

Introduction:

The first military rule in Pakistan was under General Yahya Khan. This was due to public dissatisfaction with the rule of General Ayub Khan. This was followed by the formation of a government from 1971 to 1977 under the leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. The Bhutto government was overthrown by General Zia-ul-Haq, but has faced a pro-democracy movement since 1982. Then in 1988 an elected democratic government led by Benazir Bhutto was formed, but it faced competition from the Pakistan People's Party and the Muslim League.

1. South Asia in the Post-Cold War Era:**Pakistan**

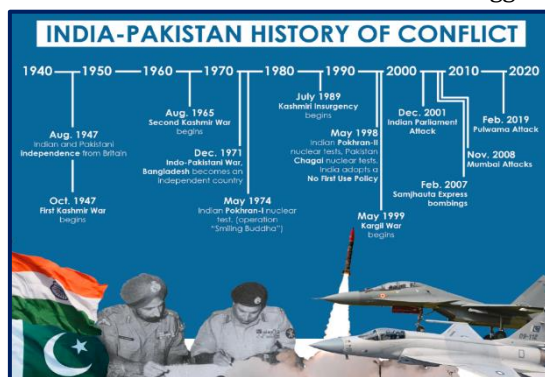
The first military rule in Pakistan was under General Yahya Khan. This was due to public dissatisfaction with the rule of General Ayyub Khan. This was followed by the formation of a government from 1971 to 1977 under the leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. The Bhutto government was overthrown by General Zia-ul-Haq, but has



faced a pro-democracy movement since 1982. Then in 1988 an elected democratic government led by Benazir Bhutto was formed, but it faced competition from the Pakistan People's Party and the Muslim League. The army re-entered the field and General Pervez Musharraf fired Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. In 2001, General Musharraf himself was elected President. There are many reasons why Pakistan is failing to build a sustainable democracy. At present, the country is once again running a democratic government under Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

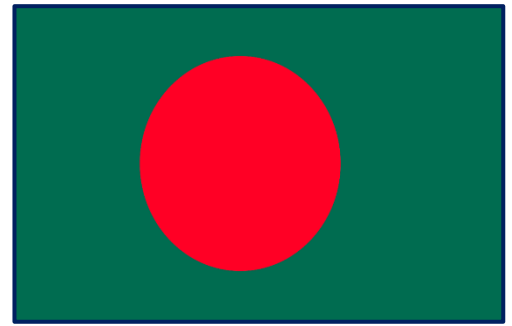
India-Pakistan dispute

After independence, both India and Pakistan were embroiled in issues related to Kashmir. This led to wars in 1947-48 and 1965, which failed to solve the problem. The two countries have been at loggerheads over strategic issues such as the control of the Siachen Glacier and arms procurement. The two countries have expressed mutual concerns over security. Sharing river waters in the Indus River system is another issue of conflict between the two countries. The two countries did not agree on the Sir Creek border in the Ron of Kutch.



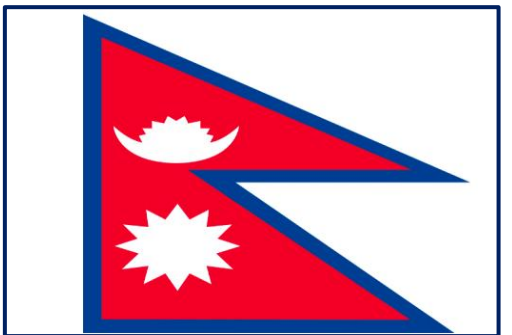
Bangladesh

Bangladesh was part of Pakistan from 1947 to 1971. But in West Pakistan & began to oppose the imposition of the Urdu language. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman led a popular struggle against the domination of West Pakistan. In the 1970 elections, the Awami League, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, won all the seats, but the West Pakistan-led government refused to convene the assembly. The Pak army tried to suppress the movement that led to the arrival of large numbers of expatriates in India. The Government of India has supported and assisted the demands of the people of East Pakistan. This led to war with Pakistan in 1971. After the end of the war, Bangladesh became an independent nation. Bangladesh ratified the Constitution declaring its faith in secularism, democracy and socialism. But the government led by Sheikh Mujibur amended the constitution and established the government with the president as its head. Sheikh Mujibur was assassinated and a military regime was established under Zia-Ur Rahman. He was also assassinated and Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad initiated it by continuing military rule. The pro-democracy movement that led to the 1991 elections resurfaced. Representative democracy based on multi-party elections has been running in Bangladesh ever since. Bangladesh was formed by exiles from West Pakistan and despite winning all the seats East Pakistan refused to form the government. India intervened and financially and militarily supported the demand for the establishment of East Pakistan. As a result, in December 1971, Pakistan surrendered with the formation of an independent state called Bangladesh. Bangladesh drafted its constitution declaring its faith in secularism, democracy and socialism. In 1975, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman established the presidency, but was assassinated in a military coup. The new military ruler Ziaur Rehman founded his own Bangladesh National Party and won the 1979 elections. He was assassinated and General H.M. Ershad. Representative democracy has been in place in Bangladesh since 1991.



