

**CBSE Test Paper 05**  
**Class 12 - Political Science (B-1 Ch-5 Contemporary South Asia)**

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1. Name the nation which became member of the SAARC recently?
  - a. Afghanistan
  - b. Bhutan
  - c. Pakistan
  - d. Myanmar
2. What does SPA stand for?
3. Mention changes that occurred in Maldives from 1968 to 2005.
4. What is the full form of 'SAARC'?
5. What do you mean by South Asia?
6. Why did India help Bangladesh to get independence and how?
7. India's neighbours often think that the Indian government tries to dominate and interfere in the domestic affairs of the smaller countries of the region. Is this a correct impression?
8. Explain India's changing relationship with Pakistan.
9. In spite of ongoing conflict, Sri Lanka has registered considerable economic growth and recorded high levels of human development. Explain.
10. How is democratisation going on in Nepal since 1990?
11. Study the cartoon given below carefully and answer the following questions:
  - i. Write the full form of SAARC.
  - ii. What message is being given by the placement of seats in the cartoon with respect to India and Pakistan?
  - iii. Assess the success of SAARC in improving the relations among its member states.



12. Nepal's transition to democracy is not complete. At the moment, Nepal is undergoing a unique moment in its history because it is moving towards the formation of a constituent assembly that will write the constitution for Nepal. Some sections in Nepal still think that a nominal monarchy is necessary for Nepal to retain its link with the past. The Maoist groups have agreed to suspend armed struggle. They want the constitution to include the radical programmes of social and economic restructuring. All the parties in the SPA may not agree with this programme. The Maoists and some other political groups are also deeply suspicious of the Indian government and its role in the future of Nepal.
- Why is it said that Nepal is undergoing a unique movement in its history?
  - Which human quality in the citizens of Nepal is worth emulating?
  - What is the desire of the Maoist groups in Nepal? Why are some political parties suspicious?
13. Name the principal players in the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. How do you assess the prospects of the resolution of this conflict?

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**Answer**

1. a. Afghanistan

Explanation: Afghanistan joined the SAARC in 2007 and got its membership.

2. The full form of SPA is Seven Party Alliance to protest against monarchy in Nepal.
3. Changes that occurred in Maldives are:
- i. In 1968, it transformed into a republic with a presidential form of government.
  - ii. Parliament voted unanimously to introduce multi-party system in June 2005.
  - iii. Democracy strengthened after 2005 elections.
4. SAARC stands for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.
5. South Asia signifies a group of 7 countries comprising of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. All these countries stand for diversity in every sense but still constitute one geo-political space.
6. Bangladesh was created by the support of India because:
- i. In 1970, West Pakistan did not allow Awami League led by Sheikh Mujib won all seats in East Pakistan.
  - ii. But East Pakistani's rebelled against and were suppressed by the army of West Pakistan.
  - iii. This led to a large scale migration into India, creating a huge refugee problem for India.
  - iv. The government of India supported the demanded of the people of East Pakistan for their independence and helped them, financially and militarily.
  - v. In December 1971, a war took place between India and Pakistan and ended with the surrender of Pakistani forces in East Pakistan and the formation of Bangladesh as an independent country.
7. It is almost incorrect to view that the Indian government tries to dominate and interfere in the domestic affairs of the smaller countries of the region. Given its size

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and power, they are bound to be suspicious of India's intentions. The Indian government often feels exploited by its neighbours. Political stability is necessary for the development of the region. Political instability will not only hinder progress and development, but it will also allow outside power to gain influence in the region. India is at the centre of South Asia. It has boundaries with almost all the countries of the region. It has some differences and problems with its neighbours. However, India's policy is to solve them by peaceful means.

