

---

## **Class :-12,Political Science Notes Chapter :-5**

### **Contemporary South Asia**

#### **Pakistan**

The first military rule in Pakistan took place under General Yahya Khan. The reason for this was the popular dissatisfaction against the rule of General Ayub Khan.

- After this, a government was formed under the leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto from 1971 to 1977.
- Bhutto Government was removed by General Zia-ul-Haq but 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 from the Pakistan People's Party and the Muslim League.
- Army stepped in again and General Pervez Musharraf removed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. General Musharraf got himself elected as the President in 2001.
- There were several factors which led to the failure of Pakistan in building a stable democracy.
- There is social dominance of army, religious and landowners.
- Often war-like situations exist between India and Pakistan.

#### **India-Pakistan Conflicts**

- After independence, both India and Pakistan got involved in issue related to Kashmir. It led to wars in 1947-48 and 1965 which failed to settle the matter.
- Both the countries face conflict over strategic issues like the control of the Siachen glacier and over acquisition of arms.
- Both the countries continue to be suspicious of each other over security issue.
- Another issue of conflict among the two countries is over the sharing of river waters of Indus river system.

- **The two countries are not in agreement over the demarcation line in Sir Creek in the Rann of Kutch.**

## **Bangladesh**

- **Bangladesh was a part of Pakistan from 1947 to 1971. But it started protesting against the domination of Western Pakistan and the imposition of Urdu Language.**
- **A popular struggle against West Pakistani dominance was led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.**
- **In 1970 election, the Awami league under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman won all seats but the government dominated by the West Pakistani leadership refused to convene the assembly.**
- **The Pakistani army tried to suppress the movement which led to a large number of migrations to India.**
- **The Indian Government supported the demands of people of East Pakistan and helped them. This led to a war with Pakistan in 1971. Bangladesh was formed as an independent country after the end of war.**
- **A Constitution was adopted by Bangladesh declaring faith in secularism, democracy and socialism. But government under Sheikh Mujibur amended the Constitution and formed Presidential form of government.**
- **Sheikh Mujibur was assassinated and a military rule was established under Ziaur Rahman. He was also assassinated and the rule of Lt Gen H.M. Ershad started this continuing the military rule.**
- **A pro-democratic movement was again started which led to election in 1991. Since then representative democracy based on multi-party elections has been working in Bangladesh.**

## **Nepal**

- **The tenure of democratic governments in Nepal was very short and full of problems.**
- **In 1990s Maoists of Nepal had their influence in many parts.**

- **The Maoists wanted an armed rebellion against the king. This led to violent clashes between the king's army and the Maoist guerrillas.**
- **For some time, there was a triangular conflict between the king's army, supporters of democracy and Maoists.**
- **Parliament was abolished by the king in 2002 and sacked the government.**
- **Again in 2006, after a nationwide democratic movement, King Gyanendra was forced to reinstate the House of Representatives.**
- **This non-violent resistance was led by a coalition of seven parties (Seven Party Alliance), Maoists and social workers.**
- **Nepal became a democratic republic by abolishing the monarchy in 2008. Nepal adopted new constitution in 2015.**

## **Sri Lanka**

- **The democratic set up of Sri Lanka was disturbed by the Ethnic conflict among the Sinhalese and Tamil origin people.**
- **According to the Sinhalese, the region of Ceylon belonged to Sinhala people only and not to the Tamils who migrated from India.**
- **This led to the formation of Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a militant organization, who demanded a separate country.**
- **The Government of India was pressurised by the Tamil people in India for the protection of the Tamils in Sri Lanka.**
- **India signed an accord with Sri Lanka and sent troops to stabilize relations between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamils.**
- **Eventually, the Indian Army got into a fight with the LTTE. Later on the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) was pulled out of Sri Lanka in 1989 without achieving its aims.**
- **Presently, the LTTE has been destroyed by the Sri Lankan Government and the area under LTTE has been recovered.**
- **In spite of the Ethnic conflict, the economy of Sri Lanka has always been high.**

## **India and its Other Neighbors**

- **India's neighboring countries are Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives and Pakistan.**
- **There are some issues of conflict between India and Bangladesh. These include the sharing of the waters of the Ganges and the Brahmaputra river, illegal immigration to India, support for fundamentalist anti-India deposits, denying access to the Indian Army, etc.**
- **Still, both India and Bangladesh share a cordial relationship with each other. Economic relations between the two have improved significantly. Both countries are also united on the issue of disaster management and environment.**
- **Nepal and India share friendly relations with each other. There is also a treaty between the two countries that citizens of both countries can move and work in each other's country without passport and visa.**
- **But some issues like Nepal's relations with China, Maoist movement in Nepal etc. have distracted this relationship.**
- **Despite differences, trade, scientific cooperation, power generation and inter locking water management grid etc. keep the two countries together.**
- **Government of India has signed a free trade agreement with Sri Lanka. This has strengthened relations between the two countries.**
- **India also has a very special relationship with Bhutan and has no major conflict with the Bhutanese government.**
- **The maximum grant for the development of Bhutan is received from India.**
- **India also has good relations with Maldives. India assisted Maldives during Sri Lanka's attack on Maldives in 1988.**

## **Peace and Cooperation**

- **Even though there are certain issues of conflicts among the South Asian countries, they recognize the importance of cooperation and friendly relationship among themselves.**

- The South Asian countries initiated the establishment of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in 1985 to evolve cooperation among each other.
  - The SAFTA was signed in 2004 by the South Asian countries to allow free trade across the borders.
- SAFTA aims at lowering trade tariffs by 20 percent by 2007.
- Although there have been issues between India and Pakistan, measures were being taken to bring cordial changes between the countries.
- There is also an outside power which influences the region. China and the United States remain key players in South Asian politics.

## **WORDS THAT MATTER**

- **Geo-Politics:** Geo-politics refers to the Association of countries who are bound with each other geographically and their interests are also interlinked with each other politically and economically.
  - **Bilateral Talks:** Talks involving the two countries without any other mediation.
  - **Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF):** It was sent by India in Sri Lanka to support the demand of Tamils to be recognised.
  - **Seven Party Alliance (SPA):** An alliance of seven parties in Nepal which also demanded an end to monarch.
  - **SAARC:** It stands for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation having seven members and aims at mutual trust and understanding.
  - **SAFTA:** It is South Asia Free Trade Area Agreement to trade free from custom restrictions and duties by its member states.
  - **LTTE:** The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam in Sri Lanka which demanded a separate state for Tamils.
-