Nepal :-

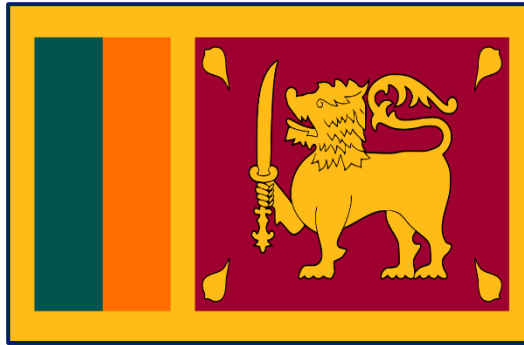
Nepal was formerly a Hindu kingdom, but later became a constitutional monarchy for many years. In the wake of the strong democratic movement, King accepted the demand for a new democratic constitution in 1990. There was a conflict between the democratic, Maoist and monarchical powers, which led to the dissolution of parliament and the overthrow of the government by the king in 2002. Back in 2006, after the democratic movement, the King House of Representatives had to be re-established. Nepal became a Hindu kingdom and a constitutional monarchy in modern times. The struggle for the restoration of democracy began in 1990 and 2007 when the King restored the House of Representatives. Nepal is still demanding the formation of a Constituent Assembly.



Sri Lanka-

Sri Lanka's democratic system has been plagued by ethnic tensions between people of Sinhala and Tamil descent. According to the Sinhalese, the area of Ceylon belongs only to the Sinhalese people and not to the Tamils who migrated from India. This led to the formation of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a terrorist organization, demanding a separate state. The Tamil people in India have put pressure on the Indian government to protect the Tamils in Sri Lanka. India signed an agreement with Sri Lanka and sent troops to stabilize relations between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamils. Eventually, the Indian army clashed with the LTTE. The Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) was later expelled from Sri Lanka in 1989 for failing to achieve its goal. Currently, the LTTE has been demolished by the Sri Lankan government and the area under LTTE control has been

recaptured. Despite the ethnic conflict, the Sri Lankan economy has always been at a high level. Ceylon, now known as Sri Lanka, faced ethnic conflict between Sinhalese and Tamils for power sharing. The LTTE has been seeking a separate state for Tamil since 1983, with the support of the Indian government, sending Indian peacekeepers there, which Sri Lanka did not like. Sri Lanka maintains a democratic political system with significant economic development, i.e. the population growth rate, was one of the first developing countries to control the liberal economy and has the highest per capita GDP despite ongoing conflicts. Resolving the Indo-Pakistani conflict in the South Asian region is very important. Wars were fought between these countries in 1947-48, 1965 and 1971 over Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) and Line of Control (LoC) issues. Other conflicting issues include control of the Siachen Glacier, arms procurement and river waters sharing.



2. India and its other neighbors-

- India's neighbors are Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives and Pakistan.
- There are some dispute issues between India and Bangladesh. These include sharing water from the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers, illegal immigration to India, etc.
- However, both India and Bangladesh have good relations. Economic relations between the two have improved significantly.
- Nepal and India share friendly relations, but some issues such as Nepal's good relations with China and the Maoist movement in Nepal have soured relations.
- Despite the differences, trade, scientific cooperation, power generation and interlocking water management grids hold the two countries together.
- India also has special relations with Bhutan and has no major differences with the Bhutanese government.



The two governments suspected each other based on Pak strategy to engage Kashmiri terrorists and ISI in anti-India operations. Pakistan blames India for creating trouble in Sindh and Baluchistan. India and Bangladesh have been at loggerheads over the sharing of the waters of the Ganges and the Brahmaputra, illegal immigration in India, support for anti-Islamic fundamentalists in India, denial of permission to Indian forces and non-export of natural gas to India. It is the main link in the 'Look East Policy' of India. India and Nepal also have differences on Nepal's relations with China and on anti - India issues such as inaction against the Maoists. However, the two countries still agreed on a trade and commerce agreement in 2005 and in 2006 to provide financial and technical assistance and to allow citizens to move without visas and passports. There are no major conflicts between India and Bhutan, but the expulsion of guerrillas and terrorists from Northeast India and India's participation in major hydropower projects in Bhutan are also a major source of development assistance. India supports Maldives economy, tourism and fisheries. In November 1988, India quickly responded to an attack by Tamil mercenaries on the Maldives. Despite the differences and differences mentioned above, the South Asian states have found cooperation and friendly relations among themselves. Therefore, a major regional initiative was taken in 1982 in the form of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). SAARC members signed the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) to create a free trade zone for the whole of South Asia.



