration of elective democracy was short lived and again the military intervened in 1999 and General Pervez Musharraf removed the then Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif in 2001 and got himself elected as the President.

2. Like India, why could democracy not take roots in Pakistan despite the fact that both the countries share a common past? [All India 2011]
- or Explain the factors responsible for Pakistan's failure in building a stable democracy. Describe any two pro-democracy factors present in Pakistan which can pave the way for establishing a lasting democratic set-up over there. [All India 2010]

Ans. Pakistan does not have a good experience with democracy. Several factors contributed to failure in building a stable democracy in Pakistan. They are as follows

- There was always social dominance of military, clergy and landowning aristocracy which resulted in downfall of democratic government and existence of military government.
- Due to Pakistan's conflict with India, pro-military groups in Pakistan got strengthened. According to these pro-military groups, political parties and democracy is defective and there is a chance of harm to the security of Pakistan by narrow minded parties and disorganised democracy. And this way, justification for army's stay in power is provided.
- Lack of international support has been there in Pakistan for democratic rule.
- US and some Western countries moved Pakistan towards authoritarian rule for their own benefits. Military rule in Pakistan is supposed to be the protector of Western interests in West Asia, South Asia as 'Global Islamic Terrorism' and nuclear arsenal can only be controlled by military.

Even though, democracy has not been fully successful in Pakistan, there has been a strong pro-democracy sentiment in the country. Pakistan has a courageous and relatively free press and a strong human rights movement.

3. How is democratisation going on in Nepal since 1990? [All India 2013]

Ans. The pro-democracy movements forced the king to allow new democratic constitution in 1990. But it had a short and troubled career. There was a huge influence of Maoists in many parts of Nepal who believed in armed insurrection against the monarch and the ruling elite. Hence, a triangular conflict among the Monarchist forces, the democrats and the Maoist took place for sometime. The Parliament was abolished and the government was dismissed by the king in 2002. Again in 2006, the king was forced to restore the House of representatives after a massive country wide pro-democracy protests. The Constituent Assembly was formed to write the constitution for Nepal. The constitution has come into effect with some amendment process going on. In 2008 Nepal became a democratic republic after abolishing monarchy. In 2015 it adopted a new constitution.

4. Explain the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka and any two consequences of it. [CBSE 2019]

Ans. The democratic setup of Sri Lanka was disturbed by the ethnic conflict among the Sinhalese and Tamil origin people. The bone of contention was the region of Ceylon which was represented by the majority Sinhala group. They opposed the migration and settlements of Tamilians from India in their region. According to the group, Sri Lanka was only for Sinhala people and not for Tamils.

This attitude of Sinhala people led to the establishment of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a militant organisation, which desired for a separate country.

The consequences of ethnic conflict led to the following situations

- There was a pressure on the Government of India by the Tamils of Indian origin to intervene in the matter. Hence, the Government of India tried to negotiate with the Government of Sri Lanka on Tamil's question. But direct involvement was in the year 1987. India conceded to sent troops to Sri Lanka for the preservation of relations between Tamils and Sri Lanka Government. Eventually, the Indian troops got into a fight with LTTE.
- The presence of Indian troops was not liked by many Sri Lankans and hence in 1989, the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) pulled out of Sri Lanka without attaining its objective.

- 5.** India's neighbours after think that the Indian Government tries to dominate and interfere in the domestic affairs of smaller countries of the region. Is this a correct impression? Discuss the factors responsible for it and how this perception can be curbed? [NCERT, All India 2011]

Ans. No, this is not a correct impression. India never wanted to dominate or interfere in the domestic affairs of the smaller countries of the region. India believed that there are real economic benefits for all, if all the countries lift up trade barriers.

Various factors are responsible for the thinking of smaller countries of South Asia towards India which are as follows

- Due to size of India smaller countries are bound to be suspicious about India's intentions.
- Interference of India in internal affairs of Pakistan and helping in transformation of East Pakistan to Bangladesh into an independent country is another reason.
- These countries think that India wants to invade and dominate international markets with the help of SAFTA.

The thinking/perception of smaller countries could be cleared by the following facts

- India has always provided shelter to refugees those who came from different countries.
- India has always cooperated with their neighbours like it has provided assistance to Bangladesh during floods, it has provided military help to Maldives during military attack on the Maldives.
- India has given an open invitation to SAARC countries to sell their products without any trade tariffs.

• Case Based Questions

- 1.** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

General Ayub Khan took over the administration of the country and soon got himself elected. He had to give up office when there was popular dissatisfaction against his rule. This gave way to a military takeover once again under General Yahya Khan. During Yahya's military rule, Pakistan faced the Bangladesh crisis and after a war with India in 1971, East Pakistan broke away to emerge as an independent country called Bangladesh.

After this, an elected government under the leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto came to power in Pakistan from 1971 to 1977. The Bhutto government was removed by General Zia-ul-Haq in 1977. General Zia faced a pro-democracy movement from 1982 onwards and an elected democratic government was established once again in 1988 under the leadership, of Benazir Bhutto. In the period that followed, Pakistani politics centred around the competition between her party, the Pakistan People's Party and the Muslim League.

This phase of elective democracy lasted till 1999 when the army stepped in again Minister Nawaz Shariff. In 2001, General Musharraf got himself elected as the President. Pakistan continued to be ruled by the army, through the army rulers have held some elections to give their rule a democratic image. Since 2008, democratically elected leaders have ruling Pakistan.

- Pakistan's first constitution was enacted by the Constituent Assembly in which year?
- Who removed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and When?
- Why democracy isn't stable in Pakistan?