8. India and Pakistan just after independence got involved in conflict over certain issues. These included Kashmir, control over Siachen glacier, sharing the water of rivers etc. These issues led to wars between them in 1947-1948, 1965 and 1971. The nuclear test by both the countries in 1990s further deteriorated the relations between them. Steps were taken to improve the relations between India and Pakistan. Some of them include :
- i. Both the countries signed an agreement in February 2007 on reducing the rise from accident relating to nuclear weapons.
  - ii. Kargil war has been an incident to detriot the relationship between both countries.
  - iii. Both the countries have agreed to have a dialogue for reaching a peaceful settlement on all bilateral issues, including Kashmir.
  - iv. Leaders have met at summits to understand each other better and to find solutions to the major problems between the two neighbours.
  - v. Involvement of Pakistan in Terrorist attack on Taj hotel in Mumbai was also seen as an incident that put barriers in the way of the good relationship between both countries.
  - vi. Trade between the two parts of Punjab has increased substantially in the last five years.
  - vii. The two countries have agreed to undertake confidence-building measures to reduce the risk of war.
  - viii. A number of bus route have been opened up between the two countries.
  - ix. Involvement of Pakistan in Pulwama attack has raised a line of discontentment among Indians and it would cause a failure in making a relationship between both countries.

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9. In spite of the ongoing conflict, Sri Lanka has registered considerable economic growth and recorded high levels of human development as it is clear from the following facts:
- i. Sri Lanka was one of the first developing countries to successfully control the rate of growth of the population.
  - ii. Sri Lanka was the first country to liberalize the economy.
  - iii. Sri Lanka has the highest per capita gross domestic product for many years right through the civil war.
  - iv. It has maintained a democratic political system.
10. Nepal used to be a Hindu kingdom in the earlier period followed by the constitutional monarchy in the modern period for many years. 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 Maoists took place for some time. 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 countrywide pro-democracy protest. The constituent assembly was formed to write the Constitution for Nepal. The Constitution has come into effect with some amendment process going on.

The Constitution of Nepal, adopted in 2015, establishes Nepal as a federal secular parliamentary republic divided into seven provinces. On 20 September 2015, a new constitution, the "Constitution of Nepal 2015" was announced by President Ram Baran Yadav in the constituent assembly. The constituent assembly was transformed into a legislative parliament by the then-chairman of that assembly. The new constitution of Nepal has changed Nepal practically into a federal democratic republic by making 7 unnamed provinces.

In October 2015, Bidhya Devi Bhandari was nominated as the first female president.

11. i. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
- ii. Message of direct opposition is being given by the placement of seats in the cartoon with respect to India and Pakistan.

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- iii. SAARC provided a platform to member countries to improve their trade relations and Corporation through cultural and international participation. SAARC is a major state to evolve cooperation through multilateral means.
- 12.
- i. Undoubtedly, Nepal is undergoing a unique moment in its history. It is moving towards the formation of a constituent assembly that will write the constitution for the country. The future of the country will be decided and the fate of citizens will be given a free choice.
  - ii. The human quality present in the citizens of Nepal is certainly worth emulating. Some sections in Nepal still think that a nominal monarchy is necessary for Nepal to retain its link with the past.
  - iii. The Maoist groups have agreed to suspend armed struggle. They want the constitution to include the radical programmes of social and economic restructuring. While the other political groups are also deeply suspicious of the Indian government and its role in the future of Nepal.
- 13.
- a. The principal players in the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka are the Sinhala community. They were hostile to a large number of Tamils who had migrated from India to Sri Lanka and settled there. This migration continued even after independence. The Sinhala nationalists thought that Sri Lanka should not give 'concessions' to the Tamils because Sri Lanka belongs to Sinhala people only. The neglect of Tamil concerns led to militant Tamil nationalism. From 1983 onwards, the militant organisation, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has been fighting an armed struggle with the army of Sri Lanka and demanding 'Tamil Eelam' or a separate country for the Tamils of Sri Lanka. The LTTE controls the northeastern parts of Sri Lanka.
  - b. The prospects of the resolution of this conflict are remote because the government of Sri Lanka is following a policy of majoritarianism. The minority Tamil community is being ignored in different spheres. Even though the LTTE Chief has been killed at present and LTTE has been defeated, the government should now adopt a policy of accommodation towards the minority community. So unless this policy is followed, the conflict - armed or otherwise - will continue and it may remain unsolved.