3. Peace and cooperation

Despite some conflict issues between the South Asian countries, they recognized the importance of cooperation and friendly relations between them. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established in 1985 by South Asian countries to enhance mutual cooperation. South Asian countries signed the SAFTA in 2004 to



allow free trade across borders. SAFTA aims to reduce trade tariffs by 20% by 2007. Despite the problems between India and Pakistan, steps are being taken to bring about harmonious change between the countries. There is also an external force influencing this area. China and the United States are major players in South Asian politics.

SUMMARY

South Asia is known as a group of seven countries namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which are diverse in every aspect and form a geopolitical space. Despite a mixed record of democratic experience, the people of these countries share aspirations for democracy from the examples of Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Pakistan began the post-Cold War period with a series of democratic governments, but faced a military coup in 1999. The successful uprising in Nepal in 2006 led to the restoration of democracy. India and Sri Lanka maintain a democratic system despite numerous restrictions and the Maldives. Strengthened democracy. In Pakistan, military rule and democracy are two sides of the same coin because during the first constitutional period, General Ayub Khan led the by-elections but was ousted by the military due to dissatisfaction with his rule. After 1971, an elected government was formed in 1977 under the leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was ousted by General Zia-ul-Haq. In 1982, pro-democracy protests led to the establishment of a democratic government in Pakistan in 1988 led by Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif. Later, history repeats itself and General Pervez Musharraf takes office in 1999 and was elected in 2005 and remains so to this day.

DO YOU KNOW?

Geopolitics: Geopolitics refers to the union of countries to which each is committed

Bilateral Dialogue: Negotiations between the two countries without any mediation.

Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF): India sent it to Sri Lanka in support of the demand to identify Tamils.

DO YOU KNOW?

Seven Party Alliance (SPA): A seven-party coalition in Nepal has also demanded the overthrow of an emperor.

SAARC: means the seven members of the South Asian Regional Cooperation Council and aims at mutual trust and understanding.

SAFTA: This is the South Asia Free Trade Area Agreement for free trade by its member countries from customs restrictions and tariffs.

LTTE: Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka has demanded a separate state for Tamils.

Questions For Practice

1. When was LTTE vanquished?
(a) 2006 (b) 2008
(c) 2009 (d) 2010
2. When India conducted a nuclear explosion in Pokhran?
(a) 1996 (b) 1997
(c) 1998 (d) 1999
3. Which party dominates the political affairs of Maldives?
(a) Maldivian Democratic Party
(b) Maldivian Socialist Party
(c) Maldivian Communist Party
(d) Maldivian Republic Party
4. The country that is Bhutan's biggest source of development aid is
(a) The USA (b) Russia
(c) India (d) the Maldives
5. The South Asian leaders signed the SAARC Charter on?
(a) 7th November 1985
(b) 8th December 1985
(c) 9th January 1987
(d) 5th December 1988
6. In the political field, Pakistan lacks?
(a) A courageous and relatively free press
(b) A strong human rights movement
(c) Educated leaders
(d) Genuine international support for democracy
7. What does SAFTA mean?
(a) South Asia Free Trade Area
(b) South Asian Free Tax
(c) South Asian Free Tactics
(d) South Asian Free Toll
8. Nepal was a constitutional monarchy till?
(a) 2006 (b) 2005
(c) 2004 (d) 2003
9. The Seven Party Alliance is a coalition of?
(a) Maoist parties only
(b) Monarchical forces.
(c) Nepali political parties
(d) Non-governmental Organisations in Nepal
10. What does LTTE mean?
(a) Liberation Tactics of Tamil Eelam
(b) Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
(c) Liberation Tier of Tamil Eelam
(d) Liberation Team of Tamil Eelam
11. Which of the following countries is a South Asian country?
(a) Japan (b) USA
(c) China (d) Pakistan
12. Which of the following country is not a South Asian country?
(a) Bangladesh (b) India
(c) Bhutan (d) Russia
13. Which of the following statements about ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka is false?
(a) Politics in Sri Lanka openly favored Sinhalese.
(b) The interests of the Tamils were neglected.
(c) The Liberation Tigers of Tamil alum had the support of SAARC countries.
(d) There was no political equality in Sri Lanka.
14. Bangladesh was a part of Pakistan from the year _____ to _____?
(a) 1948-1970 (b) 1947-1969
(c) 1947-1971 (d) 1947-1973
15. Where the Monarch worked to out the extremists and guerrillas of North-East India who worked in their country with the intention of helping India?
(a) Tibet (b) Bhutan
(c) Myanmar (d) Nepal
16. Name the countries which signed the Shimla Agreement?
(a) India and Maldives
(b) India and Nepal
(c) India and Sri Lanka
(d) India and Pakistan
17. Name the countries which signed the free trade agreement in December 1998?
(a) India and Maldives
(b) India and Nepal
(c) India and Sri Lanka
(d) India and Pakistan
18. In which year was the multi-party system implemented in the Maldives?
(a) June 2005 (b) June 2006
(c) June 2009 (d) June 2008
19. Which countries signed the Farakka Treaty?
(a) India and Bhutan
(b) India and Pakistan
(c) India and Bangladesh
(d) India and Nepal
20. Which Indian Prime Minister took a bus tour to Lahore?
(a) Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee
(b) Shri Manmohan Singh
(c) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
(d) Shri Morarji Desai
21. Which party dominates the political affairs of the Maldives?
(a) Maldivian Democratic Party
(b) Maldivian Socialist Party
(c) Communist Party of the Maldives
(d) Republic of the Maldives Party
22. Which country is the largest source of development assistance to Bhutan?
(a) USA. (b) Russia
(c) India. (d) Maldives.
23. Which of the following is not a South Asian country?
(a) Bangladesh (b) India
(c) Bhutan (d) Russia
24. When did the LTTE lost?
(a) 2006 (b) 2008
(c) 2009 (d) 2010
25. There was a violent conflict between Raja and King's armed forces in Nepal?
(a) Maoist guerrillas.
(b) Political activist.
(c) Representatives of the people.
(d) Armed Forces.
26. Which of the following is a South Asian country?
(a) Japan (b) USA
(c) China (d) Pakistan