Ans. (i) Pakistan's first constitution was enacted by the Constituent Assembly in 1956.
 (ii) Zulfikar Ali Bhutto government was removed by General Zia - Ul - Haq in 1977.
 (iii) Since its independence, Pakistan's system has fluctuated between civilian and military governments at various times throughout its political history, mainly due to political instability, civil-military conflicts and political corruption by the military establishment.

- 2.** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The Sri Lankan problem involves people of Indian origin and there is considerable pressure from the Tamil people in India to the effect that the Indian government should protect the interests of the Tamil in Sri Lanka. The government of India has from time to time tried to negotiate with the Sri Lankan government on the Tamil question.

But in 1987, the government of India for the first time got directly involved in the Sri Lanka Tamil question. India signed an accord with Sri Lanka and sent troops to stabilise relations between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamils. Eventually, the Indian Army got into a fight with the LTTE. The presence of Indian troops was also not liked much by the Sri Lankans.

They saw this as an attempt by India to interfere in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. In 1989, the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) pulled out of Sri Lanka without attaining its objective. The Sri Lankan crisis continued to be violent. However, international actors, particularly the Scandinavian countries such as Norway and Iceland tried to bring the warring groups back to negotiations. Finally, the armed conflict came to end, as the LTTE was vanquished in 2009.

- (i) Why was there a pressure of Indian Tamils to protect and safeguard the interests of Tamil living in Sri Lanka?
- (ii) When did Government of India directly get involved in the conflict of Sri Lanka?
- (iii) Who posed challenge to Indian Army in Sri Lanka?

- Ans.**
- (i) There was a pressure of Indian Tamils to protect and Safeguard the interest of Tamil living in Sri Lanka because the conflict in Sri Lanka involved people of Indian origin.
 - (ii) In 1987 the government of India directly got involved in the conflict of Sri Lanka.
 - (iii) The LTTE posed challenge to the Indian Army in Sri Lanka. LTTE stands Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

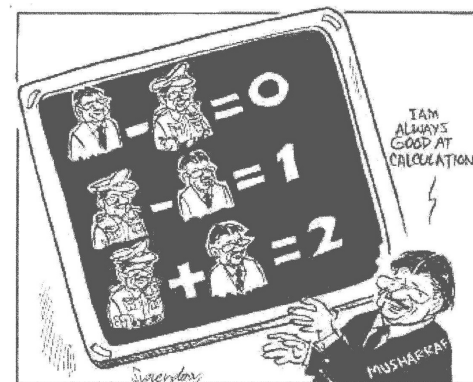
- 3.** Observe the cartoon given below and answer the questions that follow.



- (i) Interpret the role of two key players who are also interested in the region.
- (ii) Is there any commonality between their perspective?
- (iii) What does the second cartoon represent?

- Ans.**
- (i) China and USA are the two key players in the region. Sino-Indian relations have improved significantly during the last ten years. As shown in the cartoon, two leaders from India and China are exchanging agreements regarding trade, commerce and economy. It is being resented by Pakistan who wants China to stick to 'Core' issues (border issue) with India.
 - (ii) Both China and USA wants to have economic ties i.e. trade and commerce in the region in this age of liberalisation and globalisation.
 - (iii) Second cartoon represents the role of USA in South Asian region. The US has good relations with both India and Pakistan and therefore work as a moderator in India-Pakistan relations. In the cartoon, the US has been shown as a reference in tennis match between India and Pakistan.

- 4.** Study the picture and answer the following questions



- (i) What does the cartoon represent?
- (ii) "I'm always good at calculations". What does this represent?
- (iii) How is the system of governance in India different from that of the country related to the cartoon?

- Ans.**
- (i) These equations speak about dominance of one person militarily more rather than only President.
 - (ii) It shows to the nation that Musharraf wants to command the country militarily and administratively both to strengthen his power because President's survival is not easy without military power.
 - (iii) The difference between India and Pakistan does not appear to be in the system of government as both have constitutions that enshrine federal republic system of government. The difference between the two appears to be a culture of democracy that has evolved in India over the last 57 years, while in Pakistan democracy remains still born.

Chapter Test

Objective Type Questions

1. Which two countries have a democratic system since their independence from British?
(a) Bhutan and Pakistan (b) Sri Lanka and Nepal
(c) India and Sri Lanka (d) Pakistan and Bangladesh
2. In which year Nepal became the democratic republic?
(a) 2006 (b) 2007 (c) 2008 (d) 2009
3. It is one of the first developing countries to successfully control the population growth. It is
(a) Nepal (b) Bhutan (c) Sri Lanka (d) Pakistan
4. How many agreements are signed between India and Bangladesh in December 2020?
(a) Five (b) Seven (c) Eight (d) Nine
5. LTTE stands for
(a) Legal Tigers of Tamil Entity (b) Legal Tigers of Tamil Eelam
(c) Liberation Tigers of Tamil Election (d) Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Mention the causes of conflict between India and Pakistan.
2. Explain the relationship between India and Bhutan.
3. Write a short note on water dispute between India and Bangladesh.
4. What kind of relationship India has with Maldives?
5. Analyse the two political developments of 1940s that led to decision for the creation of Pakistan.
6. What is Indus River Water Treaty? Mention its significance also.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Describe India's relationship with Pakistan in context of recent developments.
2. What are the contentious issues between India and Bangladesh?
3. Write a brief account of India's relationship with Sri Lanka.
4. What are the common problems of South Asian Countries? Elaborate.
5. Explain the factors responsible for Pakistan's failure in building a stable democracy.

Answer

1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (bd) 4. (b) 5. (d)