- 27.** Which country is the largest source of development assistance to Bhutan?
 (a) USA (b) Russia
 (c) India (d) Maldives
- 28.** Lack of Pakistan in the political arena?
 (a) Bold and relatively free press.
 (b) Strong human rights movement.
 (c) Educated leader.
 (d) True international support for democracy.
- 29.** SAARC Charter signed by South Asian Leaders?
 (a) November 07, 1985.
 (b) December 08, 1985.
 (c) January 09, 1987.
 (d) December 05, 1988.
- 30.** When did India detonate a nuclear explosion at Pokhran?
 (a) 1996 (b) 1997
 (c) 1998 (d) 1999
- 31.** Under which military ruler did Pakistan face military crisis?
 (a) Yahya Khan
 (b) Ayyub Khan
 (c) Pervez Musharraf
 (d) Nawaz Sharif
- 32.** Which of the following is a South Asian country?
 (a) Japan (b) USA
 (c) China (d) Pakistan
- 33.** Which of the following is not a South Asian country?
 (a) Bangladesh (b) India
 (c) Bhutan (d) Russia
- 34.** Which of the following statements about racial conflict in Sri Lanka is incorrect?
 (a) Politics in Sri Lanka is openly pro-Sinhalese.
 (b) The interests of the Tamils were ignored.
 (c) SAARC countries supported the Tamil Alum Liberation Tigers.
 (d) There is no political equality in Sri Lanka.
- 35.** A landlocked country in South Asia with Maoist guerrillas?
 (a) Maldives. (b) Bangladesh
 (c) Nepal (d) Pakistan.
- 36.** Until then Nepal was a constitutional monarchy?
 (a) 2006. (b) 2005.
 (c) 2004. (d) 2003.
- 37.** Alliance of seven parties?
 (a) Maoist parties only.
 (b) Royal powers.
 (c) Nepali Political Party.
 (d) NGOs in Nepal.
- 38.** What is IPKF?
 (a) Indian Peaceful Night Foundation.
 (b) Indian Peace Keeping Force.
 (c) Indian Peace Keeping Federation.
 (d) Indian Peace Keeping Forum.
- 39.** led the people's struggle against West Pakistan in East Pakistan?
 (a) Sheikh Mujeeb Ur Rehman.
 (b) Sheikh Mujeeb Mohammed.
 (c) General Yahya Khan.
 (d) Sheikh Mujeeb Ali Rahman.
- 40.** What does LTTE mean?
 (a) Tamil Eelam Liberation Strategy
 (b) Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
 (c) The level of liberation of Tamil Eelam
 (d) Liberation Team of Tamil Eelam

Solutions

1. (c)	5. (b)	9. (c)	13. (c)	17. (c)	21. (a)	25. (a)	29. (b)	33. (d)	37 (c)
2. (c)	6. (d)	10. (b)	14. (c)	18. (a)	22. (c)	26. (d)	30. (c)	34. (c)	38. (c)
3. (a)	7. (a)	11. (d)	15. (b)	19. (c)	23. (d)	27 (c)	31. (a)	35. (c)	39. (a)
4. (c)	8. (a)	12. (d)	16. (d)	20. (a)	24. (c)	28. (d)	32. (d)	36. (a)	40. (